

Community Engagement Resources

One of the underlying themes throughout the Advocacy Areas of Focus is **children building and preserving connections with family and others**. As CASAs, we focus on preserving caring and competent connections and ensuring a child's mental, physical, social and educational developmental needs are met. Helping the child build relationships which may be outside their immediate world can be critical in making friends and interacting with others in a respectful/fun manner, i.e., learning to function in society, stopping the increase of ACEs and promoting resilience.

As ACES training taught us, competent community involvement is a protective factor against ACEs and is invaluable in offsetting/counteracting the negative experiences in a child's life. Community Organizations play a critical role in connecting young people with positive role models and providing activities for them to learn leadership, self-regulation, being able to disagree respectfully and productively, etc. Positive childhood experiences, such as community connection, act as protective factors and significantly reduce the odds of adult depression or mental health problems.

*If you know of any additional opportunities that can be included in this list, please email Amber Hahn: amber@atlanticcapecasa.org.

Atlantic County

Funny Farm- Mays Landing- <https://funnyfarmrescue.org/volunteer/>

We welcome and accept **volunteers** of all ages and capabilities. On any given day, there are dozens of jobs that need to be completed from scooping poop, to brushing donkeys, to socializing kittens and much more! Children under the age of 12 must have a parent with them. Volunteering is any day of the week all day.

CBB Youth Institute for Jazz Studies- Atlantic City residents only

Non-profit **music program** for children in the South Jersey area. Chicken Bone Beach has a school to offer music lessons and instructions to children in the area at no charge. This organization has all of the state credentials to provide services to children and young adults.

Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City/Apple- Atlantic City

New initiative between Apple and the Boys and Girls Club in AC to offer **training/certification courses** to kids interested in things like coding and Photoshop.

https://pressofatlanticcity.com/news/local/apple-teams-up-with-the-boys-and-girls-club-of-atlantic-city-to-offer-training/article_60a868c8-5a0a-11ec-b720-27a3d1993d3a.html

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Atlantic & Cape May Counties- <https://www.bbbsatlanticcape.org/>

Our mission: To provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

FitFarm Basketball Club- Egg Harbor City (The Pilgrim Academy)

Children entering grades 3-9 (for the 2022-2023 school year) can participate in weekly sessions which include skill development drills, basketball instruction, and competitive games. All competition is co-ed. Cost is \$90 per player, \$75 for Pilgrim Academy students.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeHUzLlnOFd8Y91wbcoNI-m3sLeXkYrSD0aRwM1oCg1cxu1Ew/viewform>

Atlantic County Library- <https://www.atlanticlibrary.org/>

Robotics Club (Egg Harbor City Branch)- Open to ages 6-12. Registration required. This program helps children learn about coding in a fun, yet educational way. Not only will we be doing coding but we will use coding to control and move an mBot.

Chess Club (Vetnor Branch)- Open to adults and interested teens and children, ages 8 & older. Registration required. Do you love chess? Have you always wanted to learn? Our chess club is for all ages and levels of experience. Feel free to bring your own chess board or use one of ours.

STEAM Challenge Days (EHT Branch)- Ages 6-12. Registration required. STEAM stands for Science Technology Engineering Art and Math. We'll be doing a STEAM focused activity that will make you think creatively and have fun doing it.

Bilingual Family Storytime (EHT Branch)- Open to ages 6 and under. Registration required. Stories, songs, and fun! This story time will feature stories in English and Spanish and is for the whole family. Guardians must be present for the whole event.

Atlantic Cape Community College- <http://www.atlantic.edu/kidscollege/>

Kids College Fall and Spring **Enrichment Programs** at Atlantic Cape are an extension of our Kids College **Summer Workshops**. Kids College Enrichment Programs allow students age 7-16 to experience hands-on activities during the traditional school year (cooking, art, STEM, etc.). Programs available at Atlantic City, Cape May, and Mays Landing campuses.

Cape May County

Cape May County Library- <https://events.cmclibrary.org/events?v=grid>

Minecraft Club (virtual or in-person at Cape May Court House branch)

No Limits Boxing Academy- <http://capemaycares.org/sharing-possibilities-with-no-limits-academy>

No Limits Academy is a boxing and youth development center that supports the children of Cape May County and ensures they become stewards of our community. We are a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. NLA uses boxing, fitness, and athletics as tools to develop children who are self-aware, confident, resilient, responsible, and accountable. NLA has set the bar high. The 7,500 square foot facility includes a boxing ring, a basketball court with 10 individual baskets for training, 4 batting cages, multipurpose flooring, and more. (More info can be found on Facebook or Instagram)

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Science Explorers STEAM Club- <https://scienceexplorers.com/our-programs/after-school-stem-clubs/>

Clubs are geared for students in 1st - 5th grade. There are virtual and in-person, after school clubs. Our after school club starts right when the school day ends. The session is one day a week and lasts an hour. Our after school science clubs for kids in Avalon and other locations in Cape May County, NJ will build on the science your child has learned in school. Some of the topics our after-school clubs cover include Zoology, Anatomy & Physiology, Biology, Robotic Programming, Chemical Reactions, Chemistry, Earth Science, Meteorology, Physical Science, and so much more!