



familyconnections

Counseling resources with *family* in mind

THE CONNECTION

www.familyconnectionsinc.org

Changing Seasons

VOLUME 11 Edition 2 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



The holidays are upon us! It doesn't seem possible that another year has virtually flown by, and so much has happened in the past year! Good things and concerning things. We're all trying to stretch our funds to meet our needs, to put gas in our cars, meet our financial obligations, and perhaps, have an enjoyable holiday season through gift-giving.

We at Family Connections are also very thankful for the blessings we have—a houseful of young ladies who bring us challenges and laughter each day, a strong and talented group of employees who provide excellent service in Colliers and at our clinic in Weirton, and you, our loyal supporters of all we do. We are blessed by your thoughtfulness and care you show to us throughout the year. May you all have a joyful holiday season!

Joanne Dobrzanski, Executive Direc-

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? |

KIM'S STORY

This is the story of my life. For as long as I can remember, my biological father had custody of my older brother and me. My dad was an alcoholic. My dad never cared what my brother and I did. I wasn't any older than seven or eight years old and we would be running the roads at two or three in the morning getting into trouble. At age eight my dad started molesting me. I did things to get into trouble with the law, trying to be taken away so I could be safe so I could try and tell. But it never worked. Finally we moved to a new school. I wasn't happy about leaving my old friends but it was like there was some kind of hope. My brother started dating a girl from our new school. One day he came home a little late. My dad was drunk and knocked him off of the four wheeler backwards. My brother's girlfriend's parents came and picked him up that night. The next morning I was dropped off in their driveway. They took me in just like I was theirs. They became my foster parents. I was finally safe. I had medical problems and my foster mom knew there was something wrong. She asked me and I started crying. I was scared but at the same time I was like "*Finally I don't have to go back, it's finally over.*" Yet it had just begun. Going through many questions over and over, a lie detector test, court hearings I began to question myself, "I should not have said anything". I began to think they didn't believe me and he was going to get away with it. I was going through so many emotions I didn't know how to deal with them. The only type of relief I had felt was through self-mutilation. My foster mom cared too much to see me hurt myself. She got me help and I came to Brooke Place to understand my feelings and to establish a relationship with my biological mother. That was not to be. My mother could not stand up and take the roll of being a mother she needed to be. I started doing the program to work on how I could cope in positive ways. I never planned to graduate high school. I was going to drop out and get out of this state. The counseling, the groups, and the caring of staff at Brooke Place helped me find and use positive coping skills. I learned different coping skills for the different moods I was in. When I graduated school in June 2009, I moved out on my own, got a job, and bought my own car. Now I work fifteen hours a day. The best part of being able to cope and deal with my demons is now I am the mother of the most amazing three year old. I am married to my best friend of nineteen years. My wife and I are working towards our goals and dreams in life. We would like to buy our own home with land and hope to make our family a little bigger. Before I go, I would like to say one thing: Always remember "*It doesn't matter where you came from or what you have been through, you choose the path **you** want to travel down.*"

LOCAL VOLUNTEERS HONORED

During the West Virginia Child Care Association’s annual Awards Luncheon held in Charleston, WV, Vicki and Gary Williams of Weirton were honored with the 2015 Community Service Workers of the year award. Together they are an extraordinary team, invariably attaching themselves to one community project or another, and always thinking of others before they think of themselves.

They have been active with Family Connections’ auxiliary since its inception in 2008, and their work there has been inspiring, soliciting donations, preparing gift baskets, standing guard at the auctions, selling tickets, and acting as ambassador and emcee.

For all of these reasons, Family Connections believes that Vicki and Gary Williams are exactly the kind of people the WVCCA Community Service Award is intended to honor. We are thrilled



AUXILIARY NEWS



THERE’S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Our ninth annual “There’s No Place Like Home” will be held Saturday, April 23, 2016 at the Serbian American Cultural Center in Weirton. If you would like to be a sponsor of this event, please contact Jean at 304-527-3303.

CAR/BIKE SHOW

The third annual Car and Bike Show is scheduled for September 10th, 2016 at Mercy Baptist Church in Weirton.



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 Cathy Sobel
By Mr. and Mrs. Tom Zielinsky**