



WE CARE

A Newsletter of Community Care Connections, Inc.

November, December, 2007 & January 2008

Volume 1, Issue 2

Our Featured Programs Homemaker Chore Program

Hi, my name is Lorraine Brown and I am the coordinator of the Homemaker Chore Program. We also have a part-time employee, Genavieve Brown. The Homemaker Chore Program provides quality homemaker services in light housekeeping such as dusting, vacuuming, mopping, laundry and grocery shopping etc.

This program is available to low-income adults ages 18-59 who have a physical disability. Currently the Homemaker Chore Program assists 17 consumers. Six people are on the waiting list for this program. If you or someone you know might need this service please feel free to contact me at (724) 833-3198 ext. 665.

Thank you.
Lorraine A. Brown



Supportive Adult Day Services Program

Community Care Connections has had the privilege of operating the Supportive Adult Day Services Program for ten years this month! SADS is licensed by the Department of Aging and the Office of Developmental Programs so the center provides services to the geriatric population as well as individuals with mental disabilities.

Our experienced staff provides opportunities for socialization and activities throughout the day. Lunch is provided on-site and is always a favorite activity for our participants. Besides in-house activities the center has frequent visits from outside groups such as singing groups, the Red Hat Society and a variety of animal friends. The group also completes projects for others in the community such as trimming and organizing Campbell labels for local schools, providing craft projects to distribute with Meals-on-Wheels and doing Easter and Christmas projects for AK Steel.

If you would like more information or would like to arrange a visit to our center, please contact Penny or Kathy at 724-482-4444.

Place your message here. For maximum impact, use two or three sentences.

An Autobiography by Richard Jennen

Every person endures challenges in their lives which shape who or what they become. I have endured many challenges which include medical problems as a child, living the life of a military child, to waiting for my father to return from a war, and then his death a year later. I have lost many other important individuals in my life as well suffering a life altering accident.

As a child I would make a decision to accomplish a goal and set out to meet that goal. I wanted to play t-ball, soccer, baseball, ride bicycles, hike, camp, fish, ski, and simply be a 'kid'. At a young age, I had severe asthma and was told by doctors this type of activity would "probably" not be possible. My parents supported my decision to be an active child and I earned many awards, individual and team. Through dedication and exercise, I overcame my asthma and am no longer plagued by its hindrances. I joined the Cub Scouts and continued into Boy Scouts. I strived to earn the highest awards; I was initiated into the Order of the Arrow, and was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout at the age of 13 years. I continued in scouting as a Jr. Scout Master until the age of 16 years. Throughout school I maintained the status of Honor Student while participating in a variety of activities. In high school, I decided to pursue a career in the military. I was placed in leadership positions in JROTC. This decision was probably influenced by my life as a military 'brat'.

My life changed when I was injured in an accident 10 days prior to my 17th birthday, leaving me quadriplegic. Within 6 months after the accident, I surpassed the specialists' prognosis of never being able to feed myself again. I continued my school work while in rehab and returned to the classroom immediately after returning home from rehab. I focused on recovering, physically and psychologically for the next 2 years while considering the options for my future. One area that greatly influenced my recovery was my faith, which had been reinforced after two near death experiences, secondary to my injury, in which I had been pronounced clinically dead both times. Today, I have been living on my own for the last five years. I am able to transfer myself from chair to my bed, and am involved with a full-contact wheelchair sport- murderball.

In a matter of 60 seconds my goals – dreams – and perceptions changed. I now had to learn to allow others to help me with daily needs after being a leader and helping others. I went from sky diving, scuba diving, and motocross to learning how to feed myself without assistance. I went from someone who was about to embark into a special operations career to exploring other options that were open to me. I chose psychology so that I could use my experiences for the benefit of others.

Even with my disability, I have adapted, or rather, have made psychology adapt to me. When given the opportunity, which is often a difficult first step for those with spinal cord injuries, I have always found a way to succeed and adapt. I have now earned a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology and am specializing in neuropsychology while working in a rehabilitation hospital setting. I am hoping to use my life experiences to help those who have endured similar hardships to ensure that they have hope and a future despite the difficulties their lives bring.

The Director's Corner



Dear Friends,

I want to take time in this second edition of "We Care" Community Care Connections, Inc. agency newsletter to remind everyone of the importance of being prepared for emergencies and disasters. The most common emergencies and disasters that occur in Butler County include: flooding, tornados, snow or ice storms and fires.

America learned from the devastation of New Orleans by Hurricane Katrina that national state and local government agencies are limited in how many people they can help during an emergency or disaster. It is the responsibility of every American to have plans about what they will do, where they will go and who will help them in case of emergency. For people who have limited mobility or have communication problems this planning is even more important. For great information on what you should have in a personal disaster preparedness plan contact the National Organization on Disability www.nod.org/emergency (202) 293-5960

You can also contact me or any of the program directors at Community Care Connections, Inc. and we will help you get the information you need to create a personal disaster preparedness plan that will help you in case of emergency.

Sincerely,

Pat Brennen
Executive Director



Nothing is ours except time. - Seneca



CCC Job Openings

Community Home Program 2 Block Shift Positions

3 Full-time Double Positions

4 Part-time Double Positions

Supportive Adult Day Services Program 1 Full-time Position

Attendant Care Program 5 Part-time Positions

Infant Stimulation Program 1 Full-time Occupational Therapist

Or 2 Part-time Therapists

Christmas Blessings!

Christmas Gifts for Needy Program Participants

Every year, Community Care Connections, Inc. collects gift items for CCC program participants with very limited income or who are alone and have no family. Suggested gift ideas including clothing sizes are placed on a tree at the CCC office without revealing the names of those who will receive these gifts. CCC program directors deliver the gifts to these individuals shortly before Christmas. If you would like to participate in this Christmas gift program please contact Carol Schultz at (724) 283-3198 ext. 222 before December 1, 2007. Your kindness and generosity is deeply appreciated.



Christmas Balls

2 cups butter
4 teasp. vanilla
2/3 cup sugar
4 teasp. water
4 cups sifted all-purpose flour
2 cups finely chopped pecans
Red and green colored sugar



Cream butter and vanilla; add sugar, creaming mixture till light and fluffy. Blend in water. Add flour, mixing well. Add pecans. Shape in one inch balls. Roll half in red sugar and half in green sugar. Bake one inch apart on ungreased cookie sheets in slow oven (325 degrees) 20 minutes until firm to the touch. Cool before removing from the pan. Makes about 6 dozen.

Christmas Word Scramble

(Some may be more than one word.)

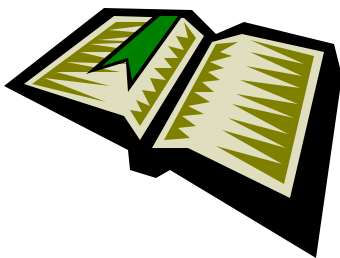
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Community Care Connections is again sponsoring an interdenominational Bible Study for men-ly challenged teens and adults during the 2007-2008 school year. The Bible Study, now in its eventh year, usually meets every other Monday with a few exceptions (see exact dates below*om 6:30 to 8:15 p.m. at the Adult Day Center on Whitestown Road (formerly Abba House). he Bible Study is taught by Janice Swope. Janice is a former elementary school teacher and rrently serves on the Board of Directors for Community Care Connections and Special Olymcs Lawrence County. She has received religious education training through Child Evangelism ellowship. Janice teaches the Bible lesson through storytelling. Other activities include the nging of Christian songs and choruses, learning memory verses, a very short paper activity re- ted to the story, a craft time, and a light snack. And, of course, a lot of fun!

There is no charge of any kind to participate, but permission slips and/or consent forms must be lled out, signed, and returned. Transportation is the responsibility of the participant or his care vers. Reminder notes are mailed a few days prior to the Bible Study. Cancellations due to in- ement weather are made by phone.

Please feel free to become a member of the Bible Study at any time during the year. Those in- rested should contact Janice Swope at 724-368- 3378 OR Pat Brennan at 724-283-3898.

CCC Bible Study





Special People Special Happenings



Day of Caring Project

Birthday Greetings

On September 20, 2007, CCC received the help of
several individuals through the United Way of Butler Day
Caring.

Belated—September 26—Robin S.

Peggy M.

Belated—October 17—David S.

November 10—Julie H.

Janette Ireland worked with two consumers to help
organize 35 years of CCC photos for the annual din-
ner.

December 25—Jack P, Jr.

January 10—Janice S.

Joe Marzullo, Dan Cuffman, Dan Green and Sam
Cretcher from UAW Local 3303 at AK Steel, pur-
chased supplies and built 4 wooden benches for the
Adult and Children Services Programs to be used
outside on the deck. The consumers from the pro-
grams will finish the benches by painting them over
the fall months.

Anniversary Wishes

December 5—Dave & Jan S.

We would like to recognize special events in the lives of our consumers, their families, our staff
and volunteers. For example, did one of our consumers also participate in a Special Olympics
event such as Summer Games at Penn State University? Did someone win a special award
somewhere? Did one of our consumers participate in a wedding in his family? Did one of our
residential homes go on an extra special vacation? Somebody get married? Have a baby? We
are a family and it is fun to share the wonderful things in our lives. If you would like to share
the great times of your life, please fill out the form below and mail to:

Attention: Newsletter, Community Care Connections, 114 Skyline Drive, Butler, PA 16001, OR
drop it off in the newsletter box at the front desk at the office.

Birthday Greetings (Include each person's name and birthday)

Anniversary Greetings (Include couple's name and wedding date):

Special Event: (Include name of person(s) and event, and any relevant information.)

Sailing Connection 2007 Raises \$2,063.50 for Community Care Connections, Inc.

Special thanks are in order to Paul Egbert, owner of Wind and Water Boatworks and his crew of dedicated volunteers and sail boat captains for a very successful "Sailing Connection 2007" fundraiser benefiting Community Care Connections, Inc.

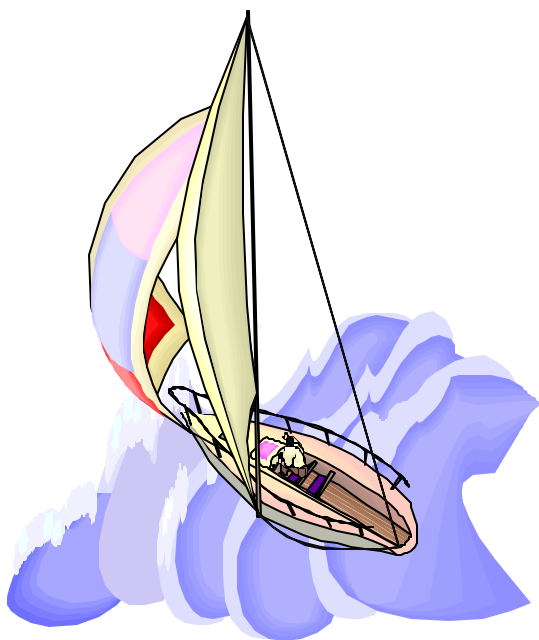
Sailboat captains from Lake Arthur Sailing Club donated their time and use of their sailboats for this special event. A light lunch with food donated by area businesses was provided by CCC staff and volunteers.

Save the date and plan to join us at Sailing Connection 2008 – June 21 & 22, 2008

Thank You
Paul Egbert
Donna McKee
Bruce Kemp
Nita LaVan
Dottie Steenson
John Chose
Gary Baker
John & Joy Bray
Gary & Leslie Dailey
Resident Bay Marina, LLC

Thank You
Warren Barton-Desert First
Marty Mitchell-Dream Chaser
Jim Clark-Maggie's Mist
Dan Mayhew-Sundancer
Rick Landau-Continuance
Jay Winter-Winter Solace
Mike O'Shrak-Betsea O
Dick Lloyd-Cassandra Lee
John & Patty Albertson-My Girl
Gary & Carol Weaver-

Thank You
Arby's-Pullman
Old Country Buffet
Thoma's
Eat n Park-Clearview
Eat n Park-New Castle Rd
Wal Mart
Moraine Giant Eagle
Bill's Beer Barn
Butler Farm Market
Fairground Market
Herr Foods, Inc.
Arby's-Clearview



Lyn Goehring
Shelley & Steve Cook
Melanie & Matt Mitro
Roxann & Jim Stickney
Brenda McRoberts
Ricki Hood
Bob Rhoades
Eileen Gordon
Kara Wolfe
Carrie Eichner
Paula Nguyen

New Attendant Care Services provided by CCC to Residents of Butler County

Community Care Connections, Inc. is proud to announce that approval has been received from the Office of Long Term Living, under the Department of Public Welfare, to begin providing OBRA and Independence Waiver Attendant Care services to Butler County residents. Community Care Connections has been providing Attendant Care Services for 20+ years to Butler County residents. Attendant Care services are provided to persons with physical disabilities who are mentally alert and between the ages of 18 and 60 years of age. All attendant care services help eligible consumers to maintain living in their own home in their community.

Who is eligible?

Many consumers who now access the Attendant Care Waiver program may qualify. Any Butler County resident with a physical disability who needs personal care and is between the ages of 18 and 60 years old may be eligible.

Specific eligibility criteria are as follow:

Independence Waiver Eligibility:

- Age 18 and older
- Severe physical disability
- Require nursing facility level of care
- Primary diagnosis not mental health or mental retardation
- Cannot be ventilator dependent

Services Available under the Independence Waiver:

- Assistive technology/specialized medical equipment and supplies
- Community integration services
- Community transition services
- Daily living services
- Education services
- Environmental adaptations
- Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS)
- Respite services
- Service Coordination
- Therapies (behavior, occupational, physical, speech)
- Transportation services
- Visiting nurse

OBRA Waiver Eligibility:

- \$8,000 resource limit
- Developmental disability-onset prior to age 22

- Developmental disability-onset prior to age 22
- Severe limitation in three or more major life activities
- Primary diagnosis not mental retardation or mental health

Services Available under the OBRA Waiver:

- Adult day services
- Assistive technology-specialized medical equipment and supplies
- Community integration services
- Community transition services
- Daily living services
- Education services
- Environmental adaptations
- Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS)
- Prevocational services
- Respite services
- Service coordination
- Support employment services
- Therapies (behavior, occupational, physical, speech)
- Transportation Services
- Visiting nurse



Fundraiser a Huge Success!

The First Annual Walk, Run, Roll & Caring Rally was a huge success despite the inclement weather. We raised a total of \$3,760.00 thanks to all of our sponsors and donors. Our largest donation came from Aime Forsha who raised \$645 and took home a Nintendo Wii for her generous donation. A special thanks to Maher Duessel Certified Public Accountants and Hunter Truck Sales for their sponsorship of the event. Thank you Level Crest Farms and Stephanie Kobil, DMD for sponsoring the balloons we gave out to the children. We would also like to thank Gillis Family Chiropractic, American Red Cross, John McCool, Old Country Buffet, and Lyndora Fire Department for their participation in the event. Finally, thank you to all Community Care Connections staff who participated in the event, we couldn't have done it without your hard work and dedication. We look forward to seeing everyone again at next year's event!

CC welcomes the following *new employees* who have been hired from July through September 2007:

Athleen Morrison Attendant Care Program
Andy Deller Attendant Care Program
Dan Haagensen Attendant Care Program
Diane Hartung Attendant Care Program
Barbara Palmer Community Home Program
Tricia Reges Infant Stimulation Program
Christy Hines Community Home Program
Theresa Kepple Community Home Program

Take time to say hello to the new folks and get to know them a little bit!

CONTEST! CONTEST! CONTEST!

CCC needs your help. Many other agencies in Butler have the word "Community" in their names. This sometimes makes it hard for people to identify our agency, Community Care Connections, Inc., when they read about us in the newspaper or see our name on posters or brochures. To help solve this problem, our agency wants to add a tag line along with our name. This tag line should be short and simple, capturing in a few words what our agency is all about.

If you have a good idea for a tag line for Community Care Connections, Inc., we want to hear from you. Please use this form to send your idea to our office at 114 Skyline Drive, Butler, PA 16001 by November 15, 2007.

If your tag line is selected you will receive a \$25.00 gift card to Wal Mart! So put on your thinking caps and help Community Care Connections, Inc.

Please return this form to Community Care Connections, Inc., 114 Skyline Drive, Butler, PA 16001 by November 1, 2007.

My idea for a tag line that helps explain what Community Care Connections, Inc. is all about is:

Submitted by: _____

Phone: _____

Staff Recruitment

Recruitment of staff has been an issue in our Community Home Program and the Attendant Care Program. We had a successful open house/interview on September 12, 2007. We installed a banner on the sign on Route 422 that says "Now Hiring" from which we have received some applicants. We have also implemented on a trial basis giving a \$20 gas card to any employee who refers an applicant that is hired and completes their 90-day initial review period. We still need:

- Part-time and full-time block shifts for the Community Home Program – Program Advisors and Subs (Casual Workers).

Program Advisors work in our homes located in Butler County and do everything in the home that they would normally do in their own home – cleaning, meal preparation, laundry, transporting consumers in our vans and taking care of the consumers. H.S. diploma needed, child abuse and criminal record checks applicable, and good driving record needed.

- Part-time staff for the Attendant Care Program to provide basic personal care and perform light housekeeping duties in the consumer's homes located in Butler County. H.S. diploma needed, child abuse and criminal record checks applicable, reliable transportation and negative drug screen needed.
- Full-time and/or part-time Occupational Therapists for the Early Intervention program working with birth to 3 year olds.

Words of Wisdom

Celebrating Friendship

*friend is someone who knows all about you and loves you just the same.—
Albert Hubbard*

*True friendship comes when silence between two people is comfortable.—
Dave Tyson Gentry*

The only way to have a friend is to be one.—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Friends will not only live in harmony, but in melody.—Henry David Thoreau

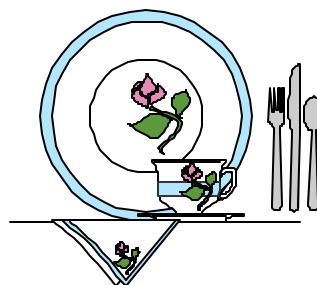
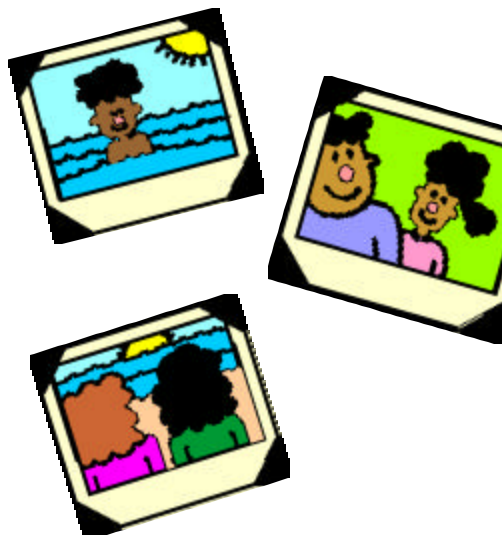
*A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.—
Walter Winchell*



CCC Celebrates 35 Years of service to the community with November 15th Dinner

Please join us on Thursday, November 15, 2007 as Community Care Connections, Inc. celebrates 35 years of service to the community. An awards and recognition dinner hosted by the Board of Directors will be held at Highland Community Center, 229 Highfield Road, Butler, PA 16001 starting at 6:00 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$20.00 per person and will include ham & hard salami, rye bread, sandwich buns, cheese, olives, scalloped potatoes, stuffed cabbage, rigatoni, fried chicken, green beans, beverages and chocolate mousse for dessert.

Scrapbooks featuring pictures and articles from the past 35 years of agency history will be on display. Numerous awards including the agency's Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented. Please contact Paula at (724) 283-198 no later than November 2, 2007 to make your reservation.



*Wishing You a Wonderful Holiday Season:
Happy Thanksgiving!
Merry Christmas!
And
A Blessed New Year!*

This publication is a product of Community Care Connections, Inc., 114 Skyline Drive, Butler, Pennsylvania, 16001. Phone: (724)283-3198 Fax: (724)283-5945 Visit us on the web at www.communitycareconnect.org.

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Bible Study photos by Judy Karnes.