

Courier

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www.concern4kids.org



Engage, Empower, and Elevate with CONCERN



Gordon H. May, MSW
President/CEO

At CONCERN our mission is to Provide Hope, Offer Opportunity and Inspire Change. All our staff, including me, live that every day! While fulfilling our Mission we simultaneously Engage, Empower, and Elevate all those around us. These words are at the heart of what we do. We Empower our clients to be the best they can be, Engage with community partners and donors, and Elevate our staff to provide the best services possible. WE ARE CONCERN!

At CONCERN, we are committed to raising funds that directly benefit the children, youth, and families we serve. I am passionate about our mission and we need YOU to help support our mission. Every dollar raised through our efforts is dedicated to providing our clients with the resources they need to thrive.

Our mission drives us to support our clients in numerous ways. For instance, the funds we raise can help purchase prescription glasses that are not covered by insurance, assist with day care costs while a family is waiting for county assistance to begin, or even buy a dress for a choir recital. These seemingly small contributions can make a world of difference in the lives of those we support.

We also use these funds to enhance our clients' experiences

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Empower



Mission Moment

Walk into the Barnes' household any afternoon and it will be a beehive of activity. Adults sit around the table sharing about life or playing a game of cards. Kids of all ages play nearby or in the backyard. Adult children come and go. Friendship is shared freely with anyone who walks through their door.

Twenty-five years ago, Raymond and Deborah Barnes decided to invite more children into this nurturing community and became foster parents with CONCERN. Over the years they have cared for over 20 children. Some have stayed for years and others just months. Two were adopted. They've cared for children of all ages from pre-school to high school, including parenting teens.

Deborah continues to work for the United States Secret Service, but Raymond recently retired from his job with the National Park Service. Rather than take an attitude of "it's now MY time" they continue to care for little ones who fit right in with their grandchildren who seem to spend as much time at "Mimi" and "Pop Pop's" house as they do at their own. It's not uncommon for Deborah and Raymond to take a carload of kids to community events and outdoor activities. Children who live here do not get many chances to be bored.

At the same time, it's not all about fun and games. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes stay in close contact with their children's schools, making sure they receive the services they need and that the children stay on top of their homework. If a child needs extra help, they do spelling drills or read aloud to assist with the child's learning.

While Mr. and Mrs. Barnes are folding these children into their own family, they also respect the child's family of origin and do an excellent job of bridging the gap between the child and their own family. The Barnes go above and beyond by maintaining respectful and cordial relationships with the family members who visit their clients, even when it is challenging.

Mr. and Mrs. Barnes are also some of our biggest recruiters. Their extended family and friends have witnessed the hope, opportunity and change their home provides for youth as they heal and as a result have shown interest and become certified as foster parents as well. All because of the Barnes's modeling.

We are lucky to have the Barnes on team CONCERN and thank them for their 25 years !!

Engage, Empower, and Elevate with CONCERN *(continued from page 1)*

and opportunities. This includes providing first aid training for a client's summer job as a lifeguard, sending children to summer camps, covering doctor bills for private pay doctors, and allowing children to attend music or sports lessons. By offering these resources, we empower our clients to pursue their passions and improve their quality of life and how they feel, which is so very important.

In this newsletter, the theme of "Engage, Empower, and Elevate with CONCERN" we highlight the various ways you can get involved with our mission, from attending events, community partnerships, or donating.

I work at CONCERN to support our Mission, our client's, and our staff. I also personally donate to CONCERN because I see first hand how that money directly impacts our families and the children we serve in such a positive way. Just today I approved a special request for the cost of tutoring lessons to one of our youth struggling in school. It's these little things that I see in the day-to-day that keep me working hard for CONCERN in every way possible. Your support is invaluable, and together, we can continue to provide vital resources, enrich lives, and create lasting change in our community. WE ARE CONCERN!

Thank you for your continued support and dedication.

Warm regards,
Gordon May, President/CEO CONCERN

Forming Partnerships

CONCERN has developed a partnership with Keystone Family Alliance. Keystone Alliance developed an online portal that CONCERN staff will use to send notification of tangible foster and adoptive parent needs directly to the inbox of individuals in the community who have signed up to help meet the needs of children in care. When an individual can meet the need, they simply reply and then collaborate with CONCERN staff to coordinate the details. Examples of recent needs posted on Gateway include, but are not limited to, infant clothing, gas card, groceries, bunk bed, microwave, refrigerator, school supplies, art supplies, camp registration fee assistance, etc. Gateway is active in nineteen Pennsylvania counties with more on the way. Anyone interested in signing up to receive Gateway emails must register online. (<https://www.keyfam.org/gatewayform>)

A Heartfelt Thank You to the Junior League of Reading

We are incredibly grateful for the generous donation from the Junior League of Reading to our Special Needs Fund! Thanks to their support, we will be able to purchase backpacks and essential supplies for children in foster care, ensuring they have the tools they need to thrive. Your commitment to making a difference in the lives of children in our community is creating a brighter future for children in foster care!



Engage



Thank You Kimberton Whole Foods

Kimberton Whole Foods in Douglassville chose CONCERN as the charity of the month, for their Roundup at the Register recipient, for the month of June. Not only did we receive the money that was donated but they also matched the total. Thank you Kimberton Whole Foods!

A Successful Spring Bingo was Held

We raised \$8,673.57 for children in foster care. The event was well attended with 181 players, which included many CONCERN staff members and students from Alvernia University volunteering their time to run the event. Thank you for your continued support of this event. Our next Bingo is scheduled for September 19, 2024.

Highmark Walk

On June 1, 2024, Highmark held their annual Walk for a Healthy Community at DeSales University in Center Valley, PA. Along with a sponsorship from Mr. & Mrs. Martin D'Urso, Riverfront Federal Credit Union, and Wawa, CONCERN raised a total of \$4,715 to support our Behavioral Health Fund.

CONCERN
Hope. Opportunity. Change.

THANKS OUR SPONSORS

Wawa


Mr. & Mrs.
Martin D'Urso

Riverfront
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



Empowering Students Through Scholarships

CONCERN awarded two scholarships in FY 23-24 from the Mary Beth Hughes Scholarship Fund. For more information about this scholarship or the CONCERN scholarship visit www.concern4kid.org/scholarships



MARY BETH HUGHES SCHOLARSHIP

FIVE COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIPS - \$1,000 EACH PER YEAR

AWARDED TO A FOSTER CARE OR ADOPTED YOUTH, WHO WERE IN CONCERN'S CARE PRIOR TO THEIR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION & ARE PURSUING POST EDUCATION OR TRAINING

ROLLING DEADLINE



Up to **\$10,000 SCHOLARSHIP**

Learn More



CONCERN - Professional Services for Children, Youth, and Families

Eligibility Criteria Apply
Rolling Deadline

www.concern4kids.org/scholarship

Celebrating Donor Support

CONCERN celebrates our generous donors and the critical role they play in our work.

Our donor contributions have positively impacted the lives of those we serve.

Below are a few examples of the ways we recently supported clients:

- Paid for prescription glasses that were not covered by insurance
- Assisted with day-to-day costs for a family waiting for the County assistance to begin
- Purchased a dress for a youth to participate in a choir recital
- Covered the cost of First Aid training for the client's summer job as a lifeguard
- Provided the funds for many youth to attend summer camps
- Enabled a youth to be seen by a private pay doctor not covered by insurance.



Upcoming Events

Don't Miss CONCERN's Fall Bingo

ORDER YOUR BINGO TICKETS TODAY!

CONCERN's 2024 Fall Bingo

Thursday, September 19, 2024

6:30 PM

Fleetwood Grange

Prizes for regular games are items from Thirty-one
Special game prizes are designer bags

TICKETS

Pre-Purchase \$25
@ the door \$30

AND INCLUDES

- 20 GAMES OF BINGO
- HOT DOG & DRINK
- DOOR PRIZE

CALL JANE

610-215-9569

for tickets or more information



Tickets also available for purchase
at www.concern4kids.org



The rustle of silks and feathers under muted conversation was probably the last thing heard by the tragically and unexpectedly deceased at the Billionaire's Club Annual Masquerade Ball. With a mystery under each feathery facade, unmasking the killer may be quite a challenge.

- *Attend the Billionaire's Club Annual Masquerade Ball and help get this soiree back on track by trading clues with your guests, gathering information, and solving the crime before the masked menace gets away!*
- *Get ready for a glamorous evening of mystery, intrigue, and murder at this masquerade ball murder mystery party!*

You Are Invited

October 25, 2024

Fox Rose Farm
965 Park Road, Blandon, PA

Registration begins at 5:30
Mission BBQ Dinner buffet
begins at 6:30

BYOB

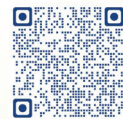
Program begins at 7:00

Raffles and other items will be available
to purchase.

Register at:

<https://www.concern4kids.org/events-1>

Masquerade attire and/or masks optional



www.concern4kids.org

Elevate

You don't need to write a check to provide for their future.

Consider leaving a Legacy!




FAMILY RESPITE CARE



Are you ready for a break from caregiving?
Do you need time to do things on your own?
Would you like to choose your own respite worker?


In-Home, Out-of-Home, & Group Respite Care are available for eligible Lehigh and Northampton County families!

Learn more about CONCERN's county funded, flexible, short-term, temporary care for eligible children & youth designed to offer support & relief for primary caregiver(s).




90 S. Commerce Way Suite 300 Bethlehem, PA 18017 | concern4kids.org | respite.info@concern4kids.org

A Child Needs You




If not you, then who? Become a foster parent



Enclosed is my gift to CONCERN

in the amount of: \$ _____



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

e-mail _____

Please charge to my credit card: MasterCard VISA

Cardholder signature (required) 3 Digit Code

Card number Exp. date (month/year)

Visit www.concern4kids.org for secure online donations.

Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Please mail coupon to: CONCERN • Development & Marketing Dept.
One West Main Street • Fleetwood, PA 19522

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, (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.



Mission Statement

CONCERN brings hope,
offers opportunity,
and inspires change.

Vision Statement

To encourage growth and promote
positive healthy lives!

Board of Directors

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non-voting capacity)

CONCERN Services

Foster Care/Adoption
Services

Community Based Services

Behavioral Health Services

Residential Services

For more information on
location and services visit:

concern4kids.org



Gordon H. May, MSW, President/CEO

The Courier is published by CONCERN - Professional Services for Children, Youth, and Families

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome by mail, phone,
fax or e-mail addressed to the Development & Marketing Department at our Corporate Office: One West Main Street
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Join us in this journey of engagement,
empowerment, and elevation. Together,
we can continue to bring hope, offer
opportunity, and inspire change in our
community.

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