

Fall 2010



CARENEWS

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INCLUSION LEVELS THE PLAYING FIELD FOR BAHS STUDENT

Rodney Jones, a ninth grade student at Bradford Area High School, is helping the Owls Varsity Football Team as manager this year. Both the team and coaching staff welcome students of all abilities, according to Varsity Coach Jeff Puglio.

"We want the athletic programs at Bradford High to be available to all of our students," said Puglio. "Students should have the opportunity to be part of a team and if they can't play they can still help us out as managers or statisticians."

Rodney is happy to play his part. "The coaches and team are great and I am thankful they found a way to include me," said Jones.

"Unless you have a child with special needs you will never know how good it feels to have your child included in something you never thought possible," adds Rodney's mom, Kelly Clark.

She and Rodney's father are grateful to everyone that made it possible for Rodney to join the team. "It is such a good feeling to hear him say before every home game 'I've got a game tonight'," added Clark.

Rodney has received physical therapy services from CARE since he was a baby and still receives school based physical and occupational therapy. He also participates in therapeutic recreation programs such as skiing, basketball, and Team Jeep Trail Rides.

According to his physical therapist, Barry Simon, MPT, team sports provide a great chance for Rodney to inspire with his winning attitude.



Bradford High Freshman and Owls Manager Rodney Jones, age 16, glides out onto the field with friend Roger Rhoades. Roger's wife Sherrie is Rodney's school aide and the Rhoades are close family friends. Photo courtesy of Shawn Murray Photography

"Rodney lives for social interaction; he is a true people person. Inclusion in his regular classes, in band and orchestra, and by working as manager for the football team helps to boost his self confidence, interpersonal skills, and bridges gaps to his peers," stated Simon.

"Communication is the key to Rodney's future and independence and it is gratifying to see his family and friends, his school, and our agency partner to support him," Simon added.

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR CHILDREN OF ALL ABILITIES



CARE for Children is one step closer to its dream of opening a therapy, health and early learning center for children of all abilities by purchasing a property in Bradford.

The site, located at 723 East Main Street (which formerly housed Sundahl Insurance Company), is one block south of the agency's current location on Russell Boulevard.

"CARE for Children has had many homes over its 86-year history and the board determined that the time has come to have a community center for children that will address the diverse needs of the local pediatric population," said Mick Marshall, Board President.

"We are hoping to begin work on an 8,000 to 10,000 square foot facility within two years, but it will depend on the level of support from the community and how quickly we can secure the necessary funding," said Joe Yaros, Building Committee Chair.

"CARE has experienced unprecedented growth in the number and scope of services we currently provide," said Tina Martin, CARE Executive Director. "We have worked hard to strengthen our infrastructure and improve quality service delivery in preparation of a project of this size."

CARE for Children unveiled the sign for the new property. Pictured above from left to right are Mick Marshall, Board President, Tina Martin, Executive Director, Kimberly Engstrom, Preschool Director, Maggie Graffius and Nicolas DeGoller, preschool students, Mandi Wilton Davis, Development & Marketing Coordinator, Kim Murphey, Community Relations Coordinator, Tom Ball, Board Secretary, Scott Bayline, Board Member and Joe Yaros, Board Treasurer.

CARE SOCCER STARS



Children receiving services from CARE for Children were able to show off their abilities in October during a soccer stars mini camp, hosted by the agency and the University of Pittsburgh Bradford Lady Panthers soccer team. The evening was part of CARE's therapeutic recreation program.

Twenty-five children were able to practice various soccer skills, including passing, kicking and goal-tending, and concluded the event by playing a game. Every child also took home a soccer ball.

"Everyone seemed to have a good time," said team member Holly, "I know they did a good job of wearing us out. They all have so much energy!"

This was the first time CARE has hosted a soccer event as part of the therapeutic recreation program.



"Our partnership with the Pitt Bradford Athletic Department is allowing us to implement new programs, and we're proud to collaborate with the Lady Panthers Soccer Team and Coach Mike Idland," said Kim Murphey, community relations coordinator and event organizer. "They did a fantastic job, and we're looking forward to working with the team next year."

CARE's goals for therapeutic recreation include fun activities that promote life-long fitness and provide a creative and rewarding extension to traditional therapy services. The United Way of the Bradford Area provided the funding for program staffing and soccer balls for each child.

While CARE kids were practicing their soccer skills, fifteen parents participated in a family support meeting. Christy Chesebro, Coordinator of the Guidance Center's new Autism Program talked about stress management techniques for parents of children with special health care needs.

Top: Carmine, age 10, guards the goal with Lady Panther Holly during the camp.
Bottom: Damien, age 7, looks like a pro as he takes to the field.

LOCAL OILMEN GIVE BACK

The McKean County Oilmen's Association and Aiello Brothers Oil & Gas donated the proceeds from the Oilmen's annual golf tournament, held Thursday, August 19th at the Pennhills Country Club, to CARE for Children to benefit pediatric therapy services for children of all abilities.

According to Dan Neilly, of S.W. Neilly, who was one of the event organizers, "The oilmen like to give back to the communities in which we live and work. We wanted to recognize the good work that CARE does for local children across the county."



Pictured from left to right are Kim Murphey, CARE community relations coordinator; Bob Burkett and Dan Neilly of S.W. Neilly; Mandi Wilton Davis, CARE development & marketing coordinator; and Bret Frederick of Frederick Drilling. Joining them is Andrew Kuzmeskas, age 7, son of Kristina Luzzi of Bradford.

Andrew is a second grade student at George G. Blaisdell Elementary School. He receives both school based occupational and physical therapy services from the non-profit organization.



Above: Cody, age 9, rides the wagon at Mystic Waters Resort during CARE's Family Picnic with his mom Chanda and his grandfather Richard. Over 30 families attended the annual event on August 25.
Right: Pine Acres PGA professional Kirk Stauffer gives a guiding hand to Jonah, age 6, at CARE's 8th annual Adaptive Golf Outing on August 17. Twelve children and their families attended the event.

SO LONG TO SUMMER



RAINBOW CORNER PRESCHOOL STUDENTS MAKE FALL FUN!



Left: Rainbow Corner student Cosette, age 4, helps teacher Miss Kimberly, peel an apple for crock pot apple crisp. Right: Preschool Aide, Miss Jan, paints the foot of Addie, age 4, for a bulletin board that will turn little footprints into little ghosts.

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

Love Me? Buckle Me!

To mark Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Week, September 19-25, the Pennsylvania State Police held a car seat safety check at the Kane Barracks on Thursday, September 23.

Certified passenger seat technicians from the Pennsylvania State Police- Kane Barracks inspected thirteen child safety seats, and Safe Kids and AAA replaced three outdated seats.

According to Safe Kids McKean Co-Coordinator, Kim Murphey, the safety event reached families from Kane and Mt. Jewett, and some families traveled from Bradford.

"The State Police work hard to keep children safe and these events highlight those efforts and the active partnerships they encourage with other organizations that promote child injury prevention," said Murphey.

Safe Kids McKean was joined by the AAA of Western Pennsylvania, PENNDOT, and the Central PA Safety Zone at the car seat check. Each agency provided safety items and materials to parents.

Also on Thursday, Safe Kids Coordinator Tina Martin read "Do Kangaroos Wear Seat Belts?" to students at Rainbow Corner Preschool. Children were given hand-outs and activities to promote proper child passenger safety seat use.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children age 3 to 6 and 8 to 14. Every day in the United States, an average of 4 children age 14 and younger were killed and 529 were injured in motor vehicle crashes during 2008.

For more information on Child Passenger Safety Week, a national effort to remind parents and caregivers of the lifesaving effect child safety seats have in protecting young children, please visit www.nhtsa.gov/cps.



Pictured above: James Dillaman, age 6 1/2 months gets his car seat checked by Corporal Joe Klinger at the CPS check at the Kane Barracks of the PA State Police. Left: James' sister Irene, age 2, is happy with her bag of safety items and coloring pages. They are the children of Craig and Brianna Dillaman.



Safe Kids McKean Co-Sponsors SIDS Prevention Symposium

Safe Kids McKean, The Guidance Center and the McKean County Collaborative Board partnered to sponsor *Seeking Solutions in McKean County for Families and Communities Impacted by Sudden Unexplained Infant Death* at the University of Pittsburgh Bradford Campus on September 16th.

There is nothing so shattering for a family and a community as the death of a child. The workshop highlighted that many of the risk factors for SIDS are avoidable.

Risk factors include: Tobacco use by the mother during pregnancy and second hand smoke following birth; not positioning baby on their back to sleep; unsafe sleep environments that can include bed sharing with baby or having baby sleep on couches or chairs or having blankets, stuffed animals, crib bumpers and other objects in the crib with baby.

Over 50 human services and health care professionals, as well as representatives from local law enforcement including McKean County District Attorney Ray Learn, attended the SIDS prevention training.

The presenters included Jan Walkden from the Western New York State Center for Sudden Infant Death, Vick Zittle, Director for Child Death Review in Pennsylvania, and Eileen Carland, Support Services Coordinator for Sudden Infant Death Services of Pennsylvania.

Each presenter discussed different facets of SIDS including the necessary role the coordination of resources plays in the continuum of care; the ways in which grief and bereavement impact families and how professionals can help; and how the death review process enables better prevention programs and education.

There was also a discussion of the the ways in which law enforcement, human services and health care can work together to encourage prevention efforts and support the child death review process.

Safe Kids McKean is dedicated to initiatives that prevent accidental injury to children.



Safe Kids McKean is a collaboration of agencies and individuals in McKean County dedicated to promoting child safety and injury prevention. CARE for Children is the lead agency for the Safe Kids McKean chapter.

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CARE 'fore' Children 17th Annual Golf Tournament Raises \$12,000 for Pediatric Services

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BIKERS RIDE TO SUPPORT SPECIAL KIDS!

The fifth annual Charlie's Cycle Center "Lets Ride For Special Kids" bike run was held Saturday, July 31, and once again proved successful as \$1,275 was raised to benefit CARE for Children. This year's event featured 60 drivers, and an additional 21 passengers, and began at Charlie's new location on Minard Run Road in Bradford and made stops at seven local taverns. Participants traveled more than 100 miles through McKean County, concluding at Byllye Lanes Bowling Center in Bradford, where riders were treated to a chicken barbeque, raffles and prizes, and live entertainment. CARE for Children utilizes the funds to support community outreach programs for kids with disabilities. The run was sponsored by Charlie's Cycle Center, Byllye Lanes and Coors Light.



CARE for Children Giving

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Milo Bennett
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In Honor of
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CARE for Children wishes to express our appreciation to those who have made a contribution.

If you would like to give a memorial, honorarium, donation to the agency or the CARE for Children Trust, please call 814-362-4621 or visit the CARE website at www.careforchildren.info. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

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that we may apologize and
correct the mistake.*

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