

A publication for the friends and families of Cray Youth and Family Services, Inc.

Office: 44 South Beaver St.
New Castle, PA 16101
(724) 654-5507
www.CrayYouth.org
www.ConfluenceCoffee.org

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CROSSROADS DIRECTOR RETIRES

At the end of December one of Cray's most beloved staff members, Phil Vanasco, retired from his post as Director of Crossroads after school program. Phil had been with Cray for over 28 years. Over that time, he positively impacted the lives of countless children and their family members.

To say that Phil was good at what he did, is greatly understating the impact he has had. I have seen many people do childcare work during my career and I will tell you that no one did it better than Phil. His compassion, understanding and most importantly, his patience and persistence were simply unmatched. Oh, I forgot to mention his work ethic as well. Phil was a big man, both literally and figuratively.



Phil has left his mark on our community. He has touched so many lives and made them better. He should be very proud of what he has accomplished. I know that I am blessed to have known him, to have worked so many years with him, and to call him my friend.

Everyone at Cray will miss Phil and we all wish him a joyful, healthy and peaceful retirement. He has certainly earned it!

-David Copper
Executive Director



CRAY'S MAIN OFFICE HAS MOVED

44 South Beaver Street, New Castle, PA 16101

Thank You

For your generosity this holiday season!

Every year Cray is humbled by the generosity of our community during the holiday season to help our kids and families. We are so grateful for your Christmas gift donations, financial donations, and volunteers who have helped with everything from decorating to stuffing envelopes, to making holiday parties fun!

From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU!

Sincerely,

David Copper, Executive Director



Every Christmas, Cray reaches out to supporters for financial gifts that benefit the agency all year long!

Thank you for responding to that request and thank you for investing in our mission of 'making life better for kids'.

SPECIAL THANKS TO GIFT DONORS

- Erie Insurance
- Liberty Mutual Insurance
- Treloar & Heisel
- The Shaffer Family
- Toni Bullano
- American Postal Workers Union
- United Transportation Union
- Villa Marie
- Wampum Women's Club
- Westminster College
- GAP & Baby GAP Outlet Manager, JoAnn Chiafullo, and her employees have helped Cray Challenges students out for the last 13 years! This year they sent hooded sweatshirts, and socks. Cray is grateful to them for their long-standing commitment to help our students!



1-2-1 MENTORING IN AWE OF HOLIDAYS



Westminster College's Office of Faith and Spirituality coordinated an amazing display of generosity from the students and staff on campus. Their Angel Tree helped provide presents for 50 children in Cray's 1-2-1 Mentoring Program. Thank you for 'adopting us' again this year!

Celebrating their 10th annual Christmas Party with their matches, Highland and Glen-Moore Presbyterian Churches hosted an amazing dinner, entertainment by the Mercer Show Choir, BINGO with Margie and Dave Kerr, and a visit from Santa.



1-2-1 Mentoring

1-2-1 is
funded in
part by :



(724) 654-5507

CrayMentor@gmail.com

Advisory Council Members

Chip Rickenbach: Chairperson

Chris Cunningham: Vice-Chair

Don Hollerman: Treasurer

Jane Fobes

Miriam Gwin

Michelle Locke

Bernie Muckian

1-2-1 Staff

1-2-1 Director: Allisyn Wolfe

Case Worker: Tiffany Wellman

1-2-1 Mentoring seeks to make life better for kids in Lawrence County through the power of meaningful relationships!

Bowl-A-Thon



Save the Date:
Sat., April 7, 2018

@ Colonial Lanes

GET INVOLVED!

- Create a bowling team!
- Be a lane sponsor (\$150-1,200 includes varying levels of recognition for your business.)
- Be an in-kind sponsor (donate food, a service, or auction item)
- All proceeds stay in Lawrence County & benefit 1-2-1 Mentoring!
- Event raises about 20% of 1-2-1's annual budget!
- Visit www.CrayYouth.org or call Allisyn at 724-654-5507

CURRENTLY
SERVING

66

KIDS

1-2-1 Mentoring does not receive state or federal funding and operates through foundation grants and individual and corporate donations. Since 1995, we have matched over 700 at-risk youth with a caring mentor. Thank you for your support!

Thank You

ECOLAB[®]

 **THE
GRABLE
FOUNDATION**
dedicated to improving the lives of children



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1-2-1 Mentoring Replaces Big Brothers Big Sisters Program

Same Great Program, New Name

Cray is still offering a great mentoring program that matches children in Lawrence County with caring mentors, but just under a new name: 1-2-1 Mentoring. After being connected for 24 years as an affiliate of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, new staffing and revenue requirements by the national office would have increased our local chapter's operating costs by more than 50%. Since the local program operates solely through the generosity of donors, grants, and the United Way, a simple switch in name will allow our mentoring program to continue.

Many of the same programmatic elements, policies, and procedures will continue uninterrupted. Our community partners, mentors, and families have all stuck with us through the transition. Cray is proud of the partnership with BBBS, that allowed the program to grow and match over 700 children to date. We are also excited to have discovered a way to keep this opportunity in Lawrence County and continue to make life better for kids through the power of meaningful relationships.

If you have any questions about this transition or would like to get involved through your time, talent, or treasury, please don't hesitate to contact the 1-2-1 Mentoring Director, Allisyn Wolfe, at 724-654-5507.

'Compeer Youth' Expands 1-2-1

Thanks to a grant from the Staunton Farm Foundation, 1-2-1 can now train volunteers to help meet the needs of children with mental health diagnoses. Compeer is a national, evidence-based model designed to compliment other mental health services that a child is receiving.

A volunteer interested in working with Compeer Youth, will receive a little extra training and more support from 1-2-1 staff to make sure that a meaningful relationship develops and helps the child grow.



MoCo Mentors Expands 1-2-1

Mohawk Area School District Juniors and Seniors are now mentoring Mohawk 5th and 6th graders in a small group setting at the MoCo House, once per week! Thanks to the school for providing transportation and to the MoCo House for offering some free drinks to our students!



The first 5 matches are enjoying good company, a relaxed setting, and developing relationships. The MoCo Mentors is a new addition to 1-2-1 high school programming.

The Confluence



coffee.conversation.community.

214 E. Washington St.
New Castle, PA 16101

(724) 698-7604

Free parking available at
Washington Center Plaza



www.ConfluenceCoffee.org



Cray is committed to being involved in strategies that will help strengthen our community— ultimately, helping the families and children we serve. The Confluence is a place where people in New Castle can come together and build hope for a better tomorrow!

Change your routine!

Are you part of a card club, Bible Study, or small group that just gets together each week to chat? Bring your group here! We've got great items for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We've also got smooth coffee and sweet treats for anytime of day.



Discover a cozy corner or a table ready for you. Open Mondays and Tuesdays 8am-5:30pm, Wednesdays 8am-7pm, Thursdays 8am-9pm, and Fridays 8am-5:30pm.

Preschool Play

2nd Tuesdays Every Month!

4:00-4:30 PM @

The Confluence



coffee.conversation.community.



Learning through active play! Join YMCA staff at The Confluence every month for an intro to basic sports, games, and teamwork, while building gross motor skills and coordination!

MUSIC

LIVE

THURSDAYS
6—8:30 PM



Cray Challenges Enjoys Ice Skating

Cray Challenges Alternative Education students and staff descended upon Pearson Park again this fall, and as a perk of giving back, enjoyed a spin around the Hess Ice Skating Rink.

Cray has partnered with Pearson Park for several years to help maintain the trail, prepare park items for winter, and offer community service.



Visitation House Moves

With Cray's main office moving downtown, the Visitation and Re-integration Programs have moved into the Highland Ave. location, allowing for program expansion.

The House serves as a place for children who are placed outside of the home, to meet with their parents regularly. The program teaches parenting skills, strengthening the bond between parents and kids, and maintaining safety. The ultimate goal is to help these families transition back home together.

The previous location had only 4 visit rooms and with the move, there are now 8 spaces available. The program is currently serving 29 families (a total of over 100 weekly visit hours).

Many of these children are also involved with Cray's Foster Care Program and Crossroads After School Program. Cray partners with the Children's Advocacy Center, the Bair Foundation, Lawrence County Children and Youth Services, Children's Aid Society, and local Attorneys to help families in our community.



Cray Welcomes New Director of Advancement

Cray welcomes David Spears as the new Director of Advancement. Dave will be sharing Cray's mission through speaking engagements and other opportunities in the community. He will be focused on finding those who can help support the work of Cray through donations of time, talent, and treasury.

If you have a group that would like to hear more about Cray and discover ways to get involved, please get in contact with Dave at dwspears12@gmail.com or 724-654-5507.

Cray Youth and Family Services, Inc.

44 South Beaver Street

New Castle, PA 16101

Non-Profit Org

U.S. Postage

Paid

New Castle, PA

Permit #5

Return Service Requested

BE A SUPERMAN TODAY AND HELP MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR KIDS

As Cray transforms for the future to meet the growing challenges that face kids and families in Lawrence County, we need your help! Please consider a donation to Cray.



YES, please accept my contribution of \$ _____

Please designate my contribution to assist:

_____ 1-2-1 Mentoring _____ Where Most Needed

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please make checks payable to Cray Youth & Family Services

*All donations, monetary & in-kind, are tax-deductible.

_____ Please check here if you do NOT want your donation publicly acknowledged.

Donations can be made online through
JustGive.org by visiting our website:

www.CrayYouth.org/donate

(credit card fees and processing charges are
deducted from gift online)

What's in your will is a testimony of what is important to you. When thinking about giving, an ultimate gift is one that will last. Please consult your attorney or tax advisor when considering your estate planning.