



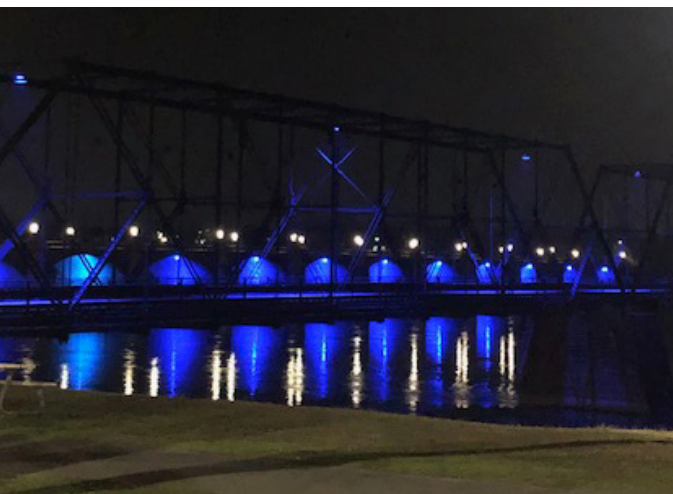
Harrisburg and Pittsburgh Go Blue for Child Abuse Prevention Month



Flag Planting

Our capital city turned blue on the morning of Saturday, March 30, in honor of the start of Child Abuse Prevention Month in April. Community members, county leaders, and legislators joined PFSA's staff, board, and corporate sponsors to "plant" 4,693 blue ribbon flags spanning the State Street corridor from the banks of the Susquehanna River to the steps of the Capitol.

Each flag represented one substantiated victim of child abuse in PA during 2017, the most recent year data is available. Black flags created a solemn memorial to the 40 child abuse-related fatalities in 2017.



Companies, municipalities, and state governments joined in the movement to #ProtectPAKids during the first week of April. From the Dauphin County Bar Association to the Hilton Harrisburg, local businesses displayed blue lights on the fronts of their buildings. Visitors to Harrisburg found their eyes drawn to the Market Street Bridge as it shone bright blue onto the Susquehanna River.

Let's not forget the impact of our State Capitol turned blue as it joined in to send a strong message about the importance of protecting all Pennsylvania children from abuse and neglect. And residents and visitors alike stopped by Anna Rose Bakery & Coffee Shop on Walnut Street to purchase blue ribbon cookies.

"The outpouring of support from both the public and private sector for the PA Blue

Ribbon Champion for Safe Kids Campaign has grown each year tremendously, and we could not be more grateful. Our friends in the media help shine the brightest light on the issue of child abuse and the fact that it is preventable if every person accepts their social responsibility and takes action when they fear a child is not safe," said Angela Liddle, President and CEO of PA Family Support Alliance.

2019 PA Blue Ribbon Champions for Safe Kids

On April 3, the voices of children from Harrisburg's Foose Elementary and Ben Franklin Elementary choirs filled the Capitol Rotunda. The Mechanicsburg High School chamber ensemble offered its gifts and talents while hundreds of child advocates,



child welfare staff and volunteers, elected officials, and corporate sponsors joined to celebrate these 2019 PA Blue Ribbon Champions for Safe Kids Award Recipients:

- ▶ **Patricia Kosinski**
Executive Director of Family Support Line in Media, PA
- ▶ **Daniel J. Dye**
Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General PA Office of Attorney General
- ▶ **Rick R. Wess**
CASA Volunteer Cambria/Somerset
- ▶ **Terry Figart**
CASA Volunteer Cambria/Somerset

Students Erin Zacks, Josh Garcia and Savannah Lebo from Susquehanna Township School District Key Club shared the county and age of each child fatality while students from Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School/

Cathedral Campus removed 40 wrapped birthday presents from a large wooden cake built and donated by The Home Depot Lower Paxton in Harrisburg.

Pittsburgh Inaugural Awards Ceremony

PA Blue Ribbon Champions for Safe Kids Campaign and Awards Event held its inaugural event at One Oxford Center in downtown Pittsburgh on April 10. Volunteers from local agencies serving children and families joined corporate sponsors in lining Grant Street with 4,693 blue flags and 40 black flags. Cathy Utz, Deputy Secretary of the PA Dept. of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Families, thanked community members for coming together to help keep all children safe.

Longtime KDKA anchor Kristine Sorensen was the mistress of ceremonies. Students from Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts School (CAPA), Chartiers Valley Primary School, and Pittsburgh Sunnyside PreK-8 provided music throughout the event, with a special solo performance by Emir Hardy from CAPA.

The Second Lady of Pennsylvania, Gisele Fetterman, offered gratitude and encouragement to program participants and the audience, stating, "There is no greater resource to our commonwealth, to our future, than our children. Let's join together to make sure they are loved, cherished, and safe."

Marc Cherna, Director of Allegheny County Dept. of Human Services, presented **Dr. Mary Carrasco**, Director of A Child's Place, with a Blue Ribbon Champion for Safe Kids Award for her long career keeping children free from harm. **Kristen Ariel Glass** also received an award for her work at Jeremiah's Place, a licensed crisis nursery.

Rich Fitzgerald, Allegheny County Executive, congratulated the students and award winners. Rich said this might have been the area's first Blue Ribbon Champions for Safe Kids Award Ceremony but predicted it will certainly not be the last.

Students Create a Brighter Future with Painting for Prevention in Wilkes-Barre

PFSA joined with the United Way of Wyoming Valley (UWWV) to hold a Painting for Prevention Mural Event at E.L. Meyers Junior/Senior High School. Heart to Art, a woman-owned and -operated art mural company in Scranton, PA, worked with community volunteers to create a mural depicting the importance of a strong community and



education to help individuals move from poverty to prosperity. "When one prospers, we all prosper," said Jennifer Deemer, Vice President of Community Impact for UWWV. An estimated 120 students painted the mural, which will be permanently placed at UWWV.

Upcoming Events & Professional Development Opportunities

Families in Recovery TTT Session May 9 & 10 • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Wesley Spectrum Services, New Kensington

Front Porch Project TTT Session May 17 • 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. • Union Lutheran Church • York

Mandated Reporter TTT Session May 20 & 21 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. • PFSA • Harrisburg

Find more dates on our calendar: pa-fsa.org/calendar

EMPOWERING PARENTS...

(Submitted by Annie Wise, M.Ed., Clinician and Parent Support Group Facilitator, Family Service Association of Bucks County)

For more than a decade, Stacy has been involved with Parent Support Group, a weekly meeting in Bristol facilitated by Family Service Clinician Annie Wise that provides a combination of education and support. Stacy is a proud, strong single mother of 18-year-old Maryia and 16-year-old Ma'Sen, who has diagnoses of bipolar disorder, autism, diabetes, and asthma.

Stacy recalls that years ago, she felt overwhelmed addressing the parental challenges posed by her son's mental and physical health issues. She often asked, "Why was I dealt this hand?"

Now, she says, "I'm the survivor, not the victim, and this is the hand I'm going to play."

Her spirits rose and her sense of isolation faded when she began going to Parent Support Group. The meetings increase knowledge of child development, teach parenting strategies, provide information about other community resources and services, and encourage participants to share their stories and insights.

"Without this outlet," Stacy says, "I wouldn't be able to handle the bad days. I can manage a lot better. We're all family here."



Stacy, a single mom of two teenagers, has been attending Parent Support Group since 2007. The group helped her get through challenging times, and now she's a resource for other parents in this tight-knit community

Stacy feels empowered by what she's learned and the friendships she's developed, and she is now able to help others. "Stacy is such a great mentor for our group," says Annie. "She has experienced so much and brings a unique perspective."

Today, Ma'Sen is a typical teenager, starting vocational training at the Brookwood School and looking forward to graduating and getting his first job. "He is doing really well," Stacy says, "and I do attribute his success to what I've learned in this group."

Maryia is taking classes at a community college and figuring out what career best suits her. Their mom is proud of them both, but when Maryia leaves the nest, Stacy jokes, she'll need Parent Support Group once again.



Stacy chats with facilitator Annie Wise after a meeting. After attending for 11 years, Stacy has become a mentor for Parent Support Group.

Parent Support Group meets weekly in Bristol Borough to help parents improve family relationships and make positive family changes. Participants exchange creative parenting practices based on their own personal experiences.

A photograph of several children lying on their stomachs on a grassy lawn, smiling and laughing. The image is partially covered by a blue banner at the top.

Pa Child Abuse **PREVENTION** **SYMPOSIUM**

9.18.19

▶ **PA FAMILY SUPPORT ALLIANCE'S
40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**



Victor Vieth

Gundersen National
Child Protection
Training Center



Jane Straub

Jacob Wetterling
Resource Center



Liz Murray

Inspirational Speaker
& Best-Selling Author
of Breaking Night

**SEPT
18**

HARRISBURG HILTON
1 N SECOND STREET • HARRISBURG
8:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

REGISTER ONLINE LATE SPRING AT PA-FSA.ORG



Pa Family
SUPPORT ALLIANCE
PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM ABUSE

Remembering James M. Redmond

PFSA's staff and governing board mourn the loss of James M. Redmond, who passed away peacefully on February 4. Jim was a skilled negotiator, a true gentleman, and a strong PA Blue Ribbon Champion for Safe Kids. As a member of PFSA's Board of Directors, he was instrumental in the selection of government relations representation and identifying a robust public policy agenda aimed at improving the safety and well-being of children and supporting grandparents raising their grandchildren. As a member of PFSA's governance and planning committee, he staunchly advocated strong board governance and worked behind the scenes to promote the mission of PFSA.



Angela Liddle, PFSA's President and CEO, shared, "Jim was a man of few words, and yet he was a trusted advisor and mentor to me. I learned as much from what he chose not to say as I did from words he spoke. We all miss him terribly."

Jim had a long career at the Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP) as the Senior VP of Legislative Services — a defining role in which he championed many causes, including the creation of the Children's Health Insurance Program. Perhaps the role he most treasured in his life was being a husband to Candy, a father to Amy and Carrie, and a father-in-law to Jennifer.



A SELFIE AFTER SUPPORT

Photographed with one of 132 statewide PFSA billboards is Nicholas Ashbey, a Clinical Treatment Professional in York, PA. Through March and April, Nick facilitated our first community-based Families In Recovery parent support group in collaboration with Safe Haven Treatment Services of York County.

On Saturday, April 13, Nick celebrated with several parents who graduated from the 7-week program. During his walk home, Nick found the perfect selfie opp, and we just had to share his PFSA pride!

Sending out a gratitude-packed thank you to Nick and the Safe Haven family for bringing this valuable resource to parents in the York community. Thank you to the Outdoor Advertising Association of PA for these beautiful gifts, which spread the message of hope and support for all families throughout PA.

It takes a village to keep kids safe and provide the support every caregiver needs and deserves. Thank you to all who work to #ProtectPAKids every day!

COMING SPRING 2019:

Families in Recovery Parent Support Groups in Central PA!



PFSA is excited to collaborate with community-based organizations that will host Families In Recovery, a seven-week program taking place throughout Central Pennsylvania.

If you are a parent in any stage of the recovery process seeking additional support and parenting education, come pull up a chair! In May 2019, groups will run in York, Dauphin, and Lancaster Counties — all hosted in recovery-friendly, safe, and affirming spaces.

PFSA thanks Heidelberg UCC of York, Blueprints for Addiction Recovery of Lancaster County, and RASE Project of Harrisburg for bringing this fellowship opportunity to your community!

Parent groups have limited seating, and dinner will be served at each session. Child care will be available at Heidelberg and RASE.

Register today by calling 717-238-0937!

More Photos from Child Abuse Prevention Month



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Email: info@pa-fsa.org | **Website:** www.pa-fsa.org | **f** ProtectPAKids | **PAFamilySupport**

The official registration and financial information of Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization – contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.