



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EEUCC CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Uniontown, PA - February is Black History Month, and children at East End United Community Center (EEUCC) in Uniontown spent it preparing a special program in honor of significant figures in Black history, past and present.

The center, located at 150 Coolspring St., Uniontown, offers programs and services for community members of all ages and needs. EEUCC's mission is to advance the growth and well-being of individuals and families by providing educational, social, economic and cultural opportunities to the community.

Kids in the community center's 21st Century Out-of-School Time (OST) Program presented a Black History performance on March 1, and program director Casey Sirochman said students and teachers alike put a great deal of preparation into the show.

"The teachers have been working diligently with the students," Sirochman said. "They have been working on songs and crafts and skits."

The OST program serves students in the Albert Gallatin and Central Greene school districts, as well as Ben Franklin and LaFayette elementary schools in the Uniontown Area School District. Sirochman said there are "around 60 children" enrolled in the program.

EEUCC Vice President Terry Burden, who also is a teacher in the OST program, said the Black History performance featured at least 40 kids in grades 1 through 8. "We included our middle school kids, too," she said.

Burden explained the performance included a number of activities, most notably singing and reciting poetry or short reports on key figures in Black history.

"The kids have been learning songs that go along with Black history all month," Burden said. "Also, certain students are going to be reciting poetry. I gave them a name and had them research that name."

Names range from entertainment figures such as dancer Alvin Ailey and athlete Michael Jordan to political figures like Barack Obama and Desmond Tutu, activists Malcolm X and Gandhi and entrepreneur Madam C.J. Walker. Burden said after researching the names, students have the option of writing a poem about that person or compiling a short report of just a few paragraphs to be delivered at the performance.

"We've been practicing every day," Burden said. "The kids have been reciting poetry every day, just for the program here."

Burden said singing has become a favorite activity of the OST students as they work with Marilyn Calloway to learn selections such as “We Are the World,” “Amazing Grace,” and “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” also known as the Black National Anthem.

“When they learn these songs, she gives them the background,” Burden said, so students are learning about Black history as they enjoy the music.

And enjoy it, they do. “They’re going to be singing a lot. They love to sing,” Burden said.

She said the program may continue with its themed performances as Black History Month gives way to Women’s History Month in March. “I think we’re going to continue the singing,” she said.

View video coverage from the March 1 performance at <https://youtu.be/9WIPAvrewtY>.

To learn more about the East End United Community Center, visit www.eeucc.org. To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.fayettecountypa.org.

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