

CARE for Children NEWS

www.careforchildren.info



CARE FORMS FAMILY LEADERSHIP GROUP

In September 2024, CARE for Children Social Worker Joy Haney, MSW, LSW, IMH-E, contacted parents whose children participate in CARE's therapeutic recreation programs to gauge interest in forming a family support group. Haney now facilitates the Family Leadership Group, which provides parents with a voice in CARE's programming, strengthens advocacy efforts for children with disabilities, and helps the organization better identify and respond to unmet needs.

One of the group's early priorities has been highlighting the need for children with disabilities, especially teens, to have more opportunities to socialize and build peer support networks. In response, CARE has begun offering age-specific recreation programs and activities.

This past August, Groovy Glaze, located in Bradford, hosted students from 5th grade through high school for a pottery-painting event. Upcoming activities include a Halloween Social at Cosmos' Lounge and Bowling for teens, as well as Halloween festivities tailored for younger children.



Pictured (l-r) Sterling, age 15, and Delaney, age 16, work on their Pottery at CARE for Children's therapeutic recreation event for middle and high school students at Groovy Glaze in Bradford.

As the Family Leadership Group has met throughout the past year, its mission has continued to grow. Haney notes that the group's goal has evolved to "trailblaze a path of empowerment for children with disabilities and their families."

The Family Leadership Group is supported by a grant from the ARG—Our Legacy Fund, held at the McKean County Community Foundation. CARE's therapeutic recreation programs receive funding from the United Way of the Bradford Area, Inc. For more information regarding the Family Leadership Group contact CARE or email joyh@careforchildren.info.

Ways to Give to CARE

There are many ways to support CARE for Children's mission. Gifts may be made online or by mail, and can be designated to programs, special funds, or given in honor or memory of a loved one. CARE also welcomes in-kind donations of toys, books, and supplies, as well as event sponsorships and community fundraisers. Planned gifts such as bequests, annuities, or life insurance policies help secure CARE's future. Volunteers also play a vital role by lending their time and talents.

Interested in making a recurring gift to CARE? We now offer this option through the **Make a Gift** portal on our website! When selecting your donation amount, simply click "Monthly" under the recurring payment options; cancel a recurring payment anytime by calling the CARE development office.

Learn more at: www.careforchildren.info

Change of Address

Effective January 1, 2026, CARE for Children will no longer use P.O. Box 616 as our mailing address. Please send all mail to the Ashley Booth Griffin CARE for Children Center as our primary address:

**CARE for Children
723 East Main Street
Bradford, PA 16701**



CARE TOURNAMENT RAISES \$44,624 TO SUPPORT FREE SERVICES

The team of Zach Smith, Tyler Smith, Mike Gleason, and Mark Smith took top honors in the Emporium Food Market/Olean Food Barn Flight at the 32nd annual CARE 'fore' Children Golf Tournament, held Sunday, August 3, 2025, at the Pennhills Club.

This year's tournament raised \$44,624, with proceeds benefitting CARE's free outreach services for children with developmental delays; pediatric developmental screenings; therapeutic recreation programs; and child safety initiatives designed to prevent disabilities and fatalities caused by accidental injuries.

Premier sponsors included Allegheny Bradford Corporation, Kids and Cancer Benefit, the Philo & Sarah Blaisdell Foundation, and the Zippo/Case Museum. Course Sponsors were Brad Mangel – in memory of Sally Mangel, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Marshall Insurance Services, Inc. Flight Sponsors were Greg and Cherie Booth – in memory of Ashley Booth Griffin, CNB Bank, Emporium Food Market/Olean Food Barn, Gleason Construction, Northwest Bank, and Pine Valley Nurseries.



Pictured (l-r) are the top team in the CARE golf tournament that was held Sunday, August 3, 2025 at the Pennhills Club: Zach Smith, Tyler Smith, Mike Gleason, Mark Smith, along with Norm Strotman, CARE Board Member and Tournament Co-Chair.

In total, more than 220 donors, businesses, and organizations supported the event with sponsorships and in-kind donations of prizes and services. Thirty-five teams, comprised of 140 golfers, made up the tournament field.

KEEPING LOCAL KIDS SAFE:

Kindergarten Bike and Helmet Safety

Safe Kids Pennsylvania – McKean County Partner, including CARE for Children staff and community volunteers provided bike safety and helmet use education and fit more than 400 kindergarten students in McKean County and Coudersport with free bicycle helmets earlier this spring.

CARE provided helmet fittings and distributions throughout the summer at community events—such as Summer in the Park at Callahan Park—as well as the Car Seat Check held at CARE in July. In fiscal year 2024-2025, the Safe Kids McKean County Partnership fit and distributed a total of 451 helmets.

Grant funding for the helmets was provided by the PA Department of Health Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant through Safe Kids Pennsylvania, the Port Allegany and Smethport Campaigns for United Way, and the Kane United Fund.

Summer in the Park

CARE for Children and the Safe Kids McKean Partnership recently participated in one of the Summer in the Park sessions, coordinated by the United Way and the Bradford Area Public Library. CARE staff members led the program with a focus on water safety, engaging children through a story, a themed craft, and a fun physical activity.

Car Seat Safety Checks

On July 23, 2025, families gathered at the Ashley Booth Griffin CARE for Children Center for free car seat safety checks with certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians. The event gave parents and caregivers the opportunity to ensure their child's car seat was installed and fitted properly. Children attending also had the chance to be fitted with free bicycle helmets. Hosted by CARE for Children, in partnership with the PA Traffic Injury Prevention Project and the City of Bradford Police Department, the program was part of the ongoing work of Safe Kids Pennsylvania – McKean County Partner.



Top: Physical Therapist, Cheyanne France, PT, DPT, fits a helmet on a Kindergarten student at George G. Blaisdell Elementary School.

Bottom: Car seat technician, Officer Shaun McDonald, examines a car seat before installing it at the car seat check held at CARE for Children in July.

COURAGE TO CARE:

REFLECTIVE LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS

CARE for Children recently hosted its annual professional training for early childhood professionals at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford. Held on August 21, 2025, the day-long workshop welcomed early childhood educators, social workers, Early Intervention providers, and other professionals who work with young children and families.

The training provided participants the opportunity to step back from daily routines and focus on trauma-informed, relationship-based leadership that strengthens connections with children and families.

The session was led by Kelly Compton, principal at Kelly Compton Coaching & Consulting, LLC. A dynamic educator, professional leadership coach, and community leader, Compton is dedicated to building just, compassionate, and high-performing schools and communities. With more than two decades of experience across classrooms, central offices, and international platforms, she blends research-driven strategies with deep emotional intelligence to foster environments where both people and systems thrive.

The workshop featured interactive exercises, reflective practices, and dialogue centered on leading with empathy, trust, and resilience in communities affected by trauma and scarcity. Compton also emphasized how generational poverty and trauma influence children's development and highlighted the role of reflective leadership in creating supportive environments.

Participants earned six hours of professional development or Act 48 credit and left with practical strategies to apply in their daily work with children and families.



Reflective Leadership Workshop at the University of Pittsburgh Bradford, pictured (l-r) are Kimberly Engstrom, M.Ed. CARE's Preschool Director, Presenter Kelly Compton, and Ashley Carlson, MOT, OTR/L CARE's Pediatric Therapy Services Director.

Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships Support Early Learning

CARE for Children's Rainbow Corner Preschool is an approved Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Organization through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. EITC contributions give local children the opportunity for a quality, early childhood education, making it affordable for parents, while providing a tax benefit for participating businesses.

CARE for Children is grateful for the generosity of the following companies who have contributed to the Pre-K Scholarship program at Rainbow Corner Preschool during the 2024-2025 school year: **Commonwealth Charitable Management, Inc. on behalf of CNB Bank; Commonwealth Charitable Management, Inc. on behalf of JVB Bank; Northwest Bank; Universal Health Recovery Centers; UPMC Health Plan; and Zippo Manufacturing Company.**

For more information on the EITC Program visit <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/educational-improvement-tax-credit-program-eitc/>



Pictured left to right: Norm Strotman, delivered a check from Northwest Bank for Pre-Kindergarten scholarships to Kimberly Engstrom, M.Ed., Preschool Director, and Alexis Close, M.Ed., Preschool Teacher, for students at CARE

Northwest Bank Supports Rainbow Corner Preschool

Rainbow Corner Preschool welcomed a special visitor in June when Norm Strotman, Senior Vice President of Commercial Lending at Northwest Bank and a CARE for Children Board Member, stopped by the classroom with a meaningful gift for CARE's Early Learning Program.

Northwest Bank made a \$5,000 Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship contribution through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program to support scholarships for students enrolled in the preschool during the 2025–2026 school year.

Contributions for Pre-K scholarships make preschool more accessible for local families by providing opportunities for children who might not otherwise be able to attend and support working families.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

23rd Annual Basketball Mini-Camp

CARE for Children held its 23rd annual Basketball Mini-Camp on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at Callahan Park in Bradford.

The camp was generously sponsored by the Rotary Club of Port Allegany and the Italian American Progressive Club (IAPC).

Little Learners at the Library

This summer, CARE hosted several Little Learners sessions in partnership with the Bradford Area Public Library. Each program included a story, craft, and gross motor activity. Children also received a book to take home.

CARE staff were available afterward to conduct developmental screenings for interested families. These screenings provide parents with a snapshot of their child's development while also highlighting CARE's many services that support continued growth and learning.

CARE's participation in community outreach events and developmental screenings is supported by a grant from the ARG—Our Legacy Fund, held at the McKean County Community Foundation.

Softball Clinic with the Pitt-Bradford Lady Panthers

On Thursday, September 16, CARE kids visited the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford for a softball clinic with the Lady Panthers. Coach Tina Phillips and the Pitt-Bradford Softball Team set up skill stations where participants practiced batting, throwing at targets, catching, and even played a short game.

CARE for Children's therapeutic recreation and community outreach programs are sponsored, in part, by funding from the United Way of the Bradford Area, Inc.



Pictured clockwise top left: Occupational Therapist Kim Miller, OTR/L, works with Michael, age 8, during a skills session. 2: Occupational Therapy Assistant DeAnn Persichini, COTA, is pictured on the basketball court with Rutledge, age 8, alongside Speech-Language Pathologist Elizabeth Childs, M.S., CCC-SLP. 3: CARE Physical Therapist Dana Pence (standing) and CARE Preschool Director Kimberly Engstrom, M.Ed., lead a Little Learners session at the Bradford Area Public Library. 4: Preschool Teacher Alexis Close, M.Ed., engages with Little Learners participants. 5: Lady Panther players teach CARE kids batting drills. 6: The University of Pittsburgh Lady Panthers Softball Team, along with Coach Tina Phillips, pose with CARE kids and staff members at the annual "Night at the Ballfield" clinic.

CARE for Children Tribute Gifts

MEMORIALS

February 1st to August 31st, 2025

In Memory of:

James Alaimo
Jesse Alexander
Esther Auteri
Peggy Bartlett
Dr. Widad Emil Bazzoui
Paul Bernheisel
Ashley Booth Griffin
Thomas "Tommy" Borrelli
Mary Brandow
Katrina Brandt

Willard Bunce
Kay Camas
Kathy Campbell

Dennis Caprarotta

Jake Carley
Sally Carroll
Richard "Dick" Cavallero

Louis Colts, Sr.
Roseanne "Rosie" Conaway
Rita Costello
Betty Craig
Debbie Curtin

Joan Debolt
Tony DeCesare
Janet Detweiler
Nancy Engstrom
Gary Erway
Steven Falconi
J. Joanne Fishkin
Jerry Gabel
Fred Galbreath
Jack Galleher
Philip & Marcia Gallina
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Jacqueline E. "Jackie" Gigliotti
Nancy Gleason
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Fran Goodrich
Walter Green
Debra Green
David Griggs
Marjorie Guthrie
Theodore Haag, Sr.
Janice Hamilton
Thomas Harbaugh
Julia Hayes
Joette Henry
Dr. Anita J. Herbert

Given by:

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Mary Hart; Joyce Hotelling
Patti Tracy DeFrank; Gisele Magnella; Dr. and Mrs. Anil G. Pradhan; Sam Sylvester
Craig, Kimberly and Elias Engstrom
Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Smith
Frank and Kathy Maduri
Ron and Terri Orris
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Kathy (Hannon) Symington
Shannon and Sal Luzzi; Celia and Brandon Means
Nancy Pascarella
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Craig, Kimberly and Elias Engstrom; Dave and Nancy Fuhrman; Sue Hillard and Katlyn Hillard; Joan Mansour;
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Craig, Kimberly and Elias Engstrom
Gene and Helen DeFrank
CARE for Children; Ann Cavallero; Patti Tracy DeFrank; The Martin Family

CARE for Children Tribute Gifts

MEMORIALS

February 1st to August 31st, 2025

In Memory of:

Jimmy Hoadley
David Hodgson
Robert Hubert
Silas Hyde
Laura Iskra
Jean Johnston
Betty Kahle
Barbara Keverline
Ira "John" Knight
Dave Leonard
Shirley Lerch
Paulette Little
Ward Llewellyn
Stephen Lonzi
Darlene MacDonald
Tony Magnetti
Marilyn Manion
Tyler Martin
George "Butch" Matto
Sandra McCord
Patty McDivitt
Mark Medden
John Mertz
Richard "Dick" Miller
Lou Monti

Carol Neely
Kenneth Allen Nielsen
Bo Ray Nunn

Nancy O'Donnell
George Pascarella

Donna Payne
Patricia Pecora
Shirley Pedine
Robert Piganelli
Helen Rakus

Sandy Remington
Anthony Robinson
Ralph Rose

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Alice Sayers
Ken Schaming
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Given by:

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Lewis Keller and Family
Sue and BJ Sayers
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Richard and Maureen Peroginelli
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Tom and Patsy Arrowsmith
Dave and Nancy Fuhrman and Family; Shelly Crissman Hannon
Tom and Patsy Arrowsmith; Todd and Sharon Bridge; Phyllis Sylvester
Louise Stoltz
Joyce Schaming
Craig, Kimberly and Elias Engstrom
Bob Frantz
Todd and Sharon Bridge; Catherine MacDonald and Family
Ron and Terri Orris
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Nancy Pascarella; BJ, Sue, Kyle and Nicole Sayers
Craig, Kimberly and Elias Engstrom
Dave and Nancy Fuhrman
Patty Gamble and Family
Todd and Sharon Bridge; Dave and Nancy Fuhrman & Family; Ron and Terri Orris; Kathy Sylvester
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Helen and Gene DeFrank; Patti Tracy DeFrank; Gordon and Jan Ernest; Dave and Nancy Fuhrman & Family;
Shelly Crissman Hannon; Paul and Renee Hassen & Family; Daryl and Nancy Hersch; Joyce Hoteling and Family;
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John and Karen Whelpley; The Officers of Cutco Corporation; CARE for Children Board of Directors; Tom Munn
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Tina Martin and Bob Frantz; Dave and Nancy Fuhrman & Family; The Monago Family; Ron and Terri Orris;
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Craig, Kimberly and Elias Engstrom; Louise Stoltz
Barry and Fran Anderson; Kevin and Lisa Cavallero; Dave and Nancy Fuhrman & Family;
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Sandra Brochetti
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Connie and Gary Barth; Brian and Nancy Donnelly; Steve and Eileen Lanza; Christine Proto;
CARE for Children
Julie Wilson and Family; Tim Vecellio and Family
Tom and Debbie Canaan
Patti Tracy DeFrank; Craig, Kimberly and Elias Engstrom; Lewis Keller and Family; Ron and Terri Orris;
Louise Stoltz; Sam Sylvester
Ron and Terri Orris
Tony Lonzi; Quinn Runyan; Beth Alviti and Steve Thiele; CARE for Children
Ron and Terri Orris
Patti Tracy DeFrank
Patti Neidich
Dave and Nancy Fuhrman, Scott and Shelly Elliott, David and Maggie Fuhrman

MEMORIALS

February 1st to August 31st, 2025

In Memory of

Tracy Seeley
Brenda Shatara
John "Bill" Shesman
Gary Silvis
Claudia Sprague
Dolores "Dot" Straub
John Tim
Kenra Tyger
Thomas Villott
Marilyn Volchko
Patricia Warfield
Katherine Weaver
Marjorie Wedge
James Wheeler
Elaine Wickwire
Betty Wight
Corinne Wilson
Laura Wirtz
Gary Woodmansee
Lou Lou

Given by

Jim and Theresa Stoddard & Family
Greg and Cherie Booth; Ron and Terri Orris
Dave and Nancy Fuhrman & Family
Jan Brown
Todd and Sharon Bridge; The Orris Family
Dave and Nancy Fuhrman & Family
Tina Martin
Craig, Kimberly and Elias Engstrom
Ron and Terri Orris
Patti Tracy DeFrank
Dave and Nancy Fuhrman and Family; Patti Neidich; Ron and Terri Orris
Dave and Nancy Fuhrman and Family
Gene and Helen DeFrank
Craig, Kimberly and Elias Engstrom; Pete and Marsha Peterson; Ron and Kathy Symington
Patti Tracy DeFrank
Lee Eliason
Ron and Terri Orris
Todd and Sharon Bridge; Chad and Jill Bridge; Todd, Sarie, Blake & Brendan Bridge; and Jason Bridge
Ron and Terri Orris
Todd and Sharon Bridge

HONORARIUMS

February 1st to August 31st, 2025

In Honor of:

Greg Booth
Mary Boser
Mike Butler
Janet DiFonzo
Tyler Hannah
Chris Hannon
Tammie Hannon
Timothy, Stephanie & Olivia Kellner
Richard Kessel
Joan Klinestiver
Lily Madison
Jacob Meister
Johnny Mike Miller
Louis and Angela Monti
Trevor James Pecora
Kimberly Price
Todd Price
Katy Pude
Debbie Taylor
Preston Taylor
Sarah Tingley
Eva West
John Vanerstrom
Juuso Young

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CARE for Children
CARE for Children
Kane Elks Lodge 329
Kathy Symington
Kathy Symington
David and Marcia Rimer
Paul and Rose Kessel
Kathy Jones and Family
Jim, Leslie, Kaitlyn & Ella Kallenborn; Ashley Carlson
Patrick and Mary Jo Hardy
Barb Reid
Anne and Jeff Hardy
Carol Pecora
Jim and Karent Gelston; Debbie Price
Debbie Price
CARE for Children Board of Directors and Staff
Kathy Symington
Bill and Debbie Taylor
CARE for Children Board of Directors and Staff
Nate and Ashley Carlson
CARE for Children
Nate and Ashley Carlson

DONATIONS IN MEMORY

February 1st to August 31st, 2025

Donation in Memory of:

Thomas A. Brown
Gus Carley
Don Girard
Tom Girard
Ashley Booth Griffin
Craig L. Hart
Dr. Anita J. Herbert
Jimmy Kan
Middalia Kan
Thomas Kelly
Colin Koos
Andy Nuzzo
Jim Reid
Barbara "Barbie" Sankner
Harry Stoltz

Given by:

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The Carley Family
Ron and Terri Orris
Ron and Terri Orris
Ron and Bonnie Booth
Neidra Pfohl Hart
CARE for Children Staff
John and Susan Murphy
John and Susan Murphy
Sue Kelly
David and Marcia Rimer
Ron and Kathy Symington
Barb Reid
Steve and Barb Thiele
Louise Stoltz

Donors who make an annual fund contribution or a general gift, including in-kind gifts of goods and services, will be recognized in the Annual Report. Thank you for your generosity.

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

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Speech-Language Pathology
Early Intervention Services
School-Based Therapy
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Rainbow Corner Preschool
Developmental Screenings
Therapeutic Recreation & Respite
Adaptive Equipment Clinics
Pediatric Equipment Loan
Community Outreach
Child Safety & Injury Prevention
McKean County Cribs for Kids

Executive Director:
Tina M. Martin



With Appreciation...

Each year, the CARE 'fore' Children Golf Tournament continues to grow—both in funds raised and in the impact made. CARE is deeply grateful to the many sponsors, golfers, volunteers, and the Pennhills Club who make this event a success.

Save-the-Date: Sunday, August 2, 2026

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.