

# FAMILY SERVICE SCOOP

Quarterly News from Family Service Association of Bucks County

www.fsabc.org



A foursome from partner sponsor NFP Executive Benefits includes Bob Leeper, Jen Dorfmeister, Brian Rodgers and Lenny Kirkuff.



Shelter bathroom renovations underway (p.2)

## GOLF OUTING A SUCCESS

Thank you to everyone who supported our 16<sup>th</sup> annual *Drive for Youth* Golf Outing on June 8<sup>th</sup> at Jericho National Golf Club in New Hope, PA. This sold out event was a huge success!

Over the past sixteen years, the *Drive for Youth* Golf Outing has raised more than \$670,000 for programs and services that directly benefit children and families in our community.

Becky & Kevin Kerchner (luncheon); ESH Foundation and VOYA Financial (par); and Kampi Components (putting green).

### Event Sponsors

A huge thank you goes out to our generous event sponsors including NFP Executive Benefits (partner); Johnson & Johnson and Neshaminy Electrical Contractors, Inc. (ace); First Federal of Bucks County, Magellan Behavioral Health, National Penn and Streamline Payroll (eagle); Customers Bank (golf gift); Bucks County Technology Park (dinner); Cydney & Ben Ciliberto and Johnson Kendall Johnson (driving range); East Coast Facilities and

### Supporting Children & Teens

Proceeds from the *Drive for Youth* Golf Outing help ensure that children, teens and their families facing significant, sometimes unimaginable, challenges receive the services and support they need. Your generosity helps prevent suicide, resolve problems with teens, shelter children and families, educate parents and provide counseling for children directly in their school environments. *To learn more about these programs and services, visit [www.fsabc.org/programs](http://www.fsabc.org/programs).*

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# RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY

Thanks to the generosity of our community, the Bucks County Emergency Homeless Shelter will soon have eleven brand new bathrooms to help make residents feel more at home.

After much planning and fundraising with the help of Buck Up Bucks County, Round 2, the Bucks County Emergency Homeless Shelter bathroom renovations began in April with the construction of a wall separating the demolition area from the dorms. Temporary bathroom trailers complete with toilets, sinks and showers were brought in for residents to use during construction.

## Our Team

Our team for this project consists of a very dedicated, generous group, and we're lucky to be working with them.

Franco D'Andrea, Vice President, Eastern Region of The Huffman Group, is our Construction Manager, and The Huffman Group has generously donated a full time project manager for the entire renovation. Milex Construction LLC is completing much of the construction work, and father and son co-owners, both named Mike DeMaio, have donated some of their ser-

vices, as well. Stephen Worth, president and CEO of Worth & Company, donated the bathroom plumbing fixtures including water closets, lavatory sinks, showers, bathtubs and pipes. Stampfl Associates in Doylestown is the architect for this project.

## Vast Improvements

With eleven small bathrooms for all 70 to 75 residents, morning and evening routines can be challenging. With the old bathrooms, there were only two bathtubs, so families with small children often have to wait in line to use them.

Out of the eleven new bathrooms, four will have bathtubs and two will comply with ADA Standards for Accessible Design. Three of the bathrooms are designed specifically for families with young children. Built in benches strategically placed next to bathtubs will provide children with a place to wait while other family members get ready. A baby changing station, sep-



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arate from the bathrooms, will be a welcome new addition to the space. These much-needed renovations will greatly improve the living conditions for residents at the shelter; bath time and bedtime routines will be much easier for families once this project is complete.

## Stay Tuned

Construction is scheduled to wrap up at the end of July, and our next issue will feature photos and details of the completed bathrooms at the Bucks County Emergency Homeless Shelter.

Thank you to our entire community here in Bucks County for helping make this project a reality.



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Left: Mike DeMaio with Milex Construction fills a gap in the floor; Right: A bathtub is partially installed in one of the shelter's new and improved family bathrooms



# PEW AWARDS GRANT FOR OLDER ADULT PROGRAM

We were recently awarded a \$150,000 grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts to provide case management services for older adults living in Bucks County Housing Authority managed sites. We help older adults meet their basic needs so they can remain at home as long as possible.

Following a highly competitive process, this recent grant is the third awarded by Pew since 2009 in support of our case management services. Each grant received has been for a three year term.

## The Partnership

The Bucks County Housing Authority (BCHA) helps low-income families, individuals with disabilities and older adults find and rent reasonable and affordable housing. Our case management program is a partnership between BCHA and Family Service to help older and disabled adults who are at high risk of losing their independence.

## Aging at Home

Research shows that most older adults prefer to live in their own homes for as long as possible. According to a 2010 AARP study, 88% of adults ages 65 and older prefer to stay in their homes as they age.<sup>1</sup>

Donald Grondahl, Executive Director of BCHA, shares: "Family Service provides critical services to so many of our older and disabled residents. Without their services, many of these individuals would be unable to live independently and would likely end up in nursing homes."

Older adults living in public housing have a higher risk of nursing home placement compared to the rest of the older adult population.<sup>2</sup> Reasons for this may include lack of support, lack of socioeconomic resources and disabilities that impact the ability to manage daily living activities.

## Improving Quality of Life

Support from Pew helps us provide services that allow older adults to remain in their homes. We assist older adults in meeting their basic needs and improving their quality of life by helping them obtain available public benefits and services. This includes

nutritious meals, financial counseling, legal assistance, health insurance, healthcare, in-home care and other services that allow them to remain living independently.

## Knowledge Worth Gold

"Most people don't know about the benefits that are out there to assist them. BCHA Case Managers know how to access these services, and their knowledge is worth gold," shared Joe, a client of our program.

Our case management services are free of charge and are provided at BCHA's nine senior/disabled sites across Bucks County.

*If you are or someone you know is living in a BCHA managed housing site and could benefit from our services, contact Bernadette O'Connor, Older Adult Programs Coordinator, at 215.757.6916, ext. 236 or boconnor@fsabc.org.*

<sup>1</sup> Teresa A. Keenan, Ph.D., AARP. "Home and Community Preferences of the 45+ Population." Data Collected by GfK Custom Research North America. (Washington, D.C., 2010 Nov.) 4.; <sup>2</sup> Andrew Kochera. AARP Public Policy Institute. "Developing Appropriate Rental Housing for Low-Income Older Persons: A Survey of Section 202 and LIHTC Property Managers." Survey methodology and oversight by Linda Barrett, Ph.D. (Washington, D.C., 2006 Dec.) 1.

# MEMORIAL GIFT FOR IN-SCHOOL COUNSELING

Thank you to the Young family for recently delivering a \$15,000 gift to our School-Based Counseling program on behalf of the Lauren Nicole Young Memorial Fund.

We have partnerships with eighteen schools across eight school districts to provide counseling to children and adolescents directly in the schools they attend each day. This 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.

Drug abuse is a major public health problem that affects communities and families nationwide. A recent national survey on drug use reports that by the twelfth grade, about half of adolescents have abused an illicit drug at least once. In Bucks County alone, there were 103 accidental deaths involving drugs and alcohol in 2014, shared Dr. Joseph P. Campbell, Coroner of Bucks County.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, one of the key strategies in preventing overdose deaths is to en-

sure access to treatment for individuals with 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, our

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 [www.fsabc.org/school](http://www.fsabc.org/school) or email [salmeida@fsabc.org](mailto:salmeida@fsabc.org).



Pictured from left to right are Heather, Maria, Francis and Fran "Buddy" Young

## 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](http://www.fsabc.org/donate) or use the enclosed envelope to make a tax-deductible gift.

For more information, please contact Ernie Nocito, Director of Development, at [enocito@fsabc.org](mailto:enocito@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.

# RECORD FAMILY FEST TURNOUT

Over 600 people attended Family Fest, a free evening of family fun, on May 13, 2015 in Bristol, PA.

Hosted by the Bucks County Family Center and Bucks County Children & Youth Social Services, this free event for families in Bristol, PA featured music, games, crafts, food, a bike derby and much more! Thank

you to all of the community agencies and families who came out to share in the fun and help make this event such a success! *To get involved next year, contact Chris Devine at [cdevine@fsabc.org](mailto:cdevine@fsabc.org) or 215.757.6916, ext. 259.*



## NEW BOARD MEMBER

We are pleased to announce that Subrenie Thomas-Smith of Doylestown was recently elected to our Board of Directors.

Thomas-Smith, a Digital Marketing Consultant, brings more than fourteen years of marketing experience to our organization. She attended the University of Florida and worked at Bristol Myers Squibb for seven years and Johnson & Johnson for more than a decade before joining Johnson Marketing Consultants, LLC in November 2014.

"Subrenie brings to the Board the perfect combination of attributes," says Margaret M. Mohr, Board member and public relations committee chair. "She has compassion for those in need, a desire to serve our community and the willingness to share her skills and support for our mission."

Thomas-Smith understands from personal experience the importance of our work. She has seen firsthand the impact that support services can have on people's lives. "I am proud to be part of an organization that provides our fellow community members with the skills and services they need to become independent," says Thomas-Smith.

## YOU SHOP. AMAZON GIVES.

Shop on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)? If so, you can utilize Amazon Smile and a portion of your purchase will go to Family Service.

Amazon Smile is the same Amazon you know, but 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases will be donated to Family Service or another charitable organization of your choice. All you have to do is register online at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and select Family Service Association of Bucks County as your designated charity.

We're all signed up with Amazon, so it's easy to find and select us during the registration process. Amazon Smile is free to use, and it does not increase the cost of your purchase. Thank you for considering this option! *Questions? Contact Ernie Nocito at [enocito@fsabc.org](mailto:enocito@fsabc.org) or 215.757.6916, ext. 208.*



# BACK TO SCHOOL WITH PRIDE

Help us send kids back to school with pride and confidence by supporting our annual Back to School Drive.

The back to school season can be difficult for children and families in need. You can help by sponsoring a child or by donating new clothes, backpacks and other supplies. If you become a sponsor, we'll provide you with the name, age and clothing sizes of a specific child so you can fill a backpack with supplies, a

lunch box and a new outfit. This is a great option if you're already planning to shop for your child or grandchild, and we're happy to honor age/grade level requests. Groups or companies are welcome to sponsor multiple children. *To donate, contact Susan Fischer at 215.757.6916, ext. 218 or [backtoschool@fsabc.org](mailto:backtoschool@fsabc.org).*

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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