

Community Education Building to Celebrate Grand Opening of the Youth Development Center with YDC Fest in Wilmington

August 21st, free, family-centered festival welcomes a new hub for education, wellness, arts, athletics and family resources supporting youth-cradle to career

WILMINGTON, DE, UNITED STATES, August 13, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- WILMINGTON, DE —

“

Together, we're opening more than a building — we're opening new opportunities for Wilmington's youth and families.”

*Linda Jennings, Chief
Executive Officer, Community
Education Building*

The [Community Education Building](#) (CEB) today announced YDC Fest, a community celebration and grand opening of the Youth Development Center, taking place Friday, August 21, from 1–6 PM. The free, family-friendly event marks the first time the greater Wilmington community will be welcomed onto the new campus. A short formal program will take place at 2pm with elected and community leaders.

More than a festival, YDC Fest celebrates the opening of a new community asset — one designed to bring education, wellness, arts, athletics, and family resources together

under one roof to support Wilmington's young people at every stage, from cradle to career.

"This is more than a building opening — it's the opening of new possibilities for our children and families," said Linda Jennings, CEO of the Community Education Building. "The Youth Development Center represents what's possible when a community comes together around a shared belief: that every young person deserves the resources, support, and opportunity to thrive. We can't wait to welcome Wilmington home on August 21."

A Day for the Whole Family

Attendees can look forward to a full day of activities, including:

Back-to-school giveaways

Live music and performing arts

Sports demonstrations

Family resources and interactive activities

Free food and raffles

Experiences led by more than a dozen community organizations

The event will feature activations from resident and community partners, including YMCA of Delaware, Kuumba Academy Charter School, Christina Cultural Arts Center, Delaware Sensory Museum, Delaware Health Empowerment Coalition, Network Connect, Great Oaks Charter School, CSC Global, Delaware Youth Sports Coalition, and many more — bringing to life the collaborative model that makes the Youth Development Center unlike anything else in Wilmington.

Made Possible by Community Investment

YDC Fest is made possible by a coalition of organizations investing in Wilmington's future:

Founding Sponsor: GGA Construction

Gold Sponsors: Nemours Children's Health; Anthony & Catherine Fusco Foundation, Grow America

Silver Sponsor: Barclays US Consumer Bank

Bronze Sponsor: REACH Riverside, Bank of America, Saul Ewing

Community Sponsors: Fearn Clendaniel Architects, Delaware Elevator, New Castle Insurance, Wawa, WSFS

Together, these partners are helping ensure YDC Fest remains a free, family-centered celebration that welcomes the greater Wilmington community into the Youth Development Center for the very first time.

Get Involved

Families are encouraged to pre-register by scanning the QR code [on the event flyer](#) or [using this link](#). Youth under the age of 17 must be supervised by an adult. Community members can help spread the word by sharing the event with their networks in the lead-up to August 21.

"Together, we're opening more than a building — we're opening new opportunities for Wilmington's youth and families," Jennings added.

Event Details

What: YDC Fest — Youth Development Center Grand Opening Celebration

When: Friday, August 21, 1–6 PM

Where: 315 East 12th street Youth Development Center, Wilmington, DE

Cost: Free and open to the public; pre-registration encouraged

About the Community Education Building and Youth Development Center

The Community Education Building (CEB) is a Wilmington, Delaware-based nonprofit advancing education equity through an innovative cradle-to-career ecosystem that connects education, youth development, wellness, and family support. Through its collaborative co-location model, CEB brings schools, nonprofit organizations, families, and community partners together to remove barriers, expand opportunity, and create pathways to long-term success.

At the heart of this ecosystem is the 42,000-square-foot Youth Development Center (YDC), a dynamic hub featuring smart classrooms, a black box theater and performing arts space, full gymnasium, fitness room, youth lounge, and flexible spaces for learning and community programming. The YDC expands CEB's network of trusted partners to support Wilmington's young people from their earliest years through adulthood. As the YDC's anchor resident partner, the YMCA of Delaware operates its Early Learning Academy, providing high-quality early childhood education for up to 100 children from infancy through pre-K. Together, CEB, the YDC, and their partners are building a connected pathway from strong beginnings to limitless potential for Wilmington's children, families, and community.

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