

family connections, inc.

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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 Honor of Joanne Dobrzanski
by Linda Kellough and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago

In Honor of John and Barb Jones by Joanne Dobrzanski

In Memory of Dale Walker and Joyce Harbaugh
By Geraldine and Mark Harbaugh

In memory of Patricia Wolen, Ray Brown, and Delores Harda
by Joanne Dobrzanski

In Memory of Cathy Sobel by Ms. Dorothy Swearingen

In Memory of Ray Brown by Marilyn Brown

In Memory of Paul Wack By Carolyn Schafer

In Memory of Alma Cashdollar
by Jean and Rick Bartholow and Joanne Dobrzanski



familyconnections

Counseling resources with family in mind

THE CONNECTION

www.familyconnectionsinc.org

There's No Place Like Home



Members of Family Connections Auxiliary were so busy preparing for our eighth annual fundraising event, “There’s No Place Like Home” that we were late getting our newsletter out! The event was held at the Serbian American Cultural Center in Weirton on April 23, 2016. We had a buffet by Undo’s, music by DJ Mr. Moe and the Music Machine, raffles, and a live auction. Contributions from local businesses and individuals led to the success of this event for the past seven years. This year was no exception. Proceeds directly benefit Brooke Place, our residential facility for teenage girls, and the future of our organization. Thank you to all our attendees, contributors, and the fabulous folks who made it happen.

The event kept with our Wizard of Oz theme, which we use to help our Brooke Place residents navigate their treatment journey. We all have days when we wonder if we are living in a tornado. Our girls have years of it. Chaos, unsettling memories, and a whirlwind of emotions. Brooke Place offers girls the opportunity to learn to make better decisions by thinking through a situation (the scarecrow), demonstrate compassion for themselves and others through community service and understand empathy (the tinman), and regularly face fears that used to stop them in their tracks (the lion). Girls gradually realize the ability to realize their goals was always within them, and to celebrate the achievement of moving forward in their life, they will receive a ruby slipper necklace - a reminder of what they have done and what is possible.

And speaking of ruby slipper achievements, Family Connections is proud to announce that five girls are scheduled to graduate in May! There was a time when some of these girls could not imagine this end, but that will be behind them now. Their minds are open to success now. It is possible.

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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



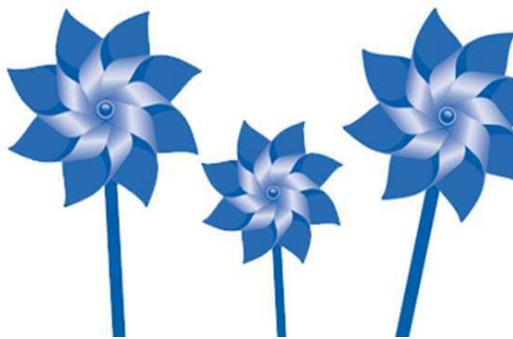
Brooke Place Wish List

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gift cards for girls’ birthdays | Mesh bags for large laundry baskets | Standard Size Pillows |
| Pajamas—S,M,L,XL | Batteries, all sizes | Stationary/Stamps |
| Slippers | 60 watt light bulbs | All occasion cards |
| Regular white towels | White twin sheet sets | No show socks |
| Toilet paper, paper towels | White washcloths | Flash drives/Movie Passes |
| Underwear—Size 5-8 | Toiletries | Questions? |

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

APRIL

National Child Abuse Prevention Month



We All Can Play a Part in Making Meaningful Connections

Family Connections brought attention to Child Abuse Prevention at its annual fundraiser “There’s No Place Like Home” on April 23 benefiting residents of Brooke Place. The professional counselors and social workers at Family Connections are the caretakers of hundreds of stories describing the trauma, heartache, and physical pain as told by children who experienced or were witness to abuse. The effects of child abuse linger long into adulthood, impacting relationships, influencing thinking, and sometimes prompting problem behavior. As a member of the Family Ways Collaborative, the Family Resource Network, and the West Virginia Child Care Association, Family Connections works in partnership with other agencies to meet the needs of children and families at risk for abuse.

April was National Child Abuse Prevention Month. In April and throughout the year, Family Connections, Inc. encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making Brooke and Hancock Counties a better place for children and families. By ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for their children, we can help promote children’s social and emotional well-being and prevent child maltreatment within families and communities. Research shows that when parents possess six protective factors, the risk for neglect and abuse diminish and optimal outcomes for children, youth, and families are promoted. The six protective factors are:

- Nurturing and attachment • Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development • Parental resilience • Social connections • Concrete supports for parents • Social and emotional developmental well-being

“April is a time to celebrate the important role that communities play in protecting children,” said Joanne Dobrzanski, Executive Director of Family Connections. “Everyone’s participation is critical. Focusing on ways to build and promote the protective factors, in every interaction with children and families, is the best thing our community can do to prevent child maltreatment and promote optimal child development.”

Nationally, pinwheels have been chosen to represent efforts to ensure the healthy development of children. When we invest in healthy child development, we are making an investment in our community and its economic development. The pinwheels do not represent children who have been hurt or who have died as a result of abuse; they are symbols of the efforts of people like you to ensure a healthy future for our children. Plant a pinwheel garden today!

WELCOME TO OUR GARDEN

Growing our own vegetable garden can do more than provide tasty produce—gardening can improve health, save money and even boost mood. Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of the Upper Ohio Valley, and Hancock County Savings Bank, Brooke Place residents are excited to try their hands (hopefully green thumbed ones) at growing their own potatoes, tomatoes, onions, beans, herbs and whatever other tasty morsel may find it’s way in the soil for germination. The residents will learn to plant, grow and cultivate under the guidance of Master Gardeners from the WV Extension office and volunteers from the Life-skills Program.



AUXILIARY NEWS

CAR/BIKE SHOW

The third annual Car and Bike Show is scheduled for September 10th, 2016 at Mercy Baptist Church, 3474 Pennsylvania Avenue in Weirton. The event will include a Chinese auction, door prizes, 50/50, raffles, food, music, and of course recognition of the finest vehicles attending. Your attendance and any donation you may wish to give will be greatly appreciated by Family Connections auxiliary and our 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.