

CARE for Children News

www.careforchildren.info



SCREENINGS PROVIDE A BRIDGE TO SERVICES



Pictured: Dana Pence, CARE Physical Therapist, provides a screening for a young child and his mother at Kids Fest.

The early identification of delays in babies and toddlers and subsequent assessment and treatment ensure the best outcomes for these children as they grow. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, “with as many as 1 in 4 children at risk for developmental delay, universal early childhood screening provides an opportunity to identify delays early and intervene during the most critical period of development.”

“Early Intervention services focus on skills that babies and toddlers typically develop during the first three years of life but because of a developmental delay or disability the child is not meeting certain developmental benchmarks that may include cognitive difficulties, physical delays, and/or social/emotional, self-help, or communication skills that are not at age level,” said Kimberly Engstrom, M.Ed., CARE Preschool Director and Early Intervention Special Instructor. “CARE wants to raise awareness that infancy through early childhood are the most critical learning years and community screenings provide an

avenue to address any concerns and connect families to services.”

Developmental screenings are an important component in identifying children who may need services and also provide a snapshot of a child’s development. Pediatric 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. Community screenings are an extension of that monitoring and provide an additional safety net for families. (continued on page 2- SCREENINGS)

ANNUAL MEETING of the BOARD of DIRECTORS

The annual meeting of the CARE for Children Board of Directors was held Thursday, December 5th at the Bradford Club and the board honored the United Way of the Bradford Area, Inc. and Todd Busses with the organization’s 2019 Community CARE Awards.

“The United Way of the Bradford Area has supported CARE since its days as the Community Chest and when we began as the McKean County Society for Crippled Children,” noted Norm Strotman, CARE board president. “The United Way provides vital funding and bolsters CARE and many other agencies under its vast umbrella and serves as an important leader of the local non-profit sector, supporting and promoting collaboration that strengthens our community.”

Tina M. Martin, CARE executive director, delivered the presentation of Todd Busses’ award and lauded the Eldred business for donating transportation services for CARE’s therapeutic recreation programs and special events.

“It may seem a simple thing, host a fun activity and the kids will come... but in our rural area transportation is a significant barrier, for some families, to accessing programs and services. At CARE we appreciate Todd Busses for giving children who participate in our programs opportunities they may never have if it were not for a bus ride,” said Martin.

(continued on page 2 - ANNUAL MEETING)



The CARE board honored employees for years of service milestones. Pictured (l-r) are Kim Miller, OTR/L, Occupational Therapist, 10 years of service; Norm Strotman, Board President; and Kylie Battin, CCC-SLP, Speech/Language Pathologist, five years of service.

(Continued from page 1- ANNUAL MEETING) The Community CARE Awards were established by the Board of Directors in 2003 to recognize outstanding contributions to the agency and to the children and families to whom CARE provides service. This year the board determined to recognize these outstanding recipients for their active partnership with CARE in improving the lives of children of all abilities.

During the meeting Strotman provided a review of CARE's 2018-2019 fiscal year which had an overall theme of 'Stronger Together' and highlighted the organization's increase in the overall number of services including Early Intervention birth to three, school-based therapy, therapeutic recreation, early learning programs, community outreach, and child safety initiatives.

The CARE Board also honored two employees who have reached milestone years of service at the organization. Ashley Carlson, MOT, OTR/L, pediatric therapy services director, recognized staff members Kimberly Miller, OTR/L, occupational therapist, 10 years of service; and Kylie Battin, M.S., CCC-SLP, speech/language pathologist, 5 years of service.



HOLIDAY MOVIE

This year 179 Rainbow Corner Preschoolers, CARE kids and family members were "frozen" to their seats at the Main Street Movie House as they took in **Frozen 2** at a private showing.

Pictured (l-r): Abby Carlson, age 6, Julianna Carlson, age 3, and mom Jackie.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, since 2004, CARE has held it's annual holiday movie celebration at the Movie House providing families with a free showing, popcorn and drinks and even more than that... a holiday memory and time to be together.



ROTARY VISIT

The Bradford Rotary Club held a regular meeting at CARE for Children in October and learned about the organization's Cribs for Kids program from CARE's Safe Sleep Trainers. Pictured (l-r): Kimberly Engstrom, M.Ed., Bill Chapman, Rotary President, and Joy Haney, MSW, LSW.



TEAM TRAILBLAZERS

Teammates (l-r) Josh Kinney, age 14, and Ben Baxter, age 9, practice drills during Trailblazers soccer held in October.

(Continued from page 1- SCREENINGS)

Each fall CARE therapists provide a screening day for infants and toddlers at the Ashley Booth Griffin CARE for Children Center. These screenings are parent and child friendly and use evidence-based testing methods like the Ages and Stages Questionnaire. Parents are also provided other information on early childhood subjects like social-emotional development, early learning, dental health, safe sleep, and play and tummy time.

In certain instances screenings become imperative. According to the Center for Disease Control, *"If a child is at higher risk for developmental problems due to preterm birth, low birthweight, environmental risks like lead exposure, or other factors, the child's healthcare provider may also discuss additional screenings. If a child has an existing long-lasting health problem or a diagnosed condition, the child should have developmental monitoring and screening in all areas of development, just like those without special healthcare needs."*

CARE also participates each year in McKean County Kids Fest, the last Saturday in April, at the Bradford YMCA. During Kids Fest, EI service coordination staff and local EI providers offer a variety of screenings, including, gross and fine motor, social emotional, speech and language, vision and dental screenings.

"Families with young children should take advantage of community screenings. The good news: most families find out that their child is right on track developmentally," according to Cindy Wright, lead service coordinator for the McKean County Infant/Toddler Early Intervention Program. "If the family has a concern or one is found during the screening, it can be addressed immediately. Also, the agencies who participate in these events have lots of good, free information for families."

Wright also noted that each county has an Early Intervention office and parents can call and request a screening at any time. The McKean County Infant/Toddler Early Intervention office can be reached at 814-975-1221. Information for other counties can be found by calling the CONNECT Help Line at 1-800-692-7288. This is a nationwide hotline that can connect parents to their county Early Intervention office.

CARE for Children Tribute Gifts

MEMORIALS

September 1st through January 31st

In Memory of:

Shirley Abbey
Tosha Anastasia
Margaret "Peggy" Archer
Ted Bailiff
George Baxter
Charlie Bay
Garrett William Bednarz
Russ Berkhouse
Alarah Bhayani
Vicki Boser
Randy Boyer
Vida Brennan
Jim Burkhouse
Lynette Cary
George Colley
Bette Colligan
Carol Crawford
Beverly Davis
Adam DeSio

Anthony "Tony" Falconi, Jr
Marjorie Ferguson
Paula "Paulie" Francis
George Gigliotti
Joseph Gleason
Beverly Hannon
Charles Hanold Jr.
Bill Hanson
Sondra Harshman-Boccard
Clifford Elden Hewitt Sr.
Daniel Hillard

Guy Hillard

Mary Holmes
Diane Johnson
Melvin "Rick" Johnston

Given by:

Joan Mansour
Walter and Trudy Gulnac
Joan Mansour
Don, Cheryl, and Jason Wiley
CARE for Children
Brett and Becky Ellinger
Vicki Colley
Lewis Keller & Family
Jan Brown and Mary Sue Golen; Jim and Karen Gelston
Dave and Nancy Fuhrman
Ron and Terri Orris
Dave and Nancy Fuhrman, Scott and Michelle Elliott, and David and Maggie Fuhrman
Dick and Donna Payne
Debbie Hayden and John; Mr. and Mrs. David Hale
Ron and Terri Orris
Todd and Sharon Bridge; Ron and Terri Orris
Dewey and Ann Marsh
Terri and Kara Cook; Mick and Michele Marshall
Greg and Cherie Booth; Ron and Bonnie Booth, Amber and Jeff Heschler, and
Jon and Betsy Booth & Families
Greg and Cherie Booth; Tina Martin; Sam Sylvester
Patti DeFrank
Todd and Sharon Bridge, Chad and Jill Bridge, Todd and Sarie Bridge, and Jason Bridge
Marlene Ericson & Family; Ron and Terri Orris
Ron and Bonnie Booth; Carl and Carol Cavallero; Charles P. Fair; Mick and Michele Marshall
Dave and Nancy Fuhrman; Doug and Jan Stiles
Mick and Michele Marshall; Lisa Zurat
Greg and Cherie Booth
Mick and Michele Marshall
Lewis Keller & Family
Jill Audrey; Jan Brown; Mary Sue Golen; Linda Komori; The Belardia Family; Bill and Barb Black; CARE for Children; Nate, Ashley and Ryan Carlson; Jeff and Val Coast; Jim and Jill Doyle and Sara; Sandy and Tim Ekas; Craig, Kimberly and Elias Engstrom; The Bradford Exchange Club; Dennis, Linda and Daniel Fox; John and Judy Freaney; Dave and Nancy Fuhrman, Scott and Michelle Elliott, and David and Maggie Fuhrman; Linda Gault; Carolyn Goble; Friends at Graham's Greenhouse; Marge Grove; Joyce Hotelling; Jim and Leslie Kallenborn; The Kemick Family; Doug and Lynne Kuntz; Roger and Cynthia Lucke; Shirley and Paul Madison; Joan Mansour; Tina Martin, Jim Andrews and Max Paterniti; Sue Martin; Jim and Staci McCord; Teresa Mealy; Dick and Lisa Munday; Kim, Kayla and Brett Murphey; Mark, DeAnn, Carli and Alyssa Persichini; The Chas. E. Phipps Company; Debbie Price; Ralph and Ramona Rung; Jennifer Smith; Fred and Terri Stauffer; Sam Sylvester; Bill and Debbie Taylor; Eleanor Thumpston; Kathleen Thumpston; Dennis and Lori Trumbull; The Tuesday Luncheon Group; Paul and Georgie Ulrich, Todd Ulrich, and Scott and Melissa Crandell; John and Brandi Vanerstrom; Paula Vecellio; Deborah Ward; Lisa Zurat
Jan Brown and Mary Sue Golen; Nate, Ashley and Ryan Carlson; The Bradford Exchange Club; Val Coast; Craig, Kimberly and Elias Engstrom; John and Judy Freaney; Jim and Leslie Kallenborn; Joan Mansour; Tina Martin, Jim Andrews and Max; Jim and Staci McCord; Lou and Angela Monti; Warren and Jan Roll; Jennifer Smith; John and Brandi Vanerstrom
Todd and Sharon Bridge; Ron and Terri Orris
Greg and Cherie Booth
Dave and Nancy Fuhrman

MEMORIALS

September 1st through January 31st

In Memory of:

Middalia Kan
Ann Kessel
Judy Kirk
Karrie Laemmer
Albert Lent
Louise Lewis
Mary Lewis
Sherry Lingaton
Mary Lingenfelter
Victor Longo
V. Catherine Lowrey
Bob Lupole
Tim Lyons
Mary Louise Makey
Don McAdams
Carlene Novosel
Kay Pearson
Francis "Bud" Pezzimenti
Mary Pezzimenti
Shawn Poling
Susan Raabe
Marvin Race
Celia Romanelli
Michael Schmidt
Connie Schreiber
Richard Schultz
Charlene Shannon
Bruce Sherwin
Karen Swart
Charlene Tanner
Susanne Vogtli Bastedo
Cindy Wheaton
Theresa Zandi
Emil Zarnick

Given by:

CARE for Children; Mary T. Kinney and Bill Summerson; Dennis McCabe; Robert Rivera; Sundahl and Company Insurance; Ole and Janet Swanson
Greg and Cherie Booth; CARE for Children; Richard and Ann Cavallero; Jeff and Val Coast; Rich Johnson and Marlene Ericson; Mick and Michele Marshall; Ron and Terri Orris
Todd and Sharon Bridge
Marcia Morrison; Sam Sylvester
Ron and Terri Orris
Todd and Sharon Bridge & Family
Todd and Sharon Bridge
Robbie Carter & Family; Tina Martin; Mike Price
Kathy Sylvester and Phyllis Sylvester
Sam Sylvester; Dave and Nancy Fuhrman
Craig, Kimberly and Elias Engstrom; Katlyn Hillard; Tina Martin, Jim Andrews and Max Paterniti
June Carley
Greg and Cherie Booth; Ron and Bonnie Booth
Mick and Michele Marshall & Family
Bill and Debbie Taylor
Ken and Ann Kane
CARE for Children; Ashley, Nate and Ryan Carlson
Tina Martin, Jim Andrews and Max Paterniti
Craig, Kimberly and Elias Engstrom; Jan Brown and Mary Sue Golen; Tina Martin, Jim Andrews and Max Paterniti
Craig, Kimberly and Elias Engstrom
CARE for Children Staff; Mick and Michele Marshall; Tina Martin
Ron and Bonnie Booth & Family; Todd and Sharon Bridge; Dave and Nancy Fuhrman, Scott and Michelle Elliott, and David and Maggie Fuhrman; Doug and Lynne Kuntz; Mick and Michele Marshall; Tina Martin
Dana Haven and Ron Booth; Lisa Zurat
Joan Mansour; Lisa Zurat
Craig, Kimberly and Elias Engstrom; Mike Martin and Debbie Curtin
David and Marcia Rimer
Jan Brown; CARE for Children Board of Directors; Tina, Val, Leslie, Ashley and the CARE for Children Staff; Gerald and Bonnie Conklin; Dave and Nancy Fuhrman; Ken and Ann Kane; Joan Mansour; Mary Martin; Debbie Price; Don and Cheryl Wiley, Michelle, Jason and Grace
CARE for Children Board of Directors; Tina, Val, Leslie and the CARE for Children Staff; Craig, Kimberly and Elias Engstrom; Jim and Staci McCord
Greg and Cherie Booth
Dick and Donna Payne
Bunny Comilla, Craig, Kimberly and Elias Engstrom, Jim and Karen Gelston, Tina Martin, Jim Andrews and Max, Mike Martin, Debbie Curtin & Families, Sue Martin and Dawn Pezzimenti, Mary Martin
Dewey and Ann Marsh
Todd and Sharon Bridge & Family; Helen and Jim Carroll; Dave and Nancy Fuhrman, Scott and Michelle Elliott, and David and Maggie Fuhrman; Ken and Ann Kane; Tina Martin;
Ron and Terri Orris
Ken and Ann Kane

Holiday Contributions in Memory of:

Ashley Booth Griffin
Bryan T. Hannon
Joseph Hannon
Mark Morell
John Quinn
Jim Reid
Andrew Taylor

Given by:

Brett and Danielle Booth & Family
Ron and Kathy Symington
Ron and Kathy Symington
Patti DeFrank
Your Son, John Quinn
Barb Reid
Bill and Debbie Taylor

HONORARIUMS

September 1st through January 31st

In Honor of:

Greg and Cherie Booth
David Hale
Pastor Joshua Haney
Emily Marshall
Erica Marshall
Ryan Marshall
Tycen McCammon
Johnny Mike Miller
Preston Taylor
Joe Troutman, Jr.

Given by:

Brett and Danielle Booth & Family
Deb Hayden & Denise
Bonnie McDonald
Mick and Michele Marshall
Mick and Michele Marshall
Mick and Michele Marshall
Doug and Lynne Kuntz
Barb Reid
Ron and Kathy Symington
The Holley Family

EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT (EITC) PRE-KINDERGARTEN SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

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, while providing a tax benefit for participating businesses.

The program, administered by the Department of Community and Economic Development, enables eligible businesses who qualify through the State program and who make contributions to Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Organizations, to receive a tax credit equal to 100 percent of the first \$10,000 contributed and up to 90 percent of the remaining amount contributed up to a maximum credit of \$200,000 annually.

CARE for Children is grateful for the generosity of the following companies who have contributed to the EITC Pre-K Scholarship program at Rainbow Corner Preschool in 2019: **Northwest Bank, UPMC Health Plan, and Zippo Manufacturing Company**

Businesses who are interested in supporting CARE's early learning program and help working families afford a Pre-Kindergarten program, please visit <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/educational-improvement-tax-credit-program-eitc/> or www.careforchildren.info for more information.

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 for
more information.

**Donors who make an annual fund
contribution or 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.**

CARE for Children
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e-mail: care@careforchildren.info

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Board of Directors

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

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



Services & Programs

Physical Therapy
Occupational Therapy
Speech-Language Pathology
Early Intervention Services
School-Based Therapy
Social Work/Family Support
Rainbow Corner Preschool
Developmental Screenings
Child Safety & Injury Prevention
Therapeutic Recreation & Respite
Adaptive Equipment Clinics
Pediatric Equipment Loan
Disability Awareness
Child Safety & Injury Prevention
McKean County Cribs for Kids

Executive Director:
Tina M. Martin



SAVE-the-DATE

The 8th Annual McKean County Kids Fest
Saturday, April 25th, 2020 at the Bradford YMCA
Interactive, Fun Displays and Programs; Developmental Screenings;
Kid-Friendly Snacks and Entertainment; Giveaways
Hosted by the McKean County Collaborative Board and the Bradford YMCA
www.facebook.com/KidsFestMcKean/