



THE CONNECTION

familyconnections

Counseling resources with *family* in mind

www.familyconnectionsinc.org

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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



Thank You to the Community



No, this isn't a Halloween article! It's the Wicked Witch of the West who flew in on her broom to attend our 6th annual gala event, "There's No Place Like Home," which was held at the Serbian-American Cultural Center in Weirton on April 27th. Our "guest" is holding one of the many baskets filled with goodies that were auctioned during the evening.

The event was our greatest ever. We are overwhelmed at the generosity shown by our community friends who donated funds, gift baskets, gift certificates, items to auction, and bought ads. Thank you!

Our fund development auxiliary deserves all the credit for planning and carrying out the event, down to the last balloon and ruby slipper. Thank you!

Our girls at Brooke Place are the direct beneficiaries of the proceeds from this event and they thank you as well!

Brooke Place Wish List

Gift cards for girls' birthdays	Batteries, all sizes
Overnight carry all bags/satchels for home visits	60 watt light bulbs
Pajamas—S,M,L,XL	White twin sheet sets
Slippers	White washcloths
Regular white towels	Toiletries
Toilet paper, paper towels	Flip flops
Mesh bags for large laundry baskets	Beach towels

Questions?

Please contact Barb Jones at 304-723-3423.

“Together”

It’s hard to go it alone. We all have those times when we need the love and support of those around us. It seems the more we know that we are *not* alone, the better able we are to handle life’s twists and turns with self-reliance and maturity.

The following letter was recently sent by one of our girls who left our residential program, even staying voluntarily after she turned 18 so she could graduate from her local high school. She sent the letter to the girls at Brooke Place. In her own words...

Well, I guess this is it. I’ve been here for a long time and I have learned many useful things. I believe in all of you and I believe you can do good things in life and accomplish anything if you have the right mindset. Brooke Place can help you get there.

All of this chaos has made it hard for my last couple of days here and it just made me realize that you all need to pull together and get through it together. You are all strong and smart young ladies and I believe you can all figure it out together.

Notice I keep underlining the word TOGETHER because it’s important to stick together. We all need somebody who cares about us. Yeah, maybe one or two is nice but why not the whole house and every single last person in there? Think about it.

Well, this isn’t goodbye. It is farewell because I will see all of you again some day.

Much love.



Bethany College Partners with Family Connections



Bethany
A Small College of National Distinction

The Bethany College Social Work Program recently recognized Family Connections as a Partner in Education. The partnership was forged between Joanne Dobrzanski, Family Connections’ Executive Director, and Katherine Shelek-Furbee, who is the Bethany Department of Social Work Program Chair and a member of Family Connections’ Board of Directors.

The Partner in Education program links businesses and organizations with educational institutions in order to share resources, both in people and materials. It is the goal of each partner to flourish from the support of the other.

Bethany College is a small college of national distinction located on a picturesque and historic 1,300-acre campus in the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia. Founded in 1840, Bethany is West Virginia’s oldest private college.

Family Connections is proud of its Partner in Education collaboration and looks forward to the joint benefits that the partnership will provide.

THE CLOSELINE PROJECT



The Clothesline Project (CLP) is a program started on Cape Cod, MA, in 1990 to address the issue of violence against women. It is a vehicle for women affected by violence to express their emotions by decorating a shirt. They then hang the shirt on a clothesline to be viewed by others as testimony to the problem of violence against women. With the support of many, it has spread world-wide.

Local CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) director Rhonda Stubbs asked Brooke Place residents to express their emotions for a Clothesline Project to mark child abuse awareness month. Ms.

Stubbs supplied the t-shirts, and the girls chose a color that references violence against them: red for rape; blue for bullying; and green for physical and child abuse.

Our girls spilled out their emotions (anger, hurt, betrayal, frustration, mistrust) and their thoughts about healing: "I won't be a victim again!"

The residents and staff at Family Connections/Brooke Place want you to know that your contributions make a difference in the life of a girl! Thanks !



Welcome Katherine Shelek-Furbee



Chris Byers, Board President & Shelek-Furbee

Family Connections welcomes Katherine Shelek-Furbee as its newest member of the board of directors. Ms. Shelek-Furbee, who is a full professor at Bethany College and Director of the Social Work Program, holds a masters degree in Social Work from West Virginia University and is credentialed by the Academy of Certified Social Workers.

Kathy's educational and practice knowledge in the area of social work, as well as her experience with non-profit board membership, will be invaluable to Family Connections.

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

THANK YOU TO OUR RUBY, EMERALD & SILVER SPONSORS

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