



Berks Parents Services Collaborative Program Helping Addicted Mothers in Berks County

Jean, a 30 year-old crack cocaine addict, was referred to Berks Parents Services Collaborative (BPSC) when she gave birth to a baby boy who also tested positive for crack cocaine at delivery. Jean had a felony conviction for assault and battery. She had lost custody of four older children. Jean was also involved with the youngest child's father who was physically abusive toward her.

Jean was open to working with BPSC in an attempt to keep custody of her youngest child. She also willingly attended drug and alcohol treatment.

During her participation with BPSC, Jean completed drug and alcohol treatment. She was diagnosed and treated for a mental health issue. Jean completed her Associates degree at a technical school and found a full time job, in spite of her felony conviction.

Jean was a loving and attentive mother to her youngest child who was allowed to remain in her custody due to her willingness and compliance with several agencies.

Jean was successfully discharged from the BPSC program and came back to speak about the changes in her life at the BPSC annual Christmas party. Jean openly shared her story bringing many in the audience to tears.

When Jean last spoke with her BPSC case manager, she was caring for her youngest child as well as one of her older children who had been allowed to move back home with her. She had ended her abusive relationship, was working full time, and had been clean for over three years.



Save the Dates: May 1 & 2, 2017



The Children's Home of Reading is excited to present the 25th Annual Golf Classic & Soirée, "The Best is Yet to Come."

This two-day celebration kicks off on Monday, May 1st when The Children's Home of Reading invites you to fly to the moon while you play among the stars, featuring 90 minutes of fun and food starting at 6pm followed by live entertainment & dancing, at the **Double Tree Hotel** in Reading. The Golf Classic will take place Tuesday, May 2nd at **LedgeRock Golf Club**.

Honoring **David Schlegel**, past CHOR Board Member, well known businessman, former Golf Classic Chair and committee member for over two decades. The proceeds from both events will support our mission: "caring for the needs of children and families in crisis and preparing them for success in life."

President's Message



This past year, The Children's Home of Reading has had much to be thankful for. Our loyal donors, constant supporters and incredible volunteers have made our work possible by giving their time and resources to directly impact the special children and families we serve.

All across the greater Berks and Lehigh Valley area there are children who struggle with neglect, trauma, abuse, mental health and behavioral issues. It's hard. Really, really hard....

- Shawn is a 17 year old boy who has been looking for an adoptive family since his parents were incarcerated when he was 12; through our matching event he was able to find a forever home with a family who already adopted other children.. This coming year Shawn will graduate from high school, turn 18, and will finally have a family he can call his own, something a year ago he didn't think was possible.

- Sabrina was a 15 year old girl who was sitting in a detention center for 5 months waiting for a treatment center to take her. The trauma, mental and sexual abuse she had experienced made her violate a neighbor and run away. After 5 different facilities denied her, I met with her and found a young woman who was in need of a chance to change her life around. She was admitted into our Girl's Residential Treatment Program and I'm happy to say that she is thriving, learning coping skills to deal with her anger and trauma, is doing some public speaking and is now on track to be discharged this summer and reunited with her family.

- A young mother...alone, raising two kids and struggling, heartbroken that her little ones will not receive anything for the holiday season...Thanks to the hundreds of elves who provided toys and more, they received much needed winter coats that they never imagined possible.

These are just a few people our services have touched this past year, and because of donors and supporters like you who supported us they now have a chance to succeed and thrive. Each year over 1000 children receive services from The Children's Home of Reading.

I'm excited to welcome in spring and invite you to join me at our 25th Annual Golf Classic and premier event "The Best is Yet to Come" Soirée May 1st and 2nd. Our evening event will be 90 minutes of fun, food and excitement honoring Dave Schlegel, past Board Chair, Golf Committee member for over 20 years and local businessman. We listened to your feedback and can't wait to unveil what we have in store. Golf this year will be at LedgeRock so you can once again tee up to be challenged for a great cause!

Thank you for believing in our mission and in our children and families we serve; by investing early, together we can change the future of mental health and our community.

Vincent J. LaSorsa, Ph. D.
President and CEO



CHOR Holds Annual Cook-off Fundraiser



Board Chair, Marge Bligh, and CHOR CEO, Vince LaSorsa, pose with the 2017 Golden, Silver, and Bronze Spatula Winners

On January 17, 2017, 37 local community volunteer "chefs" and more than 500 community members came together at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Reading for the 3rd Annual "So You Think You Can Cook Quest for the Golden Spatula" Cooking Competition. Guests mingled and sampled bite-sized cuisine from 37 chefs varying from soups and salads to barbeque and desserts while enjoying entertainment from local band 6T Proof.

For the second year in a row, guests voted Pharmacist Eric Esterbrook as the winner of the "Golden Spatula" for his Creamy Shrimp Soup. Reading Hospital's Carl Seidl placed second for his pulled pork barbeque and Merrill Lynch's Mark Maggs came in third place for his Blue Ribbon Jambalaya. The event raised over \$21,000 for children and families in crisis receiving services at The Children's Home of Reading. CHOR would like to thank Event Chair Marge Bligh, Holly Raser Chew, Bunmi Ojikutu, The DoubleTree by Hilton staff, the committee, the chefs, and Reading Hospital for their support.

CHOR would like to congratulate the top fundraisers for the event as well: Carl Seidl, who raised \$1,760, Eric Esterbrook who raised \$1,160, and Dr. Olubunmi Ojikutu who raised \$1,120.

Get Involved!



We LOVE our volunteers!

Are you recently retired or a young person considering work in social services?

CHOR is always looking for volunteers!

Contact Mindy McIntosh at 610-478-8266 x 468 or mmintosh@choreading.org to learn more.

CHOR's Residential Treatment Program Transforms Teen's Life

Lance is a fifteen year old boy who came to The Children's Home of Reading for exacerbated mental health and acute behaviors at home, school and in the community. He'd experienced neglect, significant trauma and abuse in and out of shelters, detention and other clinical placements.

Upon admission to our program he worked closely with our treatment team to develop a medication regiment and treatment plan to able him to cope and manage his trauma and exhibit pro social behaviors and coping strategies so that he can move into the transition phase to become a successful contributing member of society

After 14 months in our residential treatment facility he is due to be successfully discharged and reunited with his family and be integrated back into the public school system.



CHOR Hosts 25th Golf Fundraiser



The Children's Home of Reading will host its **25th Annual** Golf Classic on Tuesday, May 2 at LedgeRock Golf Club. This year's honoree is someone familiar to CHOR and its mission. Dave Schlegel is a past board member, a well-known local businessman, and former Golf Classic chair and committe member for two decades.

Sponsorship opportunities for the Golf Classic and the "The Best Is Yet To Come" Soirée on May 1 start at \$500. Interested parties should contact Mindy, Special Events and Volunteer Coordinator at mmcintosh@choreading.org or 610-478-8266 x 468.

CHOR would like to thank the companies who have already committed to sponsorship: EnerSys, Visions Federal Credit Union, Maggs & Associates Wealth Management Associates, Performance Toyota, Turkey Hill, UPMC Health Plan, Superior Inventories, Inc., and QSC Management.



**8th Annual
Carnival
of Love
Matching Event**

Friday, April 21, 2017
Time: 4:00 - 7:00 PM.

The Children's Home of Reading's
Cardy Campus
1040 Nicolls St., Reading PA

Bags of goodies for each family and games will be provided with Prizes, Food, Fun.

Door prizes will be available for families and affiliates in attendance.

The Children's HOME of Reading



FOSTER FAMILIES WANTED!

610-478-8266



Non - Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Reading, PA
Permit NO. 352

May 1 & May 2, 2017
SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Visit www.choreading.org to register

The official registration and financial information of The Children's Home of Reading may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

www.choreading.org



Wish List

Legos	Event Tickets
Small radios/boomboxes	Manicure Kits
Portable CD players	Nail Polish Kits
CDs :such as NOW! CDs	Teen Girl Pajamas
Wawa or Sheetz Gift Cards	Movies (rated G/PG/PG13)
Sports cards	Sport Team T-Shirts
Snap Tite Model Car Kits	Pens, Markers, Sharples
Magazines (for Teen Boys and Girls)	Board games and card games
Headphones or Ear Buds	Hats (baseball and beanies)
Axe or Old Spice Hygiene products (no aerosols)	Laundry bags
Feminine Hygiene Products	Posters
Origami Book and Paper	Plastic mirrors
Hairbrushes	Hairbrushes
Socks	Foosball Table

New Address

CHOR's Allentown office has moved to Easton. Please note the new address:

2000 S. 25th Street, Easton, PA 18042.

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