

# FAMILY SERVICE SCOOP

Quarterly News from Family Service Association of Bucks County

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## NEW SHELTER KITCHEN COMPLETE

The *Buck Up Bucks County* campaign asked residents to donate a dollar each so the Bucks County Emergency Homeless Shelter could get a desperately needed kitchen renovation. The community responded with over \$200,000 in just 27 days!

*Buck Up Bucks County* launched on February 3, 2013 and, with a great deal of help from the Courier Times, The Intelligencer and Comcast, was quickly a success. Online donations immediately poured in and, a few days after the launch, a pile of mail at least a foot high arrived with donations of varying amounts totaling thousands of dollars. Many included heartfelt notes of care, support and encouragement for both the campaign and shelter residents.

In the weeks that followed, thousands of individuals, families, ser-

vice organizations, local businesses, schools, athletic teams, faith-based organizations, government officials and non-profits joined the fundraising effort. *Buck Up Bucks County* canisters made their way into hundreds of local businesses, and on March 1st, just 27 days after launch, our \$200,000 goal was met.

### The Renovation

On June 5th, with architectural drawings complete, contractors lined up and a temporary modular kitchen parked behind the shelter, demolition began. Just 56 days later, construction



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Shelter kitchen after the renovation, thanks to generous donations from the community through *Buck Up Bucks County*

## SHELTER KITCHEN *(continued)*

was finished. The project included a complete overhaul of the kitchen, food storage area, laundry facility and loading dock. The newly-improved kitchen now features a walk-in refrigerator, a more efficient preparation area, a cooling system and brand-new appliances, lighting, shelving, flooring and much more. Overall, the new kitchen

is safer and more efficient, and it will continue to be the source of three meals per day for 75-80 residents. Staff and volunteers gathered for a ribbon cutting (pictured on front) on August 7th, and meal preparation in the new kitchen began that evening.

### Special Thanks

The success of the fundraising campaign and construction are a

direct result of having the right people involved. It was a "perfect storm." We are very grateful to the following people for their support: Pat Walker and the entire team of writers, reporters, photographers, videographers and staff at The Intelligencer and Bucks County Courier Times; Tom Schrier, Volunteer Project Engineer; Cheryl Schrier, Volunteer Kitchen Designer Extraordinaire; Franco D'Andrea, Ian Dove and The Huffman Group; Brian Jeter and the entire team at Comcast; and last but certainly not least, all of the citizens who contributed to this renovation.

The grand total donated was \$282,000. 100% of the money raised went directly to the project. Donations above and beyond \$200,000 enabled us to renovate twice the amount of space as originally planned. The community's response, as well as the efficiency and success of *Buck Up Bucks County*, was unprecedented.



Shelter kitchen before the renovation



## Volunteers Needed for Contact Helpline

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "every 15 minutes, someone dies by suicide in this country. For every person who dies, there are many more who think about, plan or attempt suicide." Fortunately, suicide is preventable. With the increase in reports of suicide in our community, the need for trained volunteers also increases. You can help prevent suicide by becoming a volunteer. Phone rooms are located in Bucks and Montgomery counties, and volunteers must be able to commit to a minimum of four 4-hour shifts per month.

*To learn more or to sign up for an upcoming training, contact Ellen Vinson at [volunteer@fsabc.org](mailto:volunteer@fsabc.org) or 215.757.6916, ext. 202.*

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

**"In a time when nonprofits are experiencing cuts in funding, it is imperative that the community find creative ways to sustain important services." - Audrey Tucker, Chief Executive Officer**

I am happy to announce that the Boards of Directors of CONTACT of Greater Philadelphia and Family Service completed a merger in May 2013. As a result, we now operate the CONTACT Helpline, Reassurance program and Children of Aging Parents.

## Newly Acquired Programs

Trained CONTACT Helpline volunteers provide objective, confidential and anonymous telephone-based warm line, information, referral and suicide prevention services. Reassurance volunteers make daily calls to socially isolated older adults living alone. Children of Aging Parents provides information, referrals and support for caregivers of the elderly or chronically ill.



that everyone in our community is interconnected and that we need to work together for the greater good," said Jamie Haddon, President & Chief Executive Officer at United Way of Bucks County. "Two of our strongest member agencies merging improves service, creates efficiencies in the system, and ensures that our response to individuals and families in crisis is more effective than ever." Together, we will continue to serve those facing a crisis in their lives and support the independence of older adults.

## The Transition

A transition team reached out to long-time CONTACT volunteers and partners, and we have begun to include their valuable knowledge and experience in our plan to strengthen current operations. We have already initiated enhanced training and supervision, and discussions are underway regarding the use of new technologies and how to best integrate the resources of our Outpatient Behavioral Health, Older Adult and Volunteer programs to enrich CONTACT Helpline offerings.

If you would like to know more about this merger or would consider becoming a CONTACT or Reassurance volunteer, please let me know. *You can reach Audrey at 215.757.6916, ext. 204 or [atucker@fsabc.org](mailto:atucker@fsabc.org).*

Reports of suicide have increased across Pennsylvania over the last decade. The Bucks County Coroner's Office reported 81 suicides in 2012, up from 66 in 2006. Similarly, the Montgomery County Coroner's Office reported 93 suicides in 2012, up from 69 in 2006.



## The Merger

There are many reasons for a merger between non-profit agencies, such as quality improvements in existing services, expansion by linking related services, improved efficiency through better utilization of assets and reduced overhead, increased funding through expanded fundraising capabilities and new relationships, enhanced market visibility, or any combination of these factors.

The goal of this merger was to combine both organizations into one that is stronger than the sum of it's two parts. "United Way believes



### Doylestown Coffeehouse Socialization Program

The Coffeehouse is a weekly socialization group for high school graduates (ages 18+) on the Autism Spectrum. Take part in activities, conversations and educational groups focused on topics that matter to you.

Beginning on September 26th, Coffeehouse hours are 6:00 to 7:30 PM on Thursday evenings at our brand new Coffeehouse location (Georgetown Commons, Suite One, 708 Shady Retreat Road, Doylestown, PA). Stop by! No RSVP necessary.

Questions? Contact Amy Conte at 215.757.6916, ext. 351 or [aconte@fsabc.org](mailto:aconte@fsabc.org).

# AUTISM PROGRAM EXPANDS

**Autism Awareness, Community Education and Support (AACES) services are now more accessible to families in central and upper Bucks County**

AACES, a program for young adults with high-functioning Autism (i.e. Asperger Syndrome), provides job training and preparation, socialization opportunities and parent support in order to increase independence and decrease isolation among young people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Previously available only in Langhorne, we have expanded these services to our Doylestown location so they are more accessible to families in the central and upper parts of Bucks County.

We recently launched a parent support group in Doylestown to provide support and information to family members of young adults with high-functioning Autism. This group

meets on a monthly basis and is always open to new members.

In addition, we will launch a weekly "Coffeehouse" program later this month at our office in Doylestown. The Coffeehouse model, which we currently operate in Langhorne, focuses on helping participants learn or improve socialization and life skills. With the right support, many of our participants are capable of going to college or vocational training, getting a job and becoming more independent.

*To learn more about our AACES program or to get involved, contact Amy Conte at 215.757.6916, ext. 351 or [aconte@fsabc.org](mailto:aconte@fsabc.org).*



## YOU CAN HELP

**Each year, more than 7,400 people turn to us for help in dealing with life's challenges.**

Support our mission of strengthening individuals, children and families by making a 100% tax deductible donation via mail or online at [www.fsabc.org/donate](http://www.fsabc.org/donate).

Questions? Contact David Ford, Director of Development at 215.757.6916, ext. 208 or [dford@fsabc.org](mailto:dford@fsabc.org).

**Please accept my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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**Please return completed slip to:**

Family Service Association of Bucks County  
4 Cornerstone Drive, Langhorne, PA 19047



The official registration and financial information of Family Service Association of Bucks County may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

# 4 WAYS WE CAN HELP

Below are four eye-opening statistics regarding prominent issues in our community. Each quarter, we will explore one of these issues and share how we can help.

**1** 88% of adults age 65+ want to stay in their homes as they age.

**2** Suicide is the second leading cause of death for 25-34 year olds. Suicide is preventable.

**3** Every 9 1/2 minutes, someone becomes infected with HIV.

**4** Most studies indicate that 75-85% of adults with Asperger Syndrome do not hold a full-time job.



## 1. WE CAN HELP OLDER ADULTS STAY IN THEIR HOMES

According to a 2010 AARP report on Home Preferences, 88% of adults age 65+ want to stay in their homes as they age.

Elder Care Solutions is designed to help you plan for the care of your aging relatives. With aging comes unexpected and often unwelcome changes in health and mobility, and it can be difficult to start necessary conversations with parents, spouses or other family members regarding their care.

Taking care of someone you love without additional support can be an emotional, financial and time-consuming commitment. We can help by providing resources and services that many older adults need to live healthy, happy lives, often in their own homes. *To learn more, contact Bernadette O'Connor at 215.757.6916, ext. 236 or [boconnor@fsabc.org](mailto:boconnor@fsabc.org).*

## Michael Mattie: Our Newly-Elected Board President

We are very pleased to announce that Michael Mattie of Warminster was recently elected as President of the Board of Directors for the 2013-2015 term.



Mattie, President of Doylestown Wealth Management and active community leader, has served as a member of our board for nearly six years and has been a Rotarian since 1989. He worked with the Wheelchair Foundation to purchase and deliver more than 2,000 wheelchairs to individuals in need across Argentina, Croatia and Bosnia. Mattie brings a wealth of service knowledge and experience to his new role.

Mattie plans to help attract additional, talented Bucks County citizens interested in giving their time as a volunteer or board member here at Family Service. When asked how he will measure success, Mattie replied: "If our organization can continue to expand services to those in need within our community year after year, while maintaining our high quality standards and prudent financial stewardship, we will have succeeded."

We are celebrating our 60th anniversary this year, and we anticipate that Michael Mattie's desire to seek constant and never-ending improvement will help us remain strong for many years to come.





# A STAR SPANGLED GALA

Show your support of the Bucks County Emergency Homeless Shelter on **October 19, 2013** at Belle Voir Manor in Bensalem, PA

Please join us for an All-American evening benefitting the Bucks County Emergency Homeless Shelter, a program of Family Service. The shelter is a temporary residence for families and individuals who have lost safe and stable housing. Your support will help residents move from homelessness towards

independence and a brighter future. The gala will feature cocktails, live and silent auctions, All-American cuisine, live musical performances and more. Sponsorship and advertising opportunities are available. *To purchase tickets or learn more, contact David Ford at 215.757.6916, ext. 214 or visit [www.fsabc.org/gala](http://www.fsabc.org/gala).*

Founded in 1953, Family Service Association of Bucks County is a private nonprofit, non-sectarian, human service agency providing services to individuals and families. Family Service is accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services, Inc. and is licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to provide outpatient mental health and drug and alcohol assessment and treatment services.

#### **Family Service Association of Bucks County**

4 Cornerstone Drive  
Langhorne, PA 19047

215.757.6916

**[www.fsabc.org](http://www.fsabc.org)**

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Audrey J. Tucker, MSW, LSW



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