

# EDUCATION

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From left: Maria, Francis and Heather Young present a gift from the Lauren Nicole Young Memorial Fund to Family Service Association of Bucks County in support of its School-Based Counseling program.

## Peace Center offers Support Circles to prevent bullying

Petra Chesner Schlatter

Twenty-eight percent of U.S. students in sixth through 12th grades experience bullying, according to the National Center for Education Statistics and Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Bullying hits youths hard. Emily Murphy, 18, can attest to that. She was hospitalized in Horsham Clinic for four days. She had told a girlfriend that she wanted to stab herself "with 10 knives." Her friend told adults at her school. And she got help before it was too late.

It is important to note that "research indicates that persistent bullying can lead to or worsen feelings of isolation, rejection, exclusion, and despair, as well as depression and anxiety, which can contribute to suicidal behavior," according to stopbullying.com.

She wants other youths to know that Support Circles at The Peace Center in Langhorne helped her

build confidence and self-esteem, gain support from families who have experienced bullying, learn to assertively stand up to bullying, use healthy coping skills to beat a bad day, practice problem-solving tools, make new friends and have fun.

Emily's father became a board member of The Peace Center to give back for the center helping her so much.

His daughter still attends the Support Circles, which are held on Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. at The Peace Center, 102 W. Maple Ave., Langhorne. Meetings are set to be held, starting on Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Kate Whitman is director of the Bullying Prevention Resource Center, a program of The Peace Center. "Our Support Circles are often the only safe place that targets of bullying have to be with other kids and experience complete acceptance," she said.

The Bullying Prevention Resource Center works to support

the targets of bullying, in addition to working with those that are the aggressors in bullying situations. Support is also provided for parents to help them navigate the challenges that affect the entire family as a result of bullying. Parents and youth learn strategies that build social and emotional intelligence, confidence and communication.

The support circles are just one of many programs offered by The Peace Center. To help fund the center, the 19th annual Peace Center Auction Autumn Gala - Speak Up for Peace will be held Oct. 16 at Spring Mill Manor in Ivyland.

For information about the event or to register, visit thepeacecenter.org or call The Peace Center at 215-750-7220. To learn more about Support Circles on Bullying, contact Kate Whitman at kwhitman@thepeacecenter.org, call the center or visit the website. Registration is ongoing.

## School-Based Counseling program receives gift

The Young Family recently delivered a \$15,000 gift on behalf of the Lauren Nicole Young Memorial Fund to Family Service Association of Bucks County in support of its School-Based Counseling program.

Family Service has partnerships with 20 schools across eight school districts to provide counseling for children and adolescents directly in the schools they attend each day.

The gift from the Lauren Nicole Young Memorial Fund will be used specifically to provide middle and high school students with mental health counseling and substance abuse treatment in an effort to reduce drug and alcohol abuse and prevent possible deaths from occurring.

A recent national survey on drug use reports that by the 12th grade, about half of adolescents have used an illicit drug at least once. Locally, there were 103 accidental deaths involving drugs and alcohol in 2014 in Bucks County alone, according to Dr. Joseph P. Campbell, Bucks County coroner.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMH-

SA), one of the key strategies in preventing overdose deaths is to ensure access to treatment for individuals who have a substance use disorder.

Providing in-school counseling and substance abuse treatment eliminates many barriers that can prevent families from accessing these types of services for adolescents. Many families have difficulties attending traditional outpatient clinics due to hectic work schedules or transportation issues.

Because most adolescents spend a significant part of each day in a school building, Family Service's school-based program provides a convenient option for families, making it easy to access services and treatment. In addition, the school environment is a familiar one for students, and they may be more comfortable receiving counseling and substance abuse treatment in the school setting rather than at an outpatient facility.

To learn more about School-Based Counseling, visit fsabc.org/school or contact Shana Almeida, clinical supervisor of behavioral health, at 215-757-6916, x111 or salmeida@fsabc.org.

## High school students intern at Bucks

It was not your typical summer for five Morrisville High School seniors, who worked as paid interns at Bucks County Community College for five weeks as part of a new job-readiness program funded by the Bucks County Workforce Development Board.

Anastasia Crawley worked in the college's Public Safety office; Donovan Tully worked in Physical Plant; Shanice Snead helped out Student Services; Natrece Harper worked in the Wellness Center; and Jacob Miranda helped out in Library Services.

In addition to gaining work experience, the students received instruction on topics like professionalism, workplace safety, communication skills and financial lit-



Christine Harvie, job-readiness program coordinator, with Bucks County Community College interns Anastasia Crawley, Donovan Tully, Shanice Snead, Natrece Harper and Jacob Miranda.

eracy. The internships continue through the students' senior year so that they will be well-prepared to enter the workforce or continue their education upon graduation.

Schools taking part this academic year are Morrisville and

Harry S. Truman High School. Openings are available for eligible students from those schools.

Interested students are urged to call Christine Harvie at 267-685-4818 to begin the application process.

## DeVal reaches out to next generation of ag teachers

Students interested in studying agriculture education in college may be leaving upcoming agriculture conferences with scholarships and admission decisions.

Dr. David D. Timony, chair of Delaware Valley University's education department, will visit three agriculture events this academic year to recruit the next generation of secondary education teachers specializing in agriculture.

Dr. Timony has been asked to present at the Fall Ag Ed Professional Development Conference at Rutgers University. The event will be held at the Rutgers EcoComplex in Bordentown, New Jersey, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 30.

At the Dec. 10 New Jersey Teach

Ag Recruitment Event, DeVal will offer on-site admission decisions for future agriculture teachers.

In May, the University will be one of several sponsors of a New Jersey Teach Ag CDE during the state convention. DeVal will be

awarding scholarships to top student participants at the May event.

Pre-registration for the Fall Ag Ed Professional Development Conference is due by Sept. 23. Visit form.jotform.com/NJFFA/2016FallAgEd.

## Delaware Valley High School holds pep rally

A pep rally at Delaware Valley High School on Friday, Sept. 16, will feature fireworks and a DJ - and the public is invited.

It will take place in the main parking lot from 6:30 to 8 p.m. "A night pep rally like this hasn't been done since the school's 50th anniversary celebration," said Athletic Director Bill Deniz. "It's a good way of getting sports and the arts together for a night, with fireworks to cap it off."

The 10-minute fireworks show will be detonated by the new girls' soccer coach, Drew Hazar, who also works for Garden State Fireworks. Hazar has waived the fee for his pyrotechnical services that evening.

Members of the fall sports teams - football, field hockey, cheerleading, soccer, cross country and volleyball - will be introduced; the Golden Regiment, Del Val's marching band, will perform; and assorted school merchandise and spirit wear will be sold by the All-Sports Booster Club.

DJ Matt Amabile, a DeVal alumnus, will entertain, as will several performing arts students. Baseball coach Marty White

will offer students a fast-pitch contest, which will be judged impartially by a radar gun. There will also be a karaoke contest, and a tug-of-war, possibly pitting students against parents.

Food and drink will be sold by the parents of cheerleaders and football players, and a Kona Ice truck will also be on-site.

The school is at 19 Senator Stout Road in Alexandria Township, N.J.

## MBIT offers evening precision machining courses

Due to the high demand for jobs in the precision machining field in Bucks County, Middle Bucks Institute of Technology offers a series of courses in order to train workers in this industry.

Starting the last week in September, courses are offered in Precision Machining Fundamentals, Introduction to CNC Machining, Blueprint Reading and Machine Shop Math. These courses can also be customized and taught for a particular organization who sends multiple students.

To register, visit mbit.org or call 215-343-2480 x108.



September 30<sup>th</sup>  
Lecture by  
Barn Guy, Brian Murphy!

## Barn Tour & Art Show

October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Pre-Tour Lecture: September 30<sup>th</sup>

Sponsored by:



For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.BCAS.org](http://www.BCAS.org) or call 215-297-5880



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At Honey Hollow

Environment for the Future