

The Children's Home of Reading

HomeFront

Helping Children Heal

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www.childrenshomeofrdg.org

Summer 2015

Making Wishes Come True



First place at LedgeRock Golf Club: Pictured Left to Right: Joe Butto, Doug Smith, Charles Haub and Chris Veno

the Crowne Plaza followed by a golf tournament the next day at the Berkshire Country Club and LedgeRock Golf Club. We are proud to announce we netted over \$120,000.

Over 250 people were in attendance to honor Judge Albert Stallone. The Judge has a very unique perspective of The Children's Home. He resided here off and on from the age of 5 through the age of 14. Judge Stallone later served 18 years as President of our Board of Directors. He shared some unique stories with dinner guests, including how he felt the Home helped shape who he is today.

This year's theme was "Making Wishes Come True". In addition to Judge Stallone's speech, some other highlights were a group of our residential boys singing Rascall Flatts rendition of "My Wish", our Live Auction, Silent Auction and Raffle. One of our boys gave a speech that was very inspirational and truly showed his strength and how he got himself off the

Our 23rd Annual Golf Classic and Dinner Auction was held on May 4th and 5th, 2015. The event kicked off with our Annual Dinner at

streets. His determination to further his education was very admirable and barely left a dry eye in the room.

Our Fund a Need this year was for Drug and Alcohol counseling for at risk children. These young men are coming to us with a dual diagnosis of both a mental health disorder and a substance abuse issue. It's important that these children enroll in a treatment program that addresses both problems at the same time. The untreated symptoms of a mental health disorder can cause the patient to be unable to remain clean and sober, and untreated



First Place at Berkshire Country Club: Eric Burkey, John Gobright and Mike Micozzi. (missing is Rick Burkey)

substance abuse issues can make mental health treatment ineffective. Drug and Alcohol treatment is being provided to these young men in an outpatient setting but is very costly since we are not reimbursed for these services. Thank you to everyone that contributed to this very vital service.

The Annual Golf Classic and Dinner Auction serves as the main fundraiser of The Children's Home. It helps raise necessary funds to provide care and support to over 500 children daily through 14 different programs, including mental health, educational and community based programs for children in crisis.



Honoree- Judge Albert A. Stallone

President's Message



On the cover of this issue is a story about Inspiration. It started as a fundraiser – our Annual Dinner and Golf Tournament to raise money for The Children's Home of Reading (CHOR). But it ended up being so much more.

Judge Albert A. Stallone resided at The Children's Home (known then as The Home for Friendless Children) throughout most of his childhood. He was also placed in several different foster

homes during that period. He spoke at our Dinner about his childhood and it occurred to me that it could have been a very sad, heart-wrenching recollection as he revealed a less-than typical childhood. But, he spoke of mentors, people who helped shape him into the man he is today. He spoke of a childhood with fond memories. His speech was a true inspiration. He didn't let some misfortunes hold him back. He was driven, determined, and learned from each challenge he was faced with. Our attendees that evening were so inspired by him, including his family who heard many of the stories for the first time.

And then there was Angel R., who spoke about life in the streets in Philadelphia. He shared how he chose to be homeless for a period of time due to unsafe conditions in his home. Angel credited The Children's Home for providing him a safe, nurturing environment as he receives his treatment.

So, yes, we raised some necessary money to provide our quality programs. We got to thank some incredible community members who continuously support CHOR. But we all got a chance to listen to stories that inspired us. Thank you to Judge Stallone and Angel R. for sharing your stories. And thank you to all our participants, donors and sponsors who helped make it an evening we will never forget.

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

About The Children's Home

Established in 1884, The Children's Home has 130 years of experience in providing care to children from Berks and surrounding counties. Over 800 children and their families are served each year.

Mission Statement: Caring for the needs of children and families in crisis and preparing them for success in life.

Programs and Services

Residential Programs: serves boys diagnosed with behavioral or psychiatric disorders whose behaviors require residential treatment:

RTF – Residential Treatment Facility

SRTF – Specialized Residential Treatment Facility

TSRTF – Transitional SRTF

Community Based Programs:

Berks Parents Services Collaborative - provides case management services to women with addiction problems.

Acute Partial Hospitalization Program - for children ages 5-12 suffering from acute psychiatric disorders.

Evening Reporting Center – a detention alternative program for pre-adjudicated youth.

Foster Care and Adoption - provides safe, loving homes for children victimized by abuse or neglect in their homes.

In-Home Services - psychiatric services to children in their home setting.

Psychiatric Outpatient Clinic - Psychiatric services to children, adults and families.

School-Based Services - psychiatric services to children in school setting

Educational Programs:

CHOR Day Academy – licensed, private school serving children in community with emotional or behavioral issues.

Centre Avenue Academy - licensed, private school, educating the young men who reside on our campus.

Extended School Year Program - additional educational and behavioral support in summer months to students with needs.

2015 Board of Directors

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Board Spotlight

1. What prompted you to join the Board of The Children's Home of Reading?

The day my mother passed in 2011, our attorney asked me if I had a specific charity that I would like people to donate to in memory of my mother. She really didn't have a specific charity, nor did I. I thought about it for a few minutes, and thought of the Children's Home, and perhaps the children would need shoes. We had Margaret's Shoe Store on North 5th Street (back in the 1980's and 1990's known as The Fifth Avenue of Reading due to the many high-end clothing, gift, furriers and our shoe store) for 15 years, and my mother always loved shoes! I had him contact CHOR, and they loved the idea of a shoe fund for the children, and I loved that it would help the children and the donations would be in memory of my mom!



Leslie Giardiello

2. How long have you been on the Board?

I have been on the Board 3 years, and absolutely love it! Everyone is focused on the children 24/7, and I am very proud and humbled to be a part of CHOR.

3. Were you involved in The Children's Home prior to joining the Board?

Yes, I was very involved with the Margaret J. Yeager Shoe Fund. I formed such a bond with the wonderful and caring staff, that I was thrilled to be invited on their Board!

4. What is one of your goals on the Board of CHOR?

One of my goals is to continue coming up with new ideas for our fundraising event that occurs the first week in May of each year. CHOR always has so many needs for the children, and I enjoy being on all of the committees for that event. I am an Event Planner - Details by Leslie - and I have the opportunity to use my talents to help raise funds for CHOR.

5. Why should someone else consider serving on our Board or volunteering for CHOR?

It is very fulfilling, and it is a place I feel that use their funds wisely and for all the right reasons; giving a child a chance to better their lives!

6. A little about you personally and professionally?

Actually, I have numerous positions! I am currently a VP of my family business, Yeager Supply, Inc., and I am also VP of Numerical Control Service, Inc. (NCS) in Reading. My husband Joe and I, started this CNC repair service company a year before we married in 1979! My newest endeavor in the last few years is event planning! This is a real passion, and I design and decorate homes in PA, NJ, and FL (or anywhere!), along with design/décor/planning for weddings, showers, etc. As you can see, I am more than busy, but I always find time to attend Board meetings for CHOR and numerous committees.

Helping with Horsepower



Helping with Horsepower is a national program co-founded by Laura Klock of Klockwerks motorcycles in South Dakota. It is designed as an interactive teaching tool to empower disadvantaged youths with confidence and self esteem by "rebuilding a motorcycle / rebuilding a life". Currently there are several of these builds happening across the United States. The CHOR is the only facility currently authorized in the state of Pennsylvania.

Our 2015 Helping with Horsepower program has gained tremendous donations and support all across the United States from businesses in the motorcycling industry. The base motorcycle (a 2007 Harley Davidson Softail) was generously donated by Schaeffer's Harley Davidson in Orwigsburg, PA. The custom seat has been donated by Mustang from Massachusetts. The custom wheels, air cleaner and sprockets have been donated by Performance Machine from California.

The custom exhaust has been donated by Vance and

Hines from California, the tires have been donated by Metzler North America from Georgia, and the custom mirrors have been donated by Kuryakyn from Wisconsin. The boys have truly been touched by the national, financial, and personal support these companies have invested in them and their rebuild!

For the past 3 months a group of boys have traveled once per week to Reading Cycles on Morgantown Road in Reading PA, and under the instruction of owner Charlie Conrad, most of the upgrades have now been installed on the bike. The last portion of this rebuild will be complete when the painted parts



HWH Article continued on Pg. 9

Butterfly Garden at CHOR

This past Spring has been a busy season for the CHOR garden. Through the Schuylkill River Heritage Area (SRHA), students of our Centre Avenue Academy, planted two Butterfly Garden plots surrounding the Carroll Family Memorial Garden.

Chapel Project

As of this writing, we are contacting various contractors to see if they would be interested in being part of a construction team to make this dream a reality. Yes, we are in the home stretch. The plans are done, funds for almost half of the anticipated costs have been raised and we are now looking for contractors who are willing to donate half of their costs so we can begin construction this fall.

The Chapel is a project we've been working on for several years and will provide a sanctuary for our clients and staff to go to when they need to pray, reflect or meditate. Included in the plans is a multi-purpose room that will be available for religious studies, group activities and some arts.

We were blessed to have some amazing community members come forward and join our planning committee which has helped us reach this point: Bill McMahan, Christine Smith and Cathy Beaver. We are so very grateful to have them on our team, along with the visionary, Jann Meadows.

We are still accepting donations for this project. Donations are accepted online at www.childrenshomeofrdg.org or in enclosed envelope (please mark the donation as for the Chapel). And, we are always looking for more members of our committee. Let us know if you are willing to help provide a safe, spiritual place for our children.

8th Annual Poetry Night

The residents were asked to come up with poems using our psychoeducational S.E.L.F. model which stands for Safety, Emotional Management, Loss, Future. The night opened with a theme song "Rhythm is a dancer" and a brief history of poetry, snapping and rhythm. The participants wore cut out denim pockets which hung around their necks concealing their poetry until it was their turn to render their poetry aloud.

Some clients did victory poems, survivor poems, and political poems. Some used music and/or interchanged song to their spoken words. Some poets were very rhythmic while others presented short simple verses. A variety of foods graced the table. Dessert was a two tiered cake. Consisting of a vanilla and chocolate cake, and then topped with a spice cake to resemble a pocket and a poem. Creative and tasty!

Our guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Noah who captivated the audience with his energy and loud voice. He proudly wore his large pocket around his neck. The clients really enjoyed him and so did the staff. At the end of the evening he walked around and greeted everyone. He told the young poets they did a great job and to be confident in themselves and their ability to write more.

The winning poems were selected based on creativity, inspiration and the Sanctuary model. 1st place: Angel R., 2nd place: Kristian R., and 3rd place: Isaac K. Every participant received amazing posters from The Academy of American Poets, some school supplies and a gift card. Everyone was appreciative.

As an old saying goes: "Remember to speak life to our children for they become what you tell them". That night our children heard, "you are so creative, very smart and awesome!" Let us keep making poetry.



These gardens were incorporated into Project SOLO, which was initiated, planned, and funded through the SRHA and greatly enjoyed by all students. Project SOLO (Schuylkill Outdoor Leadership Odyssey) was designed to bring area experts in the sciences and related scholarly fields to the classroom to educate and develop

school-community partnerships and promote environmental stewardship in students. In addition, the project coordinated speakers, field trips, and other activities including a visit to the planetarium and beekeepers demonstration.

The butterfly gardens contain bushes, flowering plants and "resting rocks" to pool small amounts of water for visiting butterflies. The students planted everything in the garden according to a layout designed by Robert Folwell, Trails Project Manager of the SRHA.

A big thank-you to the SRHA for providing such a wonderful, hands-on educational experience we will all enjoy throughout the coming months!

Bunnies Make it Happen at the Home...



Thanks to the efforts of Kathy Fegley and Tina Hogue, the Children's Home was able to provide every resident, client, and foster child with an Easter basket. Slightly over 600 baskets!

Kathy Fegley has been involved with making Easter happen for our children for 14 years now – Tina Hogue for about 6 years. Many of our children wrote special thank you notes for Kathy and Tina to show what these baskets meant to them:

“Thank you so much. Without you guys, I don't think we would know how to spend Easter.”

“I am saying thank you for the Easter basket. You really didn't have to do that for me. “

“Thank you. This is the best thing anyone has ever done for me. XOXO”

The Wyomissing UCC in Sinking Spring remembered us again this year with boxes of assorted peanut butter, coconut and mixed chocolate eggs – yummy! What a talented groups of chefs!

ALL of the children had a great Easter this year because of a very supportive community – Thank you so much for all you have done and continue to do.

7th Annual Spelling Bee

The residents look forward to the Spelling Bee each year. It is nice to see them competing in a positive and healthy educational environment.

In the weeks prior to the event, the staff observed one of our clients, River, being very supportive of his peers. He said he was encouraging those that were scared and didn't have confidence in their spelling abilities. His confidence almost seemed infectious. He helped fellow client Dakota study and learn how to chunk large words into bite size pieces. While Dakota was nervous before going up in spelling line, River told him with a smile...“You'll be fine...it's not like money is in this. This is the competition; just do your best you'll do fine”. You could see Dakota's confidence begin to increase.

Before the competition began, the Spelling Bee mascot “Buzz” stopped by to say hello to the contestants. “Buzz” left kind words for all. As the evening progressed staff member Kira E., told the clients, “Regardless of the outcome, it takes true confidence and strength to come up in front of your peers and do this”.

Congratulations to Yarette D. who came in first place with the winning word Pathology.

Dylan N. who served as the only client judge, culminated the Bee ceremony with the underlying slogan that “Everyone is a winner”. This is the true message.

Grace Outlet Church

Members of Grace Outlet Church (GOC) began coming to CHOR once a month to play board games with the boys. According to Joe Saadi, program coordinator, “The parishioners enjoyed getting to know the boys and building relationships with them each month.” As time went on, Joe started organizing additional events on and off campus. “Wow what a response from the CHOR staff, the church staff and of course the boys.” Some of the additional activities included a night at Ozzie's, basketball, Fightin' Phils games, and the most fun had to be Pagoda Motorcycle Club's demolition derby!

We look forward to continuing our relationship with GOC and future activities of rock climbing, bowling, mini golf, returning to PMC for a motor cross dirt bike race and ultimately having an afternoon picnic on the CHOR campus with the church family, CHOR kids and staff to BBQ, play games and have a kickball game.

According to Joe Saddy, “It has been so enjoyable to spend time with the boys at CHOR, we have experienced nothing but kindness and appreciation from the kids and I hope that in some small way we are helping them. The hardest thing for us is having to say goodbye and good luck to someone leaving the program, we understand that is a good thing but everytime it happens it's like losing a friend. Thank you CHOR for allowing us the privilege of spending quality time with the boys.”

Thank you Grace Outlet Church for your time and interest in our boys well being.

*We'll bring the hearts, You bring
the home, They'll bring the love.*

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ages, races and various
backgrounds.**

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DONOR Corner

Blankets of Hope

Thank you to Blankets of Hope for including The Children's Home of Reading in their blanket distribution. To date, we have received 154 blankets for the children and families we serve.

Blankets of Hope is a non-profit 501c(3) organization that provides fleece blankets to homeless shelters, cancer and dialysis centers, children's homes and hospitals, law enforcement agencies, veterans agencies and more throughout Pennsylvania. Since their inception in 2012, they have donated 4,752 blankets!

They feel, as we do, that every person deserves to feel Secure, to be Warm and to have HOPE!

For more information, visit their website at www.blanketsofhopepa.org.

Leadership Berks

Creates Communication Plan for CHOR

We were very fortunate to have six talented and emerging leaders formulate a Communications Plan for The Children's Home. As part of the Leadership Berks, Alvernia University Program, Judd Meinhart, Kelly Caddy, Kate Jacobson, Mat Flamisch, Sterling Garcia and Kristin Boyd worked tirelessly to identify the perceptions of CHOR in our community through a survey which they conducted at Chic-Fil-A's on Giving Tuesday, online, and at the Law Foundation luncheon in December. After carefully analyzing the data, they created a Communications Plan to overcome any misconceptions about our agency and to enhance the understanding of our organization in the community. With the help of Nicole Fryer, of VA Productions, a short video was created to communicate some key messages about The Home, which can be viewed on our website at www.childrenshomeofrdg.org. It is now the task of the Marketing committee at CHOR to implement the proposed plan. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Debbie Hartranft at 610-478-8266 ext 469. We thank Alvernia University, Toni Eckert of Leadership Berks, and our incredible project team for providing us with this tremendous opportunity.



Grants

The Children's Home would like to thank the following Foundations and Individuals for making our grant wishes come true. We could not continue the important work we do without your help. On behalf of the children we serve, thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Berks County Medical Society Alliance awarded a grant towards at-risk youth and Education.

Helen M. and Harry O. Hahn Fund of the Berks County Community Foundation awarded a grant towards our chapel project.

UGI-Forward Thinking



UGI Utilities donated funds to The Children's Home of Reading to purchase Forward Thinking, a cognitive-behavioral series using evidence-based strategies to

assist youth in making positive changes to their thoughts, feelings and behaviors. Several of our Lehigh Valley programs will be utilizing the program so the children they serve can apply the information presented in the interactive journals to help them achieve their goals of responsible living. "We couldn't have purchased this program without the help of UGI Utilities", says Suzanne Shilling-Askew, VP of Programs at CHOR. "We are so grateful for the opportunity this provides our children."

UGI Utilities is committed to helping the communities they serve and we are so appreciative for their support at CHOR.

New Gym Floor

Thank you to Michael Kautter of Kautter and Kelley Architects of Wyomissing for donating funds to sand and refinish our gym floor. It was truly needed and greatly appreciated!! Also, thank you to Miller Flooring Company of West Chester for their excellent workmanship and generous discount to meet our budget.



The boys are truly enjoying the new gym!

Olivet Blue Mountain Camp

Thank you to the generosity of Brad White Sr., Tom White, and the Olivet's Send A Kid to Camp Program, more than half of our clients attended Olivet Blue Mountain Camp this year. For some, it was their first time at camp, for some other lucky ones, it was their second year.



The first fish that was caught this year at camp was a rainbow trout. It was brought in by a first year camper, Michael, who has Cerebral Palsy. It took this client a good portion of his morning to navigate the grounds at the camp and make his way down the multiple flights of stairs. However, once he was situated and casted his line, the bite occurred within minutes. Our Math teacher, Mike Progansky, an avid huntsman and fisherman, coached Michael and talked him through reeling in the line for a successful catch. The excitement on both of their faces as the fish came in was remarkable. As all of the other clients witnessed the event, they had a moment of understanding that even though Michael is different, he can

do just as much, if not more, than our other young men. Michael was very proud, confident, and accomplished that day! It surely was his 15 minutes of fame, and he has talked about it every day since.



Another client Yarett D., who was very afraid to board any kind of boat last year, was one of the first clients on board this year. It is amazing to see him rowing his canoe confidently out on the water. He navigated turns and cooperated with a peer that was riding with him without even an inkling of hesitation. The growth that the clients experience from year to year at Olivet Blue Mountain Camp is astonishing.

Mid way through the week, many clinicians came to camp to visit their clients and held their counseling sessions out on the water, dock, or decks overlooking the lake. It was an opportune time for clinicians to meet with their clients and refocus on their immediate and future goals.



The peace that encompasses our clients when they are one with Mother Nature is something that they can own, hold onto, and remember for the rest of their lives. It is at camp that they rediscover themselves, develop confidence, and build friendships and bonds that may have never occurred at school or on their residential unit. A crisis in their lives may only last a day, but delivering them an oasis at camp where they can make everlasting memories will last a lifetime. You can hear the stories over and over again of the huge fish they caught, the lake that they canoed on, or how good the S'more's are when you toast the marshmallow just right!

We would also like to thank Brentwood Industries who contributed to our camp fund that provided daily buses, tackle, ingredients for s'mores, and various activities throughout the week!

Embryology: The Hatching Project

For the past decade, our Middle School students at CHOR have enjoyed experiencing, Embryology: The Hatching Classroom Project, sponsored by Pennsylvania 4-H Projects through The Penn State Agricultural Berks Extension in Reading. The goal of this class, which takes about a month to complete from beginning to end, is to help students develop life skills which enable them to live a productive experience with living things, their life cycles and their habitats.



They experience the beginning of life by watching the embryo growing inside an egg until it hatches into a chick with feathers and attitude. As the students hold the baby chicks, they learn how fragile a new life can be. Penn State supplies us with 15 fertilized eggs, the needed equipment and supplies and a 4-H Embryology Program assistant who instructs the students with many hands-on projects.

After a month of observations and hands-on participation, the baby chicks were ready to be placed in their new home at a local farm to continue their growth cycle. Although the boys find it hard to say goodbye to new pets, they realize life goes on and the farm is where the chicks will prosper and be happy.

Thank you Penn State Berks for this incredible opportunity.



PROGRAM

Updates

Basketball Clinic with Coach Jeff Sparrow

Jeff Sparrow is a Point3Basketball Alpha Trainer and the founder of Point Blank Period LLC. His mission is to develop student athletes mentality into one that believes in NO EXCUSES. The sooner players realize that there are no shortcuts, the sooner they will turn their dreams into reality! POINT BLANK PERIOD!



The coach volunteered to run a basketball clinic with 12 of our finest basketball players in April. He shared his story with the young men. They listened intently as he explained his love and passion for basketball, the setbacks that he experienced along the way as a player (physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually), and how he persevered through hard work and determination to now have the “best job in the world” and share his love of the game with others. His entire life story and success was built on a motto that his high school coach once shared with him, “An excuse is- a mental rationalization



upon which monuments of NOTHINGNESS are built!” He broke it down word by word so that it was engrained into each young man’s brain that day.

After his speech, Coach Sparrow gave every member of the basketball clinic a workout to remember. They worked on skills, agility, balance, coordination, and reaction time. He was scheduled to stay for one hour but ended up staying for over two. He played each of the 12 boys one on one before he left. Only 2 out of 12 actually scored on him! They enjoyed the challenge, knowledge, and passion that he brought to CHOR. They came to school sore the next morning, but still repeating and sharing with their peers the motto they were taught: “An excuse is- a mental rationalization upon which monuments of NOTHINGNESS are built!” This motto will serve them not only on the basketball court, but in school, treatment, work, and all of life’s up and downs. Thank you Coach Sparrow for making a difference in the lives of so many!



Hoops for Heart

Our boys were smiling (more than usual) every Friday this past January announcing that pretzels and soda were for sale! They were hard at work raising money for the American Heart Association (AHA) and in turn, their own Hoops for Heart week-long event.

Hoops For Heart is a school program that raises money for people with heart defects, heart disease, and stroke. It also provides a week long opportunity for students to develop basketball skills and be physically active. The PE Dept. set a goal to raise \$137 for the AHA through the fundraising efforts. I am proud to announce that our very first year of fundraising we doubled our goal! We raised a grand total of \$283.25! And, this took place in only 8 total hours of selling!

Once all of the funds were raised in January, the fun of Hoops for Heart began. During our Hoops For Heart program, the students at Centre Ave. Academy & CHOR Day Academy were working hard to keep their hearts healthy. Many of the boys were dripping with beads of sweat, their hearts were pounding, clothes were soaked, and muscles were aching. They not only played to keep their hearts healthy during their week in the gym, they proudly played with all of their heart. Competitions were fierce, pride was seeping from their

veins, and they were alive with excitement!

The students competed through tournaments, as well as through mini games and competitions throughout the

week. Some clients even created t-shirt designs for next year’s Hoops for Heart program! To conclude the event, a school wide assembly was held for incentives earned during the week. At Centre Ave. Academy, the clients were able to throw pies at some of their favorite staff members! At CHOR Day Academy, the students competed to earn the privilege of shaving a staff member’s hair or having a waitress for the day at lunch! Each participant was presented with a Hoops for Heart Certificate for the 2014-2015 school year. Our students and staff are already looking forward to next year’s Hoops for Heart Event! What a great way to raise money and stay healthy!



SFC 2015 Recognition Dinner

The Annual Resource Parent Recognition Dinner was held on Tuesday, May 5. Resource Parents received certificates for their years of service. The following received Certificates for Milestone Years:

5 years	Jeffrey & Stephanie Lenko
Angel & Cindy Jimenez	10 years
Juan Velez & Adaliz Medina	Gertrudis Badillo – Perez &
Juana and Manuel Vicioso	Ramon Badillo
Keith and Lisa Wojaczyk	

Analexis Foss, daughter of Andrew and Linda Foss, who participates in the Berks Youth Chorus, also sang for the Resource Parents.



India & Roman Badillo



Analexis Foss, Andrew & Linda Foss's daughter



Keith & Lisa Wojaczyk



Dinner being served

End of School Year Banquet

The Children's Home of Reading Specialized Foster Care Program held its annual end of the school year banquet on June 9, 2015. This banquet acknowledges the accomplishments of our school age clients throughout the school year. The children are recognized for academic achievements, attendance, and an individualized special recognition award. This year we also celebrated the graduation of two of our clients from local high schools. Every year a client is chosen as the "Resident of the Year" and is acknowledged for their academic, as well as personal achievements throughout the past school year. This client is awarded a \$100 gift card to recognize their achievements.

Helping with Horsepower continued from page 3

return from Kohrs Kustoms in Myerstown, with airbrushing by State of the Art Design in Myerstown! Our students are amazing! The boys have shown and experienced remarkable growth along with many positive elements this program is designed to offer.

The final phase of this program will then be handed over to Team Throttle (a group of volunteers interested in being part of this great project) who will take the bike that the boys have named "Penny" on tour to various motorcycle themed events and locations this summer. We will be selling raffle tickets at these events to individuals interested in supporting this project, with a chance to win this one of kind motorcycle designed by the boys at the Children's Home of Reading!

Team Throttle volunteers are needed. For information on helping volunteer to sell tickets, or for more information on purchasing a chance to win this bike, please contact Mindy McIntosh, Development Supervisor at the Children's Home at 610-478-8266 extension 468, or email her at mmcintosh@childrenshomeofrdg.org.

2015 Adoption Matching Event

For the 6th consecutive year, the CHOR Adoption program has held its *Carnival of Love Matching Event* to help connect waiting families with children in need of a "forever home". Every year, something new has been added in hopes to attract more families and affiliates to the event. This year, the event



was held on Friday, April 17 from 4:00-7:00 pm. With the assistance of donated advertisement space (Land Displays); food donated from CD's Restaurant and Catering, Boyertown,

PA; donated goodies from Texas Roadhouse, Reading, PA and Tastefully Simple; volunteers from Altrusa; and adoption counsel/guidance from Jay Ginsburg, Adoption Attorney; this year's event was another huge success! Approximately 32-35 families were in attendance and one known match was made during this event!!! Several "waiting" children were also in attendance to speak with families interested in adoption; and one even sang for the large crowd! This year's attendance was the largest of any matching event held at CHOR, and with next year's matching event looming in the wings, April 2016 looks to be just as promising as this year.



CREATIVITY Corner



Esteban S.

People misbehave because we want things that we can't have in that current moment, then we act out in different ways. After that we rationalize and make excuses. Excuse me but excuses are pillars you build in your minds to make monuments of nothingness in which greatness will never cast upon them and failure will exceed and succeed in them.

Angel R.

Trout Release



For the third consecutive year a group of residents and their math teacher Mike Progansky assisted the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission with stocking more than 1500 trout in the Tulpehocken Creek. While working with

waterways conservation officers and other local volunteers our residents had the opportunity to learn about trout biology, stream ecology, how trout are raised in the state hatcheries and the vital role volunteers play in maintaining quality fishing experiences throughout the commonwealth.



Margaret J. Yeager Shoes For Children Fund

In Memory Of: Margaret J. Yeager

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Giardiello

In Honor Of: Bradley Giardiello, His 33rd Birthday

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Giardiello

Honors

January 16 thru June 5, 2015

In Honor Of:

Cole Kaufman, His 1st Holy Communion
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Walborn

Judge Albert Stallone

Atty. and Mrs. Carmen R. Stanziola

Lee Prussman

Mr. Mike McCool

Louise Masano

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Masano

Mark and Kathi Wennell

Mr. and Mrs. J. William Widing III

Matthew Bailey

Ms. Lauren Darkes

Memorials

January 16 thru June 5, 2015

In Memory Of:

Anne Davis

Mrs. Adrienne Mensak

Barry Schaedler

Mrs. Donna P. Schaedler

Bettie Sifen

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Trate

Mr. and Mrs. David Matthews

Mr. Anthony M. Krol

Ms. Cheryl Trate

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey A. Salino

Mr. and Mrs. Howard A. Whitehead

Mr. and Mrs. David R. Dautrich

David Rupp

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Sonnon

Ms. Deborah Reed

David and Mae Hollenbach

Mr. David W. Hollenbach

Felix Tomassi

Mr. Anthony Tomassi

Fern Renner

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Schlegel

Henry and Jean Pastirik

Ms. Patricia Pastirik

Jeffrey Fegley

Lentz Milling Co

Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Heffner

Ms. Ruth C. Reinsel

Jennie Powers

Mr. and Mrs. James Powers

John White

Mrs. Annetta White

Rosemary Blake

Ms. Janene B. Wagner

Thomas Keim

Ms. Shannon J. Keim

Ms. Marie S. Kisling

Ribbons of Respect

The Children's Home of Reading was honored to be chosen to help make blue ribbons to display throughout our county in honor of the men and women who protect and serve. With the help of Amy Muckey of Stein's Flowers, children from our Residential, Foster Care, Evening Reporting Center and Day Academy programs made over 1,000 bows for our citizens to proudly display on telephone poles, mailboxes, trees, etc.

The Ribbons of Respect program taught a valuable lesson to our children as they tried a new skill – making ribbons. They learned the importance of giving back, respecting professionals who are here to serve you and teamwork. We look forward to participating next year as this program already has huge plans for expansion!

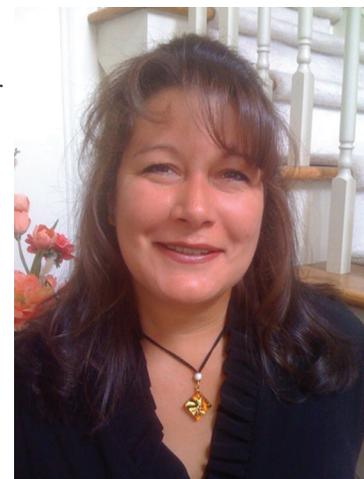


Park Beautification Project by Lehigh Valley ERC

Children from the Lehigh Valley Evening Reporting Center (LV-ERC,) along with Program Supervisor Holly Brennan and Community Interventionist Rob Reitenauer, assisted with a park beautification project at the Allentown Peace Garden. Located on the grounds of Jordan United Church of Christ, the Peace Garden offers a serene setting with a wonderful rose garden. Using rakes, shovels and wheelbarrows the LV-ERC program participants cleaned up leaves and cleared a path for visitors. The Peace Garden is normally maintained by Pat, an 87 year old Jordan U.C.C. member who greatly appreciated the LV-ERC participants' hard work and efforts. The young men cleared debris from the natural spring and moved rocks and stones from outlying areas of the garden to create a natural rock flower bed. They spent over 90 minutes working on the beautification project and interacting with Pat who supervised and directed their efforts while sharing stories of her own childhood and adolescence. The young men left the Peace Garden feeling tired but also proud and accomplished as a result of their hard work.



In 1988, at the age of 16, Janet was placed in emergency placement in our Shelter Program following years of childhood abuse. After being a resident for two months, she was successfully placed with a forever foster home. While residing with their three biological children and blending with their three former adult foster children, this family's care gave Janet the compassion, understanding and patience needed to regain respect and trust the adults in her life.



In 2010, after battling cancer and medical complications, her life was spared and Janet sought for a greater purpose and mission. She recently contacted CHOR wanting to give back to the agency which during the most difficult times helped in forever changing her life in the right direction. She currently shares her own personal story and insight by speaking to prospective adoptive and foster parents, and assists our Development office to benefit CHOR as well as the children and families we serve. In addition to her efforts at CHOR, she volunteers as a Delaware County Court Appointed Support Advocate (CASA).

Janet is a proud mother of two adult sons, Ryan and Eric. She resides in Chester County with her husband, Jacques. In her spare time, she enjoys baking, boating along the Chesapeake Bay, ballroom dance, reading, and traveling.

We are very grateful Janet came in to our world and appreciate all she is doing to make a difference in the young lives.

Wish List

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Men's Athletic Shorts – Sizes M thru XXL | Movie – Miniature Golf |
| Board Games – BINGO, Checkers, Jenga, Connect 4 | Fightin' Phils Tickets |
| Scented Body Wash & Deodorant | Legos Kits |
| Facial Scrub Lotion | Comic or Sport Magazines |
| Decks of Playing Cards | New or Used DVD Players |
| 50+ Piece Puzzles | Nerf Footballs |
| Toothbrushes/Toothpaste | Journals |
| | Chap Stick |
| | Ankle Socks |

For more information please contact
Deb Acker at 610.478.8266 ext 429.

Career Talks



On April 17th Eric Savage, President/Owner of Freedom Auto Group was the first guest speaker at The Children's Home for our Career Talks series. A program designed for our boys in the residential program to discuss different career options and valuable life lessons.

Eric talked about the importance of credit and how it is determined. The majority of our children do not have the simple luxury of having a parent or guardian assist them when they purchase their first car. Also, he spoke about being in the Life Improvement Business, a business philosophy of Freedom Toyota that has earned them numerous awards.

Eric is extremely passionate about what he does and is very active in our community. The boys had lots of questions about the automotive industry and were so excited to have him join us. Thank you Eric for helping improve the lives of our boys!

Please join us on BCTV. The show airs live on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 11:30 am and replays on the following Saturday at 8:30 pm, Sunday at 3:30 pm and Monday, at 1:30 pm. You can also watch live or archived shows on www.bctv.org.



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.