

## Home, Family, and the Holidays

Bethlehem, PA

Coatesville, PA

Eynon, PA

Fleetwood, PA

Lehighton, PA

Lewisburg, PA

Towanda, PA

Wellsboro, PA

Williamsport, PA

Willow Grove, PA

Wyomissing, PA

Lanham, MD

Dear Friends,

This time of year reminds me what should be most important in our lives – *home* and *family*.

A home should not simply be a structure that houses people. A welcome mat alone does not make a home. A home is a place where one can feel at peace and at ease. A home should be welcoming and warm to all who enter. It should be a place full of the joy and laughter that children provide. A home is full of memories. Simply, a home is full of love.



**This is what children in foster care need.**

**This is what children residing at a CONCERN foster home have.**

At CONCERN, our families embody the true spirit of what makes a house a home. The children are taken in with open and loving arms and are made to feel a part of the family. They are made to feel special.

**Ashley** remembers the day she came to CONCERN and the overwhelming feelings of anger and sadness. Today, after the love and support of her foster parents providing a warm and caring home, she is a happy, well-adjusted teen looking forward to the endless possibilities of college and independent living.

### Executive Director

Glenn J. Hillegass

### Board of Directors

Raymond J. Albert

G. Thompson Bell, III, Esq.

William C. Cooperman

David W. Jay, L.S.W., M.S.W.

Roger N. Longenecker, M.D.

Stefanie E. Nester, C.P.A.

Paula M. Plageman, D.Ed., LPC, NCC

Basil Y. Scott, Ph.D.

Sandra L. Weidner, M.D.

Nancy W. Weikert, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.



**Tyler** came to CONCERN a scared and lonely young boy, clinging only to his teddy bear for comfort. With the help of his new family, he has continued to grow into a confident young man finally looking forward to tomorrow instead of looking back on yesterday.

**Caitlyn** asked her new foster parents what they would like to be called, they responded by saying “how about Mom and Dad.” For the first time in her young life, Caitlyn knew what it meant to be in a home and with a family.

Friends, even with all of this love and support, the holiday season is still often difficult for many of these children. Imagine yourself or a child you know being in this situation. Imagine lying in bed on Christmas Eve wondering

**“Will Santa know where to find me this year?”**

Even in the best of situations, sometimes children just need a Santa in their lives. They sometimes just need that one special person to provide that extra love and support to get them through a difficult time.



**Can you please be their Santa this year?**

I know your shopping list is probably bursting at the seams. I am aware these are still very difficult times. I understand finances are limited. There are probably many reasons not to give even one more gift this year, but there is one reason to give to CONCERN – *the children need you.*

**Please find it in your heart to add just one more name to your shopping list.**

By making a gift to CONCERN and our Special Needs Fund, you would be giving a gift to not just one child, but to all of the children we serve throughout the year.

Friends, your gift will make it possible not only to purchase Christmas gifts, but also to have a positive effect on these children all year long and even for a lifetime. Long after the holiday season has passed, your gift will support literally hundreds of worthwhile activities that allow these children to grow, heal, build self-esteem and self-confidence, and simply have their childhoods again.

Last year the Special Needs Fund responded to more than 750 requests exceeding \$70,000. This year the needs are expected to be much higher. As we often say at CONCERN, there is never a shortage of needs, only a shortage of dollars to meet those needs and we need you to help us help the children.

Your gift of **\$15, \$35, \$50, \$100, \$250, or any amount** will mean so much to so many, so please make this holiday season and new year as joyous for these children as we hope it is for you and your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "G. Thompson Bell, III".

G. Thompson Bell, III, Esq.  
President  
CONCERN Board of Directors

**P.S. Become a Santa to a child. Please send your gift today.**

The official registration and financial information of CONCERN - Professional Services for Children, Youth, and Families may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

A copy of the current financial statement of CONCERN – Professional Services for Children, Youth, and Families is available by writing One West Main Street, Fleetwood, PA 19522 or by calling (610) 944-0445. Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, (410) 974-5534.