



**familyconnections**

Counseling resources with *family* in mind

# THE CONNECTION

www.familyconnectionsinc.org

VOLUME 7 Edition 4 2012

**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



## A Houseful of Teenaged Girls



The photo of Brooke Place is one that might exemplify quiet and peace with a nice lawn, beautiful sunshine, and pine trees. Yes, Brooke Place is all that but also a home away from home for up to 12 adolescent girls who are with us for a temporary period of time.

If one should ask any of our staff what it's like to work with our girls, the responses run the gamut from a wonderful rewarding experience to the stress, emotional turmoil and physical endurance that it takes to provide structure, support, and love, yes LOVE, to girls who may have lost their way. Our girls are very typical in that they love to shop, go to movies, dances, chat on the phone, participate in school activities and we try to accommodate all those normalizing experiences. One thing though is common throughout the house—the yearning to be connected, to transition back to their family, or foster care, or independent living. Our staff help them find their way.

Family Connections-Brooke Place is currently looking for full-time child care workers who will work with our present team. If you know of a family member, a neighbor, a person from your club or church who you feel would be an asset to this important work, please let them see this newsletter. The child care worker position comes with health insurance, paid time off, holidays, short term disability and life insurance. Our website at [www.familyconnectionsinc.org](http://www.familyconnectionsinc.org) tells you more about it. Thanks for passing this along!

## Brooke Place Wish List

Gift cards for girls' birthdays

Overnight carry all bags/satchels for home visits

Pajamas—S,M,L,XL

Slippers

Regular white towels

Craft items, e.g., beads, yarn, scrapbooking supplies, etc.

Construction paper

Toilet paper, paper towels

Underwear—all sizes

Mesh bags for large laundry baskets

Batteries, all sizes

60 -watt light bulbs

Laundry detergent & dryer sheets

Flash drives/thumb drives for the girls' computer time

School supplies: notebooks, binders, folders, pencils, etc.

### Questions?

**Please contact Barb Jones at 304-723-3423.**

# Dorothy Comes Through Again!



Family Connections' 5th annual fundraising event, "There's No Place Like Home," was held this year on May 5th at the St. Francis Centre in Follansbee. The Wizard of Oz theme depicts the journey the Brooke Place girls take throughout their time at the residential facility in Colliers. Gathered around Dorothy are the members of our fundraising auxiliary who all deserve our appreciation for the time-consuming leg work that goes in to organizing such an event. Standing in the front row are Vicki Williams, Dorothy, Cathy Sobel (Chair) and Jean Bartholow. Standing in the rear are Gary Williams, Joyce Young, Beverly English and Joyce Heise.

We want to especially thank all the individuals and businesses who gave monetary gifts and donations of items for raffles, door prizes and silent auction baskets. Thanks to Gus's Goodies and A-1 Mossor Contracting for our sheet cakes, to our great DJ Rico Johnson for setting a lively tone for the evening, and to Tom Falter of American Financial for the LEDTV which was won by Robin Lojszczyk. Thank you to our event sponsors whose thoughtfulness moved our dance forward. Emerald: First Choice America Community FCU and Century 21 Greathouse Realty. Silver: Hancock County Savings Bank, Merco Marine, Delegate Ronnie Jones, and Rico Johnson. Yellow Brick Road: Jennifer Kirkbride, Peggy Cartus, Guglielmo Charitable Scholarship Foundation, Senator Orphy Klempa, Tom Zielinsky, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sabia, Dee Jay's BBQ Ribs, and Dr. Michael Palma.

Plans are already underway for our next event. It's loads of fun and more importantly, all proceeds directly benefit the girls at Brooke Place.

## New Vans Arrive!

Our Brooke Place girls and Brooke Place employees will be sittin' pretty in our two, new 2012 Chrysler Town & County vans purchased at Sunset Motors Volkswagen-Jeep in Steubenville, Ohio. As we travel many miles with our Brooke Place residents, not only with local driving, but taking the girls to their homes for visits, our annual and long term planning always contains a goal for replacement of our vehicles. Thanks to Sunset Motors for their time and attention!



Brooke Place shift leaders, Ashley Boyce and Debbie Brush

## Brooke County Rotary Donates Garden Benches

Four beautiful, weather-safe garden benches now adorn the grounds of Brooke Place due to the generosity of the Brooke County Rotary. Dr. Terry Geary, president of the Rotary, stated that Brooke Place was chosen as the recipient of this recognition due to the “great work” done by the organization.

Dr. Geary, far left on the photo, and incoming Brooke County Rotary president, Jerry Simpson, delivered the benches to Brooke Place. Rose LaRosa, Brooke Place director, joined them for a photo. Family Connections thanks the Brooke County Rotary for this great gift and also for recognizing the important work we do.



## *We just want to be beautiful...*



Being a resident at Brooke Place isn't always the easiest thing to do. However, we manage to find the time to pamper ourselves. It may not be the same as going to a spa and soaking our piggies in a solution and getting a deep tissue massage, but we enjoy enhancing our natural beauty by playing with cosmetology. Having good self-esteem is a challenge for most teens around our age and sometimes it's hard to look at your reflection and not see anything but flaws. “Pampering peers” is not just something we like to do...it's something we feel is necessary at times. Even with our shortage of supplies, we make it possible to be “girly girls” and have makeovers.

Making a girl feel beautiful is rewarding, not only to the resident playing stylist, but also to the girl receiving the glamorization. Curling our lashes and flattening our hair isn't something we do just for fun. It makes us feel better about ourselves inside and out. It gives us a chance to bond and become sisters, in a sense. We try to make the best of our situation and keep our peers heads as well as our own held high.

Some of the girls commented on their experience... “It makes me feel like a princess, I appreciate spending time with my group home sisters.” “I enjoy doing acrylic nails on my peers. It makes me feel good helping the girls with their self-esteem.” “I love when the girls do my nails and dress me up. I feel like Barbie.” “When I get a makeover, I feel renewed. It's nice to feel pampered and beautiful once in awhile.” “When the girls do my hair, it always looks really nice. I like feeling pretty.” “One of the residents dyed my hair and I look absolutely gorgeous now. It completely changed my outlook on myself. I feel beautiful.”

When you feel good about appearance, you exude positivity because, after all, we just want to feel beautiful.

*Brooke Place Residents*

### 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

*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***  
**Joan R. Dobrzanski**  
**By**  
**Jeffrey H. Gerow**