

**JAN
2024**

**HERE AT
home.**



**The George Street Kitchen:
Our renovation is complete!**

Also in this issue:

- 2023 Annual Meeting
- Resource Parent Support Groups
- 2023 Holiday Gift Drive
- And more!

**Children's
HOME**

Home is where
the heart is.



**Become a part of our growing community,
all dedicated to making a difference.**

bit.ly/CHOYDonate

The President's Corner

2023 was a good year for Children's Home of York.

In this issue of Here at Home, we reflect on some of our accomplishments, and we set the stage to release our 2024-2029 strategic plan. In that plan, we will focus on 4 primary goals:

1. We will have an effective and robust communication strategy.
2. We will be a leader in the industry that attracts and retains diverse, qualified, loyal, and driven team members.
3. We will develop two additional programs or service lines to meet unmet needs in the community.
4. We will provide impactful programs, while remaining fiscally responsible.

We remain grateful for all those who helped us accomplish so much in 2023. We are equally grateful for those who will help us accomplish the goals we have identified in our new strategic plan.

It is never lost upon me that our work is impossible without our incredible York Community. I wish each of you peace, health, and prosperity in the new year - and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you do for our community's children and families.

Ron Bunce, PhD., LMSW
President/CEO



Maximize your impact, minimize your taxes.

Approved businesses are able to redirect their PA state tax dollars to fund select educational programs in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. CHOY's BRIDGES™ Partial Hospitalization Program is able to benefit from the EITC Program.

Find out if you're eligible and how to apply on the PA DCED website:

bit.ly/PA_EITC

About BRIDGES™ Partial Hospitalization Program

BRIDGES™ PHP operates year-round and provides structured therapy alongside scholastic education. School-age students attend BRIDGES™ in lieu of their home school district to receive the necessary therapeutic milieu to heal from past trauma while not falling behind their peers.

bit.ly/CHOY_BRIDGES



5

CHOY

A Night to Remember: Revisit our 157th Annual Meeting.

On November 13th, 2023, Children's Home of York hosted their 157th Annual Meeting at the Yorktowne Hotel. The energy, enthusiasm, and shared passion for CHOY's mission was contagious throughout the evening. The event was not just a gathering; it was a celebration of our shared accomplishments and a springboard for the continuing journey to help build Home.



The 2023-2024 Children's Home of York Board of Directors and President/CEO Ron Bunce (top right)

Our Annual meeting is the perfect occasion to applaud the remarkable milestones we've reached over the past year, and reflect on what we can do to continue pushing forward. Throughout the evening, we were able to share some stories from the past year that speak to the life saving work that we do.



Isaiah shared his memories of his time in our George Street Home. When he isn't working, Isaiah often visits and is able to talk to newer residents and be a positive influence on what you can accomplish if you just work hard. We were really excited to learn that Isaiah earned his CDL and accepted his first job as a long-haul driver.



Andrew shared how he was compelled to donate to our 2023 Give Local York campaign that helped fund our kitchen renovation. Through our conversations, we learned his adoptive father was a former resident of the original Children's Home of York.



Carl visited CHOY and shared his fondest memories of Children's Home and how he realized that his experiences while living in our orphanage on Philadelphia Street impacted his life. We were able to see candid pictures of past residents and hear stories that had previously been lost to time!

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for the evening. You can view all of the photos on Facebook and watch all of the videos on our YouTube channel. We're looking forward to 2024!

Read our 2023 Annual Report on our website:

bit.ly/CHOYReports

7



The George Street Kitchen: Our renovation is complete!

For Give Local York 2023, we asked our community to help fundraise to renovate the kitchen in our George Street home. At the end of November, we were able to complete the kitchen and celebrate our first Thanksgiving meal in it! Check out the process below.





Unfortunately, due to inflation, the final cost was almost \$20,000 over our original budget.

You can continue to donate to help offset the cost.
bit.ly/CHOYDonate



There's no place like Home.

At Children's Home of York, we believe in empowering children to thrive. We can provide safe and nurturing environments that allow children and adolescents to grow, but we can't do it alone. We need your support to make a lasting impact on the lives of each client that walks through our doors.

Your contribution, no matter the size, will make a tremendous difference. Together, we can empower children and adolescents to reach their full potential, break the cycle of adversity, and build a brighter future.



bit.ly/CHOYAA



Rent the gym!

Our gym can be used for sports practices, events, or just a place to have fun! The facility is a full sized gymnasium with two basketball hoops. All rental money is returned directly into CHOY's programming and services.

Contact us at development@choyork.org



Now hiring!

Multiple positions open with impressive benefits.

- Competitive pay
- No cost medical, dental, and vision coverage
- 403B retirement plan
- Tuition reimbursement and professional development
- Paid sick and vacation time, personal holidays

bit.ly/CHOYJobs

11



Spreading Holiday Cheer: Our annual gift drive

We want to thank everyone who was a part of our annual holiday gift drive. This year, we were able to provide gifts to 14 residents and over 50 children in our permanency program. Everyone was asked if there was a specific item they wanted, along with what their other interests were. We handed out lots of Legos and Barbies, arts and crafts kits, sports balls, and more.

We continue to accept donations of new toys and hobby items throughout the year.

Our donation room doors stay open year-round to help families when they might need new shoes, or even to celebrate a client's accomplishments. Here's a general list of items that are commonly asked for:

- YA books and novels
- Children's picture books
- Duffel bags
- Socks
- Backpacks
- Winter accessories
- Toiletry items
- Headphones/speakers
- Legos
- Fidget toys
- Bracelet making kits
- Barbies

Outside of toys, we are continuing to ask for gift cards and home linens.

Gift cards

Sometimes, when children come into our care, they arrive with next to nothing. It is important for us to have access to instant “cash” to be able to provide basic items like clothes and shoes - anything to help make a HOME. “Big” retailers like Target and Walmart are helpful due to their variety of items in store.

Home Linens

When a new resident comes to stay with us, we provide new bed linens and towels. Recently, our supply has run drastically low. It is important for us not only for the cleanliness of our facilities, but also to be able to provide a warm and welcoming environment for everyone who comes to stay with us. Here’s a list of items we like to keep in stock:

- **Bed sheets, twin and twin XL**
- **Comforters, twin and twin XL**
- **“Bed-in-a-bag”s, twin and twin XL**
- **Throw blankets**
- **Bed pillows**
- **Towels**
- **Washcloths**



**For questions, please contact our
Development team:**

development@choyork.org

13



Open Your Heart and Your Home: Become a Resource Family!

Children's Home of York is always welcoming additional Resource Families to match with children in need of permanency. We provide round-the-year training for individuals and families who want to begin their foster care or adoption journey. By opening your heart and your home, you can make a profound difference in a child's life and contribute to the well-being of families in your community. If you are interested in becoming a resource parent, we encourage you to contact us to learn more about the requirements, training, and support available.

Returning in 2024 - Support groups!

Our Permanency Team is excited to bring back support groups for our resource families. Childcare is provided.

Meetings will occur the first Monday of each month, and topics will vary. Families are encouraged to bring snacks for themselves or to share. First meeting date is TBA.

Mentors wanted

We are looking for seasoned resource families who are willing to mentor new families. Please reach out to the permanency team if you are interested.

perm@choyork.org