

# CARE for Children NEWS

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



## CARE HOSTS TRANSITION PANEL & RESOURCE FAIR

CARE for Children recently hosted a panel discussion and resource fair, *Focusing on Transition: Preparing Your Student for Life After Graduation*, on April 23 at the Bradford Area Public Library. The event brought together families, educators, and community agencies to discuss resources and supports available for students with disabilities as they prepare for adulthood.

“Transition for students with disabilities is the coordinated planning process that supports students as they move from school into adulthood,” said Joy Haney, MSW, LSW, IMH-E, Social Worker at CARE for Children and facilitator for the Family Leadership Group.

Haney explained that transition planning includes preparing for post-secondary education or training, employment, independent living, and community participation. She emphasized that planning is most effective when it begins early, ideally in middle school, so families and schools can work together over time to build skills and explore opportunities.

Panelists represented several local agencies that provide services and support for individuals with disabilities. Participants included Missy Franklin from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR); Brandi Buck, Executive Director of Evergreen Elm; Heather Bunk from the Bradford Area School District; Patti Lewis from Futures Rehabilitation Center; and Melaena Nelson from The Guidance Center. Additional guests included Pat Ryan from Special Olympics, Donald Pool from Jamestown Community College, and Laura Gaulton from the Community to Home Program. The University of Pittsburgh at Bradford also provided resources for the event.

Attendees had the opportunity to learn about available community services, ask transition-related questions, and connect directly with local providers.

“As a parent, I thought it was an amazing experience. My husband and I learned about several resources available for our son that we had no idea existed,” said Lynette Campogiani.

She added, “When you find out that your child has special needs, they certainly don’t come with a manual. It is programs like these that help parents navigate becoming their child’s biggest advocates. CARE for Children and its programs are extremely valuable resources for parents.”

CARE’s Family Leadership Group, which works to strengthen parent advocacy and support families of children with disabilities, helped plan the program. The event and Family Leadership Group are supported, in part, through a grant from the ARG-Our Legacy Fund, held at the McKean County Community Foundation.

CARE for Children continues to support families by providing resources, education, and advocacy to help children of all abilities prepare for successful futures. **For more information about CARE for Children’s Family Leadership Group, please see page 3.**



*Pictured (l-r) Back: Patti Lewis, Futures Rehabilitation Center, Heather Bunk, Bradford Area School District, Mellissa Franklin, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Melaena Nelson, The Guidance Center, and Brandi Buck, Evergreen Elm. Front: Joy Haney, MSW, LSW, IMH-E, CARE Social Worker and Nick Campogiani, age 15, son of Jason and Lynette Campogiani.*

# CARE Celebrates 'Week of the Young Child'

CARE for Children hosted several events and activities to celebrate the *Week of the Young Child*. Held April 12–18 and sponsored annually by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the week recognizes the importance of early childhood education and the programs that help build a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

## Developmental Screening Day Held at CARE

For children from birth to age three, CARE opened the doors at the Ashley Booth Griffin CARE for Children Center for free developmental screenings. CARE staff provided parents with a snapshot of their child's development and an assessment of typical developmental milestones. Hearing and vision screenings were also available.

Babies and toddlers in attendance received a developmental toy, and families received picture books focused on social-emotional development along with child safety items.

Screenings were offered in partnership with the McKean County Department of Human Services, Early Intervention Service Coordination Birth to Three, the McKean County Child Find Committee, and Parents as Teachers. Screening tools, supplies, toys, and safety items were provided through grant funding from the ARG-Our Legacy Fund, held at the McKean County Community Foundation.

If you know a baby or toddler who may benefit from a developmental screening, please contact the CARE office at 814-362-4621 or the Early Intervention office at 814-975-1221. Early Intervention provides tailored support for children with developmental delays or long-term health concerns. These services are crucial for fostering development and enhancing long-term life skills.

## Early Learning Fun

CARE for Children's Rainbow Corner Preschool celebrated the *Week of the Young Child* by highlighting the importance of early learning through, special programming and fun, engaging activities for students.

With a fun beach theme, the week featured daily activities designed around the Pennsylvania Department of Education Early Learning Standards, including science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM), while also encouraging movement, collaboration, and healthy habits.

Families were invited to participate in a special STEAM Night, giving parents and caregivers the opportunity to experience hands-on learning alongside their children. The week concluded with a special performance by Magician Dave Jeffers and beach party-themed activity stations for students.

## Celebrating Safety

To thank Early Intervention families and playgroup participants, families received either a temperature-sensing duck to help prevent scalding or a night-light to help prevent falls. More than 100 families received a safety item in appreciation for choosing CARE for Children and to celebrate the *Week of the Young Child*.

Early learning and child safety activities were supported through a grant from a Donor-advised Fund held at the McKean County Community Foundation.



*Pictured top to bottom: CARE Occupational Therapist Ashley Carlson, MOT, OTR/L, works with a toddler during CARE's Developmental Screening Day for children from birth to age three. Magician Dave Jeffers performs with the help of preschooler, Joey, during the Week of the Young Child. Gavyn and his father, Ryan, conduct an experiment during Rainbow Corner Preschool's Family STEAM Night. Preschool Teacher Alexis Close, M.Ed., sits with playgroup participants Vanessa and Ryan while showing off child safety items.*

# CARE KIDS STAY ACTIVE

## Byllye Lanes Bowling

CARE enjoyed a fun-filled bowling outing at Byllye Lanes on March 19, where 28 children and teens spent the evening knocking down pins and celebrating plenty of strikes and spares. Pizza and snacks were served following the game, adding to the festive atmosphere.

The event was generously sponsored by the Bradford Exchange Club. During the outing, CARE's Family Leadership Group met in the restaurant area, with 15 parents in attendance, providing an opportunity for connection and discussion while the youth participated in activities.

## CARE Adaptive Ski Clinic

After a hiatus last year due to unfavorable weather conditions, CARE's Adaptive Ski Clinic made a successful return to Holiday Valley Resort on Presidents' Day. It was a beautiful day on the slopes as both experienced and first-time skiers enjoyed the opportunity to ski with the support of dedicated volunteers from the Lounsbury Adaptive Ski Program.

The outing was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Port Allegany, which provided lift tickets for participants. Monroe St. Brick & Brew generously donated pizzas, and Todd Buses provided transportation to and from Ellicottville. Board member Fred Graham also helps staff the event each year, contributing to its continued success.

## Teen Group at Cosmos

Sometimes the best recreation is simply spending time together. CARE's Teen Group enjoyed an evening at Cosmos Lounge, where they relaxed with friends while enjoying karaoke, crafts, and games. The outing offered a chance to unwind, connect, and have fun in a welcoming environment.

This event was planned by the Family Leadership Group and sponsored by the ARG-Our Legacy Fund, held at the McKean County Community Foundation.

*Pictured top to bottom: CARE teens, Trey, Becca and Brady have a ball at Byllye Lanes. Michael enjoys his first time on the slopes with his volunteer ski instructor from the Lounsbury Program at Holiday Valley. Andrew takes the stage during Karaoke at Cosmos Lounge during teen night.*

All of CARE's therapeutic recreation programs are funded, in part, through a grant from the United Way of the Bradford Area, Inc.



## CARE CONNECTS WITH FAMILIES AT KIDS FEST

CARE concluded April by attending Kids Fest, an annual community event highlighting children's programs and services throughout the region. CARE therapists and staff hosted a table featuring child safety items, developmental information, and community resources. Pictured is Melanie Buchanan, B.S., COTA at CARE's booth.

CARE therapists also provided developmental screenings for babies and toddlers attending the event.

## Family Leadership Group Welcomes New Families

CARE for Children's Family Leadership Group invites families of children with disabilities to connect, learn, and support one another through monthly meetings held both in the community and at the Ashley Booth Griffin CARE for Children Center. The group provides parents and caregivers with opportunities to network with other families, learn about community resources and transitions, and advocate for their children in a welcoming and supportive environment. The Family Leadership Group is funded through a grant from the ARG-Our Legacy Fund, held at the McKean County Community Foundation.

Families interested in joining or learning more are encouraged to contact Social Worker and Parent, Joy Haney, at 814-362-4621 or by email at [joyh@careforchildren.info](mailto:joyh@careforchildren.info)

# CARE for Children Tribute Gifts

## MEMORIALS

February 1st to April 30th, 2026

### In Memory of:

Nancy Campbell  
Donna M. Chapman  
Jim Crowley  
Suzanne Dittman  
Dick Douthit  
Jack Doxey  
Robert "Robbie" Evan III  
Dr. Carl Frisina  
Janet Goebel

Linda Hedlund  
Eris Hogue  
Becky Keller  
Arthur Loveless, Sr.  
Louis Monti  
Alishia Monroe  
June McGuire  
Michael McIntyre  
Chad Nadji  
Lois Pessia  
William Pierotti  
Virginia Randolph  
George Rhodes, Jr.  
George Ruggles  
Sandy Roulo  
John Schimmoeller  
Meranda "Mandy" Schleicher  
Catherine (Cathy) Smith  
Betty Soble  
Dave Swaney  
Charles Weaver  
Bill Wilde  
Neil Wolcott

### Given by:

Patti Tracy DeFrank  
Paulette Phillips  
Bill and Linda Sayers  
Ron and Terri Orris; Phyllis Sylvester  
John Freaney; Tom and Peggy Welch  
Lewis Keller and Family  
Ron and Bonnie Booth  
Kathy Sylvester; Phyllis Sylvester; Sam Sylvester; Kathy Symington  
Ann Cavallero; Ron and Terri Orris; Lou and Mary Kay Sokoly; Kathy Sylvester and Phyllis Sylvester  
Dave and Nancy Fuhrman; Marcia Morrison  
Patti Neidich  
Lewis Keller and Family  
Lewis Keller and Family  
Angela J. Monti  
Ted and Paula Haag; Lewis Keller and Family  
Ron and Bonnie Booth  
Sal and Shannon Luzzi; Brandon and Celia Means  
Ann Cavallero; Dave and Nancy Fuhrman  
Sal and Shannon Luzzi; Brandon and Celia Means  
Lee Eliason; Michael and Jean Luciano  
Shelly Crissman Hannon; Lewis Keller and Family  
Ron and Terri Orris; Ron and Kathy Symington  
Gene and Helen DeFrank; Jim and Staci McCord  
Kathy Symington  
The Honorable and Mrs. Chris Hauser  
Mary Martin  
Kathy Sylvester and Phyllis Sylvester  
Lewis Keller and Family  
Ron and Terri Orris; Lynn and Jane Sanderson  
Dave and Nancy Fuhrman  
Todd and Sharon Bridge  
Joan Mansour

## HONORARIUMS

February 1st to April 30th, 2026

### In Honor of:

Helen DeFrank  
Tyler R. Hannah  
Tim, Stephanie and Olivia Kellner  
Madeline Miles  
Johnny Mike Miller  
Sean McNamee  
Dana Pence  
Trevor Pecora  
Maddox Runyan  
Stephanie Vettenburg-Shaffer  
Sam Sylvester  
Preston Taylor

### Given by:

Louise Stoltz  
Kane Elks Lodge 329  
David and Marcia Rimer  
CARE for Children Board of Directors and Staff  
Barbara Reid  
Zack Murphy  
Anne M. Hardy  
Carol Pecora  
Quinn Runyan  
CARE for Children; Tina Martin  
CARE for Children; Gene and Helen DeFrank; Anne and Jeff Hardy; Louise Stoltz;  
Kathy Sylvester and Phyllis Sylvester; Ron and Kathy Symington  
Bill and Debbie Taylor

# CARE for Children Tribute Gifts

## DONATIONS IN MEMORY

February 1st to April 30th, 2026

### Donation in Memory of:

Ashley Booth Griffin  
Richard E. Buckley  
Gus Carley  
Richard "Dick" Cavallero  
Suzanne Dittman  
Sue and Nick Frampton  
Patrick Geary  
Don Girard  
Tom Girard  
Bryan Hannon  
Joe Hannon  
Craig Hart  
Jimmy Kan  
Middalia Kan  
Colin Koos  
Stephen Lonzi  
Denny, Leo, Ann and Jimmy Lyons  
James "Tubby" Maduri  
James Maduri  
Maryann Maduri  
Nancy Martin Campbell  
Anne Montecalvo  
James Montecalvo  
Mary Ann Montecalvo  
Louis Monti  
Lee Morell  
Mark Morell  
Ray I. Phillips  
Andrew Pingie  
Dr. Julie Todd Raymond  
Jim Reid  
Margaret Stidd  
Jim and Kay Sullivan  
Tammy and Barb  
Kenny (Reggie) Toothman, Jr.  
Tommy Viola  
Woody Woodruff  
Ron Yeager

### Given by:

Ron and Bonnie Booth; Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Smith  
Clair Ann Buckley  
The Carley Family  
John Freaney  
Phyllis Sylvester and Kathy Sylvester  
Jim and Kay Sullivan  
Ron and Kathy Symington  
Ron and Terri Orris  
Ron and Terri Orris  
Ron and Kathy Symington  
Ron and Kathy Symington  
Neidra P. Hart  
John and Susan Murphy  
John and Susan Murphy  
David and Marcia Rimer  
Carol Pecora  
Prime Media  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Stidd  
Frank and Kathy Maduri  
Frank and Kathy Maduri  
Tina M. Martin  
Alyssa Schneider  
Alyssa Schneider  
Alyssa Schneider  
Anne and Jeff Hardy; Angela Monti  
Patti Tracy DeFrank  
Patti Tracy DeFrank  
Paulette Phillips  
Beth Monti  
Dr. Thaddeus and Amy Todd Wojcik  
Barbara Reid  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Stidd; Togi's Family Restaurant  
Sue and Nick Frampton  
Fraternal Order of Eagles #307  
Kenny and Deb Toothman  
Alfred "Ted" Viola  
Pat Woodruff  
Stephen and Jennifer Morgan

*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.*

*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.*

## HAVE YOU MADE A GIFT TO THE ANNUAL FUND?

Thanks to the community's generosity, CARE for Children continues to say "yes" when families need it most. Through the 2026 Annual Fund, donors have made it possible to respond to urgent needs that directly impact a child's health, safety, and quality of life. We are grateful to everyone who has contributed. Your generosity is making an immediate difference in the lives of children and families in our community.

For those who have not yet participated, we invite you to join us. Your gift, at any level, helps ensure CARE can respond quickly, compassionately, and without barriers when families are most vulnerable.

### WAYS TO GIVE:

**By Check:** Payable to CARE for Children (Remit to 723 East Main Street, Bradford, PA 16701)

**By Credit Card:** Online at [careforchildren.info](http://careforchildren.info) or by calling CARE (814) 362-4621

**By Pledge:** May be paid in installments. Gifts may also be made in memory or honor of someone special

CARE for Children  
723 East Main Street  
Bradford, PA 16701  
814-362-4621  
FAX: 814-362-1066  
e-mail: care@careforchildren.info

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 029  
Bradford, PA  
16701

Return Service Requested

## Board of Directors

Tyler R. Hannah, *President*  
Fred Graham, *Vice President*  
Thomas E. Ball, *Treasurer*  
Deborah Price, *Secretary*

Greg Booth  
Alla Marie 'Bunny' Comilla  
Karen Gelston  
Anne M. Hardy  
Richard S. Johnson  
Lynne Kuntz  
Joe Lashway  
Mick Marshall  
Norm Strotman  
Amy Wojcik  
Joseph Yaros



## Services & Programs

Physical Therapy  
Occupational Therapy  
Speech-Language Pathology  
Early Intervention Services  
School-Based Therapy  
Social Work/Family Support  
Rainbow Corner Preschool  
Developmental Screenings  
Therapeutic Recreation  
Community Outreach  
Child Safety & Injury Prevention  
(Safe Kids PA - McKean County Partner)  
McKean County Cribs for Kids

Executive Director:  
Tina M. Martin

**The CARE 'fore' Children Golf Tournament is back!**  
*Supporting free programs and services for children of all abilities*

**Sunday, August 2, 2026**  
**Pennhills Club, Bradford, PA**

**REGISTRATION OPENS JUNE 25TH**  
**TO SPONSOR CALL 814-362-4621**

