



Local News

Castle announces \$55,000 grant for day care providers

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Angela Flannigan's Fairview Farms home, like 1,600 other homes in the state, is also the site of a day care business. From 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Flannigan takes care of five local children at Fairview Farms Home Day Care, Inc. It would be hard to find someone who is better qualified to watch over kids than Flannigan, who is licensed for a level-2 Day Care center.

But when it comes to taxes and technology, she found that a little education courtesy of the Nehemiah Gateway Community Development Corporation came in quite handy.

Flannigan was one of several hundred people who took a 10-week course designed to help home day care providers wrangle with taxes, finances, and computers.

"It's opened me up to new ways of thinking," she said. "I think it's wonderful what they do for you."

Flannigan was computer-savvy to begin with, but she learned some tips and tricks like deleting cookies from her web browser to speed up her surfing and filed an amendment to her tax return after learning of some new deductions she could take advantage of.

Congressman Michael N. Castle visited Flannigan Monday afternoon to deliver a \$55,000 check from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development program to the Nehemiah Gateway Community Development Corporation.

Mary DuPont, Executive Director of the non-profit group, said this should be enough to educate about 200 day care providers in the arcane ways of running the business end of a business that's also a home.

"It's all about getting the most out of the tax code," she said.

The program also helps applicants buy computers by matching \$250 from the provider with \$175 from the program to buy a refurbished machine.

Castle said it was the government's duty to help day care providers make ends meet.

"I believe that good day care is essential," he said. "Kids need attention and educational help, and we as a society have the responsibility to help them inasmuch as we can do it."