



familyconnections

Counseling resources with *family* in mind

THE CONNECTION

www.familyconnectionsinc.org

We All Wear Masks

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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



Masks aren't just for Halloween. We often find ourselves wearing a public face and a private one. Sometimes the feelings we have on the inside are too personal and private to share with even our closest friends and family. At the same time, in order to work past certain feelings, especially painful ones, it's important to risk talking about our emotional masks.

Recently, the girls at Brooke Place did a series of groups on team work and trust building. They worked with a partner to make a mask for each other out of casting material. After a girl smeared petroleum jelly on her face, her partner wrapped her face with bandages. Once the face cast hardened, each girl painted her own mask to express how she felt the majority of the time in the last year.

The final group involved displaying the mask and sharing what it meant, why they used certain colors and designs. This generated a lively discussion about what the girls think is safe to express openly and what kind of feelings we all like to keep secret.



Brooke Place Wish List

Gift cards for girls' birthdays	Plastic laundry baskets w/ lids	Standard Size Pillows
Pajamas—S,M,L,XL	Batteries, AA	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 Bonnie at 304-527-3303

Staff Training

Training our staff is an important part of what we do to make sure our residents are receiving the best possible care. Once a month, there is a mandatory training. We cover a variety of topics that are meant to ensure the safety of residents and staff, e.g. CPR and First Aid; Nonviolent Crisis Intervention; Away from Supervision. We also cover treatment topics to raise awareness and improve the skill level of staff, e.g. Trauma-Informed Care; Child Development; Family Systems. Some topics such as nutrition and disaster readiness are open to the girls.

Sometimes we bring in outside trainers, but it is important to us to develop new trainers within the agency. Recently we encouraged two employees to attend workshops in which they could become a trainer. Here are their stories:

My name is Amanda Strobe and I had been employed with Family Connections-Brooke Place for a little over two months when I was asked to attend the training of trainers for Away From Supervision. I happily agreed, although I was very nervous after learning I would be required to stand up in front of other participants and teach a section from the manual. Putting my nerves aside, I was pleased with my decision afterward and found the teaching aspect was not as scary as I anticipated. I found the training to be extremely informative and I enjoyed the self-teaching aspect of the course. I also enjoyed meeting staff members from other facilities and hearing their stories and experiences while working in the field.



My name is Ashley Boyce and I am a shift leader at Brooke Place with 8 years of experience. In September, I attended a four day training to become a certified instructor in Nonviolent Crisis Prevention Intervention. This certification allows me to educate and certify employees in verbal de-escalation skills and techniques to help prevent clients from harming themselves or others in a safe and secure manner. I was excited about the opportunity to further my ability to teach and help others. The experience was beneficial in many ways, making me feel more confident as a child care worker and shift leader.

Now that I am certified I can teach with two other instructors at Family Connections. Each employee must attend onsite Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training twice a year. The purpose of the training is so that we can provide the best possible Care, Welfare, Safety and Security to all.

IF I ONLY HAD A BRAIN



With Halloween just around the corner, it only made sense for the girls to work together to make scarecrows for the yard. They worked cooperatively in teams of two, and then competitively to make the best yard dummy they could. More than one person jumped out of her shoes when leaving the house and confronted the scarecrow reclining in the rocking chair on the front porch.

Scarecrows are part of our Wizard of Oz theme at Brooke Place. The scarecrow represents using one’s head to make better decisions. Girls are encouraged to become better problem solvers by thinking through a situation until they identify helpful behaviors and connect their actions to possible consequences—positive and negative.

Using one’s head not only makes for better decision making, it improves school performance, makes social interactions more meaningful, and enhances family relationships. The girls put their creative juices into overdrive to make their scarecrows and even used their sewing skills to keep their dummies stuffed. No crows are coming to our yard!

HOLIDAY ALERT

Thanksgiving and Christmas are already around the corner in our world. Lots of planning goes into making sure the holidays are meaningful and fun for the residents. Some girls will be able to have visits with their families over the holidays, while others will spend the time at Brooke Place engaged in activities in and out of the house.

Family Connections is always appreciative of community members like you who think about our girls, especially at this time of year.



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 Alfred Boniti, Sr.
by Al & Patty Boniti**

**In memory of Karen Kimmel
by Patty Patsch**

