

FAMILY SERVICE SCOOP

Quarterly News from Family Service Association of Bucks County

www.fsabc.org



NEW WEBSITE HAS LAUNCHED

Our new and improved website is more accessible than ever! With its high-tech responsive design, those in need of help can now access services and resources from a desktop, laptop, tablet or mobile device.

Created in partnership with Inverse Paradox, a local web and graphic design agency based in Pennel, PA, the new site features a user-friendly design, downloadable resources, large photos and eye-opening statistics regarding issues in our community.

Enhanced Features

Right from the homepage, you can view all of our programs and services, learn how to get involved and view upcoming events. Upon further exploration, you'll find recent press releases and news articles, information about our Board and staff members and a brief history of our agency.

We're thrilled about the new design and we're excited to share it with you. The new website is intended to serve as a great resource for all of our clients, volunteers, donors, friends and staff. If you haven't done so already, take a few minutes to check it out at www.fsabc.org.

Feedback Welcome

Have any feedback on our new website? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Contact Nicki Bedesem, Communications Coordinator, at 215.757.6916, ext. 214 or nbedesem@fsabc.org.

To learn more about Inverse Paradox, visit www.inverseparadox.net.



Buck Up Bucks County Update, page 4

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Partner Sponsor



Jericho National Golf Club in New Hope, PA

IT'S (ALMOST) GOLF SEASON

That means it's time to sign up for our 15th annual **Drive for Youth Golf Outing** on June 9th at Jericho National Golf Club in New Hope, PA.

Over the past fourteen years, the Drive for Youth Golf Outing has raised over \$545,000 for programs and services that directly benefit children and families in our community.

All golfers receive lunch, driving range access, refreshments during course play, green and cart fees, a Nike Dri-Fit polo and dinner at the awards banquet. Raffles, contests and an auction

will take place throughout the day. The event will be held rain or shine.

Schedule of Events

Registration, lunch, driving range access and the putting contest will begin at 10:30 AM. The shotgun start (scramble format) will take place promptly at 12:00 PM, followed by dinner and the awards banquet at 5:30 PM.

Current Sponsors

As of March 11th, our sponsors include NFP Executive Benefits (partner), The Jones Group Inc. (ace), Customers Bank (golf gift), Streamline Payroll (golf cart), Becky and Kevin Kerchner (luncheon), Cydney and Ben Ciliberto (driving range), ESH Foundation (par), Kampi Components (putting green), Bonargo Insurance Associates, Inc. and The Broker Network, Inc. (refreshment carts) and Team Capital Bank (tee).

Ways to Participate

In addition to participating as a golfer at this event, you can also take advantage of our sponsorship and advertising opportunities. Not a golfer? No problem. You can still attend our awards banquet as a dinner guest.

To register or to learn more, visit us online at www.fsabc.org/golf or contact David Ford at 215.757.6916, ext. 208 or dford@fsabc.org.

Thank you to our Drive for Youth committee members for their hard work and dedication to this event: Brian Rodgers and Francis J. Sullivan, Esq., Co-Chairs, Louis J. Altomari, Michael J. Borski, Bernard Ciliberto, Gerald F. Dugan, Bonnie Halbreiner, Melissa Maurer, Jessica J. Sweeney and Brian Tierney.



Check out our golf outing video direct from Jericho National Golf Club at www.fsabc.org/golf.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

I am pleased to announce that we held our first Family Center Community Meeting on Wednesday, February 26th at Snyder-Girotti Elementary School in Bristol, PA.

An Open Forum

This first Family Center Community Meeting was an open forum for parents and representatives from community agencies throughout Bucks County to come together and discuss the services and supports available for families throughout the county.

Lynne Rainey, LSW, Director of Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services, and I lead the discussions. This meeting was the first of its kind in our county. Parents and individuals from local human service agencies had the

Community Needs

Parents in attendance expressed concerns regarding bullying in schools and the need for additional after school and summer programming for children. A few of the agency representatives shared examples of programs that do exist to address these needs, and there was discussion on what more can be done in the future.

Language barriers were also a topic of discussion. A Language Barrier subcommittee of the Family Center Advisory Board has already been formed



Audrey J. Tucker, CEO

greatly, and the need for these support systems is being met in a variety of effective ways. Lenape Valley Foundation has a mobile crisis center, and we operate the CONTACT Helpline which also answers National Suicide Prevention Lifeline calls. The county has a Suicide Prevention Task Force comprised of service providers and community members, and we recently formed a Suicide Prevention Steering Committee to help shape, inform and enhance community-wide suicide prevention efforts. The Steering Committee is open to those who have suffered the loss of a family member as a result of suicide.

Another success is the expansion of mental health services that are available for children directly in their school setting. With increased coordination between service providers and schools, potential barriers such as transportation and scheduling are no longer preventing families from accessing counseling, therapy and other crucial services.

While this Family Center Community Meeting was helpful in highlighting some of our county's successes, it also made us more aware of some critical needs. Discussions such as this one help drive our agency's decisions regarding future programming, and we are grateful to those who attended the Community Meeting. We will continue these discussions in the future.

You can reach our Chief Executive Officer, Audrey J. Tucker, at 215.757.6916.

This meeting was the first of its kind in our county. Parents and individuals from local human service agencies had the opportunity to exchange ideas regarding community needs, programs that are successful in meeting those needs and any gaps that exist.

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Twenty nine people, eight of whom are parents, attended the meeting, and the discussions were insightful and informative.

to help address this issue. This subcommittee enables county agencies to collaborate and explore new possibilities for how best to serve clients with language barriers.

Successful Initiatives

Attendees agreed that crisis support throughout the county has expanded



Dan Bates, Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce; Elizabeth M. Walsh, Bucks County Workforce Investment Board, Inc.



Lynne Rainey, Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services; Audrey J. Tucker, Family Service Association of Bucks County

One Year Since *Buck Up* Goal Exceeded!

On March 1, 2013, the *Buck Up Bucks County* goal of raising \$200,000 for a new kitchen at the Bucks County Emergency Homeless Shelter was exceeded.



One year later, shelter residents continue to be served three meals a day out of that still-shiny space. Since the renovation, the kitchen has become a resource for some of our other programs. We are now able to utilize the kitchen to prepare meals for support groups and activities for others in need.

Aside from the kitchen renovation, the shelter has undergone additional improvements. We have seen a decrease in the average length of stay, an increase in the number of people served and a shortened waiting list because of new initiatives for residents including budget counseling and health and wellness services.

HOUSING LINK SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The Bucks County Housing Link is the centralized point of information, assessment and referral services for all Bucks County residents experiencing a housing-related crisis.

An Innovative Pilot Project

The Housing Link is an innovative collaboration between housing agencies, homeless advocates and county government to incorporate centralized intake and a coordinated assessment process into Bucks County's housing crisis response system. This pilot project has received over 1,200 calls since it began in November 2013.

Callers experiencing a housing-related crisis or homelessness are offered a phone screening, eligibility assessment and an in-person interview. The Housing Link provides referrals to housing resources, Code Blue information and access to the Bucks County Emergency Homeless Shelter waiting list when applicable.

Become a Volunteer

The Housing Link telephone lines are answered by staff and trained volunteers at our Richboro call center. You can help by responding to calls, gathering information and referring callers to the closest and most



appropriate resource. Training is provided, and volunteers must be able to commit to one 2 to 4-hour daytime or evening shift each week.

The Housing Link is a project of Housing Continuum Care of Bucks County. Partner agencies include Bucks County Housing Group, Bucks County Community and Business Development, Bucks County Opportunity Council, Family Service Association of Bucks County, Keystone Opportunity Center and St. Mary Medical Center.

To learn more or to volunteer, contact Ellen Vinson at 215.757.6916, ext. 202 or evinson@fsabc.org.

YOU CAN HELP

Your gift will help children, teens, adults and seniors in need move toward a brighter, more stable future.

Visit www.fsabc.org/donate or use the enclosed envelope to make a tax-deductible gift.

For more information, please contact David Ford, Director of Development, at dford@fsabc.org or 215.757.6916, ext. 208.

Please accept my donation of \$ _____

Check payable to Family Service Association of Bucks County

Credit Card (circle one) Visa MasterCard Amex

Name on card _____ Expiration _____

Card number _____ Security code _____

Signature _____ Date _____

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.



3. WE CAN HELP PREVENT HIV TRANSMISSION

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, every 9 1/2 minutes, someone becomes infected with HIV.

Since transmission is preventable, HIV prevention is one of the three main components of our HIV/AIDS Program. Our prevention efforts involve outreach, education, groups, speakers and referrals to local testing centers. We deliver interactive HIV educational workshops that provide accurate information about HIV transmission and prevention.

We also provide medical case management and support services to help recently diagnosed individuals adjust to their "new normal" by giving them the tools and resources necessary to transition toward self-sufficiency.

To learn more, visit www.fsabc.org/hiv or contact Gita Krull at gkrull@fsabc.org.



Nurturing Parenting Staff Receives Expert Training

Our Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP) staff recently participated in a three-day NPP Facilitator Training from February 19th through 21st with Bettie E. Murchison, National Trainer and Consultant. Ms. Murchison is an Emerging Leader in Public Health Fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is known for her expertise in interactive workshops with audience participation and engagement.

The training focused on positive parenting skills and assessments that identify "high risk" parenting practices and beliefs that could potentially put a child at risk. Staff members learned how to customize the NPP curriculum to build on parents' strengths and address weaknesses. One invaluable aspect of this curriculum is its use of measurable outcomes. Parents are reassessed regularly to determine their progress and remaining level of risk.

Our staff will begin meeting with families in their homes in March to start the series of NPP lessons and assessments.

NPP is a proven, evidence-based, family focused program first implemented in 1985 and recognized by national and state agencies for its effectiveness in preventing and treating child abuse and neglect.

To learn more about NPP, contact Erin Perry at eperry@fsabc.org or 215.757.6916, ext. 232.



MAKING PEOPLE STRONGER SINCE 1953



GOLF OUTING ON JUNE 9TH

Join us for our 15th annual Drive for Youth Golf Outing at Jericho National Golf Club in New Hope, PA.

Proceeds from the golf outing support programs and services that directly benefit children and families throughout the community.

All golfers receive lunch, driving range access, refreshments during course play, green and cart fees, a Nike Dri-Fit polo and dinner at the awards banquet. Raffles, contests and an auction will take place throughout the day. The event will be held rain or shine.

More information inside...

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

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Chief Executive Officer

Audrey J. Tucker, MSW, LSW

To register or to learn more, contact David Ford at 215.757.6916, ext. 208 or dford@fsabc.org.

You can also view the schedule of events and download our golf outing brochure at www.fsabc.org/golf.