

CARE for Children

Building Campaign for the Future of Children of All Abilities



www.careforchildren.info
814-362-4621



Improving the Lives of Children in McKean County, Pennsylvania since 1924

Help Us Grow- A Letter from the Campaign Chairs

It is an honor and privilege for us to serve as co-chairs of the building campaign for CARE for Children. As healthcare professionals we have seen first hand on many occasions children who flourished as a result of receiving services provided by CARE. As long time board members, we have supported and embraced the mission of CARE which is to serve children of all abilities.

No successful organization can stand still. CARE for Children has never been complacent. CARE is an energetic and dynamic organization continually moving forward to best serve children in our area.

Traditionally CARE provided physical therapy, orthopedic clinics and a preschool program. To meet unmet needs of children in our community, additional services were added over the last decade and include Occupational Therapy, Early Intervention, leadership of Safe Kids McKean County, Disability Awareness for 4th grade students throughout the county, Therapeutic Recreation and Family Support Services for children with disabilities, and a Parent Resource Center at the Bradford Area Public Library to name a few. Over the last ten years operating revenues have increased three fold and staff has increased from six to nineteen to deliver these services. The demand for CARE services continues. The staff and the board, through a strategic planning process, are committed to anticipating and meeting the the unmet needs of children and their families as we have for the past 88 years.

In 2009 CARE for Children purchased land at 723 East Main Street in Bradford. Our current building is no longer adequate to meet the needs of the children we serve. We are embarking on a building campaign to raise \$2,100,000 to provide a permanent home for CARE. The proposed facility will better support current services and allow for future expansion of services that are in alignment with ever changing treatment needs for children and their families. We are pleased to be chairing this building campaign and are committed to ensuring it reaches its goal in a way that honors CARE's mission. Join us. We can and will make a difference for the children in our community.

Sincerely,


Karen Gelston


Deborah Price



Building Campaign Leadership Committee: Standing (l-r) Valorie Coast, Philip Bauschard, Karen Gelston, Dana Sampson, Richard Johnson, Scott Bayline, Jan Brown, Thomas Ball, William Todd, Amanda Wilton Davis, James Macfarlane, Kimberly Murphey, Tina M. Martin, Mick Marshall. Seated (l-r) Kelly Case, Deborah Price, Marcia Morrison, Ashley Carlson, Kimberly Engstrom and Alla Marie "Bunny" Comilla. Not pictured: Daniel J. Wertz and Joseph Yaros, Building Committee Chair.



The Ashley Booth Griffin CARE for Children Center
East Main Street Entrance



Russell Boulevard Entrance

Help Us Grow-The Ashley Booth Griffin CARE for Children Center



Ashley Booth Griffin

On May 7th, 2012, CARE for Children launched the public phase of its 'Building Campaign for the Future of Children of All Abilities' to support the construction of the organization's nearly-10,000 square-foot facility at 723 East Main Street in Bradford, Pennsylvania.

With a lead gift of \$1,000,000 from Zippo Manufacturing Company, Owner and Chairman of the Board, George W. Duke secured the naming rights of the facility, which is named for Ashley Booth Griffin, who tragically lost her life in an automobile accident in 2008.

Calling it a "divine inspiration", Mr. Duke saw this as the perfect opportunity to bring attention to CARE, and to honor Ashley's memory.

Ashley's parents, Zippo President and Chief Executive Officer, Greg Booth and his wife Cherie, were "floored, thrilled, blessed beyond comprehension that something like this would come out of the tragedy of losing our beautiful Ashley" and they take great comfort in knowing that her daughters, Jaden and Tayga, will proudly remember their "mommy" through the facility that bears her name and serves children such as themselves.

The new facility officially broke ground on June, 25th, 2012 with the opening dedication planned for Spring of 2013. The center will better support current services and allow for future expansion of services; emphasize service delivery by CARE's commitment to pediatric program expansion and accessibility; and strengthen the identity of the organization by making it a constant presence and enduring asset for the entire community. More than just a permanent home for CARE, the Ashley Booth Griffin CARE for Children Center will strive to meet the ever-changing treatment needs for children and their families.

The goal includes an estimated \$1,700,000 for construction and related costs; \$160,000 for the property purchases; and \$200,000 for additional parking, construction of an adaptive playground, and office and therapy equipment. The remainder of any funds raised will be used for an endowment for future building improvements and repairs.

The 'Building Campaign for the Future of Children of All Abilities' is the largest fundraising effort in CARE's history. The Zippo gift has set the pace for the 2.1 million dollar goal.



George W. Duke, Zippo Owner and Chairman of the Board; and Ashley Booth Griffin's family - husband Aaron Griffin, daughters Tayga and Jaden, and parents Cherie and Greg Booth - at the groundbreaking for the Ashley Booth Griffin CARE for Children Center

Help Us Grow as CARE Helps Local Children as They Grow

CARE for Children works to make a difference in the lives of children in rural McKean County, Pennsylvania and the surrounding region in four focus areas:

Early Learning:

Early Intervention (Birth to Three) Special Instruction and Language Coaching
Rainbow Corner Preschool
Toddler Developmental Playgroup

Pediatric Therapy and Health Services:

Early Intervention (Birth to Three) Occupational & Physical Therapy
School Based Physical & Occupational Therapy
Shriners Orthopedic Clinic
Verner W. Smith Adaptive Equipment Clinic
Scoliosis & Developmental Screenings
Pediatric Equipment Loan Program

Community Outreach Programs for Children with Disabilities:

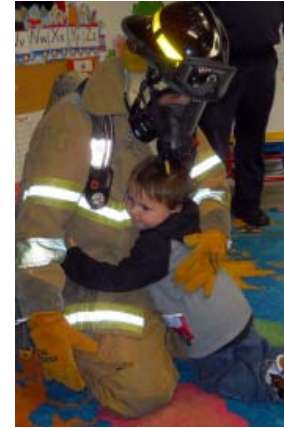
Therapeutic Recreation
Family Support
Disability Awareness

Child Safety & Injury Prevention:

(Program Leadership of Safe Kids McKean County)

Bicycle Safety
Child Passenger Seat Safety
Youth Sports Injury Prevention
Bringing Up Safe Babies Campaign

CARE has retained its identity as a unique, independent non-profit and continues as a strong, mission-driven organization.



Helping Our Most Vulnerable Grow and Thrive

Xander

CARE for Children has impacted our family greatly over the past few years. I was first introduced to CARE when my daughter, Layne, now age four, was not walking at 14 months of age. A therapist came to the house weekly and worked with her. She began walking at age two and has not slowed down since. Layne now attends pre-k with her friends.

In December of 2010, my son, Xander, was born two months prematurely. He remained in the Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit at Pittsburgh Children's Hospital for two weeks.

Upon discharge, Xander was not moving his arms and legs properly and had limited head movement to the left. The doctors were concerned with sleep apnea and he required monitoring while sleeping. Due to his atypical movements, Xander was referred for therapy services. In addition to therapy, it was also recommended Xander see an orthopedist. We were able to visit the Shiner's Clinic in Bradford that is held at CARE, so we did not have to make the long trip to Erie.

The therapists are in our home weekly and they give Xander the one-on-one attention he needs to move forward and reach important developmental milestones. In the past year, he has had many hurdles to climb and multiple diagnoses. Without the support and therapies from CARE he would not be where he is today, taking a few steps on his own, playing with toys independently, and laughing with his brothers and sisters.

CARE does not only provide therapies to children, but they provide support for families with special needs. It can be challenging to live in a small town and have a child with a disability, but with the support of CARE the challenges can be overcome. --**Amanda Gocella**



Helping Children Grow through Early Learning



Cosette

Cosette was adopted from Chongqing in Southwest China. This area is in the Sichuan region, known for its spicy food and having the world's foremost research and breeding center for giant pandas. Our journey to China began with a 15-hour flight to Hong Kong on November 8, 2007, about two years after our adoption process began. We returned home with our beautiful one-year-old on Thanksgiving Day. Cosette is named after the young heroine from the novel *Les Miserables*.

Cosette was born with a cleft lip and palate, for which she has had surgery to repair. In addition, she struggled with speech difficulties due to her medical issues, as well as having heard only the Chinese language for her first year of life.



During the adoption process, we were not very familiar with the Rainbow Corner Preschool. Our introduction to CARE for Children came about in two primary ways. The preschool program came highly recommended to us by another parent, and Tony became familiar with CARE while completing an internship for graduate school.

The care and attention from staff was immediately apparent when Cosette began attending Rainbow Corner. While attending this preschool program, Cosette received weekly speech therapy through the IU9 Early Intervention Program. We strongly feel the combination of speech therapy and the Rainbow Corner Preschool made it possible for Cosette to flourish and improve her speech to the point that she recently tested out of speech therapy services.



This program provided our daughter with a warm, supportive environment which allowed her to learn and develop necessary social skills. We will forever be thankful for the support provided to our family from CARE and Rainbow Corner. -- **Tony and Kristina Sowers**

Helping Children Grow and Empowering Families

Andrew

Sometimes children with challenges are not readily identifiable. A child with a developmental disability can be overlooked or go undiagnosed because they don't match text book hallmarks of certain conditions.

My son Andy was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome in 2010. He is a very energetic, athletic, and fun-loving 9 year-old boy in third grade at School Street Elementary. He has an older brother Alec, age 12.

Andy had some difficulties in school beginning in Pre-Kindergarten. After struggling for some time to figure out how to help him, I did extensive research, contacted local agencies, and worked with his school.

CARE for Children was a game-changer for Andy. After contacting CARE, they worked with the school to set up Occupational and Physical Therapy evaluations. Those therapeutic screenings indicated that Andy would benefit from school based services and discovered areas where he needed help that were new, and strategies to address those areas.

Along the way, I learned to be a vocal advocate for my child and to not settle for anything less than the supports needed to help him reach his potential. Once he began receiving OT & PT services; they dove-tailed into services we had already put in place and it was a new ball game for Andy... this is where the foundation to Andy's success was laid.

No family can go it alone. We are fortunate to have a very loving and involved extended family that provides a strong support system. And it is incredible to have so many supporting services nestled in our rural community. They provide more than most imagine.

CARE has proven to be a leader in providing children of all abilities with cutting edge therapies, services, and knowledge to allow them to succeed in truly living and enjoying their lives as children. A dollar value cannot be placed on each success story that comes out of CARE for Children or the aid they have provided to Andy and my family.

The need to support and improve these services will allow these successes to continue to provide game-changing services to children for generations to come.

-- **Kristina Luzzi with sons Andrew and Alec Kuzmeskas**



Helping Children Grow and Find Their Way



Wyatt

When Wyatt was born, we were told he may never walk or hold his own spoon to feed himself, today with the help of CARE services, Wyatt has thrived. He not only walks but plays soccer for Fretz Middle School, skis at Holiday Valley with the Lounsbury organization, and plays baseball for West Branch. This year he pitched his first inning during a baseball game and faced 4 batters and had 2 strike outs.



Wyatt was born in October, 1998 with a muscle condition called Arthrogryposis. When he was 2 days old they casted his legs, he had very few muscles in his arms and legs. Learning from the doctors that early therapy helps this condition immensely, we were eager to get started. At 9 days old, he received his first occupational and physical therapy sessions right at our home.

When he turned 3, Wyatt was introduced to CARE for Children after we enrolled him in the preschool program. The day after his 3rd Birthday, Wyatt made his way to Rainbow Corner with teacher, Kimberly Engstrom. We have been involved with CARE ever since.



The summer before he went to Kindergarten, Wyatt had surgery on both legs at Shriners Hospital and was not to put any weight on them. We borrowed a wheelchair from CARE. When Wyatt entered the Bradford School District he received school based OT and PT from CARE to support his learning and help him with daily tasks. Through his thirteen years he has had several surgeries and countless therapy sessions.

Over the years Wyatt has attended recreation programs with other CARE kids. He has made great friends and knows he's not alone in his struggles. From the Jeep rides at the Boy Scout camp to swimming at Pitt, Wyatt always looked forward to the fun programs that were offered. Not only did he like them, but it gave us time to talk to the other parents.



For the past several years, CARE has had a huge effect on this community. We think that CARE teaches tolerance and acceptance for children of all abilities. The CARE staff is committed to helping the community learn about all different children and how to help each child find their way.

I believe McKean County will always need CARE for Children in this community. The need is very big and what a great way to help children and their families. If you think back 25 – 30 years ago a child with a disability was put away never to know their full potential, but with CARE they have a chance to have a great, meaningful life. --

Michele & Scott McCann

Helping Children Grow with a Continuum of CARE

Rodney

Rodney had a bit of a rough start. He was born 2 ½ months prematurely and spent the first 5 months of his life in the NICU at the Buffalo Childrens Hospital, now known as Buffalo Women and Children's Hospital. Rod weighed 2 lbs. 11 ½ oz. and was 15 inches long.

Rodney was about 3 months old when he was diagnosed with Periventricular Leukomalacia and at that time we were told Rodney's condition may have little effect on him or it could be so severe that he may not be able to do anything at all. Being a young mother I don't think at that time I realized what that really meant.

During Rodney's first few years of life he had many difficulties with eating, sitting, rolling over, just normal things he should be doing. He began with all kinds of therapies at home such as OT, PT and speech. When he turned 3 Rodney began receiving services through CARE for Children. And honestly the name says it all because they really do care about our children. This is when Rodney began going to Rainbow Corner Preschool. I didn't realize this was the foundation for his education.

Through the years CARE for Children has provided Occupational therapy, Physical Therapy as well as different programs for all of the areas special needs children. In the summer time the kids go to a summer day camp. CARE provides many activities such as Volleyball, Basketball, Adaptive Skiing and swimming for the kids. They have activities such as Halloween Parties and at Christmas time a movie is provided downtown at Dipson Theatre for the kids and their families to enjoy. CARE provides equipment and therapies for our children and really we can't thank them enough for all they do not just for Rodney but all of the kids in our area.

Rodney is now 17 and in a few months will have his 18th birthday. CARE will continue to be part of our lives as now they will be helping us transition him into adulthood.

CARE has done so much for us over the years and helped us in so many ways its hard for me to put into words how grateful we are to have a place with the services they provide, to have a place with such helpful, compassionate and caring people. Rodney would not be where he is today if CARE was not part of his life. Thank you for all that you do. --**Kelly and Jess Jones**



How CARE has Grown

Since 1924, CARE for Children has evolved; in its mission, and through its vision. Formed by members of local government, the school districts, and area Rotary Clubs in 1924, the Society for Crippled Children began with a simple idea that had far-reaching consequences: "... *that idea being that the welfare of physically handicapped children should not be left to chance, that an area as large as McKean County should have a formally organized body whose sole purpose was to better the lot of crippled children.*" (R. B. Bromley). The organization transitioned to and from the McKean County Easter Seals Society and grew into CARE for Children, representing the **Consultative, Adaptive, Rehabilitative and Educational** services that the organization provides in the region.

Organizational growth has been directed by the vision of an ability-focused culture which aims to empower children and to promote inclusion. The name CARE for Children also represents a cultural shift and the many changes in the treatment of children with disabilities; as the era of polio, heavy braces, iron lungs, exclusion and hopelessness, gave way to inclusion, new treatments, new attitudes, and new hope for children. That culture is actively promoted and mirrored in the organization's mission statement adopted by the Board of Directors in 2002: **CARE for Children is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children of all abilities.**

CARE for Children has strategically focused on providing unduplicated services which will enhance the quality of life for children in the region, and has been inspired through collaborative efforts with numerous local, county and statewide organizations to effectively deliver those services.

CARE is not only dedicated to being a leader in pediatric services but is committed to organizational capacity building and a best-practices model in non-profit governance and management. In 2004 CARE was one of the first ten organizations in the state of Pennsylvania to receive the Pennsylvania Association of Non-Profit Organizations (PANO) – Seal for Excellence – recognizing CARE's adherence to meeting or exceeding the highest standards in management, governance and fundraising. The Seal for Excellence was renewed in 2007, and is in the process for a 2012 renewal.

Because of unprecedented organizational growth, in 2006 the board of directors and key staff set forth a strategic five-year plan to buy and renovate a property, or construct a new facility. In 2011, architect Rick Larson and his team from R.W. Larson & Associates began the design phase. In June, 2012, Bob Cummins Construction Company was awarded the general contracting bid, breaking ground on June 25.

The Ashley Booth Griffin CARE for Children Center will enable the organization to provide a balanced blend of clinical, educational, and community outreach programs and services for children. In the next ten years CARE's goal is to become a regional center of excellence to support the unique developmental needs of local children.

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Alla Marie 'Bunny' Comilla

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Richard Johnson

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Deborah Price

Dana Sampson

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Daniel J. Wertz

Advisory Board:

Dr. Rebecca Miller, M.D.

How You Can Help CARE Grow

“One hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove...but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child.” (Excerpt from “Within My Power” by Forest Witcraft)

The Ashley Booth Griffin CARE for Children Center will enable CARE to continue its legacy of helping children reach their potential.

Please ‘Help CARE Grow’ by your support of the campaign *Building the Future of Children of All Abilities*. Your tax-deductible* gift will make a lasting difference in the lives of local children of all abilities.

For more information, please call 814-362-4621; or visit www.careforchildren.info.



**We invite you to join
CARE’s \$2.1 million
campaign as we build the
future for children of all
abilities.**

Giving Levels

Platinum = \$10,000 and up

*Naming Opportunities are available for donors
at the Platinum Level.*

Gold = \$7,500 - \$9,999

Silver = \$5,000 - \$7,499

Bronze = \$2,500 - \$4,999

CARE Leader = \$1,000 - \$2,499

CARE Builder = \$500 - \$999

CARE Achiever = \$250 - \$499

CARE Champion = \$100 - \$249

CARE Advocate = \$50 - \$99

CARE Hero = \$10 - \$49

All gifts to the Building Campaign will be acknowledged unless the donor requests anonymity. CARE for Children adheres to the donor bill of rights, which signifies the organization’s commitment to safeguarding donor privacy and the wishes of the donor.

**CARE for Children is a 501(c)(3) organization and all gifts are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.*

The official registration and financial information of CARE for Children may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.