

Summer-Fall 2015



www.careforchildren.info

CARE NEWS

A Non-profit Organization Dedicated to Improving the Lives of Children of All Abilities

Child Safety and Injury Prevention Programs Heat Up



Chris Gible, LCSW, CARE Social Worker/ Outreach Coordinator measures preschool student Ami, age 4, during a Child Passenger Safety Seat program held at Rainbow Corner Preschool at CARE for Children.

CARE for Children's Child Safety and Injury Prevention program is going strong with a variety of events held over the summer and more initiatives planned for fall.

'Ride Safe' Summer Child Safety Fairs were held on June 11th in Port Allegany and Smethport. The safety fairs were highlighted with bicycle helmet fittings, a bike safety obstacle course, and safety information for children and families. The Port Allegany event, held on the town square, was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Port Allegany. Many Rotarians volunteered at the event and also cooked lunch for those in attendance. The Smethport event was held at Hamlin Memorial Library and funded in part by the Smethport Rotary Club. Twenty-two children were fitted for bicycle helmets.

In recognition of Child Passenger Safety Week- September 13th through the 19th, CARE held a car seat safety program for both preschool classes. Students were weighed and measured to determine which car seat would fit them best and each student colored a worksheet with the correct car seat to share with their parents.

In addition, a car seat safety check was held September 18th at the Ashley Booth Griffin CARE for Children Center. Corporal Lance Schimp, PA State Police Kane Barracks, and Dan Woods, Deputy, McKean County Sheriff's Office, both certified child passenger safety technicians, helped educate families about choosing the right car seat for their child and checked to ensure car seats were installed properly. Twelve car seats were

checked at the event which was sponsored by Safe Kids Pennsylvania – McKean County Partner, The Pennsylvania State Police, and CARE for Children.

CARE is excited to launch a new safety initiative in October. Through generous funding from Seneca Resources Corporation, CARE was able to purchase carbon monoxide detectors for its Home Safety program. The detectors will be available at no cost for families who meet a set of guidelines which include: residing in McKean County, having at least one child reside in the home, demonstrated financial need, and participation in a short program survey 30-60 days after receiving the carbon monoxide detector.

CARE's ongoing Safety Item Referral Program, which works with in-home service providers, distributes various childproofing safety items to families in need. The McKean County Family Centers are an active partner in these efforts. In an effort to promote 'Safe Babies,' every baby born at the Bradford Regional Medical Center receives a bag of safety and injury prevention materials and a gift certificate for a childproofing kit.

CARE's Child Safety and Injury Prevention efforts, as the lead agency for Safe Kids Pennsylvania – McKean County Partner, are funded in part by the United Way of the Bradford Area, Inc. For more information on the carbon monoxide detector program or other safety initiatives, please call CARE at 814-362-4621.

Exchange Club Bowling Expo

CARE families, including Jake, age 14, and his little brother George, enjoyed the Exchange Club Bowling Expo at Bylle Lanes Bowling Center on Saturday, October 3rd.

For the last several years, the Bradford Exchange Club has hosted children who receive CARE therapy services and their family members to free bowling and dinner during the Expo. This year 14 children and 11 adults participated in the fun event.

In addition, the Expo supports the Exchange Club's child abuse prevention initiatives with funds supporting area organizations that provide programs for children who are impacted by child abuse and supports child abuse prevention programs.



Summer Programs focus on Early Learning and Therapeutic Recreation



This summer CARE for Children offered nine sessions of Early Learning Day Camp for 3, 4 and 5 year olds and nine sessions of developmental playgroup for toddlers ages 24 to 42 months old.

In addition, CARE increased the number of Summer Day Camp sessions for children with disabilities from four to nine days.

The Early Learning Camp focused on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) activities and many days were spent using the new playground at CARE as an outdoor classroom.

“Learning shouldn’t stop in the summer,” said Kimberly Engstrom, preschool director at CARE. “Children naturally love to explore and use their imaginations. The Summer Day Camp gives my staff the opportunity to offer fun and enriching activities that will be reinforced during the school year.”

Activities included using rain gutters as ramps, weather experiments, making nature collages with natural materials, making binoculars with toilet paper rolls and using them on walks through the neighborhood, and practicing making simple structures with cups and other materials.

Volunteer Martha Morris and her family built a raised bed in the playground and the children planted vegetable seeds and tended the plants as they grew. They were able to eat what they grew at snack times later on in the summer.

The Toddler Playgroup gave toddlers an introduction to an early learning environment. They were able to socialize with their peers, practice self-help skills and learn routines. The playgroup focused on language development and helped toddlers with the transition to a preschool program.

CARE’s Day Camp for school age children saw campers spending time at the Ashley Booth Griffin Center, the University of Pittsburgh Bradford Campus and at Pine Acres for a round of adaptive golf.



“Increasing the number of day camp sessions provided our staff a way to help participants work on skills learned in therapy throughout the school year,” said Ashley Carlson, MOT-OTR/L, CARE Pediatric Therapy Services Director. “Everyone has a great time at camp and the therapists and teachers enjoy interacting with the campers in a more informal setting.”

CARE staff themed each three week session, which were offered in June, July and August respectively, and activities included arts and crafts, gym activities, an outdoor obstacle course, cooking, adaptive golf at Pine Acres, hikes on the Pitt Trail, and swimming.



Top: Early Learning Day Camp participants work hard in the CARE garden. Middle: Matthew, age 6, challenges the obstacle course at Rec Day Camp at Pitt-Bradford. Bottom: Melanie Rendos, B.S., occupational therapy assistant, helps Carmine, age 15, show off his balancing skills as camp coordinator, Katlyn Hillard, M.Ed., also lends a hand.

BEST BABY PLAYGROUP

The Best Baby Playgroup is a free program geared for babies, toddlers, and parents and will be held the third Wednesday of the Month, October through May at the Bradford Area Public Library, Early Learning Center at 6pm. The program is funded by a United Way Community Impact Grant and will be staffed by CARE therapists and teachers who will lead a short activity and then parents will have time to socialize. For more information call CARE at 362-4621 or visit www.careforchildren.info/specialevents or CARE for Children, McKean County Facebook page.

Is Your Child a Picky Eater?

CARE Family Support Program - November 19th

CARE for Children's Family Support Program will host a program for parents of picky eaters on Thursday, November 19th, at 6pm at the Ashley Booth Griffin CARE for Children Center.

Registered/Licensed Dietitian, Mariann Kahle, Wellness Coordinator at Medicor Associates Inc., offers strategies on how parents can combat picky eating and how to introduce a balanced diet into a picky eater's life.

She will discuss common causes of picky eating and feeding issues, how nutrition impacts a child's growth, and explain how a child's diet can impact them throughout their lifetime.

The CARE occupational therapy staff will also be on hand to talk about sensory issues related to food that may be impacting a child's diet.

This program is free for parents and guardians. Advance registration is required by calling 814-362-4621 or by emailing Social Worker/Outreach Coordinator, Chris Gibble, LCSW, at chrisg@careforchildren.info.

Annual Golf Tournament Raises over \$18,000 to Support Free Services

The annual CARE 'fore' Children Golf Tournament was held on Sunday, August 2nd, 2015 at Pine Acres Country Club. Zippo Manufacturing Company was the overall Tournament Sponsor.



Richard S. Johnson and Marlene Ericson provided Lead Sponsorship; and Flight Sponsors included CNB Bank, Highmark, and Northwest Savings Bank.

Close to 100 businesses, individuals and organizations provided sponsorships or in-kind donations of prizes and services, and a full field of 136 golfers raised over \$18,000 to support CARE's services and programs for children of all abilities.

A score of 55 won the CNB Bank Flight for the 22nd annual tournament. From left are Richard Johnson, CARE board member and lead sponsor; Gary Winner, Keith Stauffer, Josh Stauffer, Eric Hoops, winners of the CNB Bank flight; Kirk Stauffer, Pine Acres PGA Pro; and Bunny Comilla, CARE board member and Zippo tournament sponsor representative.

For a complete list of sponsors and a list of flight winners visit www.careforchildren.info/care-fore-children-golf-tournament/

Social Work Services at CARE for Children

The Social Work and Family Support Services, for families with children with disabilities and special health care needs, include:



-Completing child social/emotional assessments, and developing interventions to support the child's positive social and emotional growth.

-Identifying family needs, and community services and resources that will help the family meet those needs.

-Providing counseling for parents, children, and family members, as well as appropriate social skill-building activities; and providing emotional support for children and families in times of crisis.

-Facilitating parent support groups.

-Offering training opportunities for families, to strengthen self-advocacy skills and to help identify positive ways to deal with the common stressors of caring for a child with special health care needs.

Services are provided at no cost to families. Call CARE Social Worker/Outreach Coordinator, Chris Gibble, LCSW, at 814-362-4621 for more information.

Thanks for being a Trailblazer! CARE Annual Fund Surpasses \$27,000 Goal

In April CARE started its second annual fund appeal to raise much needed funds for the organization.

This year's goal of \$27,000 was ambitious, but thanks to the generosity of our donors the annual fund campaign has raised over \$28,000 to date.

The appeal "Be A Trailblazer" focused on CARE's new therapeutic recreation program - "The Trailblazers", an intramural program that focused last year on soccer in the fall and tee ball in the spring. The program was started to give school-age children with disabilities the opportunity to be on a team with some of their friends.

In addition to the therapeutic recreation program, the annual fund also supports early learning programs and free community outreach programs for children, including 4th grade disability awareness, child safety and injury prevention, and social work and family support services.

Donors were also given the choice to support the playground project or the area of greatest need.

A complete list of CARE donors will be listed in CARE's 2014-2015 annual report (December 2015).

CARE for Children Tribute Gifts

MEMORIALS

May 1st, 2015 through September 30th, 2015

In Memory of:

John Archer
Donald Baker
Karen Bentley
George Bove
Joe Brauser
Carolyn Breznik
Jack Bridge
Tim Brown
Terry Brown
Richard Burton
Nancy Martin Campbell
Naomi Carlson
Raphael Carvelli
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Frank Hess
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Joan Hughes
Thomas Hungiville

Thomas Irons
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Ray and Audrey Eidson
Mark, Marlene and Lara Ericson; Kathleen Vanerstrom
Wendell and Nellie Wallace
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Craig Campbell; Tina Martin and Max; Lisa Martin, Tyler and Robbie
Greg and Cherie Booth; Tina Martin
Bill and Linda Sayers; Sam Sylvester
Mike Martin & Family
Mike Martin and Debbie Curtin
Marlene Ericson & Family
Jean Hvizdzak
Tina Martin and Max
Greg and Cherie Booth; Craig, Kimberly and Elias Engstrom; Tina Martin and Max;
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Carl and Carol Cavallero; Bill and Debbie Taylor
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Ray and Audrey Eidson; Jim McGill
Jim Engstrom; Nancy Engstrom; Craig, Kimberly and Elias Engstrom
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Barry and Fran Anderson
Greg and Cherie Booth; Marlene Ericson and Family; Jim Maduri; Mike Martin &
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and Jeanie Satterwhite; Ron and Kathy Symington; David and Linda Thompson; Paula
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Barry and Fran Anderson; Bill and Barb Black; Greg and Cherie Booth & Family; Todd
and Sharon Bridge; Marlene Ericson and Family; Kenneth and Denise Jadowiec; Joan
Mansour; Mick and Michele Marshall; Tina Martin; Ron and Terri Orris; Michael Price;
Roger and Sherrie Rhoades; Dennis and Nancy Ridgeway; Lynn and Jane Sanderson;
Louis and Mary Kay Sokoly; Tim and Sarah Tingley; CARE for Children Teachers,
Therapists and Staff

MEMORIALS

May 1st, 2015 through September 30th, 2015

In Memory of:

James Kahle
Caroline Kane

Thomas Keane

Nora Kearns
Gloria Kehoe
Brad Keltz

Arthur W. Kerstetter
Robert Kuntz
Tony Lama
Bettie Luther
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Jack Swanson
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Frank Zurat

Given by:

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Joan Mansour
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Rose Hvizdzak & Family; Sue, B.J., Kyle and Nikki Sayers; Michael Schweinberg
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Todd Busses Inc.
Jeff and Val Coast; Celia Colee; Carol Pecora
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Todd and Sharon Bridge & Family
Todd and Sharon Bridge & Family
Greg and Cherie Booth & Family
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Jeff and Val Coast
Patricia Girard
Frank and Debi Bevacqua; Marlene Ericson & Family
Mrs. Peter Hvizdzak
Barb McGarry & Family; Louis and Mary Kay Sokoly
CARE for Children Board of Directors and Staff; Pat and Colleen Scivo
Barry and Fran Anderson; CARE for Children; Jim Maduri
Mary Winner
Lisa Zurat
Rick and Marcia Morrison & Family
Ray and Audrey Eidson
Greg and Cherie Booth
Sam Sylvester; Lisa Zurat

HONORARIUMS

May 1st, 2015 through September 30th, 2015

In Honor of:

Father Leo Gallina
Karen Gelston
Don and Pat Graybil
Wyatt McCann
Johnny Mike Miller

Given by:

Joan Mansour
John and Patricia Shinaberger
David and Marcia Rimer
Bob and Maxine McCann
Jim and Barb Reid

Your Gift Makes a Difference:

Memorial...Birthday...Anniversary... Retirement...
There is no better way to honor someone than with a memorial or honorarium gift. It is a lasting tribute in remembrance or recognition. By distinguishing someone who has made a difference in your life, you are supporting CARE's mission of making a difference in the lives of children of all abilities.

The official registration and financial information of CARE for Children may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

CARE for Children
PO Box 616
Bradford, PA 16701
814-362-4621
FAX: 814-362-1066
e-mail: care@careforchildren.info

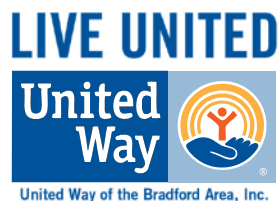
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