

**APRIL
2024**

**HERE AT
home.**



Give Local York:
Learn about our new
campaign!

Also in this issue:

- Foster Care Awareness Month
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt
- Back-to-School Drive
- And more!

**Children's
HOME**

You can help us create
something they can
look forward to.

bit.ly/CHOYDonate



The President's Corner

Leading a Legacy; Leaving a Legacy

Leading an organization with a legacy of service to York's children and families in need for 159 years, and counting, requires reverence and extraordinary commitment to its continued success. Efforts put to bear on behalf of our Home require maintaining sight of the needs of our children today but never losing sight of those who will need us in the future. In this edition of Here at Home, you will see all the ways we are working to meet the needs of our children and families today. What you do not see is how we are simultaneously planning for those who will need us for decades to come.

Throughout the years, Presidents, their teams, and the Board left an indelible mark that was used to build upon. Among other things, previous President Laurie Anne Spagnola, brought Sanctuary® to Children's Home of York – a trauma-informed approach to care that we continue to use today. Later, Dr. Joe Birli and his team created a new level of care in the state of Pennsylvania, RISE. RISE created an opportunity for our team to learn to meet the needs of adolescents that had a complexity that the child welfare delivery system was unable to meet. Without RISE, Children's Home of York would never have embarked upon our new program SOAR, which seeks to meet the complex needs of adolescents like those in RISE, but with an emphasis on psychiatric care as well.

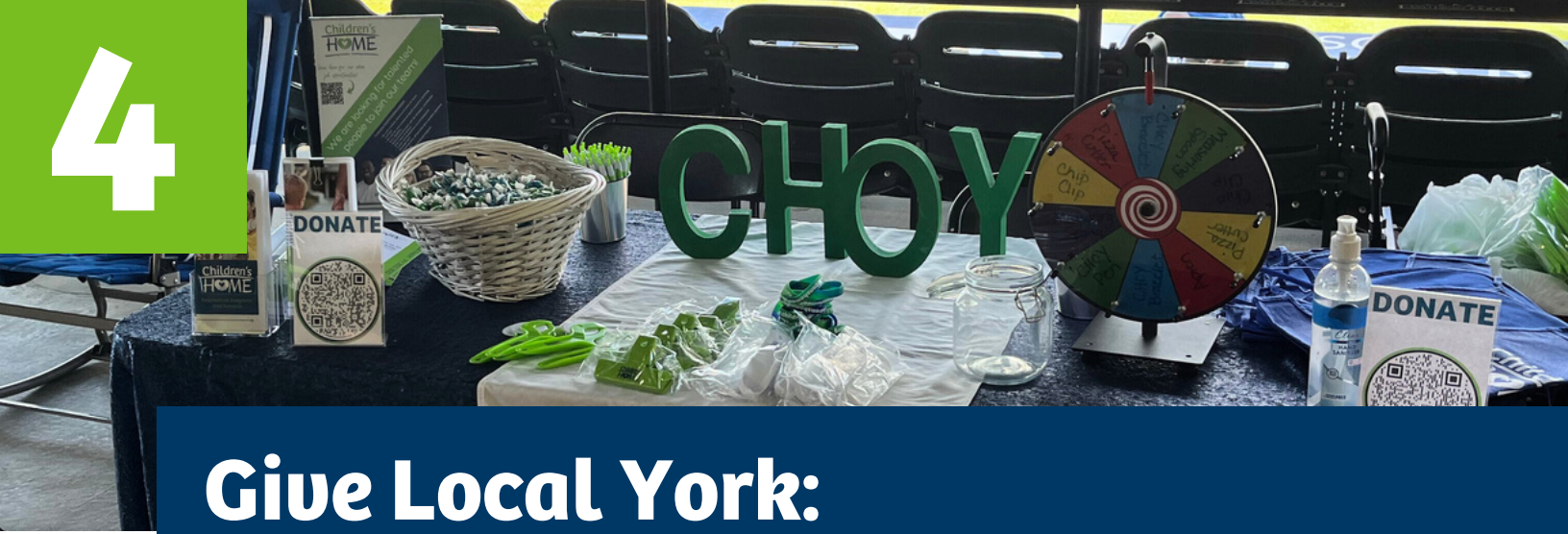
Today's team seeks to leave a legacy too. We hope to continue upon the trajectory set forth of embedding excellence in our trauma-informed approach to care and meet the needs of youth whom other organizations feel ill-equipped to serve.

Simultaneously, we hope to create an unshakable financial foundation so Children's Home of York can withstand any internal or external threat that may present. We are doing so through a partnership with the York County Community Foundation where we have established an account to grow our legacy assets to create passive revenue that will sustain our mission for decades to come. As generous individuals in our community share the fruits of their lifetime of labor with us, our goal is to ensure that their bequests are used to generate revenue to support youth in our community in perpetuity. Are you interested in learning more about our endeavors to grow our legacy assets, or are you considering leaving a legacy? Give me a call to see if, like me, Home is where your heart is.



Ron Bunce, PhD., LMSW
President/CEO

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Give Local York: Learn about our new campaign!

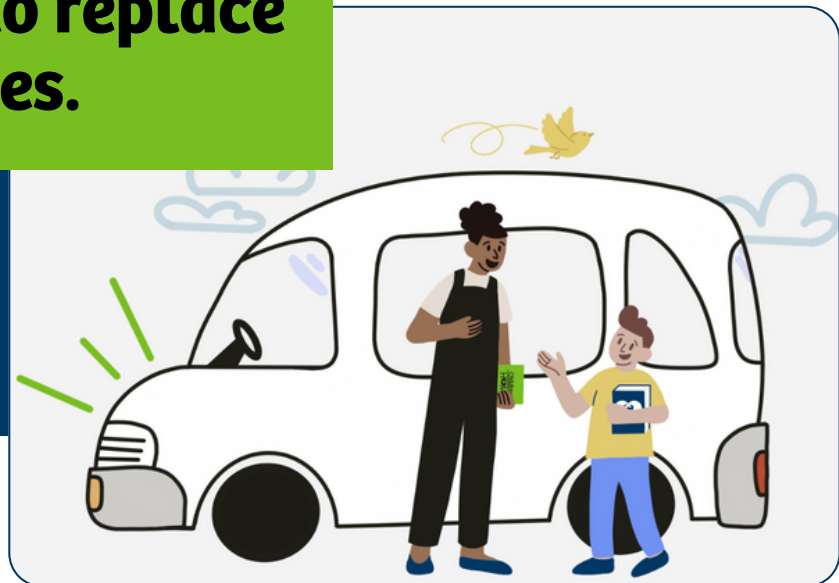
The first Friday of May is a huge celebration for nonprofits across York County. Give Local York has created a platform for nonprofits of all sizes to share their mission and fundraise. Children's Home of York looks forward to the event every year, and we have a huge goal in mind for 2024.

Giving begins at 9 AM on Thursday, May 2nd. You can participate in the fun by visiting downtown York on Friday, May 3rd. Events will be happening throughout the evening!

Help us raise \$100,000 to replace our aging fleet of vehicles.



**May 2nd 9 PM -
May 3rd 9 PM**



Our kids are just like yours. They outgrow shoes and need school supplies. They play sports, attend music lessons, and have doctors' appointments. The biggest difference is that we have over 100 of them. It adds up.

We log nearly 50,000 miles a year ferrying kids to school, appointments, and visits with family. This year, our two aging vans have reached the end of their useful lives. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 to purchase two new minivans to replace them. The safety and well-being of our children depend on our vehicles having modern safety features and mechanical reliability.



What we need in a minivan:

- 4-door
- Third row seating
- All wheel drive
- Automatic transmission
- 4 to 6 cylinder engine
- Cruise control
- Power liftgate

Price:
\$50,000 MSRP

It takes love and guidance to raise a healthy child, but as every parent knows, it also takes money and time—a lot of it spent in the car. Please donate and help us keep our kids moving in the right direction—up!

Learn more about our campaign:

bit.ly/CHOY_GiveLocal

DINE TO DONATE



Dine at any of the places listed below and 15-25% of sales will be donated to CHOY!

- **April 6th** - East York Panera (4 - 8 PM)
- **April 10th** - East York MOD Pizza (all day)
- **April 14th** - East York Isaac's (all day)
- **April 19th** - Sons of Sicily (all day)
- **April 23rd-25th** - Pizza al Bacio (all day)
- **May 1st** - Holy Hound (12 - 4 PM)

All dates are listed under the "Events" tab on our Facebook page. You can set yourself a reminder by signing up!

More information is on our website:

www.childrenshomeofyork.org

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 5th.

Please contact the Development team with any questions:
development@choyork.org



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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National Foster Care Month: Celebrate with us in May.

May is National Foster Care Month. The focus in 2024 is the partnership with families and youth to ultimately achieve permanency. Both child welfare professionals and caregivers play a significant role in building familial relationships and lifelong connections between youth and the people who are important to them.

CHOY helps families create a structured, therapeutic environment with intensive support from our team to help the children in our care return safely to their biological or find permanent families and homes as quickly as possible. We are always welcoming additional Resource Families to match with children in need of permanency.

390,000

There are over 390,000 children and youth in foster care.

20,000

Approximately 20,000 youth are emancipated from foster care without a permanent family.

We provide round-the-year training for individuals and families who want to begin their foster care or adoption journey. By opening your heart and your home, you can make a profound difference in a child's life and contribute to the well-being of families in your community. If you are interested in becoming a resource parent, we encourage you to contact us to learn more about the requirements, training, and support available.

Please contact the Permanency Department with any questions:

perm@choyork.org

Why foster care?

Safety and Stability

The primary purpose of foster care is to provide a safe and stable environment for a child who cannot be with their parents, for various reasons. Children who have been uprooted from their homes need a place where they can feel safe. Often, the place they previously called home was chaotic with no routines or a sense of normalcy. These children must learn what it's like to get up and go to school, eat regular meals, and have schedules. Knowing what is going to happen every day gives the child a sense of stability that is often lacking.

Education

Resource Families teach children what it means to be a kid. They learn math, science, reading, music, and how to enjoy being a kid. It often takes time and patience for children to relax enough to be themselves or even to figure out who they are. Resource Parents have the big task of helping children learn about themselves and the world around them in a positive way after experiencing abuse, neglect, trauma, loss, and disrupted relationships.

Stopping the Cycle

Often, foster care provides a safe transition period for the child while the biological family gets their issues resolved so they can be the parents they want to be. The Resource Parents not only support the child, but they support the parents, too. They help the parents fulfill their roles and feel less alone in their struggles. The biological parents can know their child is safe and being cared for while they focus on getting their lives on track. Foster care plays an important role in caring for kids in an already-burdened system. It is an essential component of bringing families together and helping kids to grow up and excel in life regardless of their past.

Returning in 2024 - Support groups!

Our Permanency Team is excited to bring back support groups for our resource families. Childcare is provided. Meetings occur the first Monday of each month, and topics will vary. Families are encouraged to bring snacks for themselves or to share.

Mentors wanted

We are looking for seasoned resource families who are willing to mentor new families. Please reach out to the permanency team if you are interested.



Adoption & Foster Care Awareness Night

May 14th | Gates open at 5:30 PM

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Happy Easter: Our Annual Easter Egg hunt.

We welcomed the Easter Bunny on Good Friday, March 29th. They hid eggs around our main campus for kids to find! Check out the fun we had:



Our next big event is our Back-to-School Drive. You can contact our Development Team to find out how to get involved:

development@choyork.org