



ACCESS SERVICES

Creating better ways to serve people with special needs

May 2020



The Best Our World Has to Offer

Our world was turned upside down in March with the onset of COVID-19. Our lives were changed dramatically over a few short weeks. We have been hit hard by this disease that is rampaging around our world. A new fear has gripped our communities and has significantly changed how we relate to one another, show affection and communicate. I know a number of you have been devastated by the loss of loved ones. Our hearts go out to you during this time. I cannot imagine the....

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Foster Parents Changing Generations

Melissa and Joshua Stapp have been foster parents with Access Services for over two years. Emily Whitmire, a coordinator who works closely with



* To preserve the confidentiality of the youth in foster care, this photo has been edited.

the family shares, “Since the beginning they’ve provided amazing care and nurturance to children in need of a loving, stable home. They feel fostering is their “calling,” and they find great fulfillment in helping children become the best versions of themselves.”

Melissa and Joshua strongly believe that foster parenting changes generations, “We help our community manage problems of homelessness, substance abuse, mental health, domestic abuse, intellectual disability, and poverty by giving...

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Jacob

When my wife Eileen and I made the decision to become Lifesharing providers, our goal was to provide a happy, secure family atmosphere that would care for and support Jacob in his growth as an individual. Jacob became a welcome part of our family nearly ten years ago and quickly established very close relationships with all of our children. Jacob enjoys being very social and has expressed his interest and fondness for travel so we have provided him with many opportunities to join in activities such as trips to the...

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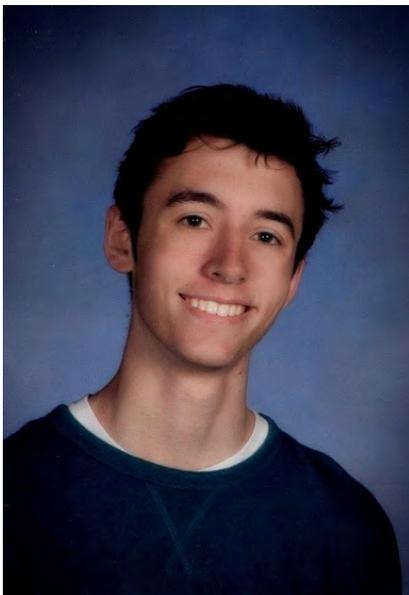
Experiencing Homelessness During Coronavirus

Each of us are navigating new challenges as a result of the Coronavirus, whether its working at home, learning to home school, or being separated from loved ones. For those experiencing homelessness, the challenges



look different. How do you quarantine if you don't have a home? How do you handle the stress of a health pandemic if you don't have health insurance? Where do you go for shelter during the day when all the businesses are closed? For the 150 people who are currently living outside in Montgomery County, this is...

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In Memory of Matt

On September 26, 2014 Patti and Joe Dille's lives changed forever when they lost their 17-year-old son, Matt, to suicide. Patti shares, "It was just a regular day. Matt went to school that day and came home from school. He talked to me, said hello, said he let the dog out and the day went on." After realizing Matt was going to be late to work, she went to check on him, "I realized I had to go up and unfortunately, I found that he had made the decision to..."

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Introducing: The Ben & J Show!

"Having autism is not a bad thing it doesn't characterize who we are, everyone is unique and special just like a rainbow," shares Ben Hartranft, Ambassador at Access Services. Ben was diagnosed with autism at the age of two and has used his experience to advocate for autism awareness. He shares his personal story at local high schools, fundraises for the Eagles Autism Challenge, and has even been featured on...

The Ben and J Show
Every Tuesday 3:00-4:30PM



Ben Hartranft
Access Services Ambassador

Jamiel Owens
Host of The Ausome Show

Presented by
ACCESS SERVICES
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Praying for the Public and Mental Health

Much has been written about the public health crisis we're facing. What's being further recognized is that we're not only facing a public health crisis but a mental health crisis as well. Social isolation and a loss of control has taken its toll on the mental health of many. In fact, the White House recently assembled mental health professionals for a conference call about the pandemic's impact on mental wellness. So, as we continue praying for those fighting the battle for public health, let's also pray those within social services and faith communities on the front lines of the battle for our mental health.

Contact our Chaplain and Director of Intersect, Dave Eckert at 215-540-2150, x1286 or email DEckert@accessservices.org. Learn more about our Intersect program at www.accessservices.org/intersect.

Support During COVID

We can't say "Thank You" enough to the friends of Access Services who are donating hand sanitizer, face masks and funds to help us meet critical needs. You are helping our staff and the people we serve stay safe during the pandemic. There is still a need - please let us know if you can help.



For those making a cash donation, did you know that the CARES Act offers a tax incentive? Individual taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions can take a one-time deduction of up to \$300 for gifts to charitable organizations in 2020. There are incentives for 'itemizers' too. Please consult your tax advisor to learn more about all that the CARES Act offers. Thanks again for your support.

To give a monetary donation, visit

www.accessservices.org/donate. For in-kind donations, please contact Linda at 215-540-2150, 1357 or email LWasilchick@accessservices.org.



Work With Us!

Full Time Supervisor in Delaware Valley, PA

Supervise, support, and develop direct support professionals face to face, with phone calls, emails, and on shifts. Effectively assist resolution of crisis situations, if needed. Guide and discuss with staff various methods of interventions and program planning for individuals and their families. Assist in hiring and orienting direct support professionals. Bachelor's degree required, in a related field including special education, psychology, public health, rehabilitation, social work or therapeutic recreation preferred. [Click to view job.](#)

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Open Your Heart and Home by Becoming a Foster Parent

Access Services' Foster Care program is available to children who are in need of love and care in a nurturing, stable home when unable to be with their family. Foster parents are caregivers as well as agents of active change in a child's life by setting a good

example and providing the time, care, and attention that a child deserves. Foster parents ensure that every child has a place to call home, a safe place they can count on for growth and care.

Please consider opening your heart and home to a child who needs it most. Competitive rates, training and ongoing support are provided, with long-term and short-term options available.

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