

# Courier

Vol 35 No 3 Winter 2025  
www.concern4kids.org



## Building Community Connections



*Gordon H. May, MSW  
President/CEO*

As we continue moving forward in a world that's constantly evolving, one thing remains clear: the strength of our community connections is more important than ever. At CONCERN, we've always believed that our work is about more than just the services we provide—it's about building relationships, collaborating with others, and creating a sense of belonging for everyone involved. In this edition of our newsletter, we're focusing on community connections, and how these relationships help us all grow stronger, providing more services to children, youth, and families throughout Pennsylvania and Maryland.

In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to feel disconnected. Remote work, tech that is supposed to help us be more efficient, but instead has left us feeling more disconnected, and business that is often more about how much we can get done than building deep relationships, but here at CONCERN, we know that true impact happens when we connect on a deeper level. Whether it's supporting individuals and families, working alongside local organizations, or building meaningful relationships with our staff, it's those human connections that truly make the difference. When we come together, share our stories, and support each other, we create lasting change.

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# Coping with the Winter Blues: We're Here to Help



Are you trying to cope with the winter blues? We are here to help!

As the winter months set in, many people begin to experience the “winter blues”—a seasonal dip in mood that can leave you feeling low, isolated, tired, or all of those. The shorter days, colder weather, and lack of sunlight can all contribute to these feelings. If you’re struggling during this time, you’re not alone—we are here to help.

At CONCERN, we understand that mental health challenges can really take a toll on you and your relationships. Whether you’re dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, or simply need someone to talk to, our outpatient programs are

designed to provide the care and support you need to navigate tough times. If you or someone you know is in crisis, our crisis programs are also here to help, offering immediate support to those facing urgent needs.

Don’t hesitate to reach out to CONCERN if you’re feeling down, overwhelmed, or need a listening ear and extra support. Taking the first step toward seeking help can make all the difference. We’re here for you and you are not alone. As a community, we are all in this together. Contact CONCERN today and let us help you find the support you need. (484) 578-9600 [www.concern4kids.org/contact](http://www.concern4kids.org/contact)

## Congratulations, Bambi!

Congratulations to CONCERN employee Bambi Harmon for being awarded a scholarship through the Crimsonbridge Foundation for Public Narrative. Public Narrative is an art of telling stories with a purpose of inspiring and motivating people to work collectively toward a shared goal. An effective leadership story conveys shared values and a sense of hope for the future. Bambi’s hope is to use this skill to recruit foster parents, staff, and donors for CONCERN. The LeaderBridge Program consists of three components:



- 1) Partnering with leadership program providers to integrate equity and inclusion practices and increase outreach to nonprofit leaders underrepresented in sector leadership.
- 2) Connecting nonprofit leaders of color to professional development opportunities.
- 3) Supporting a network of engaged nonprofit leaders of diverse backgrounds.

Through leadership development programs and an alumni network, LeaderBridge seeks to build the power and representation of nonprofit leaders who identify as Black, Indigenous, Asian, Hispanic or Latin, multiracial, and from backgrounds underrepresented in leadership across the Greater Washington DC Region. By listening directly to leaders, we curate programming (from nonprofit organizations and consulting firms) to meet the requests, interests, and needs of rising, founding, and established nonprofit leaders. LeaderBridge programs offer reduced rates for eligible nonprofit leaders, through support from the Crimsonbridge Foundation and other philanthropic partners.



## Building Community Connections *(continued from page 1)*

So, as we move forward, I encourage each of us to take a moment to think about how we can continue strengthening the connections around us. Whether it's with a colleague, a partner, or a community member, every connection matters. Together, we can make a real impact and build a more connected, caring world.

Thank you for being such an important part of this journey. Your dedication and support are what keep us moving forward, and I look forward to continuing this work with all of you.

Warm regards,  
Gordon May  
President/CEO



### Community Partner for CTUB

Thank you S&T Bank for helping to make the holiday season special for the residents of CONCERN's Treatment Unit for Boys in Coatesville, PA.



### Book Drive to Benefit CONCERN

Beginning January 21st, CONCERN is partnering with PaperPie to host a book party and fundraiser through February 20th.



**CONCERN**  
Hope. Opportunity. Change.

NEW YEAR  
NEW OPPORTUNITIES  
TO GROW AND LEARN

# BOOK DRIVE

Spread The Joy!  
Let's come together to share the blessings and make a meaningful impact on children's lives.

**JOIN US**

**WAYS TO HELP**

- ✓ Monetary Donation
- ✓ Personal book purchase
- ✓ Share the event

Shop the event <https://bit.ly/concernbookdrive>

For More Info <https://bit.ly/Concern4KidsFB>

# “Gifts of Hope, Opportunity, and Change”

Dear Friends,

The holiday season is a time for joy and gratitude as well as a time to reflect upon the impact we can have on the lives of others.

At CONCERN, we believe that the holiday season should offer hope, opportunity, and positive change for every child, especially those facing the challenges that come with being separated from their biological family. To help meet these challenges, we invite you to support our Special Needs Fund. This fund provides Christmas and other holiday gifts to those who need it most. In addition, this fund supports children in foster care throughout the year who attend camps, take music or art lessons, or have unmet medical bills.

Your donation does so much more than offer material gifts and defray the cost of activities that benefit children who struggle with physical, emotional, and other challenges. It opens the door to new opportunities, providing resources to help children learn and grow and thereby become stronger and more resilient.

Last year, thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, we were able to provide \$30,000 toward helping children in foster care. This year, the need is even greater so we are renewing our call to help us reach even more families in need.

Will you help meet this growing need?

Your generosity is a powerful reminder that the true spirit of Christmas lives in our hearts. Together, we can deliver the Gifts of Hope, Opportunity, and Change that these families so desperately need.

Thank you for being a part of the CONCERN family and for spreading the spirit of the season to those who need it most.



With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin J. D'Urso".

Martin J. D'Urso

Chairperson of the Board of Directors



Venmo



concern4kids.org

# Celebrating a Successful Murder Mystery Event

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our generous sponsors for their financial support and attendance at our signature event. Your contribution plays an important role in fostering a stronger, more connected community. Together, we are offering opportunities to children in foster care so they will continue to thrive. Thank you for being a part of our mission.

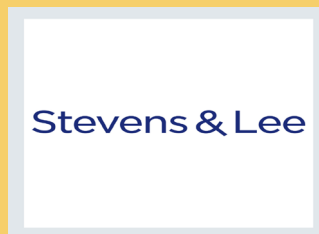
## BILLIONAIRE'S CLUB



## GOLDEN CIRCLE



## MUG SHOT STATION



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## IN-KIND SPONSOR



# Recognizing CONCERN's Employees of the Year

CONCERN is proud to recognize five outstanding staff this year as employees of the year. These incredible individuals exemplify CONCERN's mission to bring hope, offer opportunity, and inspire change

**Amanda Carson** - Employee of the Year 2024 - For outstanding performance, unwavering commitment, and exceptional dedication. Amanda's contributions continue to inspire everyone around her!

**Helene Knapp** - Mary Beth Hughes Lifetime Award 2024 - In honor of CONCERN's former VP, Mary Beth Hughes, Helene won this award based on her compassionate leadership, exceptional service, and tireless dedication that have made a profound impact on both our organization and the community. Her legacy is truly inspiring.

**Gail Machermer** - Administrative Employee of the Year 2024 - Her steadfast dedication and vital role in our day-to-day operations have not gone unnoticed. Her hard work and exceptional performance make CONCERN stronger every day, and we are so grateful for everything she does.

**Bambi Harmon** - Supervisor Employee of the Year 2024 - In appreciation of your exceptional leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment to guiding your team toward success. Your contributions have strengthened our organization and inspired those around you.

**Kamanie Sahdeo** - Direct Service Employee of the Year 2024 - In recognition of your outstanding work ethic, unwavering dedication, and exceptional ability to connect with and support children, youth, and families. You consistently demonstrate responsiveness, attentiveness, and a genuine passion for helping youth heal, grow, and thrive.



**Amanda Carson**



**Helene Knapp**



**Gail Machermer**



**Bambi Harmon**



**Kamanie Sahdeo**

# Upcoming Events

Join us for our upcoming events supporting children, youth, and families while offering an opportunity to build lifelong meaningful connections.



## Virtual Education Series – Thursday, February 13, 2025 - The 3 P's of Trauma

**Informed Care** - It is becoming more common for health service organizations, human service agencies and schools to declare they are trauma-informed. However, a truly trauma-responsive system goes beyond offering trauma sensitive practices.

## Pay it Forward Bingo Fundraiser - Sunday, April 6, 2025 - Allenwood, PA - Supporting CONCERN's Central Region Offices

**Designer Bag and Gift Card Bingo - Thursday, April 3, 2025 - Fleetwood Grange, PA** - Ticket includes 20 regular games for gift cards, hot dog, drink, and a door prize ticket. Event is BYOB. 18 games will receive a \$50 gift card. 2 games will receive a \$250 gift card. Special games will be available for purchase for designer bags. All proceeds benefit children in foster care

## Highmark Walk – Saturday, May 31, 2025 - Stay tuned for more information.

# Supporting Local Communities

When flooding hit the northern part of Pennsylvania, the staff at CONCERN quickly sprang into action to provide much-needed support to those affected. From coordinating emergency relief efforts, to offering resources for displaced families, our team worked to ensure that individuals had access to shelter, food, and essential services. In times of crisis, the strength of our community connections is more important than



ever. At CONCERN, we are proud to stand with our neighbors, offering not only immediate relief but also long-term support to help rebuild lives and restore hope.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Exp. date (month/year) \_\_\_\_\_

**Visit [www.concern4kids.org](http://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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## CONCERN Services

Foster Care/Adoption  
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Community Based Services

Behavioral Health Services

Residential Services

For more information on  
location and services visit:

[concern4kids.org](http://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,  
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## Building Connections

Building Community Connections  
through Scholarship Opportunities  
for CONCERN's Clients: CONCERN  
has two scholarship opportunities  
available for CONCERN's clients.  
The Mary Beth Hughes Scholarship  
offers financial assistance for  
individuals who are or were in  
CONCERN's foster care programs  
and are seeking higher education.

The CONCERN Scholarship offers financial assistance for any of CONCERN's  
clients who meet the age and school district requirements and are seeking  
higher education. For more information visit [www.concern4kids.org/  
scholarship](http://www.concern4kids.org/scholarship)

TWO SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

CONCERN  
SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAM

MARY BETH HUGHES  
SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAM



<https://www.concern4kids.org/scholarship>



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