



THE CONNECTION

familyconnections

Counseling resources with *family* in mind

www.familyconnectionsinc.org

VOLUME 8 Edition 1 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



Most of us look forward to summertime when we have a break from school and can be outside more. This summer was so hot, it wasn't always pleasant to be out, but we had a lot of activities to do that kept our mind off the heat. We took flip cameras to The Wilds and recorded videos of our safari. We saw different kinds of animals that don't usually live in Ohio. The zebras and giraffes were particular favorites. Kennywood is always a fun trip. The Black Widow was almost everyone's favorite ride because it was so intense. We got a dry mouth and thought we were going to die and then got back in line and we rode it again. Sandcastle on a hot day was another good activity. The Dragon Plunge was amazing and a little bit scary because it's dark in the tunnel before you *shoot* out.

We made a special trip to Blennerhasset Island in Parkersburg where we did a steamboat ride around the island and then had a picnic. When we were asked to think about all that we did this summer, the list was pretty long: concerts; picnics at the State Parks; swimming; flea markets; mall shopping; trail walking; arts and crafts; community cookouts; and movies, including the drive-in. We're ready to head back to school.

Submitted by Brooke Place Residents

Brooke Place Wish List

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Gift cards for girls' birthdays | Construction paper | Flash drives/thumb drives for the girls' computer time |
| Overnight carry all bags/satchels for home visits | Toilet paper, paper towels | School supplies: notebooks, binders, folders, pencils, etc. |
| Pajamas—S,M,L,XL | Underwear—all sizes | Flashlights |
| Slippers—L,XL | Mesh bags for large laundry baskets | |
| Regular white towels | Batteries, all sizes | Questions? |
| Craft items, e.g., beads, yarn, scrapbooking supplies, etc. | 60 -watt light bulbs | Please contact Barb Jones at 304-723-3423. |
| | Laundry detergent & dryer sheets | |

Fund Development Auxiliary Takes Flight!



Family Connections has begun to soar...at least we think so! We have a committee that meets each month to plan activities and events that will provide the community with education about our services and also raise funds for those services. The work soon got the best of this committee. Family Connections board member, Cathy Sobel, told us that individuals have been contacting her about their interest in doing something for Family Connections. Using the adage of “strike while the iron’s hot,” Cathy gathered these incredible women together and formed our first fund development auxiliary.

Not being shy in speaking up about Family Connections, auxiliary members, with only a few weeks notice, chaired our annual fundraising event, “There’s No Place Like Home.” On the heels of this successful event, they manned a booth at the Weirton Chamber of Commerce’s Renaissance Weirton Summerfest on July 4th by selling water and baked goods. It was a hot day, and also a day that would normally be hard to sell baked goods, but these ladies made money for our organization. Plans are well underway for a booth at New Cumberland’s Riverfest to be held this year on September 29th and 30th. The auxiliary will be selling a homemade meal of cabbage rolls and mashed potatoes as well as providing the community with information about Family Connections’ programs.

The auxiliary has already made its mark and we expect the group to grow in numbers as our education and advocacy initiative continues to expand in our community. Thank you to our present members—Cathy Sobel, Vickie Williams, Joyce Heise, Beverly English, Joyce Young and Jean Bartholow, Sally Greathouse, Brenda Ice, Pat Easterling, Sharon Manypenny and Paula Wright. Interested in joining this amazing group of volunteers? Please call 304-527-3303 and say you are calling about the auxiliary.

A.B.A.T.E. and Brooke Place

Jean Bartholow, 1st row center, who is a member of our Fund Development Auxiliary, had a great evening with the Upper Ohio Valley A.B.A.T.E. members who gathered in New Cumberland on August 17 for a Poker Run. Family Connections, who was one of the recipients of donations gathered from the Run, provided a Bucket of Cheer to add to the array of raffle items.

Shown with Jean are: seated, Denny Wright, President of the Upper Ohio Valley A.B.A.T.E., Jean, and Paula Wright. Standing are Greg and Erin Kool.





Brooke Place Has a New Director

Family Connections is pleased to announce the hiring of Michael L. Smith, MSW, LGSW in the position of Brooke Place Director. Brooke Place is Family Connections’ residential program for adolescent girls. Mr. Smith comes to Family Connections with seventeen years of experience in a variety of areas including clinical leadership, program development, risk management, quality improvement and regulatory compliance. All of Mr. Smith’s work experience has been with troubled youth.

Mr. Smith’s undergraduate degree is from West Liberty State College. He has a Masters of Social Work degree from West Virginia University and is a WV licensed Graduate Social Worker. Mr. Smith lives in Benwood, WV with his wife, Lorie, and their two sons, Joshua and Jacob.

2011-2012 Highlights

Human Resources

- ◇ Family Connections provided **874 hours of training** this past year or an average of **67 hours per employee**. Four guest speakers were invited to share their expertise. Several child care workers attended the West Virginia child Care Association’s Fall Conference.
- ◇ The base hourly rate for direct care staff was increased. Through the Employee Referral Program, staff can receive a cash recognition for referring qualified applicants for employment.

Outpatient CLINIC



The clinic had 349 referrals during 2011-2012, an increase from last year. 247 charts were opened which is also an increase.

Fund Development

“There’s No Place Like Home” was held for the 6th time.

Total giving for the last fiscal year was \$20,564.



Brooke Place



Brooke Place has had more than its fair share of roller coaster rides this past year – another way of saying there were a lot of ups and downs. Balancing the number of residents and the number of teacher counselors was something like this picture of spinning plates. We’re mixing metaphors here, but people stepped up to that spinning plate, working together to assure staff coverage and safety.

The Brooke Place residents benefited from grants that offered admissions to local events. The girls had free tickets to Kenneywood, Sandcastle, Carnegie Science Center, and a Nailers’ game. They attended community picnics and the Top of WV concerts. They had makeovers at Sephora. They exercised on the trail, at the Wellness Center, and the Community Center, and they bowled, skated, and went to their favorite movies.

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



Newsletter costs were partially underwritten by local author, Jo Goodman, whose newest romance novel, "The Last Renegade," will be out in September.

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.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING

Do you sometimes think about some unique way that you can commemorate the life of a special person? One way you can express your sympathy and respect for your loved one is by giving a memorial gift in that person's memory. Honor gifts, as another option, provide a perfect opportunity to recognize a favorite person in your life or to honor a special occasion, such as a birthday, anniversary, wedding or graduation.

When you make a donation, you can use the envelope provided in this newsletter. Please remember to include the name and address of the individual(s) you would like us to notify. If you wish to remain anonymous, that is fine too.

Your gift will be combined with others to fulfill our mission of helping individuals and families in the community function to the best of their abilities.