

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

Office: 332 Highland Ave.
New Castle, PA 16101
(724) 654-5507

www.CrayYouth.org
www.ConfluenceCoffee.org

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New Cray Program Launches

Our mission at Cray is “to make life better for kids”. Unfortunately in our County, in Pennsylvania, and across the United States, many children must be removed from their homes due to crises within the family.

A new program at Cray is designed to intervene at this moment of crisis and reduce the need for placement outside of the home.

The HOMEBUILDERS program is a nationally recognized program with proven results in reducing the need for out-of-home placement and keeping families together.

When Lawrence County Children and Youth Services identifies that the children of a family they are involved with, or assessing, are at imminent risk of removal from the home due to issues not involving the safety of the child, they contact Cray HOMEBUILDERS, who meet with the family within 24 hours and work to reduce the need for placement.

Therapists are available to the families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for a period of 4-6 weeks. The program utilizes evidence-based interventions to strengthen the family and improve family functioning. The goal is to alleviate the crisis and get the family headed in a better direction. Jennifer Croach, who implemented Cray's Truancy program, has returned to Cray to head up this new service and we are thrilled to have Jen back.



CRAY EDUCATION CENTER



**Thank
You!**

HOYT
MAY EMMA HOYT FOUNDATION

Cray is grateful for the Hoyt Foundation's ongoing support of our Cray Education Center. Recently they provided grants to assist with the maintenance and upkeep of the building. This included the installation of an energy saving light system which saved Cray money immediately! Thank you to the Hoyt's Board of Directors who have made a commitment to this facility so that it remains a safe and welcoming environment for learning.

**summer
SCHOOL**

**10 students
advance to the
next grade
level**

Ten students are advancing to the next grade level who wouldn't have otherwise, by enrolling in Cray's Summer School activities. These students completed their academics and a community service book drive for kids. They also enjoyed time at Pearson Park, where later this school year, students will return for a project including trail maintenance.

Back to School



Cray's Alternative Education Program is starting its 19th year of school. Kudos to Don Kemerer and his dedicated staff for their many years of service and gifts of education!

The Cray Education Center Welcomes New Staff



The new school year has started with some new faces in Cray's education staff. We welcome Christina Sansone as a Special Education Teacher and Christina Plyler as a Counselor in the junior high Compass classroom. We also are pleased to welcome Suzanne Murphy and Shawn Anderson as Paraprofessionals in our senior high Compass classroom.

They join a team of dedicated staff who strive to make a difference in the lives of students who find themselves in difficult situations and, therefore, at Cray.

Other staffing changes include, Andy Fry, who has assumed the position of Counselor in our Challenges program, replacing Robin Mudrey who retired after 10 years with Cray.

The new school year brings a host of new daily lessons, new technology (including Chrome Books), and new community service projects. Best wishes to all our students, teachers, and staff for a fruitful year!

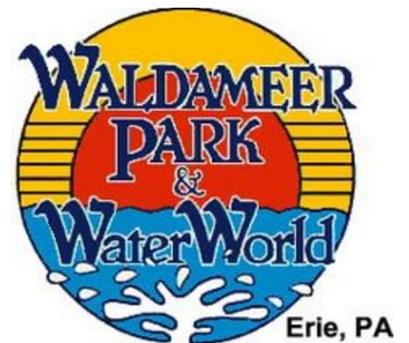
CROSSROADS DAY TREATMENT PROGRAM



Crossroads enjoyed another fun summer of activities, including arts and crafts! The students begin working on individual and group craft projects in June and then entered them in the Lawrence County Fair in August.

The staff and students enjoyed a day at the Fair this year, with the highlight being their hard work on display. A beautiful peacock created from recycled plastic water bottles was awarded the 'Best of Show' group project for youth. Our students felt pride in their accomplishments and, in addition to the peacock's award, many individuals were awarded ribbons and small monetary prizes!

Crossroads students enjoyed the playground at Scotland Meadows Park and feeding the ducks at the pond.



Crossroads students enjoyed the newly renovated water attractions (especially the wave pool) at Waldameer this summer!

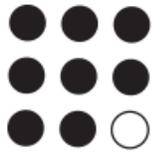


Annual Shopping Trip

Summer comes to a close each year for our Crossroads students by taking an annual shopping trip for school clothes and school supplies.

Items are purchased using money that the students have earned through programming incentives throughout the year.

Best wishes to our students and staff for another successful school year!



**Thank
You!**

steelite
INTERNATIONAL

For hosting a recent
'crafting night' at
The Confluence to
benefit Cray Youth!

**Thank
You!**



For including
Cray kids in your



Annual 'Cray Day' @ The Villa Maria

Each year, Cray kids, staff, and friends head to the Villa Maria Spiritual Center for a day complete with a spiritual message from Sister Jeanne, entertainment (this year from Magician, TJ Hill), and stations around the farm. It's an opportunity to enjoy nature, cows, sheep, and bees. It's also an opportunity for our kids to forget their troubles and just enjoy the moment.

This event was partially funded by the Caroline Knox Memorial Trust Fund— reflecting God's light into the world. Cray Day is spiritually uplifting for both the students and staff and we thank the Knox Foundation for their support, which allows the event to happen.



Cray kids enjoyed the illusions of TJ Hill.



They also enjoyed dressing in the bee suit and observing the hives.



Every child **DESERVES** a family.

MS, Age 19: “Being in foster care with Cray Youth & Family Services really opened up my eyes. It gave me the opportunity to welcome new people into my life and gain healthy, steady relationships. These are people that have cried with me, laughed with me, and walked through life with me; never turning their backs on me no matter what I did to mess up. If you come to Cray with no family, you leave with a family. I got lucky and had one of the best foster parents and she is the one who is still in my life today. She opened up her family to me and welcomed me in as one of her own...she is my mother. Today I am 19-years-old and in college. When I come home to visit, I come home to my Cray family. “Once a Cray kid,

always a Cray kid”. If no one has your back, Cray does. And they always have your best interest at heart.”

Cray is currently working with 29 kids in the foster care program. These children range in age from 8 months to 17 years old. If you would be interested in opening your home to host a child for a weekend, year, or lifetime, please contact Sheena Carchedi at the Cray office to find out more. 724-654-5507

Finding Success Beyond Services

Cray’s Independent Living Program (IL) helps kids who have very little support at home; sometimes even no home or relatives at all to lean on. IL steps in and serves as a guide and supportive system that helps these teens become independent and successful adults.

This year IL celebrated with 6 graduating high school seniors; three of whom are now working, one who joined the military, and two who are plugging away at their Freshman year of college.

Summer was also full of college tours for IL students who will be graduating this year. Exposure to college through visits and this year’s Independent Living Statewide retreat (held at the University of Pittsburgh’s Johnstown campus) provide opportunities for IL participants to envision a new future!

**Thank
You!**

**Church of
Genesis**



For your support of Krause Youth Center. For the summer cook out, the bed comforters, and the donation of hygiene products to help our youth.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lawrence County

Big and Little News

BBBS is funded in part by :



(724) 657-3680

bbbslawco@comcast.net

Advisory Council Members

- Chip Rickenbach: Chairperson
- Chris Cunningham: Vice-Chair
- Megan Fuchs: Vice-Chair
- Tom Ford: Secretary
- Don Hollerman: Treasurer
- Jane Fobes
- Amy Ford
- Norm Fuchs
- Miriam Gwin
- Michelle Locke
- Jay Martin
- Pete Moniodes
- Bernie Muckian

BBBS Staff

- BBBS Director: Allisyn Wolfe
- Case Worker: Abigail Stambul

BBBS aims to provide children who are facing adversity with strong, enduring, professionally supported, one-on-one mentoring relationships that change their lives for the better, forever!

BBBS Welcomes New Case Worker

BBBS is excited to welcome Abby Stambul as the new Case Worker for BBBS. Abby is a Westminster College graduate (Communications) and most recently, a graduate of Geneva College, where she earned a Master's degree in Counseling.

She and her husband, Andrew, live on the family farm where they care for about 200 dairy cows, horses, and their German Shepherd pup, Hershey! Abby serves ice cream at Cow Licks, is the advisor for Mohawk's 9th grade cheerleaders, and volunteers with her church.

Abby will be working alongside Allisyn to help match and make life better for kids in Lawrence County! Welcome Abby!

Little Sister Graduates

BBBS is thrilled to be celebrating the graduation of one of our former 'Littles', Jaimie. Jaimie graduated from New Castle Senior High School and is now enrolled at BC3 @ Lawrence Crossing, pursuing a Nursing career. Although Jaimie and her 'Big Sister', Amy, are no longer officially matched, they continue to spend time together and celebrate life's milestones like this one, together!



CURRENTLY
SERVING

74

KIDS

BBBS of Lawrence County does not receive state or federal funding and operates through foundation grants, and individual and corporate donations. Since 1995, we have matched over 600 at-risk youth with a caring mentor. Thank you for your support!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, MATCHES!

- 5 Years:** Debbie & Kelly
- 2 Years:** Hayley & Gionna
Brittany & Tatiayanna
Kaitlyn & Alyssa
- 1 Year:** Rachael & Naila

WELCOME NEW COMMUNITY MATCHES!

- Jennifer & Noel
- Barbara & Faith
- Jen & Angelina



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‘High School Bigs’ is Back!

After a year hiatus of the High School Bigs program (due to the 2015 state budget impasse), BBBS is excited to get it started again! It is back in action on Wednesday evenings. High School students from Neshannock and Union come to the Cray Education Center and spend time with 33 of our ‘littles’ who are enrolled in Cray’s Crossroads after school program.

‘High School Bigs’ matches high school students with elementary school students in a mentoring relationship and offers regular, structured, and supervised activities.

Urgent NEED!

BBBS is in need of Big **Brothers**. We currently have 28 boys on a waiting list. Male mentors can serve as such a positive influence for young boys, but we need your help! Boys enrolled in BBBS can also be matched with “Big Couples”, allowing you and your spouse to share in the mentoring experience.

It just takes a commitment of 12 hours per month, but has the potential to make an impact on a child’s life, for the better, forever.



Thank You!

Camp Agawam hosted some of BBBS’ waiting list boys for a day of fun as part of “Scout Reach”.



Thank you,
Build A Bear Boardman
for donating school
supplies!

Thank you to WC’s Student Government Association for hosting BBBS for Fall Fest. It was an afternoon at the college including bounce houses, food, a DJ, and a fun time with college students!

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE



Thank You!

Thanks to Bob & Donna Hoskin for hosting BBBS on your farm! This tradition of riding horses, eating lunch, and enjoying the peace of Hoskin’s Farm is loved by all!

The Confluence



Open 8AM—6PM

MONDAY—FRIDAY

& until 9 Thursdays for live music

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!

Host Your Small Group Here!

Are you part of a card club, Bible Study, or small group?

Looking for a great location to host your gatherings?

Look no further! We have some cozy corners and comfy chairs... free in the common areas.



100%

Congratulations to Dixie and her staff for passing a recent health inspection with flying colors!

How does a coffee shop help kids anyway?

The Confluence is Cray's social enterprise which seeks to help kids by generating revenue that supports Cray programming. It also gives our community a place to gather, connect, and build relationships that ultimately support our youth.



Host Your Large Group Here!



Birthday Parties
Work Seminars
Fundraisers
Bridal/Baby Showers
Holiday Parties
Family Reunions
Inquire about rentals!

Christmas Is Coming!

The holiday season is just around the corner...again! Please watch for Cray's annual campaign in early December.

Thank you for your support all year long and especially at this time of year!



WE'RE HIRING!

With new programs, retirements, and changes, Cray is looking for help. Please check the Cray website for a listing of specific job openings and mail your resume to:

Cray Youth & Family Services

332 Highland Ave., New Castle, PA 16101

Attn: Melissa Barnes



Cray finds itself caring for children and youth, who sometimes come into our care with nothing but the clothes on their backs!

We are always in need of donations of the following:

- Duffle bags
- Toiletries (shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, etc.)
- Board games (for teens at our Krause Center)
- Adult Coloring Books & Puzzles (again, for teens)
- Socks and underwear for children and teens
- Shoes

Please contact the Cray Office for more information or to drop items off: (724) 654-5507, 332 Highland Ave., New Castle

Still want to *KNOW MORE?* Or do you want to *GET INVOLVED?*

If you'd like to get involved with one of Cray's programs or initiatives, whether through your time, talent, or treasury, please get in contact with :

Melissa Barnes 724-654-5507

Cray is always seeking volunteers— mentors, tutors, bakers, musicians...

& special items for activities, school supplies, books, board games...



Cray Youth and Family Services, Inc.

332 Highland Ave.

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:

_____ Big Brothers Big Sisters _____ 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.