

**JULY
2024**

**HERE AT
home.**



**Give Local York:
Thank you for everything!**

Also in this issue:

- Meet our Board of Directors
- Our Annual Back-to-School Drive
- Learn about our BRIDGES™ Program

**Children's
HOME**

**You can provide hope,
love, and a brighter
future to a child.**

bit.ly/CHOYDonate



The President's Corner

Just like typical families, our kids have places to go, and we need to get them there! Visits to biological families, court appointments, doctor appointments, and school add up to a lot of miles. The result is an ongoing need to cycle out tired vans and replace them with new ones. We set a lofty Give Local York goal when we knew we needed \$100,000 to replace two of our ten vans. We are still amazed that you helped Children's Home of York exceed our wildest expectations. That's why in this edition of Here at Home, we celebrate all of you who helped us raise enough money for THREE vehicles – an astounding 131,754!

While we wish no child needed to call Children's Home of York home, we are so glad they can if they need to. Many of you contribute to us often throughout the year and you play an essential role in ensuring children have all they need while they are here at Home with us. Each contribution has provided essential resources, opportunities for growth, and the loving environment that every child deserves and needs to succeed. Because of your compassion and commitment, our children can envision a brighter future and achieve their full potential. Together, we are not just making a difference; we are creating a legacy of hope and kindness that will resonate for generations to come here in York. Thank you for being the heart of our mission and for making such an indelible impact on our community's most vulnerable members.

The team, our children and families, and the governing board of directors at Children's Home of York extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of you.

Ron Bunce, PhD., LMSW

President & CEO



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Give Local York: Thank you for everything!

On May 2nd and 3rd, Children's Home of York joined over three hundred other nonprofits for Give Local York, York County's biggest day of giving. We are grateful that the White Rose Leadership Institute has created this platform for nonprofits across the county to share their mission and fundraise. Here at Home, we challenged our supporters with our biggest goal yet.

We asked York County to help us fundraise \$100,000 to purchase two new vehicles to transport our clients in foster care safely. We are ecstatic to report you helped us raise \$131,754. Because you helped us surpass our goal, we were able to replace three vehicles in our fleet.

You helped us raise

\$131,754





After logging 50,000 miles a year driving kids to school, appointments, home visits, sports teams, and music lessons, our old vans were ready for retirement. We believe it's important to give our kids the same opportunities their peers have, and your gift ensures that we can get them where they need to go safely. We were able to purchase two Chrysler Pacificas and one Honda Pilot for our team and our kids. Thank you for your generosity and your commitment to York's children.

Special thanks to

Ciocca Automotive York Region

Carol Wagman

The Ream Family

Children's Home of York Board
of Directors



Learn more about our next project:

bit.ly/CHOYHelp

Maximize your impact, minimize your taxes.

Approved businesses are able to redirect their PA state tax dollars to fund select educational programs in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. CHOY's BRIDGES™ Partial Hospitalization Program is able to benefit from the EITC Program.

Find out if you're eligible and how to apply on the PA DCED website:

bit.ly/PA_EITC

About BRIDGES™ Partial Hospitalization Program

BRIDGES™ PHP operates year-round and provides structured therapy alongside scholastic education. School-age students attend BRIDGES™ in lieu of their home school district to receive the necessary therapeutic milieu to heal from past trauma while not falling behind their peers.

bit.ly/CHOY_BRIDGES



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ONE SHARP STUDENT!

Back to School Drive: Help stuff our backpacks!

Every school year, we provide backpacks and school supplies to the children in our care. We believe that every child deserves the tools they need to succeed, regardless of their circumstances. From backpacks and notebooks to pencils and calculators, these seemingly small items can make a world of difference in a child's academic journey. We're asking for donations of the following:

- Binders
- Reading books
- Folders
- Pencil box
- Index cards
- Backpacks
- Colored pencils
- Washable markers
- Spiral notebooks
- Composition books
- Blunt scissors
- Glue sticks
- Erasers
- Pens
- Highlighters

Donated items can either be dropped off at CHOY's main office, or shipped directly to us! Items need to be received by August 2nd.

Find our wish list on our website:

bit.ly/CHOY_BTS



Rent the gym!

Our gym can be used for sports practices, events, or just a place to have fun! The facility is a full sized gymnasium with two basketball hoops. All rental money is returned directly into CHOY's programming and services.

Contact us at development@choyork.org



Now hiring!

Multiple positions open with impressive benefits.

- Competitive pay
- No cost medical, dental, and vision coverage
- 403B retirement plan
- Tuition reimbursement and professional development
- Paid sick and vacation time, personal holidays

bit.ly/CHOYJobs

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CHOY's Leadership: Meet our Board of Directors

Children's Home of York is poised to begin a journey of growth that is powered by the dedication and expertise of our Board of Directors. Our mission is to empower children to thrive and strengthen families, and at the helm is our Board of Directors. As we continue to grow and evolve, their leadership is crucial in developing a brighter future for the children and families of York.

Executive Committee



Rudy Kocman
Kocman Insurance Group
Chairperson

Lindy Hitzel
Campbell Associates
Vice Chairperson

Tom Kaizar
RKL LLP
Treasurer

Zach Nahass
CGA Law Firm
Secretary

For more information about our Board and how you can get involved, please visit our website:

www.choyork.org

Joining our Board of Directors are five individuals with diverse backgrounds and experiences. Together, they bring fresh perspectives to our mission as we continue our work.



Ashley Grimm

Ashley is an attorney and senior certified Human Resources professional with more than 17 years of experience in legal, human resources, government, and nonprofit experience. Ashley currently works as the Vice President of Human Resources and Corporate Secretary for the York Water Company. Ashley serves the community as a Board Member with Olivia's House, a member of the YMCA of the Roses Human Resources Committee, Counsel for the PA State Council of Lions Clubs, and the York County Bar Association.



Jennifer Hitz

Jen is the President/CEO of Leg Up Farm, a pediatric therapy center for children with special needs. Before assuming the President/CEO position, Jen oversaw Leg Up Farm's development department. She is also a 2017 graduate of Mentorship York and a 2023 graduate of the York Federal Fellows. Community involvement includes the Junior League of York, Women United of the York County United Way, York County Leave a Legacy, and WCCOSP (a mentorship program at York College of Pennsylvania).



Patty Kelley

Patty is the Senior Director of Contracting and Networking Development at PA Health & Wellness. She works in the healthcare insurance field, primarily government-sponsored, building networks of Providers to serve the needs of residents in PA. Patty writes, "The growth opportunities are tremendous for services supporting the behavioral health of our shared community and beyond in such an area of need. I've been in Pennsylvania now for just over 12 years and am a York County resident myself and have heard only good comments about the Children's Home of York."



Celia Serrano

Celia works as a Community Health Worker Supervisor with Family First Health. She is passionate about the community in which she lives and works. Celia assists patients and the community within the Hannah Penn K-8 school and the School-Based Health Center in identifying SDOH and connecting them with health care, local resources, and insurance. She was a frontline staff during the COVID outbreak and assisted in educating the community on COVID testing and vaccinations.



Diaz Woodard

Diaz is a Community Outreach Coordinator for WellSpan Health. Before this position he completed 15-plus years of work for various upstanding organizations in the City of York which include The Salvation Army Youth Program, YWCA, York City School District, Children's Home of York, and York County Libraries. Diaz understands the importance of educating the entire child and has devoted his time to not only his community but most importantly his family. As a father of three, he uses his personal and professional experiences to catapult him to a position where he can be a change agent for the families of the City of York.

Children's Home of York Board of Directors, 2024/25

Rudy Kocman, Chairperson - Kocman Insurance Group

Lindy Hitzel, Vice Chairperson - Campbell Associates

Tom Kaizar, Treasurer - RKL LLP

Zachary Nahass, Secretary - CGA Law Firm

Dale Brickley - WellSpan Philhaven

Ashley Grimm - York Water Company

Jennifer Hitz - Leg Up Farm

Eric Hoffman - York County's Children Advocacy Center, Leadership York

Miranda Jenkins - York Suburban School District

Patty Kelley - PA Health & Wellness

Steve Klunk - Retired CPA

Katie Mahoney - York County Economic Alliance

Melissa Markey - M&T Bank

Celia Serrano - Family First Health

Vicki Stewart - York College of Pennsylvania

Natalie Williams - Healthy York Coalition

Diaz Woodard - WellSpan Health

Ilya Yakovlev - York College of Pennsylvania

Children's Home of York expresses our deepest gratitude for the incredible contributions and unwavering dedication of two board members who reached our 6-year term limit, CarrieAnn Frolio and Andrew Koplitz. Their leadership, insight, and commitment have been instrumental in guiding our organization through numerous challenges and triumphs, ensuring that we continue to provide the highest quality care and support to the children we serve. Here at Home, we want them to know the positive impact of their tenure will be felt for many years to come, and we are immensely grateful for the countless hours and expertise they have generously shared with us. As they transition to new endeavors, they will always be a cherished part of the Children's Home of York family. Thank you both from the bottom of our hearts.

We are excited about the potential Children's Home of York holds in the next year. With our Board of Directors, we hope to create a community in York County where children and families have access to safety, stability, mental health care, and the resources they need. We hope you can join us on this journey, too.

Thank you to our outgoing Board members.



CarrieAnn Frolio, Family First Health



Andrew Koplitz, Doceo



Our programming: **BRIDGES™ Partial Hospitalization Program**

School can already be challenging for children and adolescents, and for those struggling with trauma and complex needs, school can feel impossible to succeed in. Children's Home of York offers a solution through the BRIDGES™ Partial Hospitalization Program (BRIDGES™ PHP) that combines intensive therapeutic support with academic instruction, all while allowing students to remain in their homes and communities.

BRIDGES™ PHP offers a highly-structured therapeutic day program that is offered alongside an academic program provided by the Lincoln Intermediate Unit No. 12. Offered year-round, the program is tailored individually for children and adolescents who require a higher level of care than typical outpatient services, but do not need the 24-hour supervision of a residential or inpatient facility.

Admission criteria

- Admission and the provision of services are made without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, or sexual orientation.
- BRIDGES™ PHP uses the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Health Choices Behavioral Health Services Guidelines for Mental Health Medical Necessity Criteria to determine appropriateness of referrals and admissions. Our clients must meet the following criteria:
 - They are in grades first through twelfth.
 - They exhibit behaviors that indicate a risk for unsafe actions toward self or others.
 - They have a decreased functioning in their developmental level such that the behavioral disturbances requires regular observation and treatment, but does not require 24-hour supervision.
- A referral to BRIDGES™ PHP can be considered for a step down from an acute, inpatient hospitalization or a way to avoid admission to a residential treatment facility.

BRIDGES™ PHP includes a comprehensive array of services designed to address individual needs.

- **Individual, group, and family therapy.**
- **Medication management.**
- **Individualized mental health treatment plan.**
- **Individualized education plan (if applicable).**
- **Biopsychosocial assessment.**
- **Psychiatric evaluation and collaboration case management.**
- **Referral for specialized evaluations (if applicable).**
- **Coordination of care.**
- **Community outreach.**
- **Participation in Riker's education program.**
- **Prevention education groups.**

Children's Home of York uses a multidisciplinary team approach. Our team of psychiatrists, social workers, clinicians, and mental health workers collaborate with students and their families to develop individualized treatment plans. This ensures that the physical, emotional, and educational needs of each child are met.

The goal of BRIDGES™ PHP is to stabilize the mental health condition and improve functioning in daily life, eventually transitioning back to the student's home school district. After graduating from the program, students will be equipped with tools and coping mechanisms to foster resilience and aid in self-regulation.

Admission to BRIDGES™ PHP begins with a referral and is followed by an assessment to tailor the program to the child's specific needs. As it stands, the blend of therapeutic support and academic continuity within a community-based setting has been proven successful to foster recovery with an average length of admission between three to six months. For more information or to make a referral to BRIDGES™ PHP, please visit our website.

For more information, please contact the BRIDGES™ Team:
bridges@choyork.org