

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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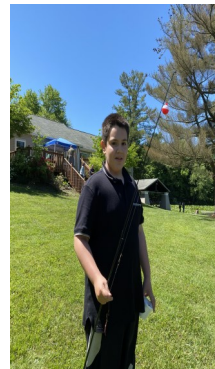
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CROSSROADS, SUMMER FUN WITH A PURPOSE

The end of the summer vacation is almost upon us and this week our students will be heading back to school. Our first group activity during the summer was the annual fishing trip to the Coachmen's Club. The students who attended the Coachmen's fishing outing had a blast! Each one of the students were given a fishing pole to keep and the Coachmen members did a wonderful job interacting and teaching our students how to fish and identify the different fish that were caught. The second trip of the summer was to the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium. Again, the students who attended had a wonderful trip seeing all the different animals while exploring the zoo. Lastly, some of the case workers from Lawrence County Children and Youth Services came to the Crossroads Program and played kick ball and donated book bags with school supplies in them for each student. Soon, the staff will be taking their group of students back-to-school shopping!



What a summer it has been at CRAY!



FROM THE DIRECTOR..

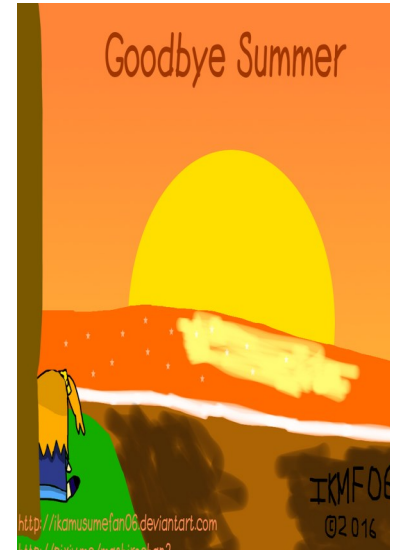
I hope your spring and summer have been fun! The weather has been great considering we are living in Pennsylvania. We have been enjoying ourselves around here at Cray. The kids have been playing miniature golf, sightseeing at the Zoo, bowling at our annual Bowlathon, and spending the day catching fish just to name a few!

Despite continuing to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic, Cray has not missed a beat in providing our full array of services for our children and families. Cray follows CDC Guidelines such as masking, social distancing, testing, quarantining, and disinfecting. This allows us to maintain a safe environment for our staff and the children/families while offering all our face to face services.

I recently had the pleasure of attending the Project Search International Conference in Baltimore and it was great having the opportunity to network with more than 750 people in person. This was the first live conference Project Search has had since the Summer of 2019. One highlight of the conference was our program, UPMC Jameson, receiving a 100% Employment Award for the class of 20-21. This was quite impressive that all our interns got jobs in the height of the pandemic. Kudos to the entire Project Search team at Jameson!

I want to take this opportunity to thank the many supporters of Cray who give their time, talents, and treasure to make Cray the successful flourishing agency that we have become. I cannot thank all of our "Crayons" individually but you know who you are!

We are currently busy getting our kids set for their return to school whether that be grade school, high school, or college. I hope you all have an enjoyable and safe late Summer and Fall and we will talk with you again in the winter.



God Bless, Don Kemerer, Director

100% EMPLOYMENT AWARD, WOW!!!!

PROJECT SEARCH



Project | SEARCH®



The Project SEARCH staff attended the national conference in Baltimore, Maryland, learning and networking with other sites both nationally and internationally. The team brought back new ideas and strategies which they will implement in the upcoming school year.

Project SEARCH is a one year transition to work program for individuals with disabilities ages 18-21 and in their last year of high school education. Applications are still being accepted for the 2022-2023 school year. Please reach out to Amy Donston, Project SEARCH Skills Trainer at 724-656-4637 for more information.

Baker Tilly Stewardship Week Benefits Cray

The First week of August, 19 volunteers from Baker Tilly came to the Crossroads program to spend some time with our kids! They enjoyed board games, kick ball, reading and other activities with the students. The kids, staff, and volunteers all had a great time getting to know each other. We are thankful that these volunteers chose to spend their day with us!



Visitation Home

Over the past year, the Visitation Home has experienced significant growth. We have hired two new full-time workers, bringing our total staff to eight. We continue to operate at near capacity with referrals from Lawrence County Children and Youth Services (CYS). Currently, we are looking to update some of the visit rooms to include a “teen room,” which would include games and activities more challenging and entertaining for the older youths and their parents.

The staff at the Visitation Home are beginning to implement case specific and family driven Objectives and Tasks, replacing the generalized goals that had been identified by CYC when the case was referred. The Objectives and Tasks provide the families with monthly measurable documentation of progress made, or lack of progress made.

The Visitation Home has begun to have In-Home staff trainings, addressing issues related to the supervision of visits and family reintegration. We continue to look forward to more progress in the months to come as we strive to make every experience more pleasurable for our families.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CRAY YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES:

Main office: 44 South Beaver St. New Castle, PA 16101

724-654-5507

Website: crayyouth.org

Cray Mentoring Programs

1-to-1 Mentoring &
Compeer Youth Lawrence County

44 South Beaver Street

New Castle PA 16101

Phone: 724-654-5507

Email: Craymentor@gmail.com

Website: Crayyouth.org

1-to-1 / Compeer

Advisory Council

Chip Rickenbach: Chairperson

Chris Cunningham: Vice Chair

Don Hollerman: Treasurer

Miriam Gwin

Michelle Locke

Bernie Muckian

Ashley Carr

Carla Krisuk

Michele Kelly-Thompson

Vickie Thompson

1-to-1 / Compeer Staff

Director: Allisyn Wolfe

Case Worker: Samantha Dubetz

Currently Serving

50 Children and 20 Volunteers

Wednesday Night Mentoring Program Seeking High School Volunteers

After two years off due to COVID, we were able to resume one of our after school site-based programs last year at Cray's Crossroads program and had a great response from students. The program runs from late September to mid-May, meeting three Wednesday evenings a month from 5:00 - 6:30 PM. High School mentors are matched with an elementary school aged friend to help with school work, participate in activities, and have a lot of fun together. Volunteering in this program is a fun way for students to get community services hours. While the programming starts in the fall, new volunteers will be accepted through December and can be matched with children that enter the Crossroads program later in the school year. Interested students can check out crayyouth.org to find the application. Please email craymentor@gmail.com, or call Samantha at 724-654-5507 with any questions about the program!

Now is the Time!

Research shows that people who are thinking about becoming a mentor need to hear about it *seven times* before they commit to doing it. Unfortunately, we are in a situation now where we have more children who are waiting for a mentor than children who are actually matched with a mentor. We are hoping to change that over the next couple of months. If you know someone who would be a great mentor, please let them know about us! Our community based mentors range in age from 20-75. The children we have waiting for a mentor range in age from 9-16. Our volunteers are from all over the county, and so are the children we serve, although most are in New Castle and Ellwood City. If you are interested in learning more please contact us! We are also happy to speak to any size group if you would like more information about how to become involved.

Other Mentoring News

Congratulations to PJ and Donavin, two students in our program that graduated high school this year! Both boys are hard workers who have already entered the workforce. We wish them much success. Although matches officially "close" when students graduate, the relationships these boys have built with their mentors will continue as friendships— hopefully for years to come!

Between board members and volunteers, we celebrated 4 new babies over the past few months! Congratulations and best wishes to all the families!

Summer at The Science Center

The Carnegie Museum provided Cray with an outreach membership this year, meaning we can take our students to any of their museums for free! This summer, we took a few groups of kids who are waiting for a mentor to the Science Center, and it was a great opportunity for our staff to connect with the kids and for them to have new experiences.



2022 Bowl-a-thon a Big Success!

On May 7, 1-to-1 Mentoring and Compeer Youth held our Bowl-a-thon fundraiser at Colonial Lanes in New Castle. We had 32 teams participate this year from our community, including some of our mentoring matches! Special thanks to **DayStar Marketing** for the T-shirts and signage. When they weren't busy bowling, participants visited the auction (featuring items donated from over 50 individuals and businesses), danced to music provided by **Feola Entertainment**, had caricatures drawn by **Robin Mudrey**, and received balloon animals from **Balloonz by Bunny!** A Jurassic Bowl-a-thon couldn't have been complete without **Johnny the Dino**, who didn't eat any bowlers, but thoroughly enjoyed the pizza! All of our bowlers enjoyed food and drinks provided by **Pizza Joe's, Sheetz, Walmart, Butler Avenue Giant Eagle and Wilmington Rd. Giant Eagle.** Thanks to our donors, advisory board, and bowlers for making the event so successful!

THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS!

Treloar & Heisel

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AFSCME Local 2902 Gwin Brothers Transport Inc. Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church
Ameriprise Financial– Dynasty Financial Solutions Chiafullo Family Foundation
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Human Services Center

Packer Thomas

UPMC Jameson and UPMC Horizons

PA Cyber– The Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School

Central Heating and Plumbing

AmeriPrise Financial - Eugene Gabriel

Aven Fire Systems

Brand It! Signs and Graphics

Kiwanis Club of New Wilmington

Capital A Investments

Highland Presbyterian Church

Edward's Restaurant and Lounge

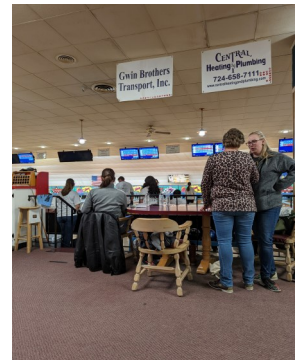
Maureen Chiafullo-Haid, Realtor

Luxenburg, Garbett, Kelly, and George

V.F.W. Post #315

LCARC

Eastside Pharmacy



CRAY EDUCATION CENTER, Graduation 2022

Once again school ended with a bang! Cray education celebrated another group of seniors from four Lawrence and Mercer County schools! There are few days in our lives that rank as 'special', this is one of those days. For the students, guardians and teachers each has spent countless hours working and dreaming of this day and the celebration it brings.

One by one teachers gave an introduction and personal message to each senior. For some students the ceremony led to smiles and handshakes, for others it was filled with tears and One hugs. These are special days which should be remembered and celebrated. The parents and guardians of these nine graduating were presented with senior pictures, gift cards and cakes for each family to take home and enjoy. Congratulations to everyone!



THE CONFLUENCE: NEW CASTLE'S FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT SPOT

Looking for a place to stop for lunch or maybe even to pick it up on the go? At The Confluence we now have online ordering! Try it out by following this link, <https://tabrabbitt.com/orders/100-confluence>. Our menus are updated with some returning specials like the All-American Club, Turkey Salad on a Croissant, Grilled Turkey Bacon Melt and so much more! While stopping in for lunch you can try one of our smoothies before summer ends and school starts again. Are you looking for a nice place to relax and unwind to some great music? Every **Thursday** we host a different local band from **7:00 pm until 8:30 pm**, BYOB with a \$5.00 purchase. Thinking of where to hold your next Wedding, Bridal, or Baby shower, or Birthday Party? We host a variety of parties with catering options prepared fresh by **Chef Mandy Haid**. With the Holidays coming up, keep an eye on our Facebook page "The Confluence" for plenty of fun activities!



214 E. Washington St. New Castle, PA 16101

www.ConfluenceCoffee.org

(724) 698-7604

CRAY WISH LIST PROGRAM COMING SOON

If your group of family, friends or coworkers would like to take 10 or more Cray Kids' Christmas Wish Lists, here is how it works:

CRAY SUPERVISORS HAND OUT WISH LISTS IN GROUPS OF TEN OR MORE IN MID NOVEMBER (wishes are limited to around \$50)

DONORS SHOP FOR ITEMS ON LIST AND RETURN THE UNWRAPPED GIFT WITH THE WISH LIST TAPED TO IT. (Supervisors set the return date and drop off location)

IF GROUPS HAVE A LARGE AMOUNT OF UNWRAPPED TAGGED GIFTS, WE DEPLOY A VAN OF ELVES TO PICK THEM UP AT YOUR WORKPLACE!

Please email the Cray Community PR Coordinator if you are interested in this program.

maureenchiafullo@gmail.com



“WE CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!”



THE CONFLUENCE

Don't forget about us!

Something fun is always brewing!

Breakfast, Lunch, Parties and More

<http://www.confluencecoffee.org/email-updates/>



MUSIC
LIVE
THURSDAYS
6—8:30 PM



Cray Youth and Family Services, Inc.
44 South Beaver Street
New Castle, PA 16101

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
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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-to-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.