

CARE for Children News

www.careforchildren.info



Special Assistance ‘Ramps Up’ for Fall

Recently, CARE kid Skyler Bornheimer, a 7th grade student at Fretz Middle School, was fitted for and received an electric wheelchair to use at home, in school and out in the community. CARE Physical Therapist Dana Pence was instrumental in securing the wheelchair and requested that CARE’s Rotary Special Assistance Fund help fund a ramp for Skyler’s home.

The ramp makes the home accessible for Skyler to independently enter and exit and accommodates the weight of the chair which is much heavier than a manual wheelchair.

“It is always difficult, as a therapist, to see the many needs of our families and not have the means to provide concrete help,” said Dana Pence, PT. “I like working at CARE because no matter how much we grow as an organization or how big our caseload, we still are able to fall back on our mission, provide child-specific services and work with the community to help, when it is needed.”

The Rotary Special Assistance Fund helps CARE provide “little extras”, help in emergency situations or complete special projects for children who receive therapy services from the organization. In the past, the fund has helped families with gas cards and hotel stays for medical visits, medical supplies not covered by insurance, emergency food and clothing, and funeral expenses.

With the expense and the scope of the project, CARE reached out to local philanthropic, civic and social organizations to request assistance off-setting the expense of the project. With support from the Blaisdell Foundation, the Big 30 All-Star Charities Classic, Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation - Kids and Cancer Fund, the Kiwanis Club and individual Kiwanians, as well as the Frances Sherman Auxiliary, VFW Post 212, the ramp was purchased and installed by Cummins Construction Company. Cummins donated labor and materials for the full day installation.

Skyler and his family were grateful for the ramp and he even penned a note for donors: “Thank you for my wheelchair ramp. I was surprised and excited. I am so happy to be able to take my wheelchair out of my house by myself.”

The Rotary Special Assistance Fund, established by the Bradford Rotary Club, is funded with a portion of each Rotarian’s annual dues, private donations and grants, and an allocation from CARE’s endowment fund. The fund is one of CARE’s many programs to ‘improve the lives of children of all abilities’.



Pictured top: Skyler Bornheimer, age 13, is pictured with his physical therapist, Dana Pence.

Bottom: The fifteen foot ramp was recently installed at Skyler’s home so that he can use his new electric wheelchair in the community.

Northwest Bank Donates to CARE's Pre-K Scholarship Program

Northwest Bank recently made a \$5,000.00 contribution to Rainbow Corner Preschool, which is operated by CARE for Children.

The preschool is an approved Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Organization, through the State of Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC).

Contributions made through the EITC program help CARE provide tuition to eligible Pre-K students to attend preschool, making early learning more accessible and affordable for working families.

Northwest Bank's contribution will help fund scholarships for the 2020-2021 school year.



Pictured l-r: Norm Strotman, senior vice president, regional commercial lender at Northwest Bank, Alexis Close, M.Ed., preschool teacher, along with students Savanna, age 4, Emily, age 3, and Nicholas, age 4.

Preschool in Session



Rainbow Corner Preschool resumed classes on Tuesday, September 1st. Students have adjusted well to changes made, in light of the pandemic. *Pictured left to right are Scarlett, age 4, Violet, age 4, and Julianna, age 4.*

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



Pictured above with the kiosk are Korin Trumpie, PA-C, Physician Assistant, UPMC Cole; Melanie Buchanan, B.S., COTA/L, Occupational Therapy Assistant and Special Instructor Birth to Three, CARE for Children; Cindy Wright, Lead Service Coordinator, McKean County Birth to Three Early Intervention; and from the United Way, Gwen Rush, Board of Directors and Sarah Lonzi, Executive Director.

Early Intervention Kiosk Promotes a Bright Start

CARE for Children, in partnership with the McKean County Early Intervention Birth to Three Child Find Committee and the McKean County Early Learning Outreach Council, recently established an information kiosk at UPMC Cole's Port Allegany Pediatrics office, located on Pine Street in Port Allegany.

The new kiosk is stocked with Early Intervention and developmental information, early learning information, child safety information, and other helpful resources for children birth to age 5.

The Child Find Committee hopes the kiosk will raise parent awareness about the importance of Early Intervention services and other local programs for children; as well as provide helpful information.

Families with questions regarding local resources can also phone 211 or for more information about Early Intervention call the McKean County Infant/Toddler Early Intervention office at 814-975-1221.

The kiosk was funded by a grant received by CARE for Children through the Port Allegany Campaign for the United Way of the Bradford Area.

Local Yacht Club Makes Donation to CARE

Over Labor Day weekend, the West Washington Yacht Club held a fundraiser on the water at the Allegheny Reservoir to benefit CARE for Children. A flotilla of boaters and jet skiers enjoyed music provided by Jim Ronan as they donated funds for the organization.

Members of the West Washington Yacht Club Board of Directors stopped by CARE in September to present the non-profit with a check for a \$1,000 donation raised at the event.

Pictured from left to right are Jim Stoddard, WWYC Sergeant of Arms; Michele McCann, WWYC member; John Piganelli, WWYC Technical Advisor; Tina Martin, CARE Executive Director; and Scott McCann, WWYC President.



CARE for Children Tribute Gifts

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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

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The generosity of our community makes a lasting impact on services for local children...

Give a gift in honor or memory of someone special to support services for children of all abilities.

The recipient will receive a special printed card acknowledging the gift.

Please call 814-362-4621 or visit www.careforchildren.info for more information.

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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

