

# CEC PACE Newsletter

Semi-Annual Issue

**July 2020** 

**Cherokee Elder Care-PACE Program** 

### CEC Host Vanderbilt Students for Another Year of Volunteerism

Students here as part of their Alternative Spring Break Program.

Alternative Spring Break (ASB) is a student-run service organization that engages over 400 students each year.

The ASB mission is to motivate students to become active citizens through intentional community engagement. The "Sunrise" group had the opportunity to connect with Participants and staff members during their visit. Students were also able to explore parts of our service area while visiting some Participants at their homes. Students had the advantage of jumping into Cherokee History at the Cultural Center and Cherokee History Museums. students





gained a sense of pride by completing chores and spending time with elders in the Adult Day Health Center. Much of this work is carried out outdoors including raking leaves, cutting and clearing limbs, and removing trash and other debris.



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## **Participants Visit Jenks Aquarium**

A group of Participants were able to spend some time visiting the Jenks Aquarium this spring. The Aquarium's mission is to "educate and inspire conservation of our aquatic world through interactive discovery." The Aquarium is a great place to visit despite the weather since all the activities are indoors. Many types of fish and other sea creatures live at the Aquarium including sharks. Many displays got Participants up close and personal with rare species.



#### Learn How to Avoid Heat-related Illnesses and Death

The human body is normally able to regulate its temperature through sweating, until it is exposed to more heat than it can handle. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke can escalate rapidly, leading to delirium, organ damage and even death. In 2017, 87 people died in the U.S. from exposure to excessive heat, according to *Injury Facts*.



#### People most at risk include:

Infants and young children, especially if left in hot cars

People 65 and older

People who are ill, have chronic health conditions or are on certain medications People who are overweight

#### **Heat Exhaustion**

When the body loses excessive water and salt, usually due to sweating, heat exhaustion can occur. According to the free NSC First Aid Quick Reference app, signs and symptoms include:

**Sweating** 

Pale, ashen or moist skin

Muscle cramps (especially for those working or exercising outdoors in high temperatures)

Fatigue, weakness or exhaustion

Headache, dizziness or fainting

Nausea or vomiting

Rapid heart rate

Uncontrolled heat exhaustion can evolve into heat stroke, so make sure to treat victims quickly: *Continue Pg. 4 & 5* 

Fun Fact: Check out this 100 Year Old Rhododendron and the Woman who planted it! This plant is found mainly in Asia, although it is also widespread throughout the lowland and forests of the Pacific Northwest, California, and the highlands of the Appalachian Mountains of North America.



#### Learn How to Avoid Heat-related Illnesses and Death Cont.

Give water or other cool, nonalcoholic beverages

Apply wet towels, or have victims take a cool shower

#### **Heat Stroke**

Seek medical help immediately if someone is suffering from heat stroke. Signs include:

Body temperature above 103 degrees

Skin that is flushed, dry and hot to the touch; sweating has usually stopped

Rapid breathing

Headache, dizziness, confusion or other signs of altered mental status

Irrational or belligerent behavior

Convulsions or unresponsiveness

#### Immediately Take Action:

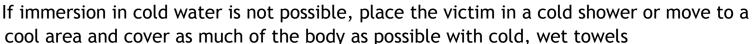
Call 911

Move the victim to a cool place

Remove unnecessary clothing

Immediately cool the victim, preferably by immersing up to

the neck in cold water (with the help of a second rescuer)



Keep cooling until body temperature drops to 101 degrees

Monitor the victim's breathing and be ready to give CPR if needed

#### DO NOT:

Force the victim to drink liquids

Apply rubbing alcohol to the skin

Allow victims to take pain relievers or salt tablets

The best way to avoid a heat-related illness is to limit exposure outdoors during hot days.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

Air conditioning is the best way to cool off

Drink fluids, even if you don't feel thirsty, and avoid alcohol



Wear loose, lightweight clothing and a hat Replace salt lost from sweating by drinking fruit juice or sports drinks

Avoid spending time outdoors during the hottest part of the day, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wear sunscreen; sunburn affects the body's ability to cool itself

Pace yourself when you run or otherwise exert your body





#### **Keep Each Other Safe**

If your job requires you to work outside in hot weather, you and your supervisors can take precautions to minimize the risk of heat-related illnesses.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health recommends:

Working shorter shifts until workers have adjusted to the heat

Staying hydrated and drinking before you get thirsty

Watch out for co-workers exhibiting signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke Take time to rest and cool down

In your community, please check in on neighbors who are elderly, house-bound or otherwise may be reluctant to ask for help. You can offer to host them in the air-conditioned comfort of your living room on hot days, drive them to a local cooling center, or call relatives or city services to arrange for them to stay cool.

Brought to you by the National Safety Council and the Office of CEC Quality Improvement





## **Volunteers Make Fabric** Masks for CEC We would like to acknowledge all the volunteers, Participants, staff and their family members, who worked to make fabric masks and donated materials to Cherokee Elder Care so that we could better protect everyone during the pandemic. We saw donations come in from all across our local communities and as far away as South Carolina. Many heard our call for help and jumped into action.

Pictured is a letter that accompanied a box of 50 masks made and donated by a special volunteer from Choteau OK



## **New Employees at CEC**

Kasandra Peace- Driver/C.N.A.

Maxwell Campanella- Physical Therapy Assistant



## **CEC** will be Closed for These Holidays

Independence Day

Labor Day

Indigenous Day

Veteran's Day

Thanksgiving

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

July 3, 2020

September 7, 2020

October 12, 2020

November 11, 2020

November 26 & 27, 2020

December 24, 2020

December 25, 2020





# Cherokee Elder Care

1387 W 4th St Tahlequah, OK 74464 Phone (918)-453-5554

Website: http://eldercare.cherokee.org

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Visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/cecpaceok