



May 2022

Issue 8

# Washington County Department of Human Services



## IN THIS ISSUE

**PG. 2**

Dates to Remember

**PG. 3**

Announcements

**PG. 4-5**

Provider Spotlight-Every Child Inc.-provided by Sydney Rabinovitz, Digital Communications and Outreach Manager

**PG. 6**

Celebrate Older Americans Month-guest columnist Mary Lynn Spilak

\*The green ribbon represents mental health awareness.



## Dates to Remember

April is

Mental Health Awareness Month

Older Americans Month

National Foster Care Month

May 4<sup>th</sup>- Crossing the Rainbow Bridge: Understanding the Impact of Pet Loss: [Register Here](#)

May 5<sup>th</sup>-Older Americans Proclamation at Commissioners' Meeting at 2:00pm

May 14<sup>th</sup>-Every Child, Inc Foster Care Event

May 15<sup>th</sup>-Foster Forward: [Register Here](#)

May 18<sup>th</sup>-Virtual Training: The Impact of Grief and Loss sponsored by The Children Task Force: [Register Here](#)

May 19<sup>th</sup>-Mental Health Awareness Proclamation at Commissioners' Meeting at 2:00pm

May 21<sup>st</sup>-Relay for Life of Chartiers Houston

May 24<sup>th</sup>-Mental Health Awareness Night at the Wild Things

May 24<sup>th</sup>-PA Cares Training Summit: [Register Here by May 19](#)

May 24<sup>th</sup>-Out of the Darkness Walk Committee Meeting at 2:00 : [Join Here](#)



Washington County has launched a new site to help community members connect to services more easily. The site is hosted on a platform called findhelp which enables users to quickly pinpoint the services they need by zip code then by category such as: food, utility, and housing assistance, legal help, employment support, and counseling.

[www.washingtonpa.findhelp.com](http://www.washingtonpa.findhelp.com)

## SAVE THE DATE

Please Join us at Our Human Services Community Launch

**"We are here to help"**

The Washington County Department of Human Services provides a single point of contact for connection and referral to social supports. Our Human Services Coordinators are here to help. Please call 724-228-1234 for assistance. This launch is a family-friendly community event to showcase the Department of Human Services' supports available to all residents.

**When: June 30, 2022**

**Location: Crossroads**

**Building Parking Lot**

**95 West Beau St.,**

**Washington, PA 15301**

**Time: 11:00a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

More details coming soon!



**Washington County Department of Human Services**

95 West Beau Street

Washington, PA 15301

[www.washingtoncountyhumanservices.com](http://www.washingtoncountyhumanservices.com)

Getting help is easy as 1234!

Contact our Human Services Coordinators: 724-228-1234

## Mental Health Awareness Month

Information Provided by: Dave Jenco from the Mental Health Association

The Mental Health Association of Washington County has partnered with the Washington Wild Things for the 2022 season. There will be a Mental Health Awareness Day on Tuesday May 24, 2022. The game will begin at 7:05pm. Please come out and support the Mental Health Association and the Washington Wild Things as they take on Tri-City Valley Cats. If you would like to be a vendor, please send an e-mail to Toni Buccilli at [tbuccilli@washingtonwildthings.com](mailto:tbuccilli@washingtonwildthings.com) for further information and instructions. There is no tabling fee for Non-profit organizations.

[Get Tickets NOW!](#)

## Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Community Walk

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Washington County Out of the Darkness Walk will occur on October 2 at the Washington Wild Things. Join us in our united effort to fight suicide, raise awareness, educate our communities, support those who have lost loved ones, and support those with lived experience by helping to promote, becoming a sponsor, a tabling partner on the day of the event and/or starting a company/school team.

[Register Now!](#)

## National Foster Care Month

Please join Servant's Towel Presents in association with Washington County Children & Youth Services in for a free evening to learn about the foster system, becoming a foster parent, as well as what you can do to support foster families in our area. Dinner and childcare will be provided!

May 15, 2022 from 5-7PM

servant's towel presents  
In association with  
Washington County Children & Youth Services

**Foster Forward >>>>**

Lack of available foster homes in Washington County results in **over 80% of Washington County children** having to be placed in neighboring counties, away from their schools and community.

**JOIN US FOR A FREE EVENING** to learn about the foster system, becoming a foster parent, as well as what you can do to support foster families in our area.

**THE BIBLE CHAPEL**  
300 Gallery Drive  
McMurray, PA 15317  
Dinner and childcare provided

**REGISTER AT**  
SERVANTSTOWEL.ORG

OUR EVENT PARTNERS

blue prints, LFS, Trac, The Bair Foundation, Adelphi, PRESSLEY RIDGE, AUBERLE, everychildinc.



**everychildinc**

*Empowering Families. Strengthening Futures.*

Every Child's mission is to build a stronger community and empower families by providing family support and clinical services.

## Every Child, Inc.

Spotlight information provided by Sydney Rabinovitz

Every Child, Inc. was founded in 1997 with the belief that all children, no matter their age, race, disability, or special health care need, deserve the opportunity to grow up with a loving and lasting family. Initially focused on providing care and support for foster children with significant medical needs, Every Child has broadened our services to provide foster care and adoption services, as well as clinical and therapeutic care to children and families across Southwestern Pennsylvania. Every Child serves families and youth in Allegheny County, Washington County, and Westmoreland County.

Every Child's mission is to build a stronger community and empower families by providing family support and clinical services. Every Child's Clinical programs provide intensive, in-home support based on Structural Family Therapy and Family Systems Theory to assist families who are facing serious emotional and/or behavioral disturbances. The clinical programs provide the families the opportunity to address their mental health needs in an empowering and structured manner, led by our highly trained clinicians. Our clinicians receive additional training in order to serve families with multiple mental health needs.

In order to be eligible for our mental health services, the primary recipient must be a child or young adult, ages 5 to 21 years, who has an existing DSM-5 diagnosis. A recommendation for Family Based Mental Health (FBMH) must be provided by a psychiatrist, psychologist, or primary care physician. Eligibility is dependent on the Medical Assistance eligibility of the person being referred. While these are the general guidelines for Family Based services, there are several factors that are taken into consideration when referring/opening cases. For more specific questions or to discuss a potential referral, please contact the Clinical Referral Coordinator at 412-665-0600 x 221.

## Core Values:

Empowerment

Collaboration

Inclusion

Excellence

Growth

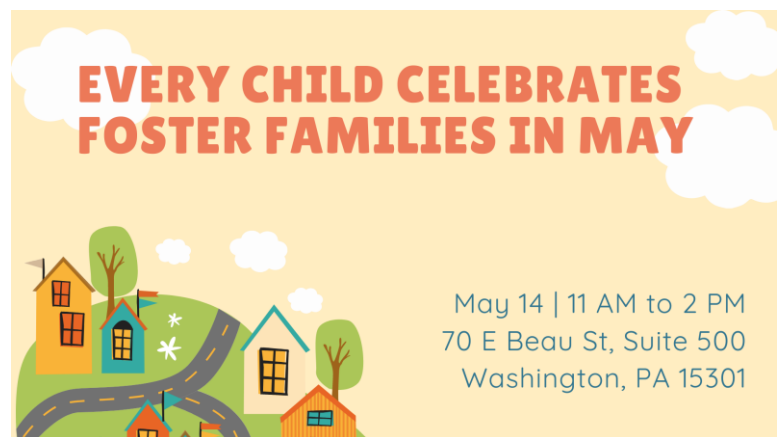
Every Child's Family Support Services focus on strengthening and preserving families. The staff work together with birth, foster, and adoptive families to ensure children are provided with a safe, secure, and nurturing environment. Their resource (foster) families are vital partners in providing care, support, and a safe, nurturing environment for the children placed with them. The foster care program certifies and trains resource families and supports families as they care for the children. Every Child is experienced in placing youth who need specialized foster care due to medical conditions, developmental disabilities, or behavioral challenges. In addition, they are trained to address the needs of youth in the LGBTQ+ community.

To become an Every Child foster parent, individuals should contact our Foster Parent Recruiter at 412-665-0600 x 204. Individuals can also sign up for information sessions on our [website](#).

We are proud to announce that Every Child, Inc. has received the Innovative Inclusion Tier of Recognition from the Human Rights Campaign. Our team is committed to delivering equitable and affirming services to ALL children, youth, and families. Now more than ever, achieving this level of recognition spotlights our dedication to ensuring the removal of anti-LGBTQ+ bias in the child welfare system in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Every Child is celebrating National Foster Care Month on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 11am with a special event in our Washington County office where attendees can learn about becoming a foster parent with us! Talk to foster care professionals about the foster parenting process, the requirements to become a foster parent, the system, and the supports available from Every Child.

RSVP and more information: <https://www.everychildinc.org/events-1/celebrating-foster-families>



# Celebrate Older Americans Month

Column information provided by Mary Lynn Spilak



When Older Americans Month was established in 1963, only 17 million Americans lived to their 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday! At that time one-third of them lived in poverty and there were few programs to meet their needs. There was a growing concern and President John F. Kennedy designated May as Older American's Month. In 1965 the Older Americans Act was signed into law giving seniors services to maintain independence. In 2020, over 50 million Americans are 65 and over. The Older American Act provides a nationwide aging services network and funding that helps older adults live with dignity in their communities. The services include home-delivered and congregate meals, caregiver support, community-based assistance, preventative health services, elder abuse prevention and much more.

This is the time to acknowledge the contributions of past and current older persons in our Country. Older adults play a positive and vital role in our County – as volunteers, mentors, family members, civic leaders and members of the workforce.

Older persons are unique like every person is unique. This year's theme is "Age My Way"! Celebrating how older adults can age in their communities living independently as long as possible and participating in ways they choose.

Aging Services of Washington County will be celebrating Older Americans Month throughout our Senior Community Center Network. The Washington County Board of Commissioners will be proclaiming Older Americans Month on May 5, 2022, at 2:00pm, in public meeting room 103-104, 100 West Beau Street, Washington, PA 15301.

For additional information on services and Aging Services of Washington County call 724-228-6856.



We are now accepting submissions for the June, July and August issue. Please reach out to Rebecca Salsbury at [Rebecca.Salsbury@co.washington.pa.us](mailto:Rebecca.Salsbury@co.washington.pa.us) if you are interested in being a guest columnist or if you know of any upcoming events!