

# CARE for Children



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

# NEWS

## CARE CONDUCTS TRAININGS FOR LOCAL DAYCARES

CARE for Children has been conducting trainings for Early Childhood Professionals on milestones, developmental red flags, and the importance of developmental screenings for children birth to three in McKean County, Potter County and Warren County. Most recently, the CARE staff presented to the YMCA Child Care programs in Bradford and Oswayo Valley.

“CARE is a leading provider of Early Intervention services in McKean County and the surrounding region and it is our goal to promote developmental screenings as a way for parents to get a clear picture of their child’s development. Early Intervention can assist children who are not meeting their milestones due to a delay in one or more areas of development including cognition, motor, social-emotional, self-help, or communication,” said Tina Martin, Executive Director of CARE for Children.

Pediatrician’s offices provide developmental monitoring by asking parents questions about their child’s development. A missed milestone may signal a problem, triggering a more in-depth evaluation and possibly a referral to Early Intervention. Screenings and more formal evaluations are an extension of that monitoring and even if a young child is meeting developmental milestones, the process gives parents greater insight into their child’s development. **Continued on page 3.**



*Pictured above: Janel Weber, M.S., CCC-SLP, CARE Speech and Language Pathologist; YMCA staff members Olivia Jandrew, Oswayo Valley Child Care Director; Kira Schine, Executive Director of PA Child Care; along with April Nelson, Lead Preschool Teacher – Bradford; and Kimberly Engstrom, M.Ed., CARE Preschool Director and Special Instructor. Schine is holding a LifeVac Choking Rescue Device, which was provided to the Bradford and Oswayo Valley YMCA Child Care programs at the conclusion of the training. The LifeVacs were funded through grant from the Women’s Giving Circle of McKean County.*

## CELEBRATING a CENTURY of CIVIC SUPPORT

As part of CARE for Children’s year-long centennial celebration, the organization hosted a Civic Group Appreciation Luncheon on Thursday, August 29th, 2024 at the Ashley Booth Griffin CARE for Children Center in celebration of the organization’s 100th Anniversary. The event recognized the many contributions and volunteerism of local civic groups that have contributed to CARE’s success over the last 100 years.

Among the forty attendees, the Rotary Club of Bradford, Rotary Club of Port Allegany, Rotary Club of Kane, Kids and Cancer Benefit, Kiwanis Club of Bradford, and the Zonta Club of Bradford were represented. The event was hosted by Greg Booth, CARE Board of Directors. Lunch was catered by CJ’s Bar-b-que with guitarist Jim Ronan providing music.



*Pictured above (left-right) at the Civic Group Luncheon are Joe Lashway, CARE Board Member/Rotary Club of Port Allegany; Ben Kirsch, Rotary Club of Bradford; Holly Puglio, Zonta Club of Bradford; Bill Black, Kids and Cancer Benefit; Craig Engstrom, Kiwanis Club of Bradford; and Greg Booth, CARE for Children Board of Directors and keynote speaker for the event.*

# 31st ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES \$41,381



*Pictured are team members (l-r) Norm Strotman, Chris Yerdon, Joe Strotman, Doug Yohe, and John Rook, PGA Head Professional at the 31st annual golf tournament. Norm Strotman also serves as a CARE board member and golf tournament co-chair.*

The team of Norm Strotman, Chris Yerdon, Joe Strotman, and Doug Yohe shot a score of 56 to win the HUB Flight at the 31st annual CARE 'fore' Children Golf Tournament held on Sunday, August 4th, 2024 at the Pennhills Club.

The tournament raised \$41,381 with proceeds benefitting CARE's free outreach services for children with developmental delays; pediatric developmental screenings; therapeutic recreation programs; and child safety initiatives which aim to prevent disabilities and fatalities from accidental injuries. Each year CARE provides distinct services to improve the lives of children of all abilities in McKean County and the surrounding region and events like the annual golf tournament make these services and programs possible.

Premier Sponsors Allegheny Bradford Corporation and the Philo & Sarah Blaisdell Foundation, along with Lead Sponsor Zippo/Case Museum, presented this year's tournament. Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Kids and Cancer Benefit,

Marshall Insurance Services, Inc., and Pine Valley Nurseries – in memory of Dick Kallenborn were Course Sponsors; and Greg and Cherie Booth – in memory of Ashley Booth Griffin, CNB Bank, HUB, and Northwest Bank were Flight Sponsors. In total, over 220 donors, businesses and organizations provided sponsorships and in-kind donations of prizes and other services to support the tournament. Thirty-six teams comprised of 144 golfers made up the field.

**A complete sponsor list is included on pages 6 and 7.**

## CARE HOSTS INFANT MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING



*Pictured (l-r) are Joy Haney, MSW, LSW, CARE Social Worker and Shashi DeHaan, MSW, LCSW, MAS-IFP, IMH-E, CFTP, Infant Mental Health Workshop presenter.*

CARE for Children hosted a professional training on Infant Mental Health on Thursday, August 15th, 2024 at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford. The training was presented by Shashi KS DeHaan, MSW, LCSW, MAS-IFP, IMH-E, CFTP, Outpatient Therapist/ Psychological Evaluator and Past President of the Pennsylvania Association of Infant Mental Health.

Forty local social workers, Early Intervention providers, early childhood educators, Children and Youth caseworkers, para-professionals and daycare providers were in attendance.

Training topics focused on the lifespan impact of infant mental health, trauma-sensitive and responsive care of young children and how to work with challenging behaviors, as well as culturally-sensitive practices. The Infant Mental Health training was sponsored by the United Way of the Bradford Area, Inc. and the University of Pittsburgh Bradford Social Work Program.

## CLASSROOM RENOVATIONS

During the summer months, the Early Learning classrooms at the Ashley Booth Griffin CARE for Children Center were updated. Classroom 2 had new carpet installed prior to the start of the new school year. A wall was removed in Classroom 1 between the preschool ready room (where the coat lockers are located) and the classroom to enlarge the useable space and increase maneuverability for the young students.

Bob Cummins Construction Company completed the renovation including removing the wall, building a bulkhead, replacing the carpet, updating electrical, and painting.

Cummins Construction generously donated the materials and labor for the renovation of Classroom 1 and for some other repairs needed in the building.

*Pictured at right, preschool students in Miss Alexis' classroom play in the newly-enlarged classroom where the wall was removed.*





## PRE-KINDERGARTEN SCHOLARSHIPS

CARE for Children's Rainbow Corner Preschool is an approved Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Organization through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.

The EITC program makes pre-Kindergarten scholarships available to eligible children and families.

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 for the 2024-2025 school year:

**Commonwealth Charitable Management, Inc. on behalf of CNB Bank**

**Commonwealth Charitable Management, Inc. on behalf of JVB Bank**

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**Zippo Manufacturing Company**

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



## THERAPEUTIC RECREATION

CARE for Children held its 22nd Annual Basketball Mini-Camp on Wednesday, June 5th at Callahan Park in Bradford. A post camp dinner was held at Pizza Hut to celebrate CARE's 100th anniversary with CARE kids and family members. CARE's basketball mini-camp was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bradford, a grant from Rotary District #7280, and the Italian American Progressive Club (IAPC).

*Left: Kim Miller, OTR/L, CARE occupational therapist, is pictured on the basketball court with Sterling Shugars, age 11, and Riley Kinney, age 7.*

A Summer Fun Day was held on Monday, August 19th at Mystic Water Resort in Limestone, NY. CARE Kids enjoyed an Olympic-themed Summer Fun Day including mini golf, an obstacle course, badminton, and crafts during the picnic. Togi's Family Restaurant donated lunch including burgers, hot dogs, macaroni & cheese, and brownies. *Top: (l-r) DeAnn Persichini, COTA/L, CARE occupational therapy assistant; Delaney Bridge, age 15, and Melanie Buchanan, B.S., COTA/L, CARE occupational therapy assistant and special instructor make a beaded bracelet at a craft station.*

CARE kids visited the Pitt-Bradford Campus on Thursday, September 19th to spend "An Evening at the Ballfield" with the Lady Panthers. Coach Tina Phillips and the Pitt-Bradford Softball Team had stations set up and participants got the opportunity to bat, throw at targets, catch and play a short game. *Bottom right: Pictured are members of the Lady Panther Softball Team along with CARE kids and Elizabeth Childs, M.S., CCC-SLP, CARE speech and language pathologist (on right).*

CARE for Children's Therapeutic Recreation programs are funded in part by the United Way of the Bradford Area, Inc.

### **CARE Conducts Trainings continued from page 1**

Upon completion of the training, each program receives a LifeVac Choking Rescue Device, which is a portable suction first aid kit for both children and adults. Choking is the 4th leading cause of accidental death and a leading cause of death for children under the age of 14. Statistics show that one child dies from choking every 5 days.

The LifeVacs were made possible from a grant from the Women's Giving Circle of McKean County. The Women's Giving Circle is a society of philanthropists who work collectively to address and support issues that are important to women.

# CARE for Children Tribute Gifts

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Tina M. Martin



## ***A Message of Thanks***

Each year the CARE 'fore' Children Golf Tournament grows in funds raised and impact made. CARE is grateful for the many sponsors, golfers, volunteers and the Pennhills Club for making it such a success.

***Save-the-Date: 32nd Annual CARE 'fore' Children Golf Tournament  
Sunday, August 3rd, 2025***