

# CARE for Children News

[www.careforchildren.info](http://www.careforchildren.info)



## PARENTS TO ESTABLISH SUPPORT & ADVOCACY NETWORK

In 2005, CARE for Children established a Family Support Program which identifies needed services and gaps in services; supplies parents and caregivers information and help in finding services; promotes parent education and training; as well as aims to improve access to resources for children and families.

Over the last two years, the family support efforts of the organization have flourished under the leadership of Joy Haney, MSW, LSW, CARE social worker, who also provides services for families who receive Early Intervention.

Most recently, Haney coordinated two trainings by the PEAL Center for parents whose children have disabilities. The first, *Presuming Competence* focused on how to broaden opportunities and the second, *Transition* helped parents develop a vision for the future.

Out of those meetings, those in attendance identified the need for a more concentrated effort by local parents, families, and organizations to support one another, promote inclusion, champion advocacy and social equity, and provide leadership which represents the interests of children of all abilities. Through these efforts the **Family CARE Network** was established. The first official meeting for the group is planned Thursday, October 24th at 6 p.m. at CARE for Children.

“Our families become stronger advocates and self-advocates through our efforts to look past diagnoses, and look at our family members’ strengths, goals, and achievements,” said Haney. “We learn, lean in, and broaden the scope of what it means to be a family member of an individual with different abilities.”

CARE provides family support services to empower families, bolster family stability, and positively impact the children the agency serves. Haney and the Family CARE Network plan to take it one step further and fervently promote inclusion in our communities.

“Inclusion is at the heart of every person; the desire to belong,” said Haney. “Inclusion means that all people have a voice, something to contribute to our community. Inclusion promotes everyone being seen as valuable which builds a stronger community.”



*Pictured are family support advocates (l-r) Gretchen Daugherty; Joy Haney, CARE social worker; Lynette Campogiani; and Jennifer Taylor who are part of the group leading the Family CARE Network.*



*Pictured (l-r) are John Bedford, Pine Acres Pro Shop Manager; the team of Boo Coder, Matt Monago, Brian Larson, and Pete Pascarella who won the CNB flight; and Norm Strotman, CARE board president and golf tournament co-chair.*

## GOLF TOURNAMENT SURPASSES GOAL *Raises \$28,202 to Support CARE Programs and Services*

The 26th annual CARE ‘fore’ Children Golf Tournament was held on Sunday, August 4th at Pine Acres Country Club. It was a success as 120 golfers turned out for a day of golf and great weather. This year’s tournament raised an all-time record \$28,202 with proceeds benefitting CARE’s free services for children.

**Premier Sponsors** Allegheny Bradford Family of Companies and Philo & Sarah Blaisdell Foundation, along with **Lead Sponsor** Zippo/Case Museum, led over 210 donors, businesses, and organizations who provided sponsorships and in-kind donations of prizes and other services to support the tournament.

*See page 5 for a complete list of this year’s golf sponsors.*

# FALL HAPPENINGS AT CARE for CHILDREN



## Early Learning Programs Off to a Great Start

Rainbow Corner Preschool and Toddler Developmental Playgroup have kicked off a new school year at the Ashley Booth Griffin CARE for Children Center. September was a busy month of learning which included meeting new friends, learning the rules and routines of the classrooms, a fun themed unit on apples, and outdoor play on the playground while the weather is still nice.

*At left, Kimberly Engstrom, M.Ed., preschool director leads a hands-on activity on a new Promethean SmartBoard that was donated over the summer to CARE's Early Learning Program by the Philo & Sarah Blaisdell Foundation.*

## CARE Holds Car Seat Check Event

CARE partnered with Bradford Regional Medical Center and the PA Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics – *Traffic Injury Prevention Project* on September 16<sup>th</sup> to hold a free car seat safety check at the Ashley Booth Griffin CARE for Children Center.

The event was held in recognition of *National Child Passenger Safety Week*.

Four certified child passenger safety technicians volunteered at the event to check car seats and provide safety information to families. Twenty-six car seats were checked and eight car seats were replaced free of charge.

*At right, Judith Scott, RN, certified child passenger safety technician discusses proper seat belt fit with a mother and child at the recent car seat check event.*



## A Night at the Ballfield with the Pitt-Bradford Lady Panthers

Coach Tina Phillips and the Pitt-Bradford Softball Team hosted a "Night at the Ballfield" on September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Kessel Athletic Complex on the Pitt-Bradford campus for children who receive therapy services from CARE for Children.

Fifteen CARE kids attended the program and enjoyed completing drills, participating in batting practice with the team, and playing a scrimmage. The evening ended with hot dogs and snacks at the field.

Therapeutic recreation events like this serve as an extension of traditional therapy in the school setting by allowing participants of all abilities the opportunity to work on skills, socialization, and physical fitness in a fun, inclusive environment.

*At left, Carmine, age 19, steps up to bat with members of the Pitt-Bradford Lady Panther Softball Team providing support in the background.*

## Best Baby Playgroup at the Bradford Area Public Library

CARE for Children's Best Baby Playgroup is a free, informal program geared for babies, toddlers and parents and is held the second Wednesday of the month, September through June, at the Bradford Area Public Library Early Learning Center at 6:00 p.m.

The playgroup is staffed by CARE teachers and therapists and includes a short activity, a chance for children to play, and an opportunity for families to network. The program is funded in part by the United Way of the Bradford Area, Inc.

*Pictured at right, a young girl plays in a Fall sensory bin at the October Best Baby Playgroup.*



**Visit [www.careforchildren.info](http://www.careforchildren.info) or CARE for Children, McKean County on Facebook for information on programs and events.**

# CARE for Children Tribute Gifts

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