

Winter 2018



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

# CARE NEWS

A Non-profit Organization Dedicated to Improving the Lives of Children of All Abilities

## CARE for CHILDREN EARNS THIRD STANDARDS FOR EXCELLENCE RE-ACCREDITATION

On November 30th, during a special presentation at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors, Norm Strotman, CARE for Children Board President-Elect, announced that CARE is a recipient of the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations' Seal of Excellence for successfully completing their rigorous Standards for Excellence® accreditation program.

"The board of directors and organizational leadership recognize the value of the accreditation as the 'Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval' in the non-profit sector but beyond that-- it is an incredible internal yard stick to measure the health and effectiveness of the organization," said Strotman.

"The adoption of best practices advances a framework for organizational relevance and accountability--- for management, fundraising and board governance; and provides a strong foundation for the delivery of CARE for Children's mission of improving the lives of children of all abilities," Strotman added.

CARE for Children has been accredited through the Standards for Excellence program since 2004. This summer CARE submitted its third application for re-accreditation. A review by a jury of non-profit peers and the staff at PANO concluded that CARE complied with all 67 Standards and has again been awarded the Seal of Excellence as a visible symbol of a well-managed, responsibly governed organization.

At the annual meeting Karen Gelston delivered the President's address and re-capped the progress CARE has made meeting the mandates of its mission and also discussed the board's adoption of a Vision and Values Statement.

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CARE for Children Vice President- Elect, Tyler R. Hannah (left) and President- Elect, Norm Strotman, hold CARE's re-accreditation certificate from the PANO's Standards for Excellence Program.

## CREATING YOUNG SCIENTISTS

STEM enrichment class is in its third year at Rainbow Corner Preschool.

The 23 four year olds who attend the STEM class are encouraged to experiment, explore, and focus on activities that promote and engage young students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

"Early Learning programs are integrating STEM activities into the curriculum in addition to pre-reading, pre-writing, language and social skills," said Kimberly Engstrom, M.Ed., preschool director. "As we strive to provide a high-quality learning environment, we need to provide students with the structure to foster their natural tendency to question, to build, and to investigate the world."

The program is funded by CARE's partnership with the Bradford Area School District and an Early Childhood Education Innovation Zone grant as part of Pennsylvania's federally-funded Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant.



Teacher Alexis Close instructs preschool students during an experiment on motion and speed. The lesson encouraged critical thinking by asking students: "How do we make it go faster? How about farther?" Students are engaged in the hands-on activities offered during the grant-funded STEM program.

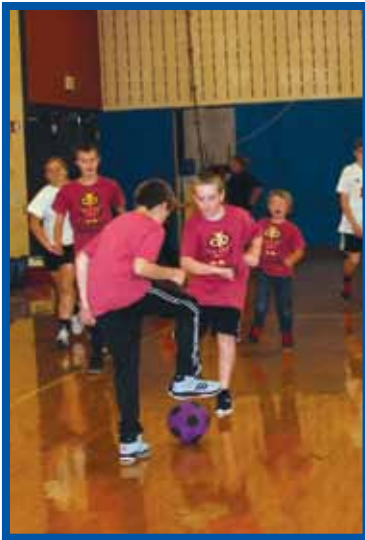
# TRAILBLAZERS COMPLETE SUCCESSFUL THIRD SOCCER SEASON

The CARE for Children Trailblazers soccer program wrapped up a six week season in November with a scrimmage against members of the Bradford Area High School Owls Soccer Teams. The scrimmage was followed by a pizza party for the team and their families.

The Trailblazer program is an adaptive sports team for school-age children who receive CARE therapy services and who may have difficulty competing on a traditional team. The program is part of CARE's therapeutic recreation program and goes beyond traditional therapy, providing an opportunity for physical fitness, improved self-esteem, socialization, and the experience of belonging on a team.

Coach Matt Gilligan, physical education teacher at the Bradford Area School District, along with support from CARE therapists, staff and volunteers, led the program. Team t-shirts were sponsored by Greg and Cherie Booth and Marshall Insurance Services, in memory of Ashley Booth Griffin.

CARE for Children's therapeutic recreation programs are funded in part by the United Way of the Bradford Area, Inc. and community sponsorships and donations.



*Left: Nick B. shows off fancy footwork as Gavin defends. Middle: Carmine and Gavin fight for a goal while Coach Gilligan gives a little help to Nick C. Right: Patrick keeps the ball away from a lady Owl defender.*

## SAVE-the-DATE

The 6th Annual  
McKean County Kids Fest  
Saturday, April 28th, 2018



## BEST BABY PLAYGROUP

CARE for Children's Best Baby Playgroup is a free, informal program geared for babies, toddlers, and parents and is held monthly at the Bradford Area Public Library at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 17th, 2018  
Wednesday, February 21st, 2018  
Wednesday, March 21st, 2018  
Wednesday, April 18th, 2018  
Wednesday, May 16th, 2018  
Wednesday, June 20th, 2018 at CARE

For more information, call CARE at 362-4621 or like us on Facebook – CARE for Children, McKean County.

## EXCHANGE CLUB BOWLING EXPO

CARE families, staff and children were the guests of the Bradford Exchange Club at the annual Bowling Expo held in October at Byllye Lanes Bowling Center in Bradford.

"We are grateful to community groups and volunteers who make fun events like bowling available to our CARE kids and families," said Ashley Carlson, MOT, OTR/L, pediatric therapy services director.

Those in attendance were able to bowl; and treated to a kid-friendly buffet of chicken wings, hot dogs and pizza followed by dessert. A clown and magician entertained the families.

The club also donated \$500 of Expo proceeds to CARE for Children's Child Safety and Injury Prevention efforts.



*Jay, age 6, gets ready to roll at the Exchange Club Bowling Expo. He got extra points for a cool t-shirt choice!*

# ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD of DIRECTORS

*Joseph Yaros, Mick Marshall, and Karen Gelston Honored with Community CARE Award*



(Continued from page 1)

CARE's Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors was held November 30th at the Bradford Club. Board members, Karen Gelston, Mick Marshall, and Joseph Yaros were each honored with a Community CARE Award to recognize their outstanding volunteerism, leadership and contributions to the organization throughout the planning, construction, capital campaign, and completion of the Ashley Booth Griffin CARE for Children Center.

Yaros served two terms as Board President, from 2006 to 2010, and during his tenure he led efforts to secure a new facility for the organization. When CARE purchased the property at 723 East Main Street, for the organization's current facility, he was instrumental in forming a building committee that oversaw both the construction planning and development of a capital campaign to support the project. He chaired the committee throughout the project and completion of the facility. Yaros currently serves as the Treasurer of the Board of Directors and co-chair of the Building and Grounds Committee.

*CARE Board Members and Community CARE Award recipients Joseph Yaros and Karen Gelston (seated) and Mick Marshall (standing) were honored by the Board at the annual meeting on November 30th, 2017.*

Marshall followed as Board President, from 2010 to 2014, and provided leadership throughout the design of the building, with architectural firm R.W. Larson and Associates, the bidding process and engagement of a general contractor for the project, and was active on the development team that met with businesses and key donors to support the project. Marshall currently serves on the Long Range Planning and Policy and Personnel Committees.

Gelston successfully co-chaired, along with board member Deborah Price, CARE's successful *Building Campaign for the Future of Children of All Abilities*. Gelston then followed Marshall as President of the Board of Directors, from 2014-2017. During her tenure, CARE completed the final phases of the building project including the playground, extensive landscaping and the completion of the Lena Graham Griffin Memorial Garden. Gelston had also served as Board President in fiscal year 2005-2006. She is the long-time chair of the Policy and Personnel Committee.

Executive Director Tina Martin presented the Community CARE Awards on behalf of the board and noted, "There is a parable that you should not hide your light under a basket, it is true of this year's honorees, these three would have gone on happily without recognition. We are grateful to Joe, Karen, and Mick for their support of CARE for Children as a light for children of all abilities."

Kimberly Engstrom, M.Ed., preschool director recognized Alexis Close, M.Ed. for reaching five years of service at the organization. During her tenure at CARE, Close has worked as a preschool teacher and birth to three special instructor. Alexis earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Pittsburgh Bradford and then a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Edinboro University.

"Alexis began her career at CARE in 2012 and she has helped me strengthen the preschool curriculum with a foundation that embraces a language rich environment and introduces science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics to our students. She champions the developmental needs of the toddlers in our playgroup ensuring they are able to take that important next step into preschool," said Engstrom. "CARE's family engagement efforts have been furthered with her expertise especially with preschool activities including a STEAM family night, helping plan Kids Fest and the establishment of the best baby playgroup as a monthly program at the library. As an Early Intervention special instructor, she earned the language coaching credential through the State of Pennsylvania, and works with some of the most vulnerable babies and toddlers in our community."

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors had close to 90 attendees.



*Preschool Director, Kimberly Engstrom, M.Ed., (left) presented a Milestone Years of Service certificate to Teacher and Special Instructor, Alexis Close, M.Ed at the annual meeting of the board of directors.*

# CARE for Children Tribute Gifts

## MEMORIALS

August 1st, 2017 through December 15th, 2017

### In Memory of:

Michael Bagnato

Richard Baxter  
Betty Bell  
"Bosley" & "Sophie"  
Karen Bricker  
Gary Cady  
Christian Carlson  
Mary Ann Church  
Jack Colosimo Jr.  
Tom Connolly  
Robert Crawford  
Sally Cross  
John "Jack" Cumiskey  
Joseph V. Daugherty  
Jeffery Digel  
Reverend Larry Donahue  
Franklin Eschrich  
Mary Jo Eschrich  
Chad Ewings  
Zackre Finelli Jr.  
Louis Franklin  
Dr. August "Augie" Freda  
Mike Frederico  
Frank Frontino  
Mary Lou Gigliotti  
Marcy Gildersleeve  
Thomas Grady  
Marjorie Graham

Robert Graham  
Ken Hannold  
William Hemingway  
Frederick C. Henke  
Dr. Gerald "Jerry" Hull

George Johnson Jr.  
Richard "Slim" Johnson

William Johnson  
William King  
David Kotwas  
Mildred McClellan  
Patrick McLaughlin

### Given by:

Greg and Cherie Booth; Ron and Bonnie Booth & Families; Todd and Sharon Bridge; Craig, Kimberly and Elias Engstrom; Marlene Ericson; Kathy Hannon Symington; Tina Martin and Max  
Greg and Cherie Booth  
Dewey and Ann Marsh  
Todd and Sharon Bridge  
Mike and Patty Gamble  
Dewey and Ann Marsh  
Greg and Cherie Booth; Ron and Bonnie Booth; Tina Martin; Sue Martin; Mary Winner  
Mike and Patty Gamble  
Bill and Linda Sayers  
Dewey and Ann Marsh  
Tina Martin and Max  
Richard and Ann Cavallero; Lou and Mary Kay Sokoly  
Bill and Barb Black  
Lou and Mary Kay Sokoly  
Mick and Michele Marshall  
Jim and Marcia McAndrew  
Dave and Karen Troutman  
The Gee Family  
Nate, Ashley and Ryan Carlson; Ken and Ann Hultberg  
Ed and Dee Sayers  
Mick and Michele Marshall  
Todd and Sharon Bridge and Jason Bridge  
Mrs. Peter Hvizdzak and Family  
Mike, Barb, Michael and Shannon McGarry  
Mick and Michele Marshall & Family; Mary Martin  
Marlene Ericson  
Craig, Kimberly and Elias Engstrom; Jim and Marcia McAndrew  
Dean Bauer; Greg and Cherie Booth; Tom and Jean Bromeley; Lisa (Graham) Caples; CARE for Children Board of Directors and Staff; Jeff and Val Coast; Tim Cumiskey; Randy and Kathy Durner; Teri Everett and Mike Tominez; Dana Kline, Kyla Pessia, Danielle Bertron, Kristin Asinger, Courtney Clarke, Meagan Hillard, Brook Butler, Shimalien Niver, Bob Harris, and Riley Crissman; Bella Capelli Salon; Mick and Michele Marshall; Tina Martin; The McAndrew Family; Madeline Miles; Bruce and Beth Monti; Jerry and Harri Jane Moore; Debbie Price; Michael Price; Ken and Patty Schaming; Val Yerdon; Cathy Zapel; Evan, Barb, and Hailey Swanson  
Randy and Kathy Durner; Evan, Barb and Hailey Swanson  
Dave and Carmen Hodges  
Randy and Kathy Durner  
Lynn and Jane Sanderson; Lou and Mary Kay Sokoly  
Greg and Cherie Booth & Families; Ron and Bonnie Booth; Sharon and Todd Bridge; Mike Martin and Debbie Curtin  
Art and Linda Slike  
Todd and Sharon Bridge; Mike, Mary, Sue and Tina Martin & Families; Joan Raabe; Bill and Linda Sayers; Sam Sylvester  
Ron and Bonnie Booth; Ed and Dee Sayers  
Jeff and Val Coast; Judy Kuntz  
Roger and Sherrie Rhoades  
Bill and Barb Black  
Lewis and Luanne Keller & Family

## MEMORIALS

August 1st, 2017 through December 15th, 2017

### In Memory of:

Todd Metz, Sr.  
Fred Miller  
Harold (Pat) Passenger  
Samuel Piganelli

Alice Razzano  
Gail A. Reid

Jane Robertson  
Kimberly Salada  
Dorothy Sherman  
James Smith  
Sandy Spehar  
Marlan Sprague  
John Stoughton  
Beverly Tallentire  
Faye Taraschi  
Clyde Vecellio  
George Wagner  
Diane Warren  
Mary A. Wehrer  
Earl Wilber  
Susan "Sue" Wilson  
Helen Wolfe  
Robert Zande

### Given by:

Lewis and Luanne Keller & Family  
CARE for Children Staff; Jeff and Val Coast; Tina Martin and Max  
Mike and Patty Gamble  
Ron and Bonnie Booth & Families; Mike Martin and Debbie Curtin; Richard and Roxanne  
Langianese; Mick and Michele Marshall; Mark, DeAnn, Alyssa and Carli Persichini  
Sam Sylvester  
Lindy Campbell; Mike, Barb, Michael and Shannon McGarry; Jim and Theresa Stoddard;  
W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery Company Employees; Zippo Employees  
Fred, Brenda, Kristen, April and Staci Otto  
James and Marcia McAndrew  
Jeff, Val, Seth and Alicia Coast  
Randy and Kathy Durner; Kathy and Phyllis Sylvester  
Margie Rounsville & Family  
Nancy Engstrom & Family  
Dewey and Ann Marsh  
Mrs. Peter Hvizdzak and Family  
John and Judy Freaney  
Richard and Claire Ann Buckley; Don and Cheryl Wiley  
Lewis and Luanne Keller & Family  
Kathy Hannon Symington; Kathy and Phyllis Sylvester; Sam Sylvester  
Crossett Inc.; Jim and Marcia McAndrew  
Pat and Colleen Scrivo  
Todd and Sharon Bridge  
Marlene Ericson; Jim Maduri; Tina Martin and Max Paterniti  
Tina Martin; Sam Sylvester

## HONORARIUMS

August 1st, 2017 through December 15th, 2017

### In Honor of:

Joe and Alice Kellner  
Emily Marshall  
Erica Marshall  
Ryan Marshall  
Allan and Sylvia Rimer  
Preston Taylor

### Given by:

David and Marcia Rimer  
Mick and Michele Marshall  
Mick and Michele Marshall  
Mick and Michele Marshall  
David and Marcia Rimer  
Kathy Symington

## Support CARE for Children's Memorial Giving Program



Your contribution in memory of someone special is a lasting gift which goes beyond a simple expression of sympathy by supporting services for children in our community. A special printed memorial card will be sent acknowledging the gift.

Please call 814-362-4621 or visit [www.careforchildren.info](http://www.careforchildren.info) for more information.

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.

*CARE for Children is a 501(c)(3) organization. The official registration and financial information of CARE for Children may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*

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## Board of Directors

Norm Strotman, *President*  
Tyler R. Hannah, *Vice President*  
Joseph Yaros, *Treasurer*  
Thomas E. Ball, *Secretary*

Greg Booth  
Jan Brown  
Alla Marie 'Bunny' Comilla  
Karen Gelston  
Fred Graham  
Anne M. Hardy  
Richard S. Johnson  
Lynne Kuntz  
Jim Macfarlane  
Mick Marshall  
Deborah Price



United Way of the Bradford Area, Inc.

## Services & Programs

Physical Therapy  
Occupational Therapy  
Speech-Language Pathology  
Early Intervention Services  
Social Work/Family Support  
Rainbow Corner Preschool  
Developmental Screenings  
Child Safety & Injury Prevention  
Therapeutic Recreation & Respite  
Adaptive Equipment Clinics  
Pediatric Equipment Loan  
Resource & Adaptive Toy Library  
Disability Awareness  
Child Safety & Injury Prevention

Executive Director:  
Tina M. Martin

Happy  
New Year

CARE for Children Wishes  
Joy and Peace to All in 2018.

