

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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Colonial Bldg. to be Cray's New Office

Thanks to a donation from the very generous Kraus Family, Cray Youth and Family Services, Inc. is the new owner of the Colonial Building at 44 South Beaver Street in downtown New Castle.

This donation allows Cray's current main administrative and programming facility to move from its current Highland Ave. location (where they have run out of room to put staff and activities) to a more spacious and office appropriate facility. The Colonial Building is currently under renovation and the move is expected to take place by the Fall.

Cray's Highland Ave. location will be the new home of Cray's Visitation Program, which is growing quickly and has outgrown its current location. Great timing!

Cray is very grateful to the Kraus Family for their donation and the staff of Cray is looking forward to its new space downtown.



Cray Challenges Celebrates with 18 Graduates



Cray Challenges hosted a graduation ceremony on May 26th at The Confluence. Principal, Mr. Kemerer, honored and celebrated 18 graduates on stage in front of friends and family.

Cray Challenges is the only alternative education school in Lawrence County and supports students who may not otherwise be graduating from high school, receive their

diplomas! Congratulations to all the 2017 graduates!

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!

WE'RE A
SOCIAL
ENTERPRISE
BUSINESS WHERE SOCIETY PROFITS

The Confluence has 3 main goals: 1) Be a gathering spot where our community can come together, 2) Help increase foot traffic so other businesses find downtown to be a desirable spot to open, & 3) generate some revenue that will go directly to support the programs and activities of Cray Youth & Family Services— our nonprofit which exists to “make life better for kids” in Lawrence County! By supporting The Confluence, you are directly supporting Cray! We are a business where society profits; aka, a social enterprise!

LET US HOST YOUR NEXT
EVENT

Inquire today
with
Angie Urban
(724) 654-5507

Party, Business Meeting, Fundraiser, Workshop, & More

KIDS'
ACTIVITIES

With the support of a grant award from the PNC Bank Foundation, The Confluence is regularly hosting events & activities for children and their families. “These opportunities get folks in the door, many of whom have never been here, and allow them to discover our Kid’s Corner,” says Angie Urban (Event Coordinator for The Confluence). Check out The Confluence Facebook page for a full listing of dates & activities.



Coachmen Club Hosts

Cray Fishing Day



On Saturday, May 13th, about 90 kids who receive services through Cray, about 40 of their family members, and a handful of Cray staff enjoyed a day of fun and fishing thanks to the Coachmen Club located in Hickory Township.

Each child received a fishing pole and members of the Club were there to offer support, untangle fishing lines and help get fish off of hooks for the more squeamish of our “fisher kids”. They also provided a delicious lunch of hot dogs, baked beans and beverages.

THANK YOU to the members of the Coachmen Club for your generosity and your patience. You provided a day to be remembered and helped “Make Life Better” for our kids and their families.

Cray Challenges Helps Maintain Pearson Park



Shortly before Easter, students and staff of Cray Challenges participated in a bi-annual clean-up of Pearson Park in Neshannock Township. The day was sunny and beautiful and the kids and staff worked together like a well-



oiled machine. They set up picnic tables and cleared the grounds for a community Easter Egg Hunt. Students enjoyed the day outside and park staff were very appreciative of the help!

Thank You for Your Donations!

We asked for your help and you answered our call! Thank you to the 1st & 2nd grade classes at New Castle Christian Academy, to Silgan Plastics, to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and to individuals in our community for your donations of duffle bags, backpacks, suitcases, and toiletry items! Our goal to eliminate the use of trash bag ‘suit cases’ for kids that come into Cray’s care is being realized.

Thank you for your support and your donations to ‘Make Life Better’ for our kids!





CRAY YOUTH CHOOSING TO SERVE

Cray's Independent Living Director offers this reflection: One of my favorite times of year is the graduation season. This year we have 6 seniors all graduating and making plans for their future. One young man will be leaving for the Marines this month and another young lady will leave for the Army later this summer. For the first time we have more young people choosing military service, rather than college. Within the last year, a total of 5 of Cray's young people have entered the military. I am extremely proud of those who find the military to be their calling. We celebrate with and congratulate all of our graduates and wish them a safe and blessed journey! We are so proud of them all!

-Mariann Lillibridge

'CRAY KID' RAISING AWARENESS OF POVERTY ISSUES

A former 'Cray kid' is now becoming a 'Cray adult' as she finishes her Sophomore year at Youngstown State University. She is the Vice President of the 'Bridges Out of Poverty Student Union', which was formed in 2009 to raise awareness about the challenges faced by those who live in poverty. They are the only college student group of this kind in the country and take great pride in the work that they do.

Her group has offered workshops to social service agencies and hosted poverty simulations to educate and sensitize others to the struggles that people who are living in poverty deal with.

Each year this organization sends members to present at the international 'Addressing the Challenges of Poverty' conference. Our 'Cray adult' is hoping to experience this opportunity in St. Louis this September. Cray is hoping to help defray her costs by seeking donations on her behalf. The cost to attend is \$850. If you would like to contribute to her trip, please make checks payable to "Cray" with "Bridges out of poverty" in the memo line. Your gift can be sent to Cray's main office at 332 Highland Ave., New Castle, PA 16101.

Our motto is, "Once a Cray kid, always a Cray kid". We are very proud of this young woman and are grateful for any contributions to help her.



**YOUNGSTOWN
STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Checks can be made payable to:
"Cray Youth & Family Services"
with "Bridges Out of Poverty"
in memo line

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS TO HOST FIRST EVER 5K



'Like' us on Facebook to stay informed about all BBBS activities...



www.CrayYouth.org

www.ConfluenceCoffee.org



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!



Celebrating with Long-time

& New Matches!

Melissa & Aliya (7 yrs)
 Melissa & Fayth (6 yrs)
 Desiree & Selena (5 yrs)
 Gabby & Jasmine (3 yrs)
 Rebecca & Ashlynn (2 yrs)

Brit & Kaitlyn (New)
 Dave & Keelan (New)
 Bill & Cody (New)
 Ed & Mykell (New)

High School 'Bigs' Partner with Cray's Crossroads

Can you imagine the impact that 10 outstanding high school students could have on a group of impressionable elementary school students in Cray's Crossroads program? This year, it was huge!

Thanks to student volunteers from Neshannock, Union, and Shenango High Schools for spending their Wednesday evenings encouraging, teaching, and building relationships with our 'Cray Kids'. The kids in Crossroads reported that they liked doing fun things and making new friends. The 'Bigs' described their experience as fun, eye-opening, and were proud of the positive changes they saw in their 'littles' over the course of the year!

Cray is happy to have Crossroads and BBBS 'cross paths' to help kids in care feel more supported and loved!

BBBS Exists Because of YOU!

Did you know that BBBS exists in our community because of the generosity of grant givers & donors? In an era where nonprofit funding is never certain, we are grateful to our supporters this year:

The PNC Charitable Trust

Caroline Knox Memorial Trust Fund

The United Way of Lawrence County

The Margaret Henry Home

The A.J. and Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust

EcoLab Foundation

Kennywood Charitable Trust

Staples 2 Million and Change Foundation

Local churches, businesses, and individuals like you!

**38 KIDS
 ARE ON OUR
 WAITING
 LIST FOR A
 MENTOR!**

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!



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lawrence County

Big and Little News

BBBS is funded in part by :

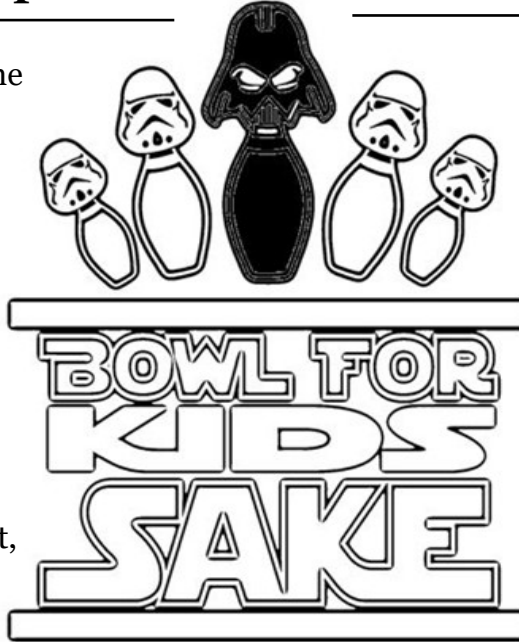


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bbbslawco@comcast.net

Bowling Event Rolls In Impact

- Raised **\$22,000** to support one-to-one mentoring in Lawrence County
- **45** participating teams
- **40** auction items
- Biggest **fundraiser**: Brandi Weber
- Most school **participation**: LCCTC
- **Music** by DJ Andy Borts
- **T-shirts** by Daystar Marketing
- **Lunch** by Pizza Joe's
- More food/drinks by: Sheetz, Walmart, Dallas Hartman, Butler Ave & Wilmington Ave. Giant Eagles
- **Caricature Drawings** by Robin Mudrey
- **Photo Booth** by Gary & Meg Williams
- Highest Female Bower: Maya (Silgan Closures)
- Highest Male Bowler: Bill (Silgan Closures)



Thank You, Volunteers

Thank you to the dedicated members of the BBBS Advisory Board & student interns from Westminster College for helping pull off another fantastic event! Could not have done it without you!



Event Sponsors:

- Carlson-Lynch Disability Legal Clinic
- AFSCME Union Local 2902
- Berner Air Curtains
- Bruce & Merrilees
- Clen-Moore Presby. Church
- Fraternal Order of Eagles
- Gwin Brothers Transport
- New Castle Rotary 89
- Silgan Closures
- VFW Post 315
- Verizon Pioneers
- Loyal Order of the Moose #51
- Central Building of New Castle
- Flynn's Tires & Auto Service
- Klasters Inc.
- Mack & Cathy Parrott
- Kiwanis Club of New Wilmington
- Bob & Paula McCracken
- PAcyber
- Susan M. Papa, Atty
- Preston Auto Group
- Ameriprise Financial, Eugene Gabriel
- Aven Fire Systems, Inc.
- Central Heating & Plumbing
- Crane Room Grille
- East Side Pharmacy
- Gallo's Italian Villa
- GNC Community FCU
- LCARC
- Law Office of LGKG
- New Castle School of Trades
- Precision Feedscrews
- Senator Elder Vogel Jr.

A Note From Cray's Director, David Copper

Could anyone use a happy story? I have one I would like to share....

About 14 years ago I met a young man by the name of Chris. His Dad wasn't in the picture much and his mother thought he might benefit from a mentor. So she referred him to Cray's Big Brother program. He had an interest in learning to play golf and, since the program strives to match people with shared interests, the BBBS Director approached me about becoming a volunteer mentor.

Like most prospective Big Brother volunteers, I was apprehensive. Like many other first time volunteers, I gave pause to think about, "where will I find the time? Will we hit it off? etc." Nonetheless, I decided to give it a go.

Chris, his mother, and I were invited to a Big Brother party for an opportunity to meet. The first thing I noticed was his hair style. It was spiked and had frosted ends. This was a very impressive hairdo. I'm sure we all had equally impressive hair styles at age 14. We all had a nice conversation and it was obvious what a nice young man he was. He seemed sincere about his interest in golf, so we decided to give it a try.

When we first got to the driving range, he was eager, but making contact with the ball was decidedly more difficult than he had imagined. Although he was an accomplished paint ball wizard (as I had the welts to prove) he found the game of golf to be very challenging.

Over time he was able to get the hang of it and eventually was able to beat his instructor, which I hate to admit. The score card documenting his victory lives in infamy posted on my office bulletin board. I believe his main goal in life at the time was to beat me and shut my mouth once and for all. But truth be told, he could have beat me much sooner if he didn't let me talk him out of his game.

Over the years, Chris and I spent many enjoyable hours on the links, as well as, many other equally enjoyable activities. Chris went on to make the NE CA Hi golf team. He graduated from high school and was accepted to college, though he did not 'set the world on fire' academically. He got by, but did not have discipline or motivation. In college he struggled and realized he was not ready for it. He made a very wise decision to leave school and join the Navy. His mother did not see it that way at the time, but it was a great decision. He did very well in the service and came out after 4 years. At that point he was ready for college. He enrolled at Slippery Rock and with the GI benefits in hand, began to pursue his degree.

On May 13th Chris walked across the stage at SRU and was handed his diploma in Business Administration. He graduated with a GPA of 3.5. I was extremely honored to be invited to witness this important moment in his life and was proud to have been part of his journey.

I would encourage anyone with interest, even if you have apprehension, to step out of your comfort zone and try something new for someone else. Who knows, you might have the influence to change someone's life, but also be prepared for the experience to change yours!

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 volunteer 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

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New Castle, PA

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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.