

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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GRADUATION DAY!

Sometimes Cray Youth & Family Services, Inc. works with children from the time they are infants, until they have infants of their own. Our saying is “once a Cray Kid, always a Cray Kid.” One of the greatest opportunities to celebrate with our Cray kids comes at high school graduation each year.

This year we celebrate with 16 graduates of Cray Challenges and 6 graduates who are part of our Independent Living program. At the end of May, we celebrated with a graduation ceremony of Cray Challenges at The Confluence. More than 130 family members, friends, and staff gathered to note this special occasion. Many of our graduates noted that they may not have ever gotten to this point without the support of Cray staff and the structure of Cray assistance programs.



Congratulations to all of this year's graduates— we celebrate with you and wish you the best in the future— but want you to know we will always be here for you!

Job Training Experiences this Summer!

Cray is hiring a summer crew of four youth to assist with grounds-keeping and maintenance of Cray's various properties. The youth will work with a supervisor to add some much-needed 'sprucing up' to our facilities and will work to build their resumes!



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
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- 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

CURRENTLY SERVING

70

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!

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!

Palumbo Grant Award

Thank you to the A.J. Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust for a grant award to support BBBS this year! We are grateful for your ongoing commitment to our mission and look forward to strengthening our partnership to enhance mentoring matches in the future!

United Way of Lawrence County

BBBS has been a United Way agency for many years. Thank you to those who give through the United Way's annual campaign to benefit our programming! We are grateful for this long-standing partnership.

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE AN IMPACT?
BECOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER

WE NEED YOU!

We have a waiting list of 40 children who want a BB or BS. With just a 12 hour commitment per month, you can make a difference in the life of a child—FOREVER!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, MATCHES!

- 6 Years:** Melissa & Aliya
- 5 Years:** Melissa & Fayth
- 4 Years:** Desiree & Selena
- 3 Years:** Alex & Jamiya
- 1 Year:** Katelyn & Hope



Fundraiser SOLD OUT!

Thank you to Kennywood for their generous donation of park tickets that BBBS sold as a fundraiser! So successful, we're already sold out. Enjoy the summer... and if you're headed to Kennywood, ENJOY!



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Wow! What an Event!

Over 300 people participated in this year's Bowl for Kids' Sake event themed Peace, Love, and Bowling. We raised nearly \$21,000 that will go directly to supporting mentoring matches in Lawrence County! Thanks for a great day!

Congratulations!

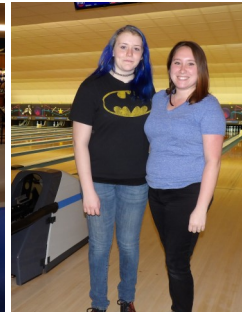
- Brandi Weber– highest fundraiser!
- LCCTC- most school participation!
- Chris Glidden– Top Male Bowler
- Karen Cummings– Top Female Bowler
- Cray Challenges– winner of the 'Cray Cup'



Bowl For Kids' Sake

Thanks for Making this Event Possible

- Colonial Lanes for hosting the event
- Robin Mudrey for artistic caricatures
- Gary & Meg Williams' photo booth
- DJ Nick Jennings for the music
- Steelite International's bake sale
- Pizza Joe's, Gordon Food Service, Dallas Hartman, and the Wilmington Rd. Giant Eagle for the food and drinks
- M&M Insurance for the trophies
- Angela Frank, all-day volunteer
- The dedicated BBBS Advisory Council



Thank You, 'Perfect Game' Sponsors: Carlson Lynch Sweet and Kilpela Disability Legal Clinic

Thank You, 'Strike' Sponsors:

& VFW Post 315

Kiwanis Club of New Castle

AFSCME Union Local 2902

Gwin Brothers, Silgan Closures

Moose Family Center 51

Bruce and Merilee's

Berner International

New Castle Rotary #69

Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church



Thank You, 'Spare' Sponsors:

Central Building of New Castle

Bob and Paula McCracken

Aven Fire Systems PA Cyber

Flynn's Tire and Auto Service

Mack and Cathy Parrott

New Wilmington Kiwanis

Thank You, 'Lane' Sponsors: LCAC, Precision Feed Screws, Verterano and Manolis, East Side Pharmacy, Elham Restaurant, Edward's Restaurant and Lounge, Law Office of LGKG, GNC Federal Credit Union, Central Heating and Plumbing, Ameriprise Financial-Eugene Gabriel, Lakeland Chrysler Jeep and Dodge, Servedio Electric, 6 Packs Bar and Grill, Preston Motors, and Crane Room Grille

Thank You!

Steelite International employees continue to support Cray services through a variety of fundraisers held on Cray's behalf. This spring they hosted a 'Paint & Sip' party at The Confluence and sold chocolate covered pretzel rods for Mother's Day!

Thank you, thank you for getting excited about our mission and helping us raise the resources to carry it out!



steelite
INTERNATIONAL



Thank You!

The Lawrence County Career & Technical Center's student Peer Leadership program recently hosted an auction with the proceeds to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters! Thank you to all of the students who serve as 'Bigs' and for your financial support!



Thank You!

Thanks to Westminster College volleyball team and Coach Tammy Sweringen for hosting a community volleyball tournament, with proceeds to benefit BBBS. We are so grateful for many opportunities to partner with the college!

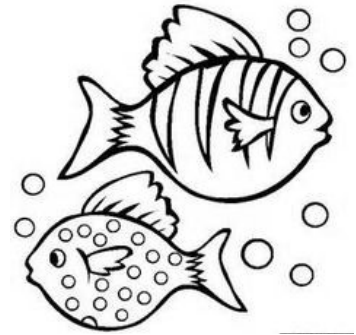


Thank You! New Castle Coachmen's Club

Despite the overcast weather, Cray kids, families, and staff ventured to the Coachmen's Club for lunch, fishing, and a relaxing time outdoors in May! Our Cray kids enjoyed themselves immensely, many catching fish for the first time *EVER!*

Thank you to members of the Club for hosting Cray, for giving each child a fishing pole, and for opening your grounds to us for a great time!

Thanks also to the May Emma Hoyt Foundation for providing funding for the trip.



CRAY EDUCATION CENTER

THOUGHTS FROM A TEACHER

As our school year winds down, we look back on a productive year of academics, community service, and inspiring speakers. Our park clean up two weeks ago produced a spruced up, cleaner Pearson Park trail and grounds. When we pulled away that day, we knew it was only a matter of time before flowers were blooming and fireworks were filling the sky above the park. The students and staff felt a sense of camaraderie knowing that we made it a better place for the community.

-Maureen Chiafullo-Haid, English Teacher



APPRECIATION FROM A GRADUATING SENIOR

“To me, a teacher isn’t only a person that teaches us our main subjects. All of you welcomed me in and loved and cared about me. I am most definitely going to miss you all, as you have been a special part of my life.



Mrs. Haid– you always helped me, through thick and thin, and were an important friend to me.

Mr. Montozzi– even if you say you don’t care, we all know you will do anything to help and protect us.

Mr. Edwards– you helped me through so much in my life, I swear you should’ve been a guidance counselor.

Mr. G.– we got into it a lot, but I will always have respect for you and like you as a teacher.

Mrs. Mudrey– I respect everything you did for me and felt like you always had my back.

Mrs. V.– Thank you for being there when I needed you the most.

Mrs. Trott– Even though I never had you as a teacher, I still know you care.

Mrs. Nittinger– Oh my, I am going to miss hanging out with you and talking.

Teacher or not, I will always appreciate you.

Mr. Kemerer–Thank you so much for giving me so many chances. If it wasn’t for you, I would never have had the opportunity to meet these wonderful, caring people who have changed my life.

-H.M.

NEVER FEAR BEING DIFFERENT



Speakers at the Education Center inspired us to question some of our choices and make better decisions. Jordan Rooney, creator of the NFBD movement, challenged everyone of us to never fear being different. He brought speaker, Paul Fee, to our school to explain how bad choices sometimes lead to a path of no return. His inspirational words told a story of owning up and holding yourself accountable. He did it, and he is thriving.

The Confluence



Open 8AM—8PM

MONDAY—FRIDAY

SATURDAYS 8AM—2PM

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!

More Job Training Opportunities for Youth

In connection with the Lawrence County Community Action Partnership, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Krause Youth Center, The Confluence has been offering short-term job training experiences to five youth. They've done a phenomenal job and continue to gain skills that will boost their resumes.



center for the arts

Stop in often and check out our rotating art gallery—new for summer!

PNC Bank Foundation's Kids' Corner NOW OPEN!

Thanks to the PNC Foundation's Grow Up Great grant award, you can now find and enjoy a Kids' Corner at The Confluence. In May, we hosted grand opening activities including: a 'Gymsters' class with Jill Niess, Story Time with Snow White of One Royal Wish, and a 'Mommy & Me Movements' session with Shari Mastalski.



Toys & activities in the space are STEAM oriented.

The Kids' Corner includes a train table, kitchen area, bean bags, and more. Best for kids, ages five & under, the space is located in the library area. It offers hours of fun for youngsters, giving parents the opportunity to sip coffee with friends while sitting close by.



Students from the Lawrence County Career & Technical Center painted the mural.

MUSIC

LIVE

EVERY THURSDAY
6-9 PM

THE CONFLUENCE STAGE IN ACTION



We welcomed the New Wilmington Presbyterian Praise Team to The Confluence stage this season and enjoyed a crowd of 130 +!

A contestant on this season's American Idol, Isaac Cole, has performed on The Confluence stage a couple of times! So talented, so young, and we're so lucky to be able to enjoy his gifts of music!



Thanks to Cray's Board President, Larry Kelly, and Board Member, Kim Aven, the Soul Attraction Band played at The Confluence in April!



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 like 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 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...



FOSTER CARE SEEKING GOOD HOMES

Cray's Foster Care program is currently working with 30 children and youth, ages birth to 18 years old, in Mercer and Lawrence County. Our busy staff strives to maintain a lifestyle balance for these kids, juggling Children and Youth Services requirements, our Foster Care families needs, doctor's appointments, school schedules, court, etc.

Cray is always looking for good homes that would be willing to host kids short-term and/or long-term.

For more information about Foster Care/Respite Care:

Sheena Carchedi, 724-654-5507.



TRUANCY PROGRAM HELPS KEEP KIDS IN SCHOOL

This year Cray's Truancy program worked with 92 children and youth to eliminate barriers that were keeping them from attending school on a regular basis. Cray had three to four staff working directly with the families, the child's school, and Lawrence County Children and Youth Services to create a coordinated strategy that got them back into learning!

Cray's Truancy program partners with all the school districts in Lawrence County and while work slows for the summer, we're anticipating a full caseload of 40 this fall. We are grateful that so many partners are making the effort to eliminate truant behaviors in Lawrence County.

VISITATION HOUSE

Did you know that Cray operates a 'Visitation House'? It offers families who have children in foster care, the opportunity to reconnect in a supervised setting.

Cray staff monitors the visits and works with the families when they are transitioning back to life together.

NEW 'HOME BUILDERS' PROGRAM WILL BE INTENSE

In partnership with the Institute for Family Development and funded by Lawrence County Children & Youth Services, Cray is excited to announce a new program beginning this summer: Homebuilders. Cray will be hiring three therapists who will work on a short-term basis with families 10-20 hours per week in their homes. The services will focus on families with children ages birth through 18. The services will be intense and purposefully concentrated to help families find success.

Cray is excited to welcome back, Jen Croach, as supervisor of this program. Jen worked with Cray in the past to start the Truancy Program and we are looking forward to building this program with her as well.

CROSSROADS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM SHIFTS TO SUMMER SCHEDULE

Cray's Crossroads program offers after-school programming for children and youth whose families are involved with Lawrence County Children & Youth Services. Throughout the school year, they meet in the evenings for homework help, activities, and dinner. Now they are gearing up for their summer schedule and will work with children and youth in more of a summer-camp style program.



Exciting Changes in the Cray Family

Please help us welcome new staff, congratulate promotions, and thank retirees:



@ The Confluence:

- Patty McCann (New Hire)
- Riley Jacoby (New Hire)
- Paula Manos (New Hire)
- Khari Huddleston (New Hire)

@ Cray Challenges:

- Joe Jacob (New Hire)
- Suzanne Murphy (New Hire)
- Robin Mudrey (Retiring)

@ Crossroads:

- Gina Bucci (New Hire)
- Danielle Burley (New Hire)
- Cindy Trott Hawk (Retiring)

@ Big Brothers Big Sisters:

- Abby Stambul (New Hire)

@ Independent Living:

- Morgan Sholler (New Hire)

@ Visitation House & Family Reintegration:

- Liz Callahan (New Hire)

**WE'RE
HIRING!**

In addition to the new hires listed above, Cray is still seeking to fill some open positions with staff who are looking to make a difference in the life of a child!

A variety of positions are open, visit www.CrayYouth.org for a listing.

Submit your resume to Melissa Barnes at:
332 Highland Ave., New Castle, PA 16101

Or MBarnesCray@hotmail.com

Congratulations to our Cray Staff!

Jim Birtalan,

Community Services Liaison

At the 33rd Annual Induction Banquet in May, Cray's Jim Birtalan, joined the 2016 Lawrence County Sports Hall of Fame. Jim was a baseball pitcher who made it to the college level and minor leagues, at one point facing batter, Hank Aaron!

Jim works with Cray as Community Service Liaison, helping adjudicated youth fulfill court requirements of community service.

Angie Urban,

Director of Community Building

In January 2016, Angie was named Executive Director of New Visions for Lawrence County (NV). NV is an organization seeking positive community changes through the engagement of volunteers and strategic partnerships and connections.

Angie remains part-time with Cray, still working closely with The Confluence, marketing, and fundraising efforts of the agency.

New Grandparents!

- Joan Conglose
- David Copper
- Tammy Hill-Scurlock
- Mia Micco



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.