

The ANSWER

Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration Newsletter

WINTER 2015

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FOR THE HOLIDAYS

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HOMELESSNESS

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TO HOMELESSNESS

FCBHA EMPLOYEES
GIVE TO THE COMMUNITY

FAYETTE COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICE COUNCIL
WORKER OF THE YEAR!
BARB KEEFER

2015...
WHAT DO YOU RECALL?

MORRIS MORRISON
CAME TO TOWN

MEMORIES
OF 2015



Home for the Holidays

I'll be home for Christmas, You can count on me.
Please have snow and mistletoe, And presents under the tree.
Christmas Eve will find me where the love light gleams.
I'll be home for Christmas If only in my dreams.....

Contact Us:
(724) 430-1370
www.FCBHA.org

Office Hours
8:00 AM—4:30 PM

Office Closures:
1/1/16—Happy New Year!
1/18/16—MLK Jr. Day
2/15/16—President's Day
3/25/16—Good Friday

The holiday you favor, the one most special in your heart, is likely the one that makes you remember warm, familiar places and happy times spent with people you love. Usually these things are found at home, the special place that makes us feel happy, safe and secure. We hope your home and favorite holiday is full of joy this year and the new year brings you contentment of body, mind, and spirit with an abundance of good fortune. The holiday season, more than any other time, reminds us that without a home, family, and friends, there may be little joy in living. Employees of FCBHA held several fundraisers in 2015 to help the homeless population of Fayette County and we ask that you remember those who have nowhere to call home this Christmas by keeping them in your thoughts and prayers.

HELP SOMEONE IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY

A wise man once said, If you want others to be happy, practice compassion.
If you want to be happy, practice compassion.

MISSION: To enrich lives by providing choice and access to resources that encourage hope, independence and recovery.

Some Statistics about Homelessness in the U.S.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development stated in a report published in October of 2014 that on a Single Night in January 2014, 578,424 people were homeless in the United States.

Nearly two-thirds of people experiencing homelessness (63% or 362,163 people) were individuals. Of those, 209,148 individuals were staying in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs and 153,015 were found in unsheltered locations.

The remaining 37 percent, or 216,261 people, were in homeless families. Most (191,903 people) were sheltered, and 24,358 people in families were counted in unsheltered locations such as under bridges, in cars, or in abandoned buildings.



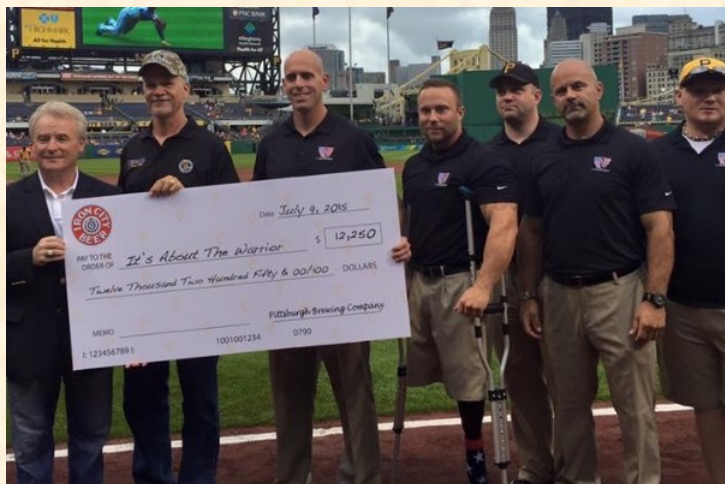
Two-thirds of homeless people are over the age of 24. Nearly one-quarter (24%) were under 18, and the remaining 10 percent were between 18 and 24 years of age.

The sheltered population is younger than the unsheltered population, with nearly 30 percent under the age of 18, 61 percent over 24, and 10 percent between 18 and 24. In comparison, nearly 8 in 10 unsheltered homeless people are over 24; 9 percent are under 18, and 11 percent are between 18 and 24.

Veteran Brings Awareness of Homelessness In Fayette County

From October 31 through November 29th, on any given day or time, you could find Brandon Rumbaugh living in Marshall Memorial Plaza in Uniontown as a homeless person might be. Brandon is a veteran who was wounded in Afghanistan resulting in the loss of both legs. With the support of the city and local police, Brandon made Marshall his home to raise awareness for Veterans who are homeless. He asked that everyone take some time to research the topic and you will find that approximately 25% of all homeless persons are veterans. His motto is "for those I love, I will sacrifice", and he does this in a variety of ways including his focus on Homelessness at Marshall Memorial Plaza this Fall. You can support homeless veterans and the efforts of Mr. Rumbaugh via donations to his gofundme page that can be found at:

[https://www.gofundme.com/
veteransstandasone](https://www.gofundme.com/veteransstandasone)



FCBHA Employee Charitable Contributions

In 2015—\$1,350

Special Olympics—\$104

March of Dimes—\$480

Fayette Friends
of Animals—\$110

Miracle League—\$117

St Vincent DePaul—\$105

Patriot Guard Riders—\$87

Brandon Rumbaugh—\$187
Homeless Veteran Campaign

City Mission—\$60

City Mission—
Pocket Food Donations

City Mission / Chef Joe
Holiday Meals—\$100

**Success is finding satisfaction in
giving a little more than you take.**

Christopher Reeve



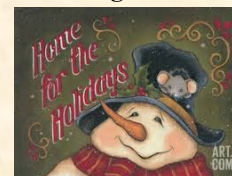
Shown above is Barb Keefer, recently retired from the Mental Health Association of Fayette County, accepting the Fifth Annual Human Service Worker of the Year Award presented by the Fayette County Human Service Council. The purpose of the award is to recognize and honor a Fayette County worker who exemplifies excellence and outstanding, consistent service that goes beyond regularly assigned job duties while promoting goodwill and community for their organization and their profession. The nominee should also actively demonstrated service characterized by a distinct graciousness, professionalism, earnest concern for others, and a sense of humor. Wow...that is a tall order but Barb has long been known to be all these things to the many people whose lives she has touched. Barb was nominated by Faith Sible and Kellie Gavran of FCBHA for so many reasons. They noted specifically for her “outstanding advocacy and tireless efforts in addressing and raising family and youth voice and awareness in education and human services.” With a history too deep to elaborate on fully, you can simply say that Barb was often a “game changer” for families. She facilitated optimal outcomes that allowed for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of children to thrive and be successful! **Congratulations Barb!** We join with the Human Service Council in thanking you for the many years of service you gave to Fayette County. We hope you enjoy retirement to the fullest...*we will miss you!*



But do you recall?

All the activities hosted by, sponsored by, and attended by FCBHA in 2015...here are just a few:

- A**—Advocacy Network is ready to operate independently in 2016 at Mental Health Association in Fayette County
- B**—Behavior Is Communication Training was presented by the Health Care Quality Unit (HCQU) on 9/15/15
- C**—Crisis Intervention Association of PA Conference, headed by FCBHA's Pat Morrison— 11/12/15
- D**—Dilemmas in Ethics Video Conference was held at FCBHA on 2/11/15
- E**—Educators received Mental Health / Crisis Intervention Training at Laurel Highlands School District—10/9/15
- F**—FCBHA Advisory Board begins accepting nominations for the Community Recognition Award on 11/2/15
- G**—Geibel High School meets Morris Morrison with the FCBHA-sponsored It's Your Life Program 10/8/15
- H**—Heart Disease Training presented by the HCQU on 11/17/15
- I**—ID / MH and Sex Offenders Video Conference held at FCBHA on 1/28/15
- J**—Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle all the way!
- K**—Karollers from ARC Fayette visit Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration—12/16/15
- L**—Local Interagency Coordinating Council—met at FCBHA on 9/9/15
- M**—Mental Health and Homelessness Video Conference at FCBHA on 12/9/15—Moms & Cops on 3/11/15
- N**—New Directions School meets Morris Morrison for the first time on 10/22/15 and hears about YouthMOVE
- O**—Overdose Prevention & Response Video Conference held at FCBHA on 2/25/15
- P**—Prepared Renter Education Program (PREP) Training was held at FCBHA on 11/24 for Case Managers
- Q**—Quality is never an accident, it is always the result of intelligent effort. John Ruskin
- R**—Representative Mahoney's Senior Fair at Uniontown Mall on 10/23/15—we were there!
- S**—Surviving After Suicide Video Conference held at FCBHA on 3/25/15
- T**—Treatments (evidence Based) for Post Traumatic Stress Disorders Video Conference at FCBHA on 9/15/15
- U**—Uniontown High School and Middle School sees the It's Your Life Presentation
- V**—Veterans Day Program to Commemorate all Veterans held at FCBHA on 11/10/15
- W**—Working with Reactive Attachment Disorder Children Video Conference at FCBHA on 11/18/15
- X**—Xcellence is what we strive for every day of the year
- Y**—YouthM.O.V.E Videos are introduced to the public—to see these go to <http://www.fcbha.org/YMOVE.html>
- Z**—Zero to age 3—Early Intervention Training held on 9/4/15 among other dates throughout the year



Our most favorite activities of all!

Morris Morrison Came to Town ...



Checking in with receptionist
Nicole Kmetz

Morris Morrison, international motivational speaker and friend of many in Fayette County, visited every High School and Middle School in Fayette County to motivate youth to aspire to be positive, productive, and proud. The Morris Morrison appearances were coordinated with the release of the [YouthMOVE Video series](#) created by members of the Fayette County Chapter of YouthMOVE and Staff Leaders at FCBHA. The video series presents the stories of 4 youth members of the group who volunteered to work with FCBHA and the Pennsylvania System of Care to bring a voice to the youth of the County. The stories were raw, real, and reflective of difficult times with positive outcomes and we commend the youth participants for their honesty and hard work on this project. Morris Morrison brought his own brand of enthusiasm and positivity that blended very well with the message in the YouthMOVE videos. FCBHA shares these messages with the goal of inspiring this valuable and malleable audience to find or build a sense of pride within themselves and for their hometown area of Fayette County. All students are encouraged to tell their stories at #fayettepride and to seek help from a teacher, guidance counselor or professional if ever life seems too much to manage.



Frazier High

Geibel does the Nae Nae!

At Adelphoi Village High School



Above, CEO Lisa
Ferris Kusniar &
Friends

At Left...a great day
at Connellsville
High School.



Morris with AG High School ROTC below.



*HAPPY Holidays...
Happy HOLIDAYS !!!*



*May Your Blessings
Be Many*

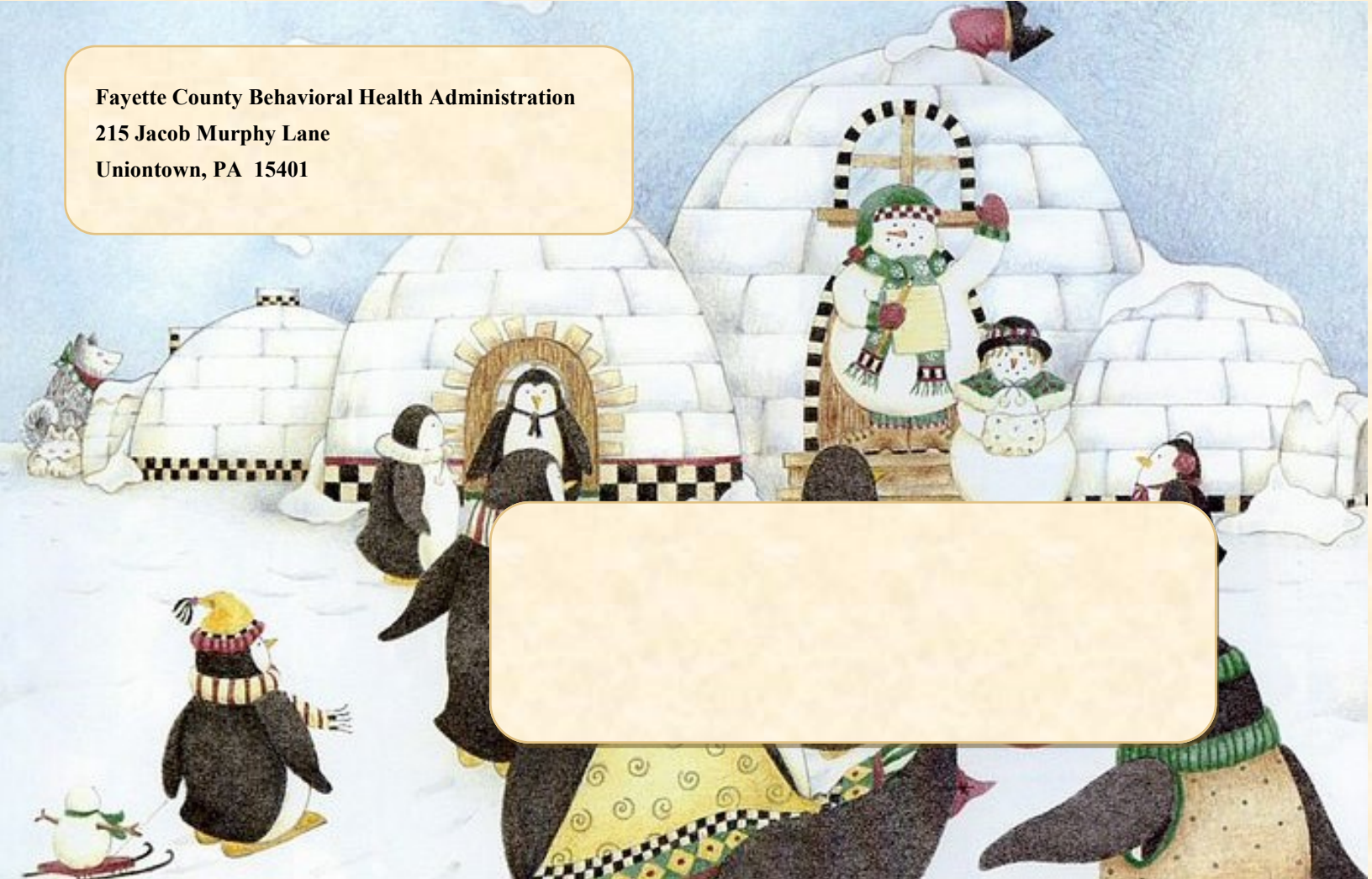


And Your Troubles Be Few....



*Merry Christmas
And Happy New Year
To You!*

Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration
215 Jacob Murphy Lane
Uniontown, PA 15401



**Fayette County
Behavioral Health
Administration**

(724) 430-1370

Lisa Ferris-Kusniar
Chief Executive Officer

www.FCBHA.org



**Fayette County
Board of Commissioners**

Alfred Ambrosini
Vincent Zapotosky
Angela M. Zimmerlink

**FCBHA Advisory Board
2016 Meeting Dates**

February 17, 2016
April 20, 2016
September 21, 2016
November 16, 2016

(open to the public)
5:30 PM

215 Jacob Murphy Lane
Uniontown, PA 15401
724-430-1370

Applications for the FCBHA Advisory Board are currently being accepted. For information about this Advisory Board and how to apply for a position on this Board, please visit our website:

<http://www.fcbha.org/Advisory.html>



**Video Conferences
And Trainings At FCBHA**

No videoconferences are currently planned. Please check the FCBHA website regularly for updates on the addition of videoconferences in 2016. Go to:

[http://www.fcbha.org/
Current.html](http://www.fcbha.org/Current.html)

The ANSWER is a publication of the Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration. Comments, questions or suggestions may be submitted to the Newsletter Editor at www.fcbha.org or Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration, 215 Jacob Murphy Lane, Uniontown, PA 15401.