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Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action (STEP), Inc.

MEDIA RELEASE

CAPPA and The Center STEP together to make Summer Counts!



The Center, CAPPA, and STEP have embarked on a merger process, and, with the summer months in view, have come together to collaborate on an 8-week summer program for youths served by The Center and CAPPA. **Summer Counts!**, a fitting name for the joint summer program, targeting 100 first- through eighth-grade students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds who reside primarily in the City of Williamsport, will meet the community's pressing need for a summer academic enrichment and recreation program.

Capitalizing each nonprofit's organizational strengths, CAPPA will provide a half-day academic curriculum that prepares children for the upcoming school year, and The Center will provide a half day of structured and supervised recreation, along with life-skills building and nutritious snacks. STEP will act as fiscal agent for the program. The **Summer Counts! Program** will be the first collaborative venture between the three organizations, and will set the stage for the after-school program in the fall.

With public funds drying up and widespread budget cuts, programs funded solely by school districts are disappearing, and affordable recreational programming, such as public pools, are becoming nonexistent. The **Summer Counts! Program** is essential to fill in the gap that remains. Programs like these have proven to mitigate, and in some cases reverse, the *summer slide*, the lapse in students' reading and comprehension skills.

To increase awareness of the collaborate effort and raise funds for program operations, the partnership is hosting the **Summer Counts! Benefit: An Evening with Loni Gamble & Sound Cheque**. The event will be held Saturday, August 10, 2013 at the Holiday Inn Williamsport. Doors will open at 7:00 p.m. Advance tickets can be purchased with cash or credit card for \$25 at Eagle Rock Winery, 414 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, (570) 567-7715 or Gustonian Gifts, 357 Pine Street, Williamsport, (570) 322-3242.

So, come out to support the partnership, and be sure to bring your dancing shoes!

For more information about the **Summer Counts! Program**, please visit www.stepcorp.org. To help sponsor the **Summer Counts! Benefit**, please contact Rachelle Abbott at raabbott@stepcorp.org or (570) 601-9501.

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