



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Lisa Allison, Lancaster Family YMCA
717-606-3295 (cell)
717-393-9622, ext. 1041 (office)
lallison@lancasterymca.org

Vaughn Silar, Paragon Engineering Services, Inc.
717-781-2255
VSilar@PEServices.org

Paragon Engineering Services, Inc expands to Lancaster and brings new resources to local nonprofit

Paragon uses EITC program to give Lancaster Family YMCA Pre-K program a boost.

Lancaster, PA (October 3) – When Vaughn Silar was starting his career 25 years ago he met a business owner who was upset about his high tax bill. Vaughn calculated that bill to be 2.5 times what his salary was and came to the realization that if his tax bill ever reached that number, it meant he had achieved a level of success in life that he would truly be grateful for.

Years later, Vaughn is the owner of Paragon Engineering Services, Inc., an engineering design firm offering mechanical, plumbing and electrical engineering services to clients across the mid-Atlantic region.

Family and community have always been the top priority for Vaughn and his wife Kimberly, and it's out of that philosophy that Paragon Engineering Services, Inc. was created. When they adopted their first child, Vaughn was at the end of a contract job and decided that staying home with his new daughter was the most important thing he could do at that time. He began working on projects from his house and as the volume of work increased he decided to start Paragon in 2002.

As a business owner, Vaughn never forgot that early lesson of gratitude while paying his taxes, but the ability to channel those tax dollars towards the community organizations he was passionate about through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program made writing that check even more palatable.

The EITC program was first created in Pennsylvania in 2001 and provides a means for the business community to support local non-profits while also receiving tax benefits.

EITC provides a qualifying company with tax credits equal to 75 % of its contribution to a non-profit scholarship or educational improvement organization up to a maximum of \$750,000 per taxable year. The tax credit increases to 90% of the contribution if the business agrees to provide the same amount for two consecutive tax years. For contributions to Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Organizations, a business may receive a tax credit equal to 100 % percent of the first \$10,000 contributed and up to 90% of the remaining amount contributed up to a maximum credit of \$200,000 annually.

Personally and through his business, Vaughn is a strong believer in giving back to your community, especially in ways that support children and families. He and wife Kimberly started a nonprofit – Grace Granted – to support parents who are trying to adopt children. His volunteer efforts with the Boy Scouts and the ACE mentoring program in York are just a few of the many ways he gives of his time and resources.

For Vaughn, the EITC program is a win-win opportunity.

In their first year of participation, Paragon Engineering Services, Inc. contributed to Leg up Farm, a non-profit therapy center in York County for children with special needs.

In 2017, Paragon expanded their business by opening an office in Lancaster County in the same building that houses the Lancaster Family YMCA Early Learning Academy – a Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Organization.

As Vaughn learned more about what the Lancaster Family YMCA is doing to provide early learning opportunities for children in need, he decided to make his next \$10,000 EITC contribution to the YMCA Pre-K program. Through these contributions, \$10,000 of taxable income came directly off Paragon’s bottom line which equates to approximately \$14,000 value to the business.

“The Pre-K program at the Lancaster Family YMCA covers so much of what I believe in. It gives children a chance for a better education and success in life. It helps local businesses by laying a positive foundation for the next generation of employees, and it provides me with a path to give back to my new community,” Vaughn said.

While the EITC program offers a great value to Vaughn and business owners like him in their efforts to build successful businesses, it also offers a great opportunity for them to make a direct impact in strengthening the communities where they work and live.

To learn more about the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit program and how it could benefit your business visit www.dced.pa.gov/programs/educational-improvement-tax-credit-program-eitc.

###

Paragon Engineering Services, Inc. is a professional engineering design firm offering mechanical, plumbing and electrical engineering services. Founded in 2002 by Vaughn G. Silar, Jr., P.E., Paragon has offices in York, Harrisburg, Maryland and most recently in Lancaster City at 252 Harrisburg Avenue. www.peservices.org.

Since 2013, the Lancaster Family YMCA has provided Pre-K and early learning programs to help close the Academic Achievement Gap and tackle the issue of school readiness in Lancaster County. The YMCA is a partner in the United Way of Lancaster County's Learning Lancaster Collaborative and is a PreK Counts partner site for the School District of Lancaster. The Y is expanding its PreK Counts program for the 2017-2018 school year. www.lancasteryymca.org/early_learning_academy.