



THE CONNECTION

familyconnections

Counseling resources with *family* in mind

www.familyconnectionsinc.org

VOLUME 6 Edition 3 2011

CLINIC—Call for information about our counseling services:

Weirton Medical Center
Medical Office Building
651 Colliers Way, Suite 412
Weirton, WV 26062
Phone: (304) 723-3423
Fax: (304) 723-3426
E-mail:
admin@
familyconnectionsinc.org

BROOKE PLACE—Call for a referral for residential group treatment for girls:

P.O. Box 348
Tent Church Road
Colliers, WV 26035
Phone: (304) 527-3303
Fax: (304) 527-3306

This facility is funded in part under an agreement with the Bureau of Children and Families, WV Department of Health and Human Resources

Email:
brookeplace@
familyconnectionsinc.org



Family Connections is 35 Years Old!



Fund Development committee members, first row left: Rose LaRosa, Brooke Place director and Joanne Dobrzanski, Family Connections' executive director; second row, left, Jean Bartholow, community representative, and Barb Jones, Family Connections' fiscal director, are excited to announce the 4th annual "There's No Place Like Home" charity event to honor the agency's 35th anniversary and bring recognition to Brooke Place, our residential program for adolescent girls. The event will take place on Saturday, April 30th at the Weirton Holiday Inn and will include an Undo's steak dinner.

We've come a long way since we opened our doors in 1976 as Brooke-Hancock Group Home, a co-ed facility in Newell, WV. Through a series of growing pains and changes, we are now Family Connections, serving girls at our Colliers location and operating outpatient counseling services for the community's children and families at our location in Weirton Medical Center's Medical Offices Building. We possess both child caring and behavioral health licenses from the WV Department of Health and Human Resources and are nationally accredited since 2004.

We'll tell you more about "There's No Place Like Home" inside The Connection. Please let us know if you would like to donate either cash or a gift and if you would like to attend this fun-filled, anniversary event. We'd love to have you with us!

Brooke Place Wish List

Mechanical pencils
Craft items, e.g., beads, yarn, scrapbooking supplies, etc.
Make up
Toilet paper, paper towels
White towels & washcloths
White, twin-size sheet sets
Underwear, all sizes

Mesh bags for large laundry baskets
Laundry baskets with lids
Batteries, all sizes
60 -watt light bulbs
No show socks
Dry erase markers
Construction paper

Laundry detergent, bleach & dryer Sheets
Flip flops
Beach towels
Sun screen

Please contact Barb Jones at 304-527-3303 if you can help. Thanks so much!



"There's No Place Like Home"



A 35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

APRIL 30, 2011

6:00 PM COCKTAILS/APPETIZERS

7:00 PM DINNER AND DANCING

\$20 PER PERSON

We welcome you to help us celebrate our 35th anniversary caring for WV's children and families. The evening will consist of an Undo's steak dinner, cash bar, appetizers, music, dancing and great gifts and prizes from local businesses and individuals.

We are offering four levels of recognition for donations. In keeping with our Wizard of Oz theme: 8 tickets for your donation of \$1,000 at the **RUBY** level; 4 tickets for your donation of \$500 at the **EMERALD** level, 2 tickets for your donation of \$250 at the **SILVER** level; and publicity and recognition for all levels, including the **YELLOW BRICK ROAD** level for a \$100 donation. If you would prefer, donating goods or a gift basket for use in our raffles and auctions is also appreciated. Any donation you care to make will help us defray costs.

Family Connections and our Brooke Place residents, who are the direct recipients of the event, appreciate your support. Please feel free to contact Rose LaRosa, Brooke Place Director, at 304-527-3303 or email her at brookeplace@familyconnectionsinc.org.

TAX CREDITS STILL AVAILABLE

We know it's way past time to make donations that will help you with your 2010 taxes, but it's not too early to think about 2011. We have remaining tax credits to reduce your 2011 state tax liability.

We've been gratified to provide documentation to several WV donors so they can receive a tax credit on their WV state income tax. These businesses and individuals who contributed at least \$500 to Family Connections can file for a tax credit equal to 50% of their donation. This great perk to community stewardship is due to our participation in the WV Neighborhood Investment Program.

Our allowable credit is limited so we must offer the credits on a first come first serve basis. Please call us at 304-527-3303 if you would like more information or call the West Virginia Development Office at 304-558-2234.



Outpatient Clinic Welcomes Therapist



Family Connections is pleased to announce that Tina M. Stewart, Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW), has joined our out-patient clinic as a full-time therapist effective January 1, 2011.

Tina has 30 years of experience working in the mental health field in both inpatient and outpatient settings in our community. Tina has creative techniques that enable her to establish rapport with children and teens, and build relationships with adults. She is experienced in diagnosing and treating clients with depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder, drug and alcohol disorder and other mental health issues.

Tina is able to provide counseling for patients with all the insurances that Family Connections accepts. Her experience and innovative counseling strategies make her a favorite of clients and referral sources.

Tina was previously employed at Weirton Medical Center Behavioral Health Department. She hasn't moved far! Family Connections' outpatient clinic is located in Suite 412 of the hospital's Medical Office Building, which is connected to the hospital. To schedule an appointment, or for any information about our clinic services, call us at 304-723-3423. Day and evening appointments are available.

Thoughts on the journey...



We shared in our last newsletter a bit about the journey of self-discovery made by our girls at Brooke Place. Brooke Place is our residential facility for adolescent girls. Periodically we ask the girls to think about where they are and where they're going. Each girl is working on a journal to help her collect her thoughts. Here are some of the things they'd like to share with you.

Don't Stop Believing "When I am in the tornado there are so many things going on at once, it seems overwhelming. I lived through this stage at home and hiding from the abuse was what was going on. I learned that it wasn't my fault, and I don't have to let someone have power over me."

"When I am using my head, I make positive decisions about my actions. I think before I do things so I won't get into trouble. Before my thinking was better, I used drugs to escape my pain. I wouldn't listen to anyone. If I didn't have drugs, I acted out my pain. I'm learning I can take positive steps to ease my pain."

"I knew I was using my head when I started to open up and talk about the things that happened to me. I'm not afraid people will judge me."

"The tornado means something to me because I have been through a lot. I've learned you don't always have to have your own way."

Our girls need to learn for themselves that they, and only they, have the power to make positive changes in their lives. Brooke Place offers a safe and secure, homelike environment, thus providing support and nurturing for the nudge that is oftentimes needed to begin their important journey of healing and self-discovery.

Brooke Place-WVU Landscaping Project

We've been keeping our newsletter readers up to date with our site design project collaboration with WVU's

landscape architecture students. One of Assistant Professor Peter Butler's students worked throughout last semester to combine elements of the 30 or so students' site designs that we feel best meet our needs. We now have the design that we can use to actually begin the nuts and bolts of the project. We need a lot of help and technical support to see this through, but we are committed to changing the paper layout to a beautiful yet useful area that we can use for recreation and treatment.

We hope to be able to show you a design, or a portion, in an upcoming newsletter. Stay tuned!

MISSION STATEMENT

Family Connections is committed to helping individuals function to the best of their abilities by engaging the resources that exist naturally within their family and community. Interventions provided by Family Connections are theory-based and are guided by the principle that the individual is best treated within the context of their family. Family Connections is dedicated to the care, welfare, and respect of families and the individuals who comprise them.

family connections, inc.

P.O. Box 348

Colliers, WV 26035

We're on the Web!
Now you can donate online!
www.familyconnectionsinc.org

By giving a contribution in memory of or in honor of a family member or friend, many generous people have found a way to express their caring spirit while investing in the lives of those served by Family Connections.

In Memory Of

TRACY

By Rev. & Mrs. Gene Sheppard

JEAN NEWBROUGH

By Cathy Sobel

In Honor Of

FAMILY CONNECTIONS' EMPLOYEES

By Joanne Dobrzanski

**KICKING BEAR LODGE AND ALL
THOSE WHO ENTER**

By Carolyn Schafer