

CARE for Children News

www.careforchildren.info



CARE Turns to Telemedicine During Pandemic

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic moves around the globe and across communities, nonprofit organizations like CARE for Children have been tasked with ensuring safe operations while still carrying out their missions.

“Despite the current strain and uncertainty, mission-driven work remains essential. Change is never easy and adaptation during a crisis is challenging,” said Tina Martin, CARE executive director. “The CARE staff remains committed to the children and families who need services and support.”

In March, Pennsylvania schools and non-essential businesses closed in response to orders from the PA Department of Education and Governor Tom Wolf. Since the closure, CARE transitioned to providing Early Intervention and school-based therapy services via telemedicine (also known as telehealth and teletherapy) in response to health and safety concerns surrounding COVID-19. Therapists working from their homes provide sessions via live video rather than in-person, ensuring that there are no interruptions in service during this time of physical distancing.

“Although our normal routine of going into clients’ homes for therapy has changed, tele-intervention has been a great alternative,” said Gina Kane, M.S., CCC-SLP, CARE speech and language pathologist. “We are able to use technology to stay in touch with families, provide strategies to help with daily routines, and instruct parents how to utilize materials in the home to address goals.”

Under normal circumstances, CARE therapists see children in a variety of settings including schools, homes, daycares, and community locations like libraries. New approaches had to be adopted with families sheltering at home. Similar to traditional therapy, the structure of the video session and resources used can be adapted to each individual child to best meet their needs and make therapy fun and effective.

“Telemedicine for school-based students gives the parents a first-hand look of what therapy entails,” said Ashley Carlson, MOT/OTR/L, CARE pediatric therapy services director. “Therapists are able to coach the parents during the session to support their child’s needs. Parents are able to support the child differently now when completing school work by utilizing the techniques observed and used during the telemedicine session,” noted Carlson.

“The organization has quickly adapted to the changes needed to make the telemedicine model of therapy successful,” added Martin. “Without intervention children may regress or not meet important milestones. Telemedicine enables the CARE staff to meet our mission, support families and provide necessary therapy without putting children, families, or CARE staff members at risk.”



Pictured top: Gina Kane, M.S., CCC-SLP, provides speech services to a two year old with the help of Mr. Potato Head and telemedicine.

Bottom: School Street Elementary student Ben Baxter, age 10, works on an occupational therapy worksheet at home. Therapists put together packets and are providing school-based therapy via telemedicine.

WINTER RECREATION

Annual Adaptive Ski Outing

CARE held its annual Adaptive Ski Outing in February at Holiday Valley Ski Resort. It was a perfect winter day with ten school-age children in attendance. Each child was paired with one or more volunteer instructors and given expert instruction as part of the Holiday Valley Lounsbury Adaptive Ski Program, which is a chapter of Disabled Sports/USA.

Pictured left on the slopes is Brie Gustafson, age 9, along with volunteer Lounsbury Adaptive Ski Program instructor Carol Fierle and pictured right, Jay Newcombe, age 9, with his Lounsbury instructor.

The ski outing was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Port Allegany, Todd Busses donated transportation to and from Ellicottville, N.Y., and Walmart provided snacks and refreshments. Staff time is funded in part from an annual grant from the United Way of the Bradford Area, Inc.

19th Annual Basketball Mini Camp

CARE's basketball mini camp for school-age children was held on March 7th at the Bradford YMCA. Over 40 children attended the event. CARE therapists, teachers, staff, and volunteer coaches from the community assisted with skill stations which focused on different activities including passing, dribbling, shooting, layups, ball handling and defense; and the children also participated in calisthenics and relays.

Each child in attendance received a tee shirt and a basketball. After camp, lunch was hosted for campers and their family members at Hill United Methodist Church. Tee shirts were sponsored by the Italian American Progressive Club.

Pictured at the mini camp are CARE kids (l-r) Josh Kinney, age 14, and Jonah Schmidt, age 16 and CARE Speech Pathologist, Kylie Battin, M.S., CCC-SLP, who helped Frankie Fernandez, age 11, with his jump shot.

**Visit CARE for Children,
McKean County
on Facebook for
information on programs
and events.**



PRESCHOOL FUN

Top photo: The Erie Traveling Zoo visited Rainbow Corner Preschool in early March. The special program, led by Grace Lewis, Erie Zoo outreach specialist, revolved around the rhyming alphabet book Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault.

Rainbow Corner preschoolers listened to the story, and watched the alphabet come to life with three animal visitors including a bunny, turtle, and ferret. The students practiced letter identification and sounds while learning about each animal. Top photo: Preschool students are pictured petting "Shadow".

Bottom photo: Students from preschool had a field trip to Pitt Bradford in February to attend a performance of Rainbow Fish at the Bromeley Theatre. Tickets were sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Bradford and Mrs. Lynne Kuntz.



CARE for Children Tribute Gifts

MEMORIALS

February 1st through April 30th

In Memory of:

June Aiello
Ellen Bagnato
John M. "Mick" Burns
Clara Deloe
Adam DeSio
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Clara Joyce Evan

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Campbell; Sandra Camberg; Mike and Susan Carlson; Nate, Ashley and Ryan Carlson;
Robbie Stidd Carter & Family; Marcia Caruso; Jeff and Val Coast; Guy and Martha Colella;
Gloria Colella and T. Colella; Jim and Gae Colligan; Laurie Dunkle Waxler; Lee and Gloria
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Greg and Cherie Booth; Patti DeFrank; Michael Schweinberg; Ron & Kathy Symington and
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Joan Mansour
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Donors who make an annual fund contribution or general gift, including in-kind gifts of goods and services, will be recognized in the Annual Report. Thank you for your generosity. If any mistakes or omissions occurred in the production of this newsletter please let us know so that we may apologize and correct the error.

MEMORIALS

February 1st through April 30th

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February 1st through April 30th

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Louise Stoltz
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Cribs for Kids McKean County

If you or someone you know needs a crib for their infant please contact CARE for Children.



During the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, CARE trainers will conduct virtual safe sleep training with families. Cribs and safety items will be delivered while following safe social distancing practices.

www.careforchildren.info

814-362-4621



Transforming Expectations

FOR CHILDREN OF ALL ABILITIES

Leigha's family is grateful that CARE has been and continues to be a support, providing her the opportunity to be successful in school, the community and at home.



CARE for Children 2020 Annual Fund

I want to support CARE for Children. Please count my annual fund gift of \$ _____

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Area of Greatest Need or _____

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Payable to CARE for Children
(Remit to P.O. Box 616,
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MAKE YOUR GIFT BY CREDIT CARD:
Online at www.careforchildren.info
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PLEASE INVOICE ME:
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CARE for Children is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children of all abilities.

CARE for Children
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