



familyconnections

Counseling resources with *family* in mind

THE CONNECTION

www.familyconnectionsinc.org

Hats Off to the Graduates!

VOLUME 11 Edition 3 2015

CLINIC—Call for information about our counseling services:

Weirton Medical Center
Medical Office Building
651 Colliers Way, Suite 412
Weirton, WV 26062
Phone: (304) 723-3423
Fax: (304) 723-3426
E-mail:
admin@
familyconnectionsinc.org

BROOKE PLACE—Call for a referral for residential group treatment for girls:

P.O. Box 348
Tent Church Road
Colliers, WV 26035
Phone: (304) 527-3303
Fax: (304) 527-3306

This facility is funded in part under an agreement with the Bureau of Children and Families, WV Department of Health and Human Resources

Email:
brookeplace@
familyconnectionsinc.org

Graduation is an exciting time in any family. The ceremony celebrates achievement even as it marks the beginning of a new journey. Family Connections is proud to announce that all six of the girls eligible for graduation in the 2015-16 school year were able to do so.

Three residents received vocational certificates (carpentry, machine shop & child care); two completed general education; and one passed the TASC (Test Assessing Secondary Completion) for her equivalency diploma.

Navigating the educational system is especially difficult for youth in foster care. Sometimes credits don't transfer easily, sometimes records from previous schools are inadequate to place students in the correct class, and still yet, many youth in foster care have had as many school placements as they've had out of home placements. That can mean 12 to 18 schools. That's a lot of making new friends, learning new sets of rules, and figuring out where homeroom is. It requires a lot of internal motivation to want to keep going.

As for the challenges ahead, some of the girls are planning on furthering their education at colleges around the state including: Northern Community College; West Liberty University; Fairmont State College; and Scott's College of Cosmetology. One resident has already transitioned to independence and moved into her own apartment.

We want to take this opportunity to give a shout out to the administration, faculty, and support personnel of Brooke High School for their cooperation and commitment to all students and most particularly their understanding of the unique challenges faced by students in the foster care system.

Everyone at Brooke Place congratulates our graduates and wishes them the very best in their future endeavors.



Brooke Place Wish List

Gift cards for girls' birthdays	Mesh bags for large laundry baskets	Standard Size Pillows
Pajamas—S,M,L,XL	Batteries, all sizes	Stationary/Stamps
Slippers	60 watt light bulbs	All occasion cards
Regular white towels	White twin sheet sets	No show socks
Toilet paper, paper towels	White washcloths	Flash drives/Movie Passes
Underwear—all sizes	Toiletries	Questions?

Please contact at 304-527-3303



How Does Your Garden Grow?

Sooner or later we all acquire the skills we need to navigate life, and often we learn those skills only as we are confronted with new challenges. At Brooke Place we have a responsibility to give our residents an opportunity to learn life skills even though they might not need to use them immediately. With the help of a grant from the Women's Giving Circle, we were able to build a raised bed garden that is now producing lettuce, onions, peppers, tomatoes, cabbage, and potatoes. The girls assist with planting, tending, and eating the fruits of their labor.



We have been especially fortunate this summer to have the additional assistance of intern Megan Cook who found us by way of a partnership grant from the Community Foundation of the Ohio Valley. Megan is helping residents learn how to make appointments, develop a resume, handle food safely, plan a budget, tell time accurately with an analog clock, make change, identify kitchen tools, use a map, and shop on a budget.

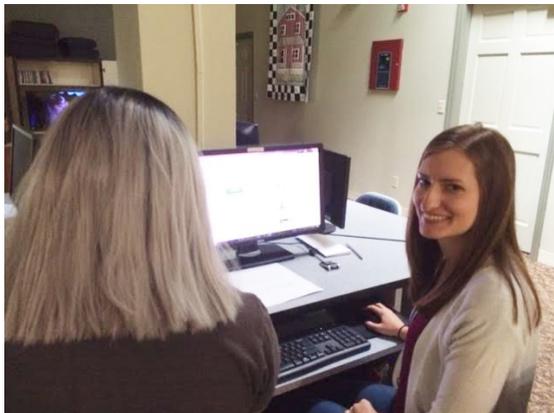


The girls have learned the parts of a sewing machine, how to make a pillowcase, and how to do simple clothing repairs. A project for the near future, which will be led by our maintenance man Todd Lancaster, is identifying tools, how to use them safely, and how to make home repairs.

I never did a single load of laundry until I was on my own as a college student. In an effort to save money, I packed the coin washer without a thought for sorting the clothes. Yes, there were directions on the detergent bottle, but who reads those? After the red shirt turned all my whites pink, the next call was an SOS to mom. The girls at Brooke Place are light years ahead of where I was when I was their age, but if they need us after they leave, we are always prepared to answer an SOS call.

Our garden is growing just fine.

MEET THE INTERN



My name is Megan, and I am a recent graduate of West Liberty University. I was selected to be an intern at Brooke Place by the Community Foundation of the Ohio Valley which offers a Civic Leaders Fellowship Program during the summer for college-age students. My time at Brooke Place has been a great learning experience for me. My role is to come up with lessons and activities for the residents in order to teach them different life skills that they will need when they are on their own. I work with each resident individually to ensure they receive the time and attention they need to learn a skill. Some of the things we have done are learning to make appointments, how to write a resume, grocery shopping on a budget, meal preparation and food storage, completing food handlers course for Brooke County, addressing an envelope, problem-solving, using an analog clock to tell time, check writing, making change, and driver's education. When I am not teaching life skills, I play games with the residents and provide support for the staff. Overall, I have enjoyed being at Brooke Place. It has taught me so much about myself and about what it is like to be in a residential facility. Additionally, I really liked getting to know the girls and spending time with them. I know that I have learned a lot from them during the weeks that I have worked here, and hopefully they have learned something from me as well.

AUXILIARY NEWS

CAR/BIKE SHOW

The third annual Car and Bike Show is scheduled for September 10th, 2016
at Mercy Baptist Church, 3474 Pennsylvania Avenue in Weirton.
12 p.m. till 3 p.m.



MISSION STATEMENT

Family Connections is committed to helping individuals function to the best of their abilities by engaging the resources that exist naturally within their family and community. Interventions provided by Family Connections are theory-based and are guided by the principle that the individual is best treated within the context of their family. Family Connections is dedicated to the care, welfare, and respect of families and the individuals who comprise them.

family connections, inc.

P.O. Box 348

Colliers, WV 26035

By giving a contribution in memory of or in honor of a family member or friend, many generous people have found a way to express their caring spirit while investing in the lives of those served by Family Connections.

**In Memory of Dale Walker and Joyce Harbaugh
by Geraldine and Mark Harbaugh**

**In memory of Fred and Stewart Jones
by Jacqueline Jones McDaniel**

**In Memory of Pat Longenbach
by Karl Longenbach**

**In Memory of Margaret E. (Swan) Lyle
by Dave and Lori Lyle**