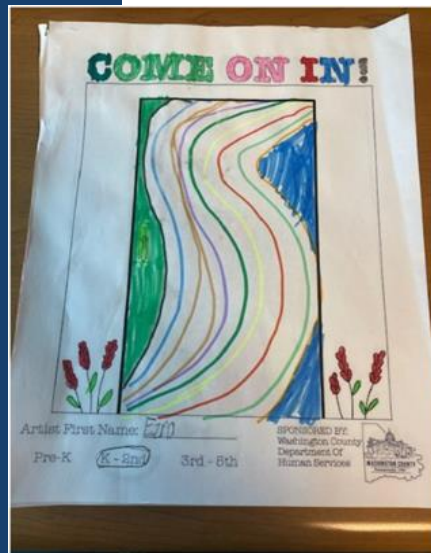
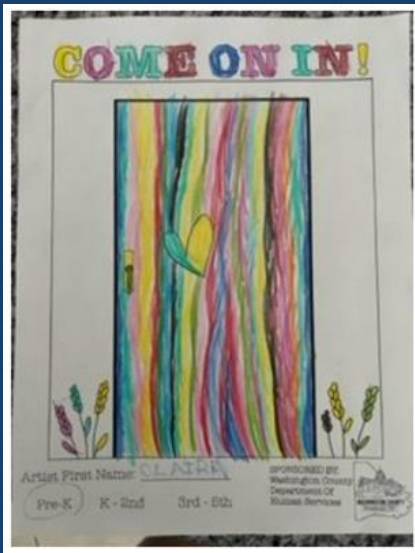


August 2022

Issue 11

Washington County Department of Human Services



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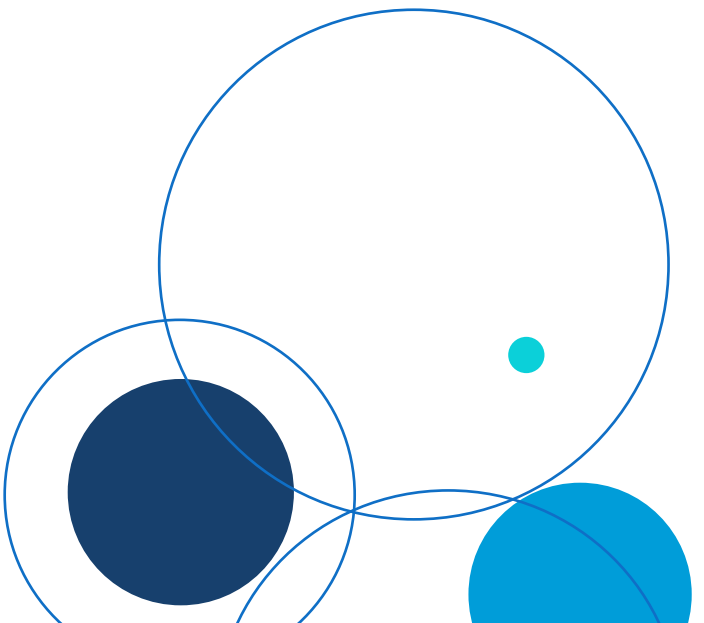
Washington County Department of Human Services-Meet the staff

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Washington County Behavioral Health and Developmental Services-Mental Health Outreach Event



Committee's Choice Coloring Contest Winners from Human Services Launch Event June 30, 2022:

Pre-K: Claire

K-2: Ezra-Canon-McMillan-Hills Hendersonville Elementary

2-5: Meadow-California Area Elementary School

Mon Valley Opioid Coalition Night Out

August 2, 2022 | 6-9 PM
 DiVirgilio Recreational Complex
 129 Recreation Drive, Rostraver Township
 Fireworks to follow
 Sponsored by Vinoski Winery

Community members and students residing in Bentworth, Belle Vernon, Brownsville, California, Charleroi, Frazier, Monessen, Ringgold, and Yough are invited to come out and meet your local Police Officers, Firefighters, and EMTs!
 Local businesses and organizations will be present to share information about the Mon Valley Community.

Music!
 Food!
 Activities for kids!

Demos of emergency equipment!
 Jaws of life
 Life Flight

Police & 1st Responders specialty vehicles!



Dates to Remember

August 2022

- August 2nd**-Mon Valley Opioid Coalition Night Out 6-9
- August 3rd**-WCDHS Town Hall Meeting at 3:00PM [Join Here](#)
- August 9th**-Washington Salvation Army Produce Distribution
- August 22nd**-Out of the Darkness Team Captain Event at Crazy Horse at 3:00PM
- August 23rd**-Out of the Darkness Committee Planning Meeting at 2:00PM [Join here](#)
- August 31st**-International Overdose Awareness Day at Washington Wild Things

SAVE THE DATE

**International
 Overdose
 Awareness Day
 August 31, 2022**



In observance of International Overdose Awareness Day, the Washington County Opioid Overdose Coalition in collaboration with the Washington Wild Things, will honor the lives of loved ones who have passed away as a result of overdose/substance use disorder.

Please submit names in memoriam of those who have passed to Shenna Wood no later than Friday, August 12th: shennaw@wdacinc.org

Organizations interested in registering for a booth at the event, should contact Shenna: shennaw@wdacinc.org

Additional information regarding this event will be forthcoming.



May 8, 2004 - Feb. 2, 2022

Proceeds will go to Team Tearney in the Walk in October



**In Memory Of
 TEARNEY GREELY**

Cornhole Tournament

When: Sept. 17, 2022
Where: N Stryabane Twp. Park
Time: 12pm sign up
Bags fly at 1pm

\$40 per Team
Bring own Partner
Bring own Bags

Will pay 1st and 2nd payout determined by entrants.

Chinese Auction

Food Truck: All American Grill



American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
 Western Pennsylvania





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Meet the Faces Behind the Department of Human Services:

Karen Sphar: Centralized Intake, Community Outreach Liaison



Karen Sphar is the Human Services Community Outreach Liaison at the Washington County Department of Human Services. Karen is a native of Washington County, where she raised three grown children and shares a home with her husband and fur family, Bo, Bessie, and Bella. Karen is a graduate of California University of Pennsylvania, with a degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. Karen's passion for the human service field has remain a constant throughout her career. With a background in teaching, advocating for others and always lending a supportive word of encouragement comes naturally. Her passion in making a difference in the lives of others has been the driving force of her career journey.

From entrepreneurship, to an Education Supervisor with Head Start, working as a Grant Specialist regionally and throughout the state with the Office of Child Development (OCDEL) and the PA Key of Excellence, as well as capacity-building grant work with the Washington County Community Foundation, all have provided her the ability to recognize the importance of strengthening communities through partnerships and educating the public.

She looks forward to promoting awareness and ensuring community engagement in the human services system throughout Washington County. Her experience has taught her that societal needs must be addressed through partnering efforts to make a difference in our communities.

Karen can be found relaxing with a book, vacationing with family, or fulfilling her love of cooking and sharing time with others, in her spare time.

Jordin Mertz: Clinical Unit, Research Analyst



Jordin Mertz is a Research Analyst for the Washington County Department of Human Services. Jordin earned his B.S. in Political Science with a minor in Economics from The Pennsylvania State University in May of 2022. During a summer internship in the Czech Republic Jordin picked up more technical experiences conducting data analytics and found a passion for programing in languages like Python and SQL. His interest in quantitative research and data science allows him to utilize a number of software and programing languages to run statistical tests and analysis for the department. He hopes to bring a new perspective to the department by revealing greater trends and patterns in the data. In his free time Jordin enjoys discovering new music, coding, and reading about comparative politics. He hopes to travel more in the near future and see more parts of the world.

City Mission

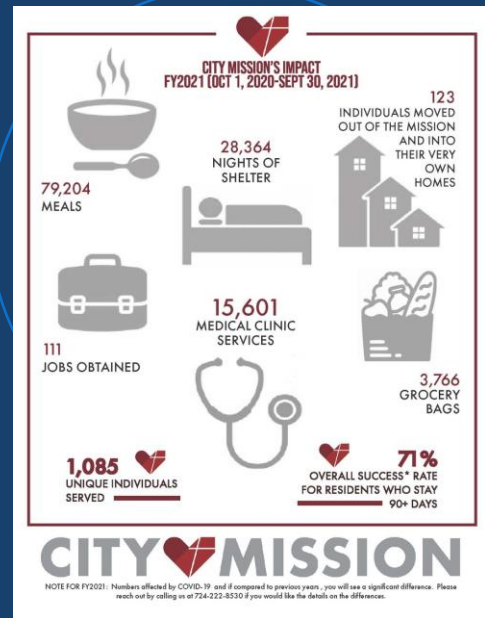
Provider Spotlight information provided by Leah Dietrich

At City Mission we have a proud and rich history of service to our community. From our humble beginnings in 1941 as a small ministry to larger Christian-based operation serving over 79,000 meals per year and providing housing to 160 people - City Mission remains a selfless servant of the community, providing hope for our area homeless.

City Mission is a Christ-Centered rehabilitative homeless shelter who is dedicated to restoring the lives of those experiencing homelessness to move from a life in crisis to a thriving one. We have 4 shelters, housing men, women, women with children, and veterans. City Mission mainly serves Southwestern Pennsylvania, but we continue to serve all those that find our doors which can expand outside this area at any given time like those from OH, WV, or farther.

City Mission exists to share Christ, to shelter, to heal, and to restore the homeless to independent living—without discrimination. With the ever-growing homeless and poverty issues in our community, City Mission strives to meet individuals where they are to address the barriers, they face to achieve a thriving life; ones such as physical health, mental health, drug and alcohol addiction, or domestic violence. We provide a residential life recovery program that meets clients where they are. We also offer community services through Samaritan Care which provides food bags, seasonal give-a-ways and provides connections to resources in the community.

To contact City Mission for help, individuals can call us at 724-222-8530 or email contact@citymission.org where they will be directed to an appropriate Intake Coordinator to discuss and evaluate the individual's situation and offer immediate and longer-term solutions.



For residents at City Mission experiencing homelessness and looking to work towards a stable independent life, we offer:

1. Compassionate Care addressing their basic needs like meals, shelter, clothing, and an on-campus medical clinic, which partners with Centerville Clinics, a Federally Qualified Health Center, to provide primary care for our residents.
2. Life Changing Programs like Biblically based counseling, classes and therapeutic groups, Career & Education Center, Work readiness program which offers job training and certifications, and connection to area services to help them with individual needs

For our community in need, we provide services to assist those not in our shelters:

1. Samaritan Care Center offer food pantry services along with other needs like clothing and toiletries as well as connection to area services depending on their needs
2. WeCare Street outreach lead by Dr. Monica Speicher works with those experiencing homelessness on the streets or other places to get medical care and basic needs items to them.
3. Meals are also provided through our kitchen

As you can imagine, providing the help needed to transform someone's life from homelessness to independent living takes extensive efforts and resources. This saying is so true, "It takes a VILLAGE"! You can help by donating, volunteering, partnering, and contributing to the Mission's upcoming Capital Campaign to expand our Women's Shelter from 14 beds to 50 beds.

To further our outreach and sustainability, City Mission Thrift Stores are a critical mission asset, taking donations and helping our community by offering great deals on clothing and other items. But, first and foremost, proceeds from our stores keep City Mission doors open to transform lives from homelessness to independent living!



Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

Outreach Event

Information Provided by: **Mary Jo Patrick-Hatfield**

Washington County BHDS is pleased to announce our Mental Health Awareness Fair at the Washington County Agricultural Fair from August 13-20th. BHDS will host a table with resource information and Anti-stigma Awareness themed "Giveaways". We will be raffling 8 prizes on the final day of the Fair giving maximum opportunities to win and representing one prize for each of the days of the Fair. Free Mood and Anxiety Screenings will be available during specified hours. Additional activities may be available as well. Please contact Mary Jo Hatfield at 724-288-3845 for additional information.

Washington County Out of the Darkness Walk

October 2, 2022

We are currently recruiting team captains, walkers, volunteers, sponsors and offering FREE tabling opportunities.

Register now at afsp.org/WashingtonPA

Join us on August 22 at 3:00PM at Crazy Horse Coffee for a

Team Captain Event!

We are now accepting submissions for the September, October and November issue. Please reach out to Rebecca Salsbury at Rebecca.Salsbury@co.washington.pa.us if you are interested in being a guest columnist or if you know of any upcoming events!



Walk to Fight Suicide

Washington County Out of the Darkness Walk
October 2, 2022
Wild Things Park
1 Federal Way, Washington, PA 15301

Register at
afsp.org/WashingtonPA

Washington County Out of the Darkness Walk
October 2, 2022
Wild Things Park
1 Federal Way, Washington, PA 15301

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afsp.org/WashingtonPA