

The Children's Home of Easton

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

CONNEGION LOPEAND PERSENERANGE

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



"If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl. But whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward." -Martin Luther King Jr.

We Are Moving Forward. In reflecting on the year 2019, the Children's Home continues to adapt and anticipate all the external changes coming our way as we are in the midst of major Child Welfare changes at the federal, state and local levels. We are preparing for Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), which is to be implemented in 2020. We are focusing on expanding our continuum of care, to adjust to the major changes coming our way as well as increasing and enhancing our programs and

services to meet the needs of children and their families, both on campus and in the community. 2019 was filled with many meetings to pursue collaborations, joint ventures and to create synergy between agencies. Hearing what the current AND future needs are and will be, our goal is to have a larger footprint in the community, serving children and their families. These discussions were all filled with excellent dialogue and exciting possibilities.

While we work diligently and steadfastly on our Strategic Transformational Plan, our number one goal always remains to protect and serve the vulnerable youth in our care. Efforts continue to reduce, if not eliminate, congregate care and placement settings. However, the Children's Home offers a unique placement. We work diligently from day one with the child, their family and extended family to find permanency while making sure they receive all they need to be successful. We surely want them to succeed while living here but more importantly, we need to be sure they are given the tools they need to be successful upon reunification and/or independence, throughout the rest of their lives.

The Children's Home has served children, youth, and their families since 1885 and has adapted throughout the years to meet the current needs. We are in the midst of many changes. We welcome and embrace them as potential opportunities, to continue this rich tradition of making a difference in all the lives we serve. Bob Dylan's song rings true today - The Times, They Are A-Changing!

Sincere thank you to the supportive and generous community, our partners, our Board of Directors, our Staff, our Volunteers and Mentors, and especially to the youth we serve, as day in and day out they teach us about resiliency, opportunity, and survival. Together we can reach our goals.

Anita to Parkovits

Anita Jo Paukovits, M.Ed.

President & Executive Director

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ALUMNI: A VISIT BACK HOME

Some days, when life is extremely hectic and busy, a nice surprise comes your way and your whole day and attitude turns for the better. On one of those type of days, Stephon Knox "came home" for a visit to say hello and see how everyone else is doing. Stephon grew up at the Children's Home and lived with us from 2008 – 2012. He continued to have contact with his family but chose to remain with us, as in his words: he wanted to do what was best for him. Stephon refers to himself as being a "headache" with us. However, he was a young man with a boatload of potential and we knew that once he chose to make the right personal life decisions, he would be successful in life.

Stephon is a prime example of how the Children's Home goes above and beyond for all the youth we serve; doing whatever it takes to achieve success. Our goal is always for the youth we serve to be successful and to make the right choices, not just while in our care but going forward in their lives. Although initially resistant, Stephon decided to trust us and we created a program with and for him. The plan consisted of moving into one of our community homes, beginning to attend Colonial Academy, and participating in a "work-study" program during the summer with our alumnus, Lee Baker. Lee took Stephon under his wing and gave him his first toolbox and first set of tools. Lee, Stephon and two other young men worked on remodeling and fixing several buildings on our campus and in the community. Lee mentored and taught them and the progression they made was remarkable. Stephon still has that first set of tools and toolbox.

It was during this summer that Stephon realized his natural carpentry skills and enjoyed academic success for the first time. Stephon went on to graduate from Colonial Academy and Freedom High School. After high school, Stephon went on to graduate from Triangle Tech.

Stephon's first "real" job was with Completely Custom LLC in Nazareth, PA in 2013. He started his career in an entry-level position and continues to work there today as a supervisor, overseeing several crews. He went on to receive a second degree from Northampton Community College in Construction Management and is now in their Construction Engineering Program.

In speaking with the owner of Completely Custom LLC, Ted Gora, I could hear his smile on the phone



as we spoke about Stephon. They have worked closely for the past seven years and have become much more than just boss and employee. As Ted describes it, Stephon is an extension of his family. Mr. Gora continues to teach Stephon lessons of life as they continue on this journey. Their families are intertwined and influential in each other's lives. Regardless of any personal setbacks Stephon may have, as we all do, he works hard, is very trustworthy, and is Mr. Gora's right and left hand. He is the other half of his company!

When asked to describe Stephon in three words, Ted's choices were Persistent, Relentless, and Nurturer. He went on to say that everyone loves Stephon - his company, his family and his customers! Mr. Gora also shared a quote that in his mind describes Stephon, and that is, "Talent is formed in stillness, a character, in the world's torrent." -JoHann Wolfgang von Goethe.

Stephon always claimed he was not a traditional learner, however, he surely has mastered how to learn and has proven to himself and others that it can be done. Stephon remains a natural leader and is now living his dream!

Stephon is very proud of his three daughters -Angelina age 11, Jelissa age 9, Nefira age 5, and his son Julius age 4. He and his fiancée Christina somehow manage to find balance while working and raising children. He continues to keep in touch with his family in the Philadelphia area and his Children's Home family. Stephon still has plenty of personal and professional goals moving forward. He credits the time he spent at the "Home" with helping him to become the man he is today. He shared many stories with me, and we laughed about pivotal times during his years with us. He also credits his Caseworker, Ms. Alexis Yoo Brown, with standing by him, never giving up on him, and today realizes and appreciates all that she did to help him through some tough times.

We are so proud of you Stephon Knox, keep up the great work ethic you have and the love for your children! Please know you are always welcome home and we look forward to your next visit.

TRAUMA INFORMED & BEST PRACTICE & TRAINING & BEST PRACTICES

The Children's Home of Easton lives a culture of inclusiveness and respect for all. Youth in our program are successful because of a combination of trainings, education and clear expectations for the staff serving our youth.

Trauma Informed Care gives all of our youth the dignity and respect they may have never received or believed they deserve. Trauma Informed Care is the philosophy of providing instruction, concepts, and strategies on ways to help children that have had traumatic life experiences. Staff learn to focus on what's going on in a child's life and what they have been exposed to, rather than 'what's wrong with you'.

The Children's Home utilizes Risking Connections Trauma Informed Care to help youth and adults understand and learn how to navigate their way through those experiences in a safe and positive manner and to help them realize they can create a successful future.

> In 2019, the Children's Home of Easton dedicated 183 days of training to all CHE staff.

Our goal was to achieve 100% attendance from CHE Staff regardless of position within the agency.

We are proud to say we achieved that goal!

OUR TRAUMA INFORMED MODEL TEACHES:

- An elevated understanding that traumatic life events have an impact on a child's brain development
- How disrupted attachments affect a child's ability to form positive connections
- Behavioral symptoms that are adaptations to managing trauma, and
- The importance and necessity of setting boundaries while establishing a relationship with a child

OUR THERAPEUTIC CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM TEACHES:

- That behaviors and feelings are connected
- Teaching staff verbal de-escalation techniques
- Positive coping skills to deal with negative emotions and feelings
- Strategies to build healthy, trusting and appropriate relationships

OUR BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAM TEACHES:

- Empathy for others
- Respecting differences
- What bullying is and how it makes someone feel
- Intervention

Our goal continues to be to teach the vulnerable youth we serve to have a voice and not let their past experiences define them. We are an agency that TRAINS to EDUCATE all staff, no matter their position within the organization. This allows all staff to develop appropriate and supportive relationships that will help a child HEAL!

WHAT WE DO!

OLDER YOUTH PROGRAM

The Older Youth Program provides an independent living experience with the support of our CHE "family" while transitioning into adulthood. The program serves youth between the ages of 16 and 21 through a personalized, independent living curriculum that prepares them for their future. We provide housing and financial assistance, and emotional and environmental support through personalized case management and community engagement.

In 2019, all youth in this program worked diligently to graduate high school despite their previous educational barriers. They participated in various clubs, after school activities and sports that enhanced their high school experience.

They all maintained jobs in the community at fast food establishments, home health aide services and retail stores which helped establish their place in the workforce. Most went on to attend secondary educational programs such as community college or career certifications and training.

They all engaged in financial literacy programs which led to managing their own bank accounts, opening savings accounts and some even purchased their first vehicle.

CAMPUS-BASED

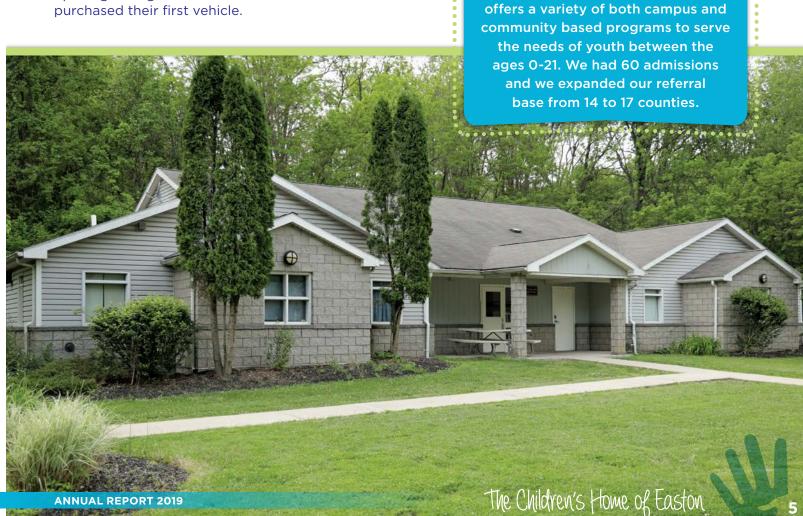
Our campus cottages provide a structured and supportive environment to both male and female youth. Cottages are supervised and monitored daily by our trauma informed direct care team.

Programs and services available include individual case management, group activities that address topics such as independent and daily life skills (laundry, cooking, cleaning, time management), personal development, anger management, crisis intervention, volunteer opportunities (SPCA, etc), a daily recreational schedule (on site gymnasium and basketball courts) and a summer program.

COMMUNITY-BASED

All of our youth attend local schools and are community engaged. Youth have the opportunity to participate in school sports, clubs and after school programs, attend local sporting events, and other community activities.

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FOSTER CARE

The Children's Home of Easton's Foster Care Program continues to serve children in our local and neighboring communities, as it has for over 40 years! In 2019, our foster homes provided both short and long-term care to support permanency and reunification goals. All of our foster families promote normalcy via Prudent Parenting and provide a safe and engaging environment for all of our children.

As the need for foster families grows, we utilize grassroots recruitment techniques to increase our program capacity. We also saw an increase in the need for our Intensive Family-Based Foster Care Program (IFBFC), which consisted of 45% of our foster care population. By the year's end, we were on-track to increase our program's capacity and supports in early 2020!

All CHE foster families receive a daily stipend, personalized training, and 24-hour support. In addition to state required trainings, we offer learning opportunities that are essential to better understand the traumatizing experiences our children have endured and are working to overcome. We continue to present all of our trainings through a trauma-informed lens, and offer a variety of topics which include Grief & Loss, Attachment, and Cultural Diversity.



Prudent parenting creates normalcy for all children.

To support our children and families, we offer permanency services through the Pennsylvania Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN). Last year, we succeeded in matching a medically dependent child with his forever family, completed an adoption, and continued to provide other services such as Child Preparation and Family Profiles.



Foster Families are always needed!

Please contact A.J. Cordi for more information: ajc@thechildrenshome.org



EDUCATION

Education remains one of The Children's Home's top priorities. On the day they arrive, students are enrolled in the local school district and begin to receive academic credit. Some students begin in our On-Grounds Interim Education Program, staffed by a certified teacher and support staff. Students receive credit through either Wilson or Easton Area School District, while awaiting the acquisition of school records, transcripts, immunizations and the completion of any necessary academic testing to ensure the most appropriate and least restrictive setting. Oftentimes, students come to The Children's Home several grade levels behind. Staff work diligently to get our students back on track by utilizing various types of learning: handson activities, creative projects, engineering and building skills in addition to traditional book and lecture learning. Our ultimate goal is to have each student attend the local community school.



Our program meets the diverse needs of our students who come from a broad spectrum of social, emotional, behavioral, and academic backgrounds. The On-Grounds Interim Education and Summer Programs are intended to build confidence, a strong work ethic, and universal life skills through hands-on projects, activities, and field trips.

The curriculum is designed to teach the skills of organization, cooperation, negotiation, communication, emotional intelligence, critical thinking, focus, team work, and life balance. It is essential that we maintain a pragmatic, dynamic and holistic approach to delivering educational services to meet the unique individual needs of our students.

LEADERSHIP TEAM



Jamie Bickert Medical Associate, Volunteer Coordinator



Julia Gleason
Director of Older Youth



Josh Bussey Weekday Lead Staff



AJ Cordi
Director of Foster Care
& Adoption Services



Cindy Gegeckas Administrative Manager



Cindy Hutchinson
Vice President
of Operations



Kim Kressman Accounting Associate



Jonathan Mason Chief Financial Officer



Joe Gonzalez

Senior Administrator

Jean Mazzarese ice President of Programs



Patrick McGoldrick
Controller



Daniel McMahonDirector of Development



Maureen Miles
Overnight Lead Staff



Mike Miskevish
Director of Campus
Operations



Anita Jo Paukovits
President,
Executive Director



Janice Pfeiffer
Director of Education



Dori Porter Weekend Lead Staff



Andrew ShiroffDirector of Physical Plant



Gabby ToedterDirector of Admissions

OLDER YOUTH: BLAIN'S SUCCESS

Blain has lived in several places since the age of 11. Blain shared with us that he spent time during his junior year living with friends, "couch surfing" from house to house. During that time, he rode his bike back and forth to Easton High School, while also playing on the football team and working part time at Taco Bell. He would often start his day at 5:30 am and get home around midnight, never missing a beat. He shared his story with a coworker at Taco Bell, who happened to live in one of our foster homes. After hearing Blain's story, his co-worker encouraged him to reach out to the Children's Home. Blain did reach out to the county and was eventually placed in one of our foster homes in November 2018. Blain developed a close relationship with his foster parents, Doug and Olga, and for the first time in a long time had stability in his life and could focus on simply being a teenager. Blain has a sister he remains close to, and now has a Children's Home family as well!

Blain attends Easton High School and Career Institute of Technology in the HVAC program. He continues to work part time at Taco Bell and attend school. During the summer, he obtained a second part time job with Union Fuel Company here in Easton, learning to install air conditioning systems.

Blain was the speaker at our annual Baumann Golf Tournament dinner where he shared his story, speaking from the heart. To no one's surprise, he received a standing ovation and made several potential employment contacts.



Despite his circumstances, Blain remained focused on his goals to complete his education, achieve his certification in HVAC, and to continue work at Taco Bell, saving to eventually get a place of his own! In June 2019, he was promoted to manager at Taco Bell, while also attending EAHS and CIT full time. During this time, Blain continued to develop his living skills and was transferred to our Older Youth Independent Living Program in Zigmund Hall, where he has his own studio apartment. He was able to save enough money to purchase his first car.

Blain is work and career oriented, smart, ambitious and always willing to help others. He remains close to his former foster parents, Doug and Olga, and the rest of the CHE staff. He is on the shy side but always makes sure to share his 'milestone moments' with the two them. He assists as a mentor for their current foster children and frequently participates in older youth activities such as dinners, picnics and life skill classes. Blain is an asset to our Older Youth Program and is a young man with his eyes firmly fixed on the prize!



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Mentor Program

Nicole and Tom Miller inquired about the CHE Mentor Program in July of 2019. We were immediately impressed by their sincere desire to participate in the program. Upon approval, they were paired with Mellissa (Missy) and there was an immediate connection. Little did we know that this first meeting would lead to the Millers taking fostering classes through Northampton County.

Some of the many outings they've enjoyed with Missy include sightseeing in Philadelphia, playing mini golf, going to Koziar's Village to see the Christmas lights, and Missy's favorite, spending time with the Millers' family and friends around the holidays. Missy feels special when spending time with Nicole and Tom and on numerous occasions both of them have told us they feel the same. Their hope is to eventually adopt Missy as part of their permanent family.

We couldn't be happier for all three and wish them only the best on their journey forward.



In 2019, the Children's Home of Easton contracted with 16 interns representing 9 schools and 2 countries.

Our Amazing Interns

Emily Gomez Marieliza Gonzalez **Stephanie Santiago** McCann College

Marissa Falcone Lafayette College

Olivia Bender Moravian College

Jasinee Johnson Dylan Miller Haley Zuchowski **Abby Rode**

East Stroudsburg University

Hannah Kinsell Natalya Receveur Cedar Crest College **Natalie Rivera** Allyssa Bernesconi **Kutztown University**

Michelle Centino **Grand Canyon University**

Loreen Rennegarde Germany

Two of our interns continued on as employees directly after their internship concluded. Their support to the staff and students at CHE was greatly appreciated.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our Dedicated Volunteers

Volunteers are an integral part of The Children's Home of Easton. As an agency, we strive to teach our residents that there is a bigger, better world out there waiting to embrace them. In 2019, more than 200 volunteers shared their time and talents to help our organization's mission. Time was spent repairing and painting our residents' bedrooms and common areas, preparing and maintaining the organic garden and beautifying our campus - giving our residents a sense of pride in their "home."

Volunteers have helped with many events throughout the year, including the golf tournament, graduation ceremony, Bike to Brunch, Thanksgiving dinner and the Lehigh Valley Wine Auction. Our WAEB Christmas Drive and party brings the magic of Christmas to our children and could not take place without the support of our dedicated, hardworking volunteers! Whether volunteers come in groups or individually, they leave a lasting impression of love and generosity on our residents.

"Tell me and I'll forget. Teach me and I'll remember. Involve me and I'll learn." -Benjamin Franklin



Volunteers are always needed!

Please contact Jamie Bickert for more information: jameb@thechildrenshome.org



A Special Thank You to our Community Partners:

Alliance for Therapy Dogs L.V. Chapter

Brown Daub employees Kim Delaney and family

BSI Corporate Benefits

Sam Bourkat

Bushkill Park

The Center for Animal Health and Welfare in Easton

Cigna employees

Cornerstone Church

Fanatics/Majestic employees

Neal Fehnel

Bruce Gilbert and family (Sing for America)

Brenda Hendricks

Bill Hornbake

K9 Companions for Independence L.V. Chapter

Keller Williams Red Day

Fran and Jan McBride

Julius Miknyoczki/Palmer Trophy

Nicole and Tom Miller

Lafayette students participating in Lafapolooza and Make a Difference Day

Leica Nissan

Olympus interns

Unangst Tree Farm

Mike Wozniak

The Children's Home of Easton The Children's Home of Easton **ANNUAL REPORT 2019 ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

HEALTH & WELLNESS

The Health and Wellness Program is an integral part of daily life here at The Children's Home. Our primary goal remains to improve our residents' overall self-esteem, coping skills, and physical and mental health. To help us achieve these goals, we offer a wide variety of opportunities that are designed to help our youth become well-rounded members of society.

Due to our diverse, ever-changing population, we regularly assess and modify our program's offerings to help everybody.

Highlights OF THE PROGRAM INCLUDE:

Organic and Urban Gardening

Apiculture (Beekeeping)

Environmental Science Walks

"The Science Guy"

Wildlands Conservancy
Programming

Therapy Dogs

Wellness Works Club

Board Games, Strategy Games, and Scavenger Hunts

Strength and Conditioning

Agility Competitions and Yoga Training

Roller Skating

"Cooking Matters"

Food Truck Competition

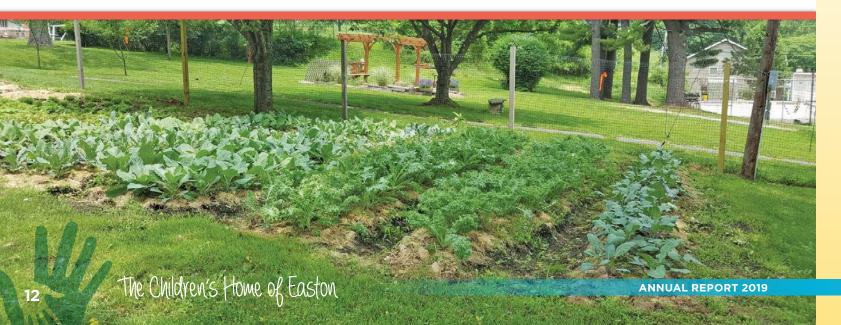


We had over 90% participation in our Wellness Works and Health and Wellness Programs this year.

This led to noticeable increases in residents' self-esteem, coping skills, and physical and mental health.







RECREATION

The Recreation Department was busy in 2019, organizing more than 225 trips.

Activities included: Iron Pigs baseball, Lafayette College basketball and lacrosse, laser tag, roller skating, mini golf and bowling. We also provided an array of on-campus activities such as foul shot contests, arts and crafts, and billiards tournaments in which the winners received trophies (a first-time treat for some.) Residents also enjoyed weekly non-denominational religious studies, as well as numerous holiday celebrations.

These activities are designed to provide residents with a healthy mind, body, and spirit, and give them something to look forward to during their time with us.

We would like to sincerely thank all of our community partners who make these culturally diverse opportunities possible for our young men and women.

Recreation Contributors:

Two Tees Miniature Golf/ Laser Tag Bethlehem Skateaway Bushkill Park Jordan Lanes

Lafayette College
Bar Don Lanes
Iron Pigs/Suites and Treats
Waldorf Estate of Fear

in Lehighton

Planet Trog
Lost River Caverns
Heil Pool in Easton
Riegelsville Inn
Alpha Phi of Lafayette

Summer Program 2019 officially began on June 17th. Four groups of students and six staff participated in a 10-week program. There were organized activities that addressed job skills, life skills, team building, problem solving, creativity, critical thinking, financial education, computer skills, technology, literacy, gardening, independence skills, sportsmanship, citizenship and volunteerism/community service.



VOLUNTEERISM/COMMUNITY SERVICE

Each group volunteered an hour each week at our local animal shelter -

The Center for Animal Health & Welfare. They helped clean the facility, stock supplies, groom the cats and dogs, and wash vehicles. As a reward, the kids were able to spend free time with the animals.

WEEKLY/CAMPUS CHALLENGES

Each week the residents competed in various activities or games, such as bocce ball and sidewalk chalk art. Four challenges were judged by staff and required our residents to be creative, to construct projects, to cook, and to do research:

- 1. Salsa Competition Smith Cottage Champion
- 2. Food Truck Competition Lundie/Davison Champions
- 3. Cultural Cuisine Contest Cordina Champions
- 4. Science Week Science Fair, Rocket building, Mad Science laser light workshop and dry ice workshop, Egg drop contest, penny boat contest.

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To our extended Children's Home family,

As COVID-19 continues to spread, the future has never felt so unpredictable. These are challenging times for us all, and we hope you are staying safe and staying healthy. We are doing everything possible to keep COVID-19 away from our campus and community programs. We continue to provide normalcy while also providing appropriate structure and supervision for the vulnerable youth in our care. While there is much uncertainty, we know that we need to adapt fast to our changing reality, and we have. However, now more than ever, our children and communities need us and we need you!

Please consider making a donation to support the Children's Home mission. Despite this pandemic, we strive to make a difference in all the lives we serve. We provide quality programs and services to children, youth, and families, as well as a traumainformed, safe place for all those we serve.

In these times, we are reminded of how interconnected we all are. Thank you for being part of our Children's Home family and community. Without you, none of this is possible.

Stay safe and stay healthy,

Anita to Pankovits

Anita Jo Paukovits, M.Ed.President & Executive Director





OUTSIDE GROUPS/ACTIVITIES

Bright Hope provided us with a 6-week group experience known as Life Smart, which focuses on dealing with teen issues. Topics included making good choices, peer pressure, developing skills for life, risky behaviors, self-esteem/self-worth and sexual limits and goal setting.

Cooking Matters is a 6-week cooking program that helps the kids learn about health choices and food preparation. As a bonus, our kids were able to eat the dishes they prepared!

Through Girl Scouts, we offered our female residents a chance to participate in a 6-week program that included anti bullying, science exploration, and leadership keys: Discover, Connect and Take Action.

The Summer Program encouraged our kids to step out of their comfort zones, be adventurous, and to attempt things they had never done before. Overcoming fears and reservations led many residents to realize personal growth and increased confidence.

If you would like to sponsor an activity, here are a few ideas:

Slip 'N Slide - 2
Mad Science Mobile Classroom
Wildlands Conservancy
Arts and Crafts

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Sponsored TRIPS/ACTIVITIES:

Hiking Trips:

Jacobsburg, Nockimixon, Ringing Rocks, Bushkill Falls

Bowling at Jordan Lanes in Allentown: 3 trips

Garden Work: Upkeep, planting, construction, harvesting

Computer time in our lab

Use of our gym for physical activities and games

Turtle Back Zoo in West Orange, NJ

Free Fall Trampoline Park in Bethlehem

Dollar Movies at the Regal Cinema

Nay Aug Park in Scranton: Park, hiking, picnic and pool, 2 trips

Reading Rocks:

Rock Climbing and Rappelling

Ocean Institute:

Exploration of the ocean life with a marine biologist at Gateway National Park

Sandy Hook, NJ:

Day at the beach, 2 trips

Kayaking at Giving Pond in Upper Black Eddy with the DCNR, nature exploration

Dutch Spring Aqua Park in Bethlehem

Swimming: Heil Pool, Jordan Pool and Cedar Beach Pool

Cooking with CHE Kitchen staff: Make your own pizzas

ALUMNI CORNER

The Children's Home of Easton Alumni Association met seven times during the 2019 calendar year. The meetings were attended by both alumni members and long time staff who were interested in the mission of the association. That mission remains to support the recent graduates, assist this year's class with a gift and new luggage, and to help out past students when called upon whenever that is possible. Many thanks to the past graduates and staff for your ongoing time and involvement.

If you are interested in attending an Alumni Association meeting in order to gather more information please email Joe Gonzalez at joeg@thechildrenshome.org.





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BOARD SPOTLIGHT: MILLIE MOLINO



Our Board Spotlight this year is on Millie Molino, Attorney at Law. Millie has been a practicing attorney in Easton for the past 44 years. While balancing a thriving practice and raising a family, she still found time to volunteer as a Director and is an integral part of our Children's Home family! She has been a member of the Board of Directors since 1993, including a term as Board President. Millie is instrumental and remains active with our Older Youth Aftercare Committee. She has a soft spot for the older youth in this program and makes sure to create opportunities for them to make positive connections and experiences as they prepare for their future.

"When I joined the Board, my sons were youngsters. I could not imagine my life without them and vice versa. I knew we were blessed. During one of my first board meetings, we were told of a new resident at the Home who was about 8 or 9 years old. His caseworker noticed that on his first day at CHE it was also his birthday. Without hesitation, she

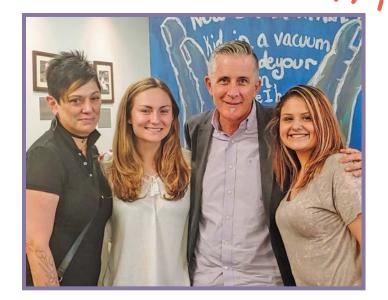
purchased a cake and candles and everyone sang to him. He was so elated and told her that no one had ever given him a cake before. I realized that what was being done for the children on campus was so much more than providing shelter.

Over the years, I have been involved with our Aftercare program that helps our older children plow through the obstacles of graduating high school and making a path for the future. These young men and women are faced with many of the same challenges that we all have as we enter adulthood, but many of them are doing it alone and with no safety net. The Children's Home has been a stable environment for them and being there as mentors is just what they need at that transitional time in their development.

There is no way that I could ever give as much as I received from my time at CHE. I am in awe of the dedicated staff and the great HOME they have created."

We are eternally grateful for Millie's commitment to the Children's Home and the youth we serve. Thank you, Millie, for making a positive impact on hundreds of kids throughout the years. You have a heart of gold and we thank you for sharing it with our family!

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



Elvin and Lynn Berndt's introduction to The Children's Home of Easton began when they started participating in the Christmas Wish program as a way of teaching their 10-year-old daughter the importance of giving back to their community. Little did they know that it would end up changing all of their lives in a way they could never have imagined,

Elvin began serving on the Development Committee and participated in meetings and fund-raising events, which expanded his relationships with both the staff and youth at the Home. One of those youths was a young man from North Philadelphia by the name of Jose Montanez. Despite the fact that Jose and the Berndt's had very little if anything in common between them, a friendship started that would last more than 8 years with Jose becoming an extension of their family.

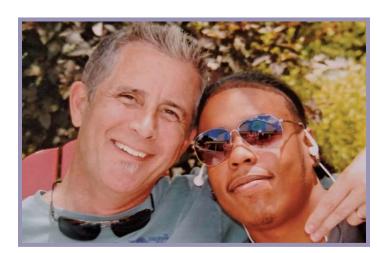
Elvin speaks passionately about their time together. "Jose was an amazing individual, and his relationship with our family is something we will cherish forever. While Lynn and I were most likely viewed as the mentors in the relationship by most onlooker, we would suggest it was very much a mutual learning experience, He played the role of big brother to our daughter Ally, kept me grounded as a father, and enriched all of our lives with his kindness".

Jose was eventually discharged from the Home and took the opportunity to move back to North Philadelphia, but stayed in touch with the Berndt's making frequent visits to their home in Bethlehem, and joining them each year on vacations and holidays in Upstate, NY where he became part of their extended family's lives.

On November 5, 2016 the Berndt's received a call that no family wants to get. Tragically Jose had been killed in a motorcycle accident, which was a gut punch that none of them were ready for. After the initial shock passed, as a family they decided they would try and do something that celebrated how Jose lived as opposed to focusing on how he passed. With those intentions, they took it upon themselves to start the Jose Montanez Memorial Scholarship in hopes to encourage other young adults at CHE to pursue either a college education or attend a trade school. Jose was always encouraging others, and they felt this was something that truly aligned with who he was.

"Seeing these young individuals moving on to bigger and better things, has been yet another gift Tose has left us with."

-Elvin Berndt



Elvin and Jose Montanez (8/13/1991 – 11/5/2016)

We are thankful for all that the Berndt's have done to make a difference in not only Jose's life, but all of ours. They are a shining example that the love of a child goes well beyond DNA. This year the Berndt's will award the 4th annual Jose Montanez Memorial Scholarship to a motivated young individual who is working hard to make a better life for themselves.

DEVELOPMENT

The Children's Home of Easton is overwhelmingly thankful for what each and every one of our donors and volunteers do for us. By volunteering your time, donating in-kind goods and services, or financially supporting our organization you have successfully impacted our mission.

Through the annual report, social media posts, special events, community volunteer events, letters and postcards we work hard to keep all parties engaged and supporting our great cause. Each year the development office strives to increase the number of donors who consistently support us.

Thank you all for your continued support and making a difference in the life of a child.

GOAL:

Increase number of new donors by 10% each year by 5% each year

OUTCOME:

19% INCREASE

GOAL:

OUTCOME:

19% INCREASE

Upcoming DATES:

Lehigh Valley Wine Gala Saturday, October 17, 2020

Virtual Golf Tournament

Monday, October 26, 2020 Northampton Country Club

WAEB Christmas Drive

November – December 2020

Golf Tournament

The 31st Annual Golf Tournament was held on Monday, May 13th at Northampton Country Club to benefit the Ruth Baumann Scholarship Fund. This fund was created by long time donors Dick and Ilene Baumann. The sole purpose of the fund is to support our youth who continue their education beyond high school. This fund is crucial to give our kids the financial support they need to focus solely on their education.

More than 150 golfers enjoyed a beautiful day on the course preceded by lunch and followed by an exquisite dinner to make the perfect experience for our guests. Our guest speaker was one of our super stars from the older youth program, Blain. Blain spoke about how he got to The Children's Home and how important the tournament and the funds it generates is to all the older youth. The funds are crucial in helping them prepare for their futures and becoming productive members of society.

This year's Honorary Chair was S. Graham Simmons, Esq, an attorney with Norris McLaughlin. We would like to thank Graham and his wife Shelby for their long standing support of the Home and the impact they have made with so many of our youth.

SPECIAL EVENTS



SPECIAL EVENTS

WAEB Radio Drive

For 36 years, Bobby Gunther Walsh and AM NEWS RADIO WAEB have graciously hosted a ten day on air Christmas Drive to support the Children's Home. Each year Bobby speaks passionately of the Children's Home and the stories of our youth including live interviews with them during his on-air show. Telling their stories is often part of the healing process for our traumatized youth regardless if they are current or alumni. Each year Bobby's listeners step up to the challenge and meet his goal, making a true Christmas for our children. In 2019, \$170,000 was raised! In addition to providing an incredible Christmas party, these dollars are also used throughout the year spent only on our youth for the "extras" that come up just as they do in all of our families and lives. On 12/21/2019, Santa arrived in a sleigh bearing gifts for all and arrived courtesy of our friends from Lehigh Valley Stars Chapter #386. You can imagine the excitement as the door opened and Santa arrived! It doesn't matter if they are one-year-old or eighteen years old, all were jumping with joy! There are many behind the scene elves, that help transform our Ames Gymnasium into what looks like a scene from a Christmas movie. Many listeners, donors, staff, alumni, board members, gift-buyers and gift-givers, volunteers, friends of both WAEB and CHE surrounded our Children's Home family as they opened their gifts. This day is always filled with great emotion as they are simply able to be children again, no trauma or sadness but rather literally jumping up and down in excitement and being both amazed that people they do not know did this for them and very appreciative of all they receive! It truly is an amazing hour that Bobby broadcasts live and not only does



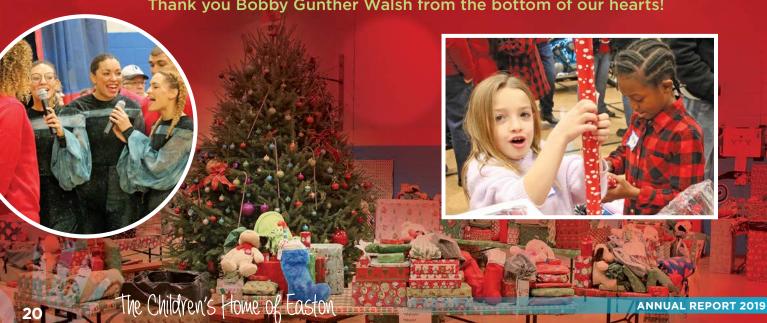


it make Christmas special for all those we serve but for all those present as well! Bobby's show was followed by a beautiful meal provided by Elizabeth Mulrine Catering and sponsored by As You Wish Custom Laser Engraving. We would also like to thank Agentis Kitchen and Bath and Mr. Rooter for providing the manpower and supplies to help clean up after the party was complete.

We are eternally grateful to Bobby Gunther Walsh and AM NEWS RADIO WAEB for their long standing support of our Children's Home family and making an impact on their lives forever. They truly create lifetime memories for all our youth as they often call us years later after leaving our program asking if we still have this amazing Christmas.

What Bobby Gunther Walsh and his crew brings to our Children's Home Family is the true spirit of Christmas, not just gifts, but always remembering the true meaning of Christmas, the reason for the season, celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Thank you Bobby Gunther Walsh from the bottom of our hearts!



These events are in their 13th year and continue to grow as one of the Lehigh Valley's premier fundraisers. All proceeds support the Children's Home and The Northampton County Historical & Genealogical Society. More than \$2.5 million has been raised to date to support the many programs each organization has to offer, enriching the lives of our community's youth.

Over 240 individuals were in attendance at this vear's Gala which was held at Saucon Valley Country Club. The evening featured wines presented by our Honorary Chair, Bettina Bryant of Bryant Estate Wines from Sonoma Valley, California. Ashley Russo, President of ASR Media served as the evening's emcee, leading us through an amazing meal paired with Bettina's wine, and followed by a live auction.

This year's Auction event was held at the Historical State Theatre in downtown Easton. For the first time this year, it was held on the main stage of the Theatre and featured wines from musicians such as Sting, Dave Matthews, Jon Bon Jovi, Train and Zac Brown.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The evening also featured food from caterer Elizabeth Mulrine, and local restaurants Green Harvest Food Emporium, Third & Ferry Fish Market, Maxim's 22, Sette Luna, Mojo 516 Café, and Dundore & Heister. More than 350 attendees enjoyed a robust silent and live auction of over 100 items including rare wine lots, bourbon lots, a sailboat trip on the Chesapeake, Cayman Islands vacation getaway, and an autographed Martin Guitar, to name a few.

"The Lehigh Valley Wine Gala is an exceptional, inspired evening.

Now more than ever, we must support organizations such as the Children's Home of Easton, the Sigal Museum and **Northampton County Historical Society** who are unwavering in their dedication to serve those in our communities who are vulnerable and in need."

-Ms. Bettina Bryant, 2019 Wine Gala Chair



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