## Open to the Public...

## The Harrisburg Civic Club Hosts Meagan Smith, MS, LCGC, Program Manager, UPMC Pinnacle "Genetic Testing-A Personal Choice"

We are honored to have Meagan Smith, LCGC speak at our October 8th Luncheon! What is genetic counseling? Meagan recently shared her thoughts below:

Genetic Testing – A Personal Choice

Our genes play a significant role in what we see on the outside--from the color of our eyes and the texture of our hair to the shape of our nose. Similarly, our genes play an equally significant role in what is happening on the inside, too. Although we cannot change our DNA, we can learn as much as possible about our family health history in order to live the healthiest life.

Genetic counselors work as part of a medical team consisting of medical geneticists (physicians specializing in genetics), nurses, oncologists, social workers and others. During the genetic consultation, the risks, benefits, and limitations of genetic testing are discussed.

Meagan Smith, MS, LCGC, UPMC Pinnacle, emphasizes that genetic testing is a personal choice, although identifying families with an inherited risk of cancer allows individuals to explore their options for prevention, early detection, and possibly treatment.

The Civic Club is honored to welcome Meagan Smith to our October 8th luncheon! RSVP can be made to <a href="mailto:civicclubhbg@gmail.com">civicclubhbg@gmail.com</a> or by phone to 717-234-6736 by October 4th. Limited seating available.

In accordance with their mission to serve Harrisburg, the Civic Club of Harrisburg hosts the luncheon and it is open to all women in Harrisburg monthly from September to May, as well as free programs throughout the year. A Civic Minded Breakfast is held bimonthly for non profits in the city, serving as a source of ideas and support for non profit organizations in Central Pennsylvania.