

## AUTUMN 2018

### COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

#### SALUTE TO WOMEN

#### EXCEPTIONAL PARENT/ CAREGIVER AWARD

#### MIRACLE LEAGUE ALL-STAR GAME

#### SEPTEMBER AWARENESS

#### CRISIS INTERVENTION

#### OPEN YOUR HEART

#### CELEBRATING "40" YEARS

#### CRISIS CONFERENCE

#### L.I.C.C.

#### WORD SCRAMBLE

#### EMPOWERMENT TRAINING

#### MAJOR CHANGE AT ODP



Annually the Fayette County Behavioral Health Advisory Board presents a Community Recognition Award to an outstanding community leader or group. The recipients of this award have made notable efforts and significantly improved the lives of Fayette County's most vulnerable populations.

Past recipients include: Elias Gabriel, Agnes Almes, David Merlin, Joseph Mickens, William L. Hart, Gayla R. Lafferty, Sue Ann Koosher, Carmella Hardy, John R. Davis, Edward Kudyba, Ronald Parfitt, Jo Ann Jankoski, Pat Richardson-Koosher, Wilma King, Adrienne Wilson, Roy Sarver, Sister James Ann Germuska, Timothy Mahoney, Vincent Weaver III, Diana Heneks, Dr. Brian Eberts, Kim Schuessler and Michael Quinn.

If you would like to nominate a deserving individual or group for the 2018 Community Recognition Award, go to <http://fcbha.org/Community.html> or call (724) 430-1370 and speak with Nicole Fijalkovic.

The deadline for nominations is November 20, 2018.

## *Salute to Women*

On September 20, 2018, the Westmoreland Fayette Council and the Boy Scouts of America hosted an event to honor two great inspirational women. Dr. Jo Ann Jankoski and Devan White were recognized for their outstanding service to our community. Dr. Jo, a former FCBHA employee, is an Associate Professor of Human Development & Family Studies at Penn State Fayette. She volunteers for the American Red Cross to address the mental health needs of those experiencing a disaster. Dr. Jo is also a member of several human service boards, teams and task forces bringing relief to those whose lives have been impacted by the trauma human trafficking, suicide, sexual assaults and child deaths. As if that wasn't enough, she serves the community as a Eucharistic Minister for St. John the Evangelist Church in Uniontown.

Devan serves as Vice President at BPU Investment Management, Inc. and the Executive Board of Fayette County's Chamber of Commerce. Ms. White is a writer and editor for Gettysburg College alumni magazine. In her profession, she focuses on assisting families with making financial decisions to ease anxieties of life transitions.



# FAYETTE COUNTY RECOGNITION

## Fayette County Receives Nine Nominations

Beacon Health Options (formerly Value Behavioral Health of Pa) held their 12th Annual Family Forum on October 4, 2018. This forum is for families with children in HealthChoices featuring an Exceptional Parent/Caregiver Award Ceremony. This year's forum was especially memorable, for Fayette County was recognized in receiving nine nominations for the Exceptional Parent/Caregiver Award. This award acknowledges families that go the extra mile for their children and are actively engaged in their treatment. The recipient demonstrates courage, creativity, strength and resiliency in their child's journey as well as inspires hope in other families involved in the mental health system.

Only one winner is chosen from each county (Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Green, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington and Westmoreland).

## THE FIRST EVER MIRACLE LEAGUE ALL-STAR GAME



Each Miracle League organization selected one player and board member to attend this once in a lifetime opportunity held September 14-16, 2018 at the Blanchard Valley Health System Miracle Park in Findlay, OH. Jamie Basinger (shown left) was the player chosen from Fayette County to play in the first ever Miracle League All Star Game. Jamie felt like she "was famous" with all the attention and recognition she and the other athletes received.

Robert Prigg, Vice Chair and Heidi Smith, Board members of the Miracle League of PA Laurel Highlands also attended the event. They said it was an honor to attend the 1st Annual Miracle League All-Star game. Rob said the players were awesome and the field is something that he could not have imagined.

Rob and his family met players from all over the US and Canada. Some traveled over a 1,000 miles to play in this awesome event. Rob and Heidi were impressed with the sense of pride in the community and the beautiful field and playground facilities. Rob says it would be amazing if our league could someday provide a similar facility to our players.

Jamie is already counting down the days until next year's competition. Her mom Rita says they met so many amazing athletes and families from all across the United States and made many new friends.



# September Awareness

## National Suicide Prevention & Awareness Week

September 9-15, 2018 proclaimed by the Fayette County Board of Commissioners as Suicide Prevention and Awareness Week. According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, one person dies by suicide every 4 hours in Pennsylvania and suicide is the second leading cause of death for 15-34 year olds. Each person's death by suicide intimately affects at least six other people. Many who commit suicide never received effective behavioral health services for many reasons, one being the stigma of accessing services.

Fayette County Suicide Prevention Task Force is dedicated to reducing the frequency of suicide attempts and the pain of those affected by suicide through education, intervention and bereavement services.

To learn more about Suicide Prevention and Awareness in Fayette County, call Gina Donkers at (724) 430-1370.

*In the photo below Fayette County Commissioners are proclaiming Suicide Prevention & Awareness Week in Fayette County. Shown from left to right: Commissioner Dave Lohr, Fayette County Suicide Prevention & Awareness Task Force members Regina Donkers, Sgt. Earnest Nicholson (Retired National Guard Veteran) and Ramon "Tony" Rivera (Social Worker-SCI Fayette), Commissioners Vincent A. Vicites and Angela Zimmerlink.*



## National Recovery Month

A national observance held every September to educate Americans that substance use treatment and mental health services can enable those with a mental and/or substance use disorder to live a healthy and rewarding life.

SAMHSA's National Helpline 1-800-662-HELP (4357) for 24-hour, free and confidential information and treatment referral.

JOIN THE VOICES FOR RECOVERY  
invest in **health**, **home**, **purpose**, and **community**

National  
**Recovery Month**  
Prevention Works • Treatment is Effective • People Recover  
**september 2018**



[www.recoverymonth.gov](http://www.recoverymonth.gov)

[www.naadac.org/national-recovery-month](http://www.naadac.org/national-recovery-month)



## CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM TRAINING WORKS!

Officer Jennifer Field is a member of the Uniontown Police Department and a leader within Fayette County's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). CIT is a group of law enforcement professionals who have been specially trained to identify persons who may be experiencing emotional or mental health difficulties. Since its inception in Fayette County in 2012, fifty officers have completed the 40 hour specialized training. Officer Field has received additional training and is part of the steering committee that tailors the curriculum and matches training scenarios with experiences that officers are likely to encounter while on patrol. Her prior experience as a paramedic allows her assess possible medical needs, and the CIT training helps her recognize mental health concerns. Because of her expertise, she has been the lead responder on many mental health related calls. Officer Field often finds herself supporting victims of violent crimes who are in despair as well as providing hope to persons considering suicide. Her positive outlook and ability to help persons in crisis make her a valued asset to the City of Uniontown and to the entire county. She is looking forward to facilitating the next class of CIT Officers, and already has plans for fresh reality-based scenarios to help her follow officers hone their skills.

## Open Your **Heart** and Home

The Southwestern Area Agency on Aging, Inc. is looking for caring, understanding and patient individuals who are willing to become a certified Domiciliary Care Provider for persons unable to fully care for themselves. A Provider would offer quality care in their home for adults that cannot live independently due to physical, intellectual, or age related impairments. The Area Agency on Aging has been offering such services throughout Fayette, Greene, and Washington counties for over 30 years.

Providers are typically individuals or families who open their homes and are willing to provide residents with housing, support, care, and encouragement in a family-like setting. They are everyday people, our neighbors, making a difference in our community and in the lives of others.

As a Provider, you will receive a monthly stipend for each individual residing in your home. A Provider responsibilities include: housekeeping, preparing meals, laundry, medication set up, scheduling, and providing transportation to medical appointments. Domiciliary Care homes can accommodate 1-3 residents and are certified to meet the required fire, health, and local zoning standards.

If you are interested in becoming a certified Domiciliary Care Provider or want to refer someone who will benefit this program contact: Southwestern Pennsylvania Area Agency on Aging Domiciliary Care Program at 1-800-411-5655.



## **TWIN TREES INC. 40th Anniversary**

Twin Trees, Inc. is celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a service provider for individuals with developmental disabilities.

They offer a comprehensive array of services and support for people with intellectual disabilities including community residential services and community habilitation-based services in Fayette County. Homes are comfortable, well maintained, and provide a conducive environment for normal daily living experiences.

Twin Trees, Inc. received its non-profit incorporation status in June 1978. The agency has an 11-member governing board with administrative officers. They have grown from two residential homes serving six individuals, to seven residential homes serving twenty-one individuals and one individual receiving in home and community supports services in a senior high rise setting in the community.

They offer training in daily living activities and recreation, plus encouragement and support in being integrated into the community. All individuals are entitled to live and work in a style that is reflective of the Office of Developmental Programs philosophy of “Everyday Lives”, while living and working in the least restrictive environment possible. Twin Trees, Inc. believes all individuals benefit in moving toward independence, receiving respect and dignity while pursuing individual goals, and receiving community support and assistance to access the highest quality of services available.

Twin Trees, Inc. held their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on September 21, 2018 at the Aaron’s Building in Connellsville. In attendance were staff, individuals that receive services, Twin Trees, Inc. Board Members and a few special guests. The attendees enjoyed dinner and music. They received an inspiring presentation by Guest Speaker, Bill Krebs. Bill received the 2018 Roland Johnson Award at the National Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) Conference in Birmingham, Ala. He helped form the Young Adults Club/Autism First Collaborative Group at Liberty Service, a Cross-Disability Support and Self-Advocacy Group for individuals with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities. He is a proud recipient of a Brighter Future Award and the Justin Dart Award, among others. “Live the life you want to live,” Bill emphasizes. “Never forget where you came from. Who’s in charge? You’re in charge.”

Fayette County offers its most sincere appreciation to Twin Trees, Inc. for 40 years of service provided for its residents an intellectual disability in Fayette County!

## **THE CRISIS INTERVENTION ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA**



## **2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

### **A National Crisis: Interventions and Treatment Challenges Surrounding Human Trafficking and School Shootings**

**NOVEMBER 14 & 15, 2018  
NEMACOLIN WOODLANDS RESORT**

This year’s conference will focus on human trafficking, school shootings and how crisis intervention professionals, therapists, social workers, teachers and front-line professionals are forced to learn new strategies and treatments to serve the affected populations. This year’s conference will also include the “Stop the Bleed” training as well as workshops regarding suicide, information sharing, collaboration and other crisis related topics.

**Register at [www.crisispa.org](http://www.crisispa.org).**

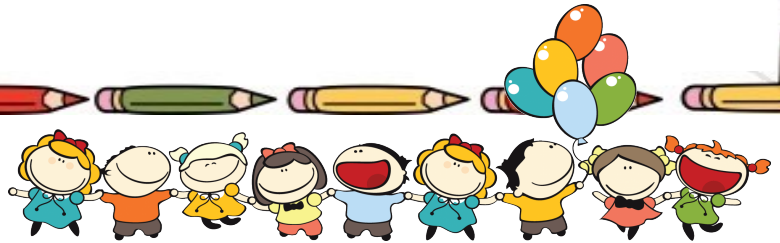


# L.I.C.C.

Are you familiar with Child Find? Child Find is a legal requirement that all children who have disabilities and who may be entitled to special education services be located. This is done by evaluating any child known or suspected to have a disability.

Sharing valuable information and resources like Child Find is one of the main focuses of the Fayette County Local Interagency Coordinating Council (L.I.C.C.). L.I.C.C. is comprised of Infant/Toddler and Pre-School (birth to age 5) providers, representatives from Head Start, the Department of Health, and parents/guardians of children receiving Early Intervention services. L.I.C.C. provides education by sponsoring fun events, special trainings and workshops. Families who currently receive services for their pre-school child may attend L.I.C.C. events for free.

To attend L.I.C.C. events, email [KerrySmith@FCBHA.org](mailto:KerrySmith@FCBHA.org) or call (724) 430-1370 to register.



## Thanksgiving Word Scramble

Unscramble the Thanksgiving words and then use the highlighted letters to form the secret message. You will have to unscramble the message as well.

ICUONROPCA

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# The Empowerment Training

At a recent FCBHA staff meeting, Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services, Inc.(CRCSI) Consumer Advisory Board provided a presentation titled, “The Empowerment Training”. This moving presentation included stories from five Board members in recovery in their quest for mental wellness. Each Board member shared life experiences that caused them to go through traumatic events and coping practices that were unhealthy mentally and physically. They have, with the help of peer supports and providers, such as CRCSI, overcome many barriers. They continue to grow and inspire others through advocacy and education. They are truly paying it forward.

Along with their testimonials the group created numerous signs and posters expressing their journey. The Board welcomed questions from staff. When asked, “What is the role of the Board?”, their response was to reduce stigma in the community. One way they plan to do so is to work on the development of orientation manuals and brochures for providers.

This presentation reminds us all of the reasons why we do what we do.



## Office of Developmental Programs Deputy Secretary Nancy Thaler Retires



Nancy Thaler, Deputy Secretary of the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP), has announced her retirement effective August 31, 2018. Secretary Thaler has served as the Deputy Secretary since June 2015. Previously, Thaler was Executive Director of the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services. She also previously served as the Director of Quality Improvement for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Deputy Thaler served the Commonwealth in the Department of Public Welfare (now DHS) from 1986 to 2003, first as Director of the Bureau of Community Programs, then as Deputy Secretary for the Office of Developmental Programs.

During her tenure as Deputy Secretary, she advanced the philosophy of “Everyday Lives,” confirming the right of people with disabilities to live an everyday life; a life that is no different from that of all other citizens. Secretary Thaler has always demonstrated the utmost respect for people with disabilities, promoted full inclusion in the community, and has been referred to as a “champion for individuals with disabilities in Pennsylvania.”

We wish Deputy Secretary Thaler well in her retirement.

*-article from RCPA News-September 2018 edition*

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**Fayette County  
Behavioral Health  
Administration**

(724) 430-1370

Lisa A. Ferris  
Chief Executive Officer

[www.FCBHA.org](http://www.FCBHA.org)



**Fayette County  
Board of Commissioners**

Vincent A. Vicites, Chairman  
Dave Lohr, Vice-Chairman  
Angela M. Zimmerlink, Secretary

Please check the  
FCBHA website regularly  
for the most updated  
information on  
Events and Trainings

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

**CONTACT Us:**  
(724) 430-1370  
[www.FCBHA.org](http://www.FCBHA.org)

**Office Hours**  
8:30 AM-4:30 PM

**Office Closures**  
11/12//2018—Veteran's Day  
11/22-23/2018 Thanksgiving Holiday

**ANSWER TO PAGE 6  
WORD SCRAMBLE**

CORNUCOPIA  
HARVEST  
NOVEMBER  
PILGRIM  
TURKEY  
CRANBERRY  
MAYFLOWER  
PLYMOUTH  
HOLIDAY  
WAMPANOAG  
PUMPKIN

THANK YOU FOR  
THIS DAY !

*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](http://www.fcbha.org) or  
Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration, 215 Jacob Murphy Lane, Uniontown, PA 15401.