

## END OF YEAR MESSAGE: Reaching Within and Beyond

Over the past year, Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance (PFSA) has continued to evolve, embracing inclusivity, and expanding its understanding of how best to support families and professionals across the Commonwealth. Each step forward has been fueled by a commitment to progress, equity, and the well-being of Pennsylvania's children.

Our strong partnership with **Vibrant Pittsburgh** laid the foundation for growth and self-reflection. Through a series of workshops for our Board of Directors and staff, we explored topics such as empathy and inclusion, disrupting implicit bias, and microaggressions and microaffirmations. These discussions strengthened our collective understanding and helped foster a more inclusive culture within PFSA.

This commitment to inclusivity also extended to our training initiatives. We welcomed bilingual trainers with expertise in Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law, ensuring that professionals who do not speak English as their first language have the resources they need to protect children effectively.

As we celebrated the completion of PFSA's current strategic plan, our team reflected on the outcomes that have shaped our

organization. Quickly pivoting to the future, we began the process of creating a **new strategic roadmap** to guide our mission and work over the next four years.

From reaching within, we have been able to foster improvements that help us better serve the needs of parents, kinship families, and professionals who work with children. In response to growing concerns around the Commonwealth's near-fatality data, PFSA has expanded opportunities for mandated reporters to receive training designed to help professionals and volunteers better understand the difference between poverty and neglect and how to provide the most respectful and helpful responses to both.

In a historic milestone, PFSA expanded efforts within Pennsylvania's Amish and Old Order Mennonite communities. By collaborating with a trainer from the plain community, we created a tailored training curriculum, ensuring that the **Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse** mandated reporter training is accessible and culturally sensitive.

Our outreach efforts reached new heights. PFSA partnered with the **Fred Rogers Institute** to advance the **Family Digital Wellness** initiative, welcomed new agencies into our **Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Network**, and collaborated with Children and Youth agencies across forty counties to plant blue flags for prevention. Together, we raised awareness about the critical importance of preventing child maltreatment.

The year also brought joy and creativity with the distribution of over 1,000 **Painting for Prevention** kits statewide. Through a



Happy Holidays!

continued partnership with Ceisler Media & Issue Advocacy, we amplified our message and mission to keep Pennsylvania's children safe.

This year of tremendous forward motion is a testament to the dedication and resilience of PFSA's team, partners, and supporters. While we are proud of all we have accomplished,

we remain steadfast in our commitment to the work ahead. The safety and well-being of children across Pennsylvania depend on all of us.

Together, we will continue to innovate, collaborate, and inspire change to **#ProtectPAKids**.



PA BLUE RIBBON  
**CHAMPIONS**  
for **SAFE KIDS**

**APRIL 2 2025**

*Flag Planting*

9:00am

3rd & State Streets in Harrisburg, PA

*Award Ceremony*

10:30am

Pennsylvania's Capitol Building Main Rotunda





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# Kick off the New Year by Joining the CBCAP Network!

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PFSA's **Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Network** is a diverse network of child-protective and family-serving organizations that make a positive impact on children and families throughout Pennsylvania. All CBCAP Network members receive benefits from PFSA such as parenting and caregiver resources, educational materials, professional development opportunities for staff, discounts on training and materials, and much more.

If you are looking to join a network committed to preventing child abuse, supporting families, and working toward a brighter future, consider PFSA's CBCAP Network.

Contact PFSA's Prevention Services Manager, Justin Donofrio, by emailing [jdonofrio@pafsa.org](mailto:jdonofrio@pafsa.org) to learn more about the CBCAP Network, the benefits, or how to sign up.



## Welcome to Our New Staff Member, Michelle Graziano!

Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance (PFSA) is thrilled to introduce our newest team member, Michelle Graziano, who joined us as a Training Support Specialist. With nearly two decades of dedicated experience in the child welfare field, Michelle brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to PFSA, and we couldn't be more excited to welcome her aboard!

Michelle's career has been rooted in service to children and families. Before joining PFSA, she held various roles within county child welfare agencies, including her most recent position as a county administrator.

Her deep understanding of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law and firsthand experience at the county level make her an invaluable addition to our team. Michelle is eager to apply her insights to this new role, helping us expand our mission to protect Pennsylvania's children.

Please join us in giving Michelle a warm welcome to the PFSA family! Her passion for child welfare and her wealth of experience will undoubtedly enhance our efforts to #ProtectPAKids.

You can reach Michelle at [mgraziano@pafsa.org](mailto:mgraziano@pafsa.org).

# UPCOMING PFSA TRAININGS

## Families in Recovery (FiR) Facilitator Training

This research-based program is a great resource for parents, guardians, and caretakers recovering from substance use disorder. The program aims to teach healthy coping and parenting skills while balancing the needs of recovery.

New FiR facilitators will be fully prepared to implement the program and provide training after attending a two-day session that covers content, education, and implementation of the curriculum. FiR facilitators come together during training to share program implementation experience, ideas, and insights. All organizations interested in implementing FiR are required to enter into a contract with PFSA and participate in the evaluation requirements of the program. FiR contracts include ongoing technical assistance, program development, facilitator calls, and assistance with data collection.

**Dates:** January 28 & 29, 2025 (*virtual*)

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.  
(*half-hour lunch break*)

**Cost:** Contact PFSA's Prevention Services Manager, Justin Donofrio, by emailing [jdonofrio@pafsa.org](mailto:jdonofrio@pafsa.org) for the paperwork or to ask questions.

## Mandated Reporter Training

PFSA has several options for mandated reporter training for staff and volunteers. We provide certificates to participants and, upon request, will upload confirmation of the training to the Departments of State or Education for CE fulfillments under Act 31 and/or Act 48. CLEs are also available for attorneys.

### LIVE IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL

**Cost:** Free

**Register [here](#) for a virtual session.**

### INDIVIDUAL ONLINE, ON-DEMAND

**Cost:** \$30

**Sign up [here](#) to take any time.**

### TRAIN-THE-TRAINER

This is an opportunity for organizations to develop their own quality, cost-efficient, in-house training program for employees on child abuse recognition and reporting.

**Dates:** January 22 & 23, 2025 (*virtual*)  
April 23 & 24, 2025 (*virtual*)

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.  
(*half-hour lunch break*)

**Cost:** \$1,000 per trainer entering into a three-year contract with PFSA. Email Haven Evans, Director of Programs, at [hevans@pafsa.org](mailto:hevans@pafsa.org) for the paperwork or to ask questions.

*Get involved and follow us on social!*





# #ProtectPAKids



Help us support the families and communities across Pennsylvania by donating to PFSA today.

Your gift will help PFSA continue to deliver successful training, education, and ongoing support to PA families and children. Visit [pafsa.org/donate](https://pafsa.org/donate) to learn more and to donate!

## Visit Our Store

PFSA has educational resources available in our online store. You can find informative materials covering a wide range of topics designed to assist caregivers, parents, and professionals in an effort to protect children. Please visit [pafsa.org/store](https://pafsa.org/store) to learn more!

## Read Our Blog

Our blog is the best way to get timely information on ways to help stop child abuse, our latest staff developments, and prevention strategies. Our July blog entry includes important water safety tips for this hot month. Read more at [pafsa.org/blog](https://pafsa.org/blog).

