Cray
YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

Summer 2026
CRAY REVIEW

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

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"Black and Gold" Bowl raises nearly $20,000 to Benefit **Mentoring** Prgrams at Cray

Our 32 nd Annual Bowl-A-Thon was held at Sims Lanes on May 2,2026. DJ Topper from DJ Diehlz Entertainment not only played great music, but also threw in some Pittsburgh Trivia questions for our door prize winners to get two prizes instead of one! We also had a giveaway of Clark Cups (formerly Clark Bars) for every bowler who got a strike on the 6th frame! In case you were wondering what happened to the Clark Bar—originally made in Pittsburgh—it's complicated! When production moved to Altoona, PA in 2019, the machine produced a hot dog shaped candy bar, which wasn't very appealing. So, not wanting to be wasteful, the staff ground up the bars and mixed them into Boyer's peanut butter cups, creating the Clark Cup! We filled all of the available lanes with bowlers that included teams from local businesses, social service agencies, churches, and families. We also had several of our mentors attend the event with their mentees, along with some families that our program serves. Local sponsors covered event costs entirely, so that all proceeds raised by the bowlers could go directly to support our mentoring programs. Our staff and board members worked to secure sponsorship and ensured that the event ran smoothly. **Pizza Joe's, Sheetz, and Dallas Hartman** donated all of the food and drinks for our bowlers. Butler Avenue **Giant Eagle** and **Walmart** donated gift cards to purchase supplies.








GNC Community Federal Credit Union's teams really worked hard to fundraise for us leading up to the event! They sold candy bars and paper bowling pins with the donor's name on them to display at the down town branch. Through these efforts, they raised $3,000! In addition, we had an amazing auction at the event. Items and gift cards were donated by our board members, local businesses, and restaurants. Some wonderful organizations from Pittsburgh also donated to the auction. This year's auction alone featured over 50 items and raised approximately $1,600. Our mentoring programs are largely funded by grants, donations, and special events, so Bowl-A-Thon enables us to continue providing this valuable service. Like our program, which relies on amazing volunteers, children, youth, and families, Bowl-A-Thon also needs community support to be successful! We cannot thank this wonderful community enough for all of the ways you support us.

FROM THE DIRECTOR...

Summer is upon us. It is a big difference from the last time I wrote to you. After the cold winter we had, I'm not complaining.

Moving on to the news of the moment. Cray's Board and I have been faced with some difficult decisions over the years. We are currently facing yet another. Cray must close our **Foster Care Program** after 23 years due to a significant lack of referrals. We are also forced to repurpose **The Confluence** after 13 years due to significant financial losses. It will still be available to rent on an hourly basis but will no longer be open to the public or offer catering services. The Confluence will also be used for Cray programming, particularly as a meeting space for our Mentoring piece. These decisions are not easy to make, but with most of Cray services being a "fee for service" model, this must be done. I would be remiss if I did not thank all the dedicated foster families who served so selflessly for many years with Cray. I would also like to thank Mandy and Megan and the many past Confluence employees who gave the Confluence such an impeccable reputation for all its years.

Now, onto some good news! Cray had many students graduate from its school programs this past year. We also had youth associated with other Cray programs graduate from public school, trade school, and college! We know that many of the youth we serve would have struggled to achieve this goal without our support. Next, I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make our 32nd annual Cray Bowl-a-thon a resounding success for our Mentoring program. Lastly, let me express my appreciation to those who continually donate to Cray to allow us to keep our Family Needs Fund an available resource to former Cray youth who may need our help for a variety of reasons.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

God Bless, Don Kemerer, Director

One Final Thank You...

As **Cray Foster Care** comes to a close, I want to thank everyone who has supported this program since the very beginning over 20 years ago. Whether you made a donation, offered support to a foster family, or silently just rooted for the many children who entered the program, you are appreciated. But I especially want to thank all the wonderful foster parents who have opened their homes to the kids in need throughout Lawrence, Butler, and Mercer Counties. Without you, Cray Foster Care would have never existed and so many youth would have never known what true love and support looks like. Never forget the impact you made. **Thank you!**

Special Announcement from Rob Ratkovitch and

CUT CREATIONS BARBER LOUNGE

(Rob is an avid supporter of Cray and we are grateful!)



SPREAD THE WORD!

Mentoring Matters

Cray Mentoring Program &

Compeer Youth Lawrence County

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Carla Krisuk

Michele Kelly-Thompson

Vickie Thompson

Chris Mondi

Staff

Director: Allisyn Wolfe

Case Worker: Samantha Dubetz

Currently Serving

40 Children and 22Volunteers

Visit Crayyouth.org for more info About our mentoring programs

Facebook: Cray Mentoring Programs

Instagram: Mentoratcray

Thank you to our High School Mentors for a great year!

Thank you and best wishes to the mentors at our school-based Compeer Mentoring Program who graduated from Mohawk High School! Joey, Haley, and Brian, we will miss you next year!

Also, a HUGE thank you to our graduating Crossroads After-school program mentors- Gianna, Miley, and Madison from Neshannock and Casey from Shenango! We know you will all go on to do amazing things!

Clen-Moore-Highland Mentoring Program Kicks off Summer with Service at the Mission Barn

On June 1st, our mentoring matches from our church programs went to the mission barn for an evening of service. We helped to pack disaster kit buckets that will be shipped out to people in need, and also built sections of handicapped ramps that will be installed for local residents who find themselves suddenly needing an accessible entrance to their home. We learned all about the program, which is a mission of the United Methodist Church, and were very excited to be a part of it!





Thank you for your support of our mentoring programs this year!

The Almira Foundation , The EcoLab Foundation, Highland Presbyterian Church, Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church, The AJ and Sigismunda Palumbo Foundation, Lawrence County MH/DS, and the many individuals and community organizations who give their time and financial support to our programs— we could not do what we do without YOU!

Thank you to our event sponsors!

Treloar & Heisel Mutual of America James Donnelly

Preston Auto Group





AFSCME Local 2902 Highland Presbyterian Church

Human Services Center Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church

GNC Community FCU

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East Side Pharmacy Ameriprise Financial -Eugene Gabriel

Don and Mia Micco Riardo's Restaurant PABCOR

Pizza Joe's Sheetz– Wilmington Rd. Dallas Hartman

Walmart Giant Eagle– Butler Avenue









CROSSROADS

SUMMER FIELD TRIP TO LIVING TREASURES






CRAY EDUCATION CENTER

Summer is a wonderful break to the hustle that is the norm in every school. In early June, as always, Cray celebrated its 27 th year of providing education for Lawrence County students. Cray Challenges was created in 1999 as Don Kemerer and Susan Valenti would remember, They are last two original education employees from all those years ago! And let us not forget Jeff Wolfe was our regular visitor to teach Social Skills with his large bag of candy for motivation! Many things have changed over the years. Cray now has 14 schools sending students to our programs. We originally started with one lone supporter, Laurel. We currently have contracts with schools in five counties! Cray has two schools, a private academic school and a private provider of education for disruptive youth. Our schools currently provides education for students in grades four through twelve. Hopefully, we will expand soon adding grades two and three this fall, if we are approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Graduation celebrations were held at the warm and welcoming Cray Confluence. We added 12 high school graduates to family. Their families and friends enjoyed a celebration of each student's hard work and effort to achieve this life-long goal. Cray was lucky to have several community partners join us in the wonderful tradition. A special thanks to Casey K's Creations for working with our students all year long at her Art Studio and attending the ceremonies. See you in the fall!

Project | SEARCH®

UPMC Jameson's ten Project SEARCH interns were recently honored at a luncheon and graduation ceremony held at UPMC Jameson School of Nursing. Several interns have obtained employment within the community in which they live and some are still job searching. This year's class is the ninth Project SEARCH class at UPMC Jameson. The program is a one-year high school transition to work program for individuals 18 to 21 years old with disabilities, who reside in Lawrence, Beaver, and Butler counties. To qualify, the interns need to be in their last year of high school and must have completed all high school requirements. During the program, the interns complete three 10-week internship rotations within the hospital where they learn transferable work skills with a goal of competitive employment in the community. UPMC Jameson Project SEARCH is made up of a variety of local agencies that support our interns throughout the program year. The agencies include Cray Youth & Family Services, Lawrence County Mental Health & Developmental Services, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, UPMC Jameson, and Vocational & Psychological Services. Congratulations to this year's Project SEARCH class, and thanks to everyone who helped with, hosted, and supported us. We will welcome our next class in August.



Cray Youth and Family Services, Inc.

44 South Beaver Street

New Castle, PA 16101

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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:

_____ Cray 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.