By Beth Fisher

Dozens of free dental screenings for children entering school for the first time, hundreds of duffel bags, backpacks and pieces of luggage dropped into our donation bin for foster children, and thousands of giveaway items handed out including Kentucky HEALTH vinyl bags, fidget spinners, stress reliever balls, coloring books, tooth brushes, and CHFS info sheets!

Those are just a few of the highlights from our Kentucky State Fair exhibit space. Fair goers were given the opportunity to meet CHFS leadership and program staff and talk face to face about some of the issues impacting the lives of Kentuckians – and what the Cabinet is doing to assist.

In addition to daily features, CHFS highlighted Dental Health, Healthy Babies and Healthy Children, Services for Seniors, Foster Care and Adoption, Zika Education and Mosquito Control, and Substance Use Disorder Prevention and Strategies.

The centerpiece of the display was a state of the art dental screening van. Free screenings were offered along with oral health info and interactive displays.

Check out a photos and videos from each day of the 2017 Kentucky State Fair on the CHFS Facebook page www.facebook/kychfs

Another fair highlight was the ongoing duffel drive. Visitors were encouraged to help children in foster care by donating a new duffel bag or backpack.

“Often times, when children are removed from their home and placed into state care, all their belongings are literally stuffed into a black garbage bag,” Secretary Vickie Yates Brown Glisson said. “Can you imagine how that makes them feel? No child deserves to be given a trash bag for their belongings. This effort changes that. Donating a duffel bag or backpack is a small but meaningful way to help foster children and give them the dignity of carrying their possessions in a new bag that is all their own.”

The 2017 state fair gave CHFS employees a chance to interact with tens of thousands of Kentuckians from every region of the state. Many thank-yous to all who participated in making this year’s festivities a success!
Office happiness foundation rests on rock solid relationships

DEVELOPMENT

Offi ce happiness foundation rests on rock solid relationships.

Anya Armes Weber

Developing effective work relationships can improve your offi ce performance. Plus, they can become the basis for professional opportunities and greater job satisfaction.

Here are several tips for creating and enhancing good connections with your co-workers.

Offer solutions to problems. Criticizing others’ work can be easy. But bringing thoughtful and valid suggestions to fi x problems or make things better will earn you respect.

Evaluate how you communicate. The way you speak could be rubbing co-workers the wrong way. If you talk disrespectfully about colleagues, use foul language or even scream, people will see you as unprofessional.

Never blindside a co-worker or supervisor. Build trust by discussing problems immediately before they grow into crises.

Keep your commitments. Your work is interconnected with that of your co-workers. Meet your deadlines and show up for scheduled meetings and projects. If you can’t, give a good explanation.

Share the spotlight. Give proper credit to others for their accomplishments, ideas and contributions. Completing any project takes a team eff ort. Take the time to thank, reward, recognize and specify contributions of those who helped – especially if you are a manager.

Western Ky. transformed into ‘Eclipseville, USA’

Hopkinsville and parts of a 70-mile wide path of western Kentucky were in the direct path of the total solar eclipse on August 21.

People from all over the world will converged on the U.S. to witness the eclipse. The solar eclipse path included Hopkinsville, Paducah and the Land Between the Lakes, where a 100 percent eclipse lasted more than 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

Outside of this path, observers saw a partial eclipse, which varied from 90 to 96 percent coverage block of the sun’s light.

Humidity was high on eclipse day and temperatures hovered near 100 degrees.

Orchardale Farm was invaded by thousands of sightseers and so many media members with satellite trucks that it became hard to keep count.

NASA arrived and set up its complex telescopes and cameras with special lenses to safely view and document the eclipse.

Large portable communication towers were set up and miles of audio and video cable covered the field. Scientifi c weather balloons were also in place to monitor changes in the atmosphere as the eclipse evolved.

The Department for Public Health staff played a valuable role as it set up portable medical tents staff ed by Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers to ensure fi rst aid services were available to participants. Many participants were seen for heat-related injuries due to the high temperatures.

Following the 2017 solar eclipse, the next total solar eclipse will not be visible over the continental United States until April 8, 2024.

Caption the photo contest. CHFS Focus readers are encouraged to think of the most creative description to the above eclipse photo. The best captions will be used in next month’s issue of the Focus. Send ideas to elden.may@ky.gov.
Eclipse epicenter was once mineral spring hot spot

Did you know during the Great American Eclipse Across America that occurred on August 21, 2017, state and local health officials and volunteers were situated at the eclipse's total epicenter to provide first aid services to participants?

Orchardale Farm, a historic Trigg County farm located near the small unincorporated community of Cerulean, northwest of Hopkinsville, served as the ultimate viewing spot for the total eclipse. At this location, described as the point where the sun, moon and earth were lined up most perfectly and at the greatest intensity during the eclipse, it was considered the “point of greatest eclipse” with virtually the same length of eclipse duration, two minutes and 40 seconds, as the “point of longest duration” that took place near Carbondale, Illinois. Both areas experienced the absolute longest moment of totality in the world - total eclipse time of 2 minutes, 40 seconds.

The history surrounding this area is just as interesting. Situated further down the road from the farm area was home to the Cerulean Springs Hotel, a hotel and spa that was located near a natural spring in Cerulean.

In 1811 the New Madrid Earthquake caused a spring of blue sulfur water to break through to the surface in place of an existing black sulfur spring (which sank) near the town, turning to cerulean blue in color. Though the Cerulean Springs hotel burned down in 1925, the spring is still in existence today and can be visited.

In the days prior to the eclipse, the farm's field began to quickly fill with workers and participants from all over the world as cows grazed on the neighboring farms. One could feel the excitement begin to mount as the eclipse time neared.

At 11:56 a.m. Central Time the eclipse commenced and the moon began to cover the sun. From the crowds there were shouts of excitement as participants gazed up at the sky through their eclipse glasses.

At 1:24 there was a total eclipse, and the world's epicenter at tiny Orchardale Farm went black for 2 minutes and 40 seconds.

At first glance it might have seemed hard to believe the mass of humanity all brought together in the small Trigg County community, but less than 100 years ago large crowds were common in Cerulean.
Gov. Matt Bevin, Lt. Gov. Jenean Hampton and CHFS Secretary Vickie Yates Brown Glisson honored 15 individuals and four groups from across Kentucky for their volunteer and service contributions at the 22nd annual Governor’s Service Awards on Aug. 29.

KCCVS Executive Director Joe Bringardner said the Governor’s Office launched the volunteer awards program in 1975. Since 1995, KCCVS has administered the program.

The annual awards are coordinated by the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS).

2017 Governor’s Service Award Group Awards
- Citi Bank – Florence/Boone County
- Hope House – Bowling Green/Warren County
- Northeast Christian Church – Louisville/Jefferson County
- Toward A Sustainable Kentucky (TASK) VISTA AmeriCorps Program – Statewide:
  - Rebecca Dever – Louisville/Jefferson County.
  - Salma Geneidy – Lexington/Fayette County.
  - Sarah Haney – Louisville/Jefferson County.
  - Virginia “Ginny” Reams – Louisville/Jefferson County.

Individual Awards
- Lauren Gabbard – Highland Heights/Campbell County.
- Mitch Haralson – Covington/Kenton County.
- Amanda Jackson – Ashland/Boyd County.
- Lauren Kinser – Somerset/Pulaski County.
- Nigel Masamvu – Florence/Boone County.
- Harold McDaniel – Cox’s Creek/Nelson County.
- Randall Richardson – Louisville/Jefferson County.
- Kendall Ross – Louisville/Jefferson County.
- Chris Schimmoeller – Frankfort/Franklin County.
- Peggy Schutzman – Walton/Boone County.

Exemplary KCCVS Commissioners and Program Directors
- Aaron Anderkin – Lexington/Fayette County
- Sue Brammer – Maysville/Mason County
- Ronnie Dunn – Frankfort/Franklin County
- Janet Gates – Frankfort/Franklin County
- Mary Sue Hubbard – Murray/Calloway County
- Betty Martin – Frankfort/Franklin County
- Jana Sturm – Frankfort/Franklin County
- Eugene Newsome - Pikeville/Pike County.

If you know an employee you would like to nominate for Employee of the Month, please submit the nomination form electronically to www.goo.gl/forms/1ifD0x4FTc.

Governor’s Service Award winners announced

September’s Employees of the Month are Sivaram “Ram” Maratha, with the Department for Public Health (DPH), and Renee Buckingham, with the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS).

Maratha, an epidemiologist and data manager, has been with DPH for 15 years where he works with the Division of Women’s Health.

“I have had the distinct privilege to work with Ram for the last 15 years in DPH. Ram is one of the most caring and compassionate public health colleagues I have known in my career,” said Joy Hoskins, director for the Division of Women’s Health. “He is extremely knowledgeable of the Kentucky Women’s Cancer Screening Program (KWCSP) policies, data and services which are provided through local health departments across the state.”

Buckingham, a DCBS Service Region Administrator based in Graves County, has been with the Department for over 30 years. She began her career on the frontlines and has served as a supervisor and administrator for the department.

“Her dedication to our mission was exemplified this summer when, in a tragic accident, a young man who was in the custody of the Cabinet and placed at Uspiritus in Louisville died when he exited a moving school bus,” said Judge Timothy Feeley, CHFS Deputy Secretary. “The young man’s mother and grandmother reside in Christian County. Ms. Buckingham was instrumental in working with the family and a local funeral home to insure all proper notifications were made, and funeral arrangements were secured. Her adept handling of this unfortunate situation was a comfort to the family, and reflected the care and concern that our DCBS workers have for the children and families of Kentucky.”