

Families United Network, Inc.

Building Families Since 1996



2019 / 2020 NEWSLETTER



This newsletter is dedicated to Tracy Drescher. Tracy worked for Families United Network, INC for over 20 years. Tracy served as our Eastern Regional Director of Foster Care and worked out of our Mount Joy location until 2015 when she decided to pursue other passions. She was paramount in developing and establishing our foster care program. Because of her work, hundreds of children and families were united and achieved permanency. She was an exceptional social worker and dedicated to her clients. As a supervisor, she aided in the professional development of all surrounding her. Sadly, Tracy succumbed to cancer this summer. Tracy was an advocate for children and families involved with the child welfare system. She was a leader, a friend to all, and had a great sense of humor. Tracy lived life to its fullest. Much of her life was dedicated to helping and enriching the lives of others and serving as an advocate for those who needed it. Other's needs always came before her own. We love and miss you, Tracy. Our lives were forever changed by knowing you.

Contributions in Tracy's memory may be made to
Families United Network
412 South Angle Street
Mount Joy, PA 17552

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

This year has been a challenging year for Families United Network, FUN Academy, and Liberty Manor. The biggest challenge has been COVID 19. In late February/early March of 2020, it felt as though our entire agency was being turned upside down. Suddenly we needed to close some programs, but then determine a way to function "as usual" in others. We needed to change the way we did business, and change it quickly with little guidance. It was expected that we would provide the best services possible to those we serve, while keeping our residents, participants, children, clients, parents, and staff safe. No small task for any multi-program agency.

To say that our staff at every level stepped up, gave 110%, and persevered through this pandemic would be an understatement. Every program and office at FUN developed an emergency plan that allowed us to work safely and effectively. For our foster care and permanency staff, that meant working almost entirely from home, a task that very few were ready for, but everyone learned and perfected it in a limited period of time. For our Residential program staff, it meant wearing masks at all times and limiting off-site movement for residents and visitation. For childcare, adult day services, and drug and alcohol services, it meant closing for a period of time, reopening when permitted by the state and doing so with procedures in place to ensure the safety of everyone. For administration, there was never a break in the action. They continued to work every day with safety procedures in place to ensure the agency continued to move forward amidst what seemed like chaos more times than not. For these efforts and the steps taken to ensure that the safety of all those we serve every day, I am forever grateful.

In spite of all the challenges COVID 19 has brought to our agency, we served our communities with commitment and an unparalleled level of care. I cannot speak enough to the level of pride that I have in those willing to continue to serve to ensure the safety of all those we serve. I look forward to a new year of challenges, successes, and growth that will see Families United Network, FUN Academy, and Liberty Manor emerge victorious from the pandemic and stronger than we have ever been before.



DAVID SPRING, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MANAGER

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OUR MISSION:

Families United Network, Inc. is dedicated to strengthening families by providing children and youth with a safe, nurturing, community environment through a continuum of services, which focuses on reunification or permanency.

COVID-19: DEDICATED TO OUR MISSION

The Directors at Families United Network, FUN Academy, and Liberty Manor would like to thank all employees who have persevered throughout these unprecedented times. We are so grateful to our staff who continue to be 100% dedicated to the children and families that we serve. Families United Network, FUN Academy, and Liberty Manor are dedicated to strengthening families by providing children and youth with a safe, nurturing, community environment through a continuum of services. We are fortunate to have such passionate employees who continue to strive to abide by our mission. Our teams have gone above and beyond to ensure that the children and families whom we work with are taken care of and well informed. We are incredibly thankful to every employee who continues to create new and innovative ways of engaging our children and families.



"We Are Open!"

Pictured Above
Debra Myers, Demaree Koehler, Donielle Ashton, Kathie Sinibaldi

THANK YOU

**WE COULD NOT MAKE IT THROUGH THIS
WITHOUT EACH OF YOU DOING YOUR PART!
WE TRULY APPRECIATE YOU!!**



"I just wanted to first say thank you for your continued hard work, guidance, and flexibility during these past several weeks. During times of crisis is when true character is revealed, and with Families United Network, Inc. it has shown we really do care for our employees, our clients, and our families."

- Janna Brubaker, Ex. Director

Pictured Above
Lisa Cannon, Director of Foster Care & Janna Brubaker, Executive Director

The Holidays with FUN 2019

It may be 2020 now, but this past year we enjoyed the holiday season of 2019. Families United Network embraces the spirit of the holiday season through organizing a variety of events for staff, clients we serve and the community. So many of the children in our care have never experienced the joys of the holiday season. Events occurred throughout the state, across all programs, that embodied the magic of the season.

Residents at our residential locations learned about giving back to their community through volunteering at local soup kitchens. The programs organized several events that included hot chocolate and watching holiday movies. Administrative staff volunteered at the local food bank to also help local community members.

Fun Academy hosted its first annual Holiday Festival this year. Through the generous donations of various businesses and the hard work of staff, the event was a success! With great food, entertainment, and a special visit from Santa Claus! It truly was a day that we will never forget. Over 450 people were able to learn more about the early learning center, spend time with their family, and enjoy great company.

Foster Care offices organized banquets for foster families and their children that were filled with laughter, great food and fellowship. Angel tree requests were granted and Santa lists were completed! Community members banded together to help create lifelong memories for the children in our care. We cannot thank enough the businesses and individuals who stepped up during the holiday season and sponsored our events and provided gifts for the children.

Like many things in 2020, this holiday season will be different. However our team continues to be creative and inspired to keep the holiday spirit alive for our kids and families.



FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

With seven offices that span across the state, the foster care staff have served 742 children from 33 different counties & 670 resource families! Collectively the offices participated in close to 50 community events this year. The pandemic may have put a damper on some of the community events offices were going to participate in, but it didn't completely prevent the offices from advocating and supporting the children and families in our care during the pandemic. This year, 73% of the children we served reached permanency.

Pictured Right
Mt Joy Office Staff offering words of support
to Resource Parents & the community.



In the May 6, 2020 issue of the Lewistown Sentinel, our North Central office was highlighted for National Foster Care Month! Our North Central office works closely with both Mifflin and Juniata Counties, which do not approve their own foster homes. As the North Central office's supervisor, Kristi Hoover-Potts states in the article, "We explain how the system works, what the process is to get approved and answer any of the questions that a person may have about being a foster parent." Kristi goes on to say, "Foster care is not an easy thing to do but it is extremely rewarding. Children and Youth offices really do try to reunite the children with their biological families which is typically what is best. But sometimes that can't happen and that is when we need families willing to adopt. The idea of foster care is to provide temporary, loving, nurturing, stable homes until children can be reunited with their biological families."

great job!

"Sara has not only been a social worker, she has (taken) the time to keep up to date, including sports, school, stress, and just everyday stuff. I consider her a friend, if not family."
- Harrisburg Client

SWAN AND PERMANENCY

"At the South Central Office, we had a very special case this year. At the end of July, we received a referral for a former child in care. This young man signed himself back into care at the age of 19, and was looking for a family to help support him. He had a difficult placement history, and was trying to make it on his own. We approached a family who preferred children 0-6 with the possibility of just meeting with this young man. After one dinner, the family decided to open their home to him. The understanding was that he would stay with the family while he looked for a job, an apartment and transitioned into adulthood. However, the relationship developed in a way that no one expected. In January, this young man, independently asked the family if they would be okay adopting him. He stated that he thought for a long time about this, and would like to be legally adopted. The family was taken back, but agreed very quickly! It was so special for us as an agency to be able to see this case progress the way that it did. There were growing pains, as there always are, but this family bonded over them!"

– Ashley Sturgeon, Supervisor at South Central

CELEBRATE



We're Adopted!



PRIVATE ADOPTION AND PREGNANCY SUPPORT

"We are truly grateful to have walked through this journey with these moms & families. Welcome to the world!"

– Heather O'Neill, Adoption Supervisor



"Heather did a great job completing our post placement visits for us. We had a different situation because we were through another agency and we were very pleased with everything that Heather provided for us!"

"Suzy Hareza was always a pleasure to work with. She was professional and timely and families always had great things to say about her."



Our private adoption program had the pleasure of working with **13 different countries** this past fiscal year. A few of these countries we had never worked with before, such as Canada, Lithuania, and Liberia! Our adoption program was able to help **68 families** and **71 children** through their post adoptions this year!

During the COVID-19 shutdown, we had the honor of placing two newborns! Even though things looked different due to the hospital's tight security, our families and birth mothers were so gracious during this time.

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

"A STARRY NIGHT" AT ASHLER MANOR PROM

On Friday, June 19th, the sparkling white lights and black, gold, and silver decorations dazzled the Activities Center. The residents were escorted to the AC Hall by volunteers from our local police department and Derick Slaughter, the Mayor of Williamsport. They were all given a sunflower to carry. The tables were decked out in black, gold and silver with the center pieces donated by the FUN Christmas Committee. They enjoyed a catered meal prepared by our kitchen chefs and served by staff. The dinner started off with shrimp cocktail and fresh fruit platters as their appetizers. The main course was fried chicken, macaroni & cheese, broccoli and green beans.

Dessert was their choice of a brownie or chocolate chip cookie ice cream sundae with all the toppings. After dinner the resident's program coaches read something positive about each girl. They were also given a coupon gift. The DJ's fee was anonymously donated and the girls danced the night away under a Starry Night. To capture the night's festivities a balloon arch was used for photo taking. A good time was had by all.



"I didn't just want the girls to interact with law enforcement, I wanted the girls to be empowered by them."

— Mayor Derick Slaughter



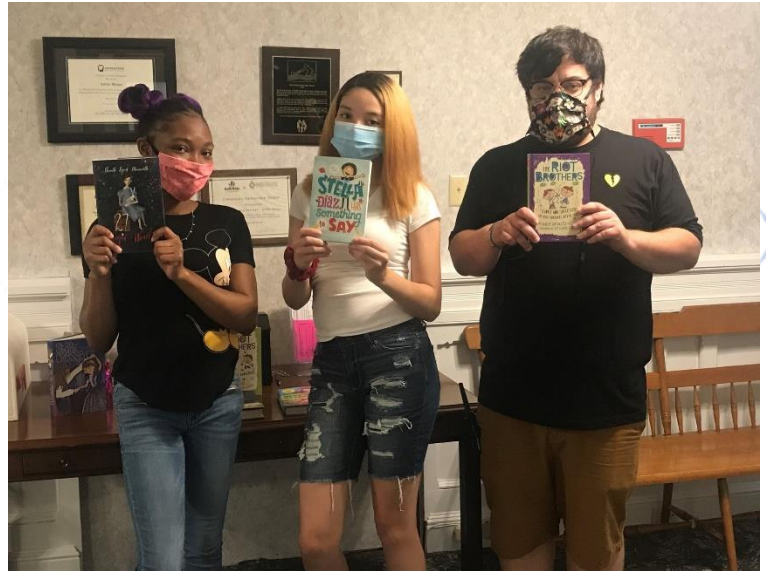
"The fact that law enforcement and the mayor went out of their way to participate in something that was important to our girls shows that the officers really care about the members of our community, not just about enforcing laws."

— Latricia Scutching, Residential Therapist

TITLE 1 FUNDS

Title 1 Funds are a Federal Education Grant that our residential facilities are able to apply for each year. These funds can be used to improve or create educational opportunities for our clients.

This is a collaborative process between the residential facility and the school district in which the home is located. This year, Arborvale Manor was able to acquire **\$2,000 of new kitchen equipment and utensils** through this grant!



Lycoming United Way donated books to our residential programs. We greatly appreciate all donors!

Our girls at Ashler Manor have been busy this summer with the garden they have planted. We take pride in showing our girls how to harvest crops and cook healthy meals. "Once you give them something to get their hands dirty in and they see the fruits of their labor, quite literally, they become passionate about it," Jordon Homet, Director of Food Services says.

Welcome

Bill Monahan
Director of Residential Services



Shannon Dietrich
Director of Adult Day Services

FUN ACADEMY

CHILD CARE CENTER



Despite the world shutting down to COVID-19, the FUN Academy team rolled up their sleeves and got to work. Various team members jumped at the chance to provide care to our essential workers' children and did everything in their power to ensure the health and safety of everyone during this time. COVID-19 has brought its challenges, but the team is optimistic that all the new changes to procedures will allow for the continuation of health and safety of the children, families, and team members and they will be better because of it.

For the 2019-2020 fiscal year FUN Academy was presented with many ups and some major downs. Despite COVID-19 FUN Academy was able to accomplish an important goal: engagement opportunities for children's families. This year they hosted: Donuts with Grown Ups, Halloween Parade, Friendsgiving, FUN Holiday Festival, Holiday Recital, and Drive-through Graduation. They had many firsts this year and though in 20-21 they may not be able to continue them, although, they do plan to start them again when they are able and maybe add a few more as their parents really enjoy these unique opportunities.

CHICKS FOR THE KIDS

FUN Academy was given the opportunity to care for 6 chicks to start a mini flock of their own! The staff are always coming up with creative ways to engage the children in creative learning.

See how they have grown!



BEFORE



AFTER

Thank You

FOR YOUR

SUPP♥RT

"Thank you for all your support and allowing us to love and care for your children!"

- Danielle McFadden & Samantha Schneider

Liberty Manor

ADULT DAY SERVICES



"...FRIENDLY FAMILY ATMOSPHERE, GREAT SENSE OF COMPASSION MIXED WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR... EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILY."

— QUOTE FROM FAMILY MEMBER



The purpose of Adult Day Services is to help families successfully manage the care of their loved ones living with a cognitive or functional impairment as well as provide them with quality of life services to help them age in place and prolong placement into skilled nursing facilities. The best scenario when considering adult day services is to actually have that client have a positive mindset about visiting the center. But for many families that is not the case. One such case was a husband caring for his wife with Alzheimer's. She was in denial of needing services and thought her husband wanted "to get rid of her". However, her husband was in desperate need of respite and some relief from the daily struggles of being a caregiver. He fell in love with Liberty Manor right away and knew his wife would enjoy her days there. With much encouragement from her husband and staff, she was finally in agreement to start at Liberty Manor. Fast forward to now, 15 months of attending adult day services twice a week, she is beating all expectations of our program that her husband originally had. Because of her amazing progress, she has been officially named our "center buddy" and serves as a great support person for all new enrollments. We feel honored to be a part of every participant's journey in maintaining them in the community and bringing joy and laughter to their days.

THANK YOU!

Alex & Sarah Langan
Amanda Creasey & Family
Baker Tilly
Bimbo Bakeries
Boscovs' Customers
Brenda Laudenslager
Comcast
D&H Cares
Dana Washburn
Danielle McFadden
Dave Spring
Dream Wrights
Dustin & Elizabeth Fry
Dutch Wonderland
Erica Weaver
Eriez Magnetics
First Commonwealth Bank
Frank & Sharon Chlebnikow
Fraternal Order of Eagles
Gamut Theatre Group
Giant Food Stores
Halls Landing
Ingroup Associates LL
Intrada Technologies
Janna Brubaker & Church Family

Michael Budzinski (Target)
Mike & Jenn Glass
Miranda Kramer
Muncy Bank & Trust
Nathan Hampton
Paul & Gail Sattazahn
Paula Inman
Penny Jo Spring
Samantha Schneider
Sandwich
Sharon Sutkins
Simply Living with Erin Brown
Sports Emporium
Spring Gate Vineyard
Stephanie & Joshua Desaulniers
Grace & Connor Desaulniers
Steve & Sophia Hower
Sue & Ray Jackson
Tara Breneisen
The Coup Agency
The Pizza Grille
Tu Nguyen
Weis Markets
Wengerd's Farm Market
Jennifer & Elizabeth Swanger

John Brunette
Jordan Homet & Raelyn Jackson
Karen Bilby
Kathie Sinbaldi
Kristina Finseth
Landyshade Mulch/John Landis
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Leclerc Foods
Lisa Stahl
Log Cabin Inn
Lycoming Engines
Major's Select Collision
Maria Javier & Matthew Buck


amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

**We are extremely thankful for each of our donors
from this past year!!**

If you would like to make a monetary or any other donation,
please give us a call today to see how you can help!

PROGRAM LOCATIONS

FOSTER CARE & PERMANENCY

Harrisburg Office

2090 Linglestown Road
Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 307-9817

Mount Joy Office

412 S. Angle Street
Mount Joy, PA 17552
(717) 492-9338

North Central Office

33 Ashler Manor Drive
Muncy, PA 17756
(570) 651-9016

North West Office

3939 West Ridge Road,
Suite A-201
Erie, PA 16506
(814) 240-3434

Scranton Office

1006 Pittston Avenue, Suite 200
Scranton, PA 18505
(570) 340-1444

South Central Office

2 Market Plaza Way, Suite #4
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
(717) 766-5900

Western Office

One Rodi Plaza
655 Rodi Road, Suite 300
Pittsburgh, PA 15235
(412) 871-3560

RESIDENTIAL

Arborsvale Manor

2016 Millersville Pike
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 872-5404

Ashler Manor

276 Ashler Manor Drive
Muncy, PA 17756
(570) 546-8797

White Rose Manor

197 Scarboro Drive
York, PA 17403
(717) 814-5320

Other Services

FUN Academy

145 Ashler Manor Drive
Muncy, PA 17756
(570) 445-3813

Liberty Manor

169 Ashler Manor Drive
Muncy, PA 17756
(570) 445-3803

Drug & Alcohol Services

1282 Greenspring Drive
York, PA 17403
(717) 814-5327



Administrative Offices
267 Ashler Manor Drive
Muncy, PA 17756
(570) 346-6777

Professional Affiliations and Accreditations



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