

September 2024 Director's Report *(for July & August)*

NEO Adult Education Program Updates

Program Year 24-25 Begins: NEO's Adult Education program held new student intake in all locations in August. Here is an updated list of our Adult Education sites, offerings, and schedules.

LOCATION		CLASSES	SCHEDULE
Chesterton	Westchester Public Library	ABE	Mon. – Weds. 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
East Chicago	Robert E. Pastrick Library	ESL	Mon. – Weds. 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Gary	Flourish Church	ABE	Tues. & Thurs. 5:30 – 8:30 PM
Lake Station	Thomas Edison High School	ESL	Tues. & Thurs. 5:30 – 8:30 PM
Portage	NEO Center	ABE	Mon. – Thurs.
		ESL	9 AM -1 PM & 5:30-8:30 PM
Valparaiso	Trinity Lutheran Church	ABE ESL	Tues. & Thurs. 10 AM -3 PM
Valparaiso	Porter County Jail	ABE	Select Times

ABE = Adult Basic Ed Classes (GED and HiSet Preparation and/or college & career remediation)
ESL = English as a Second Language

Enrollment: Currently, 90 students have registered. The 24-25 enrollment goal is 340. In 23-24 the program enrolled 278 students, exceeding the goal of 250.

Dispelling Misconceptions: NEO is joining the campaign to dispel the misconception that a High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma (GED or HiSet) is not as good as a High School diploma. The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) has shared a select list of Postsecondary Institutions that **ACCEPTS** HSE Diplomas. This list includes: Indiana University, Purdue, Wabash University, Notre Dame, Indiana State, Butler, Ball State, as well as Harvard and Yale!

New Vistas High School Program Updates

New Vistas High School began the 2024-2025 school year on August 20. This year the school is including a daily Study Hall period into the schedule after lunch and is launching New Vistas' In-Person Evening Academy.

Personnel Updates

New Hires: Welcome *Elizabeth Brooks*, *Nadine Hernandez Dewitt*, and *Naomi Kinsey* to the Adult Education team! Liz is the new PM ELL teacher in Portage, Nadine is the new AM ABE aide in Portage, and Naomi is the new PM ELL teacher in Lake Station.

Open Positions: New Vistas is seeking a full-time guidance counselor and special education coordinator

Student Recruitment Initiatives & Updates

NEO staff and board members were out and about this July and August at *various community events* promoting NEO's programs including Lake Station Community Action Day, Hobart Community Night Out, Portage's Market on the Square and hosting two NWI Food Bank Mobile Marts at NEO,



NEO's ***Back 2 School Bash*** was held on Sunday, August 11 and was a great success. An estimated 150 NEO staff & Board, students, family, and community members attended and toured different stations showcasing NEO's offerings.

Kudos to JuliAnn Nisevich for her leadership, and to the staff and board members who volunteered and attended this joyous event.

During the event, Chester's Tony Peuquet, United Way's Director, Adam O'Doherty, Rebecca, & JuliAnn shared information about our Rising Up Campaign and Creekside Early Learning center and posed for the presentation the \$750,000 IN United Ways grant check.

The goal of the event was to increase community awareness of NEO's programs, recruit students, and donors! We had three new students enroll, we made the front-page of two local papers, and received additional donations to the Rising Up campaign – so SUCCESS!!!



Professional Development

The NEO Staff participated in the annual ALL Staff day at NEO on August 14. The trainings included “An Introduction to the Effective and Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence” and a session on “Generational Diversity,” both led by Adrienne Carrol who brought the “FUN” to our learning with Generational Jeopardy and Generational Skits developed by AI. See next page for photos of our wonderful NEO TEAM!

Facility Updates

Creekside Early Learning: Work continues and is scheduled to be completed by September 30. The opening date for the center has not been announced yet but that may a few months away still.

NEO's outdoor patio and pavilion, supported by ESSER III grant) are under construction and slated to be completed mid-September.

REMINDER(s)

Next NEO Board of Directors' Meeting is on

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 8:00 AM at the NEO Center



NEO'S ALL STAFF DAY – GENERATIONAL DIVERSITY AWARENESS 8.14.24



GENERATIONAL JEOPARDY WINNING TEAM



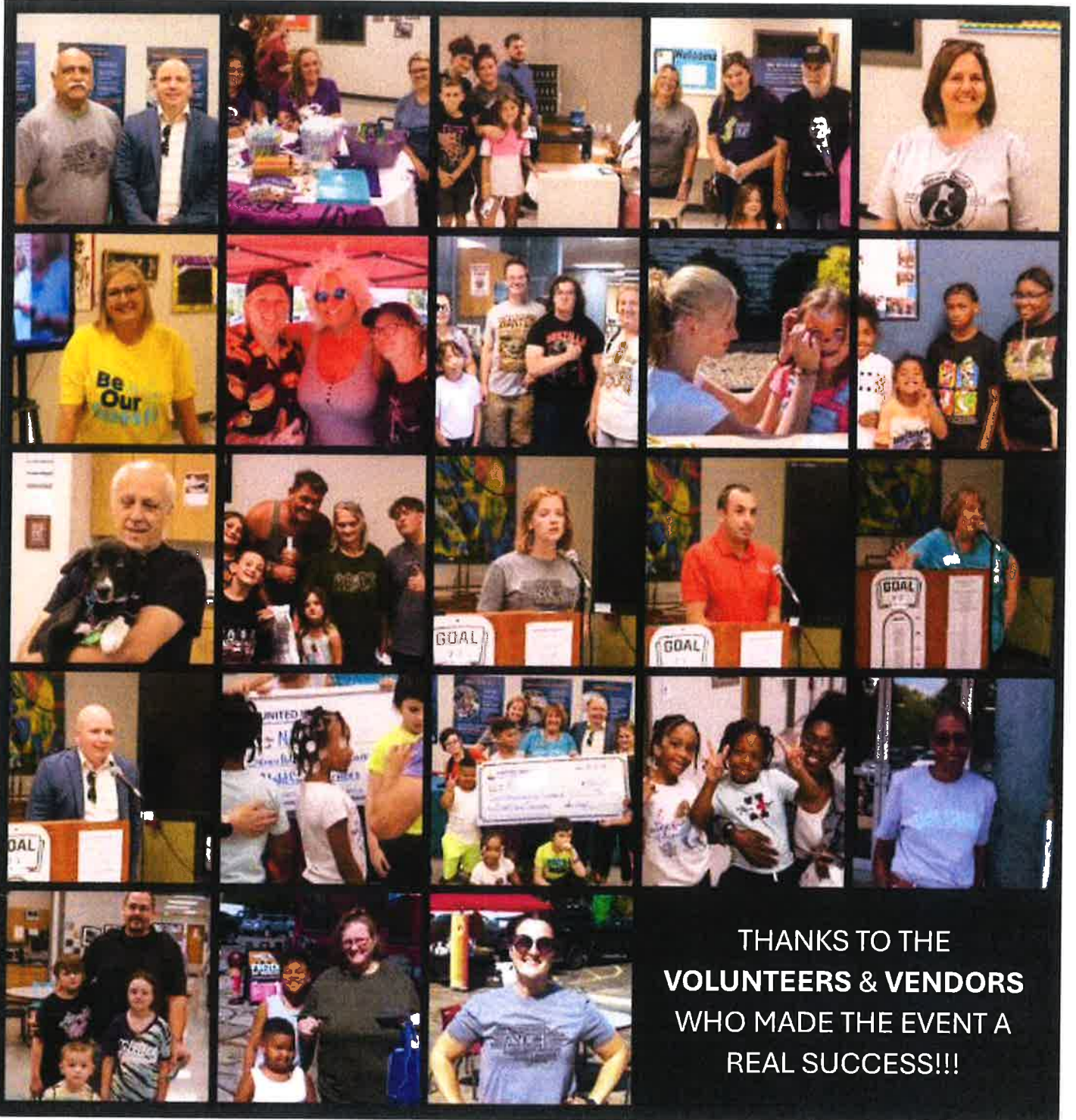
**NEO'S DIVERSE
STAFF INCLUDES
GENERATIONAL
DIVERSITY!**

- Baby Boomers**
- Gen X**
- Millennials**
- Gen Y**
- Gen Z**



NEO's BACK 2 SCHOOL BASH

August 11, 2024





P.O. Box 1582
Portage, IN 46368
219-763-4257

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat” Matthew 25:35

Portage Township Food Pantry

P.O. Box 1582

Portage, Indiana 46368

July, 2024

Dear NEO Garden

Super Support!!
Z

Thank you for your wonderful donation of 37 #.

The Pantry greatly appreciates your continuing generosity **HELPING THE NEEDY IN OUR COMMUNITY**. We are serving our clients inside with **CHOICE!!**

**WE SERVED 438 CLIENTS
INCLUDING 101 SENIOR CITIZENS!!**

Location: 3590 Willowcreek Road, Suite A

Hours: 1st, 2nd, and 4th Thursdays 10:00-12:00 / 3rd Thursday 4:00-6:00

Portage Township residents can get food twice a month.

Call Trustee's office for assistance: 219-762-1623

All correspondence should be sent to our PO Box 1582, Portage, IN 46368.

*****We are very grateful for our 21 dedicated volunteers, who worked 468 hours this month, and the many industries, businesses and individuals who donated 12,836 pounds of food and toiletries.**

THANK YOU FOR CARING FOR OUR SUMMER CLIENTS !!!

**THE PORTAGE TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRY
IS A 501(C) (3), NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
FEDERAL TAX EXEMPT ID # 31-1153-167**

NEO 2023-2024 Goals - END OF YEAR REPORT 9.4.24

NEO ADULT EDUCATION	GOAL	ACTUAL
Increase student enrollment by 23% from 22-23 to meet DWD contracted enrollment goal for NEO Ad.Ed. by June 30, 2024.	Dec. 31: 150	Met + 154
	June 30: 250	Met + 278
AE satellite enrollment will be at 15 students per class and/or a 5% increase from 22-23 by June 30, 2024.	5% increase / 15+ at each site	Met
Maintain or increase NEO's percentage of Region 1 AE Enrollment to be between 19-22% by June 30, 2024.	18- 20%	Met + 23%
Meet or exceed DWD's contracted mid-year & end of year goals for Measurable Skills Gains .	Dec. 31: 57%	Met + 61.04%
	June 30: 69%	Did Not Meet 65.47%
Meet or exceed DWD's contracted goal for High School Equivalency	51	Met + 60
Meet internal goal of 15 enrollment in an Integrated Education and	15 / +10%	Met 10% inc.
Meet internal goal for Workforce Education Initiatives (WEIs) by, but	3	Did not Meet 1
Meet DWD's contracted goal for total Distance Learning participation	50%	Met + 62%
Maintain separation (exit before enrollment) at 25% or below	<25%	Met + 20%

NEO NEW VISTAS HIGH SCHOOL

Meet targeted Fall and February student enrollment goals for Vistas High School (NVHS)	October: 170	Did not Meet 130
	February: 153	Did not Meet 151 - came close!
Increase our federal 4-year graduation rate by at least 3%	53.9%	Did not Meet 41.3% *
Increase our internal senior graduation rate by at least 10% with the	70%	Met + 80%
Increase our overall credit completion rate by at least 3% with the	83.4%	Did not Meet 72.6%
Increase our attendance rate by at least 15% with the ultimate goal of	77.6%	Met + 84.8%
Reduce the number/percentage of chronically absent students by 10%	72.4%	Did not Meet 68.5%
Increase the student retention rate by 10% as measured by internal withdrawal reports	73.7%	Met 75% *
Reduce number of Level 1 discipline infractions and Out of School Suspensions by 15%	19	Met 19 *

NEO ORGANIZATION WIDE

Complete 80% all NEO Strategic Plan 2023-24 Action Steps (see Exhibit A)	Met
Implement schedule of stakeholder engagement using partnership & strategic plans.	Met
Establish and meet Board Development goals, plans, and outcomes. (See Exhibit B)	Met
Create & launch plans to effectively address access to programs, learning loss, targeted remediation, etc.	Met
Adopt short and long term financial sustainability plans	Work in progress
Implemented Rising Up Capital Campaign	
Raised 1.6 million in grants and donations	
Review, update & implement organizational plans (Partnership, College & Career Readiness, Student Recruitment & Retention, Communications, Safety, etc.	On-track / work in progress
Complete facility plans that will support NEO's local revenue goals and support students and program development	Met
Finish outdoor learning space goals - ESSER funds	Met
Complete build out of HSE testing room	Met
Raise funds and develop Creekside Early Learning	Met