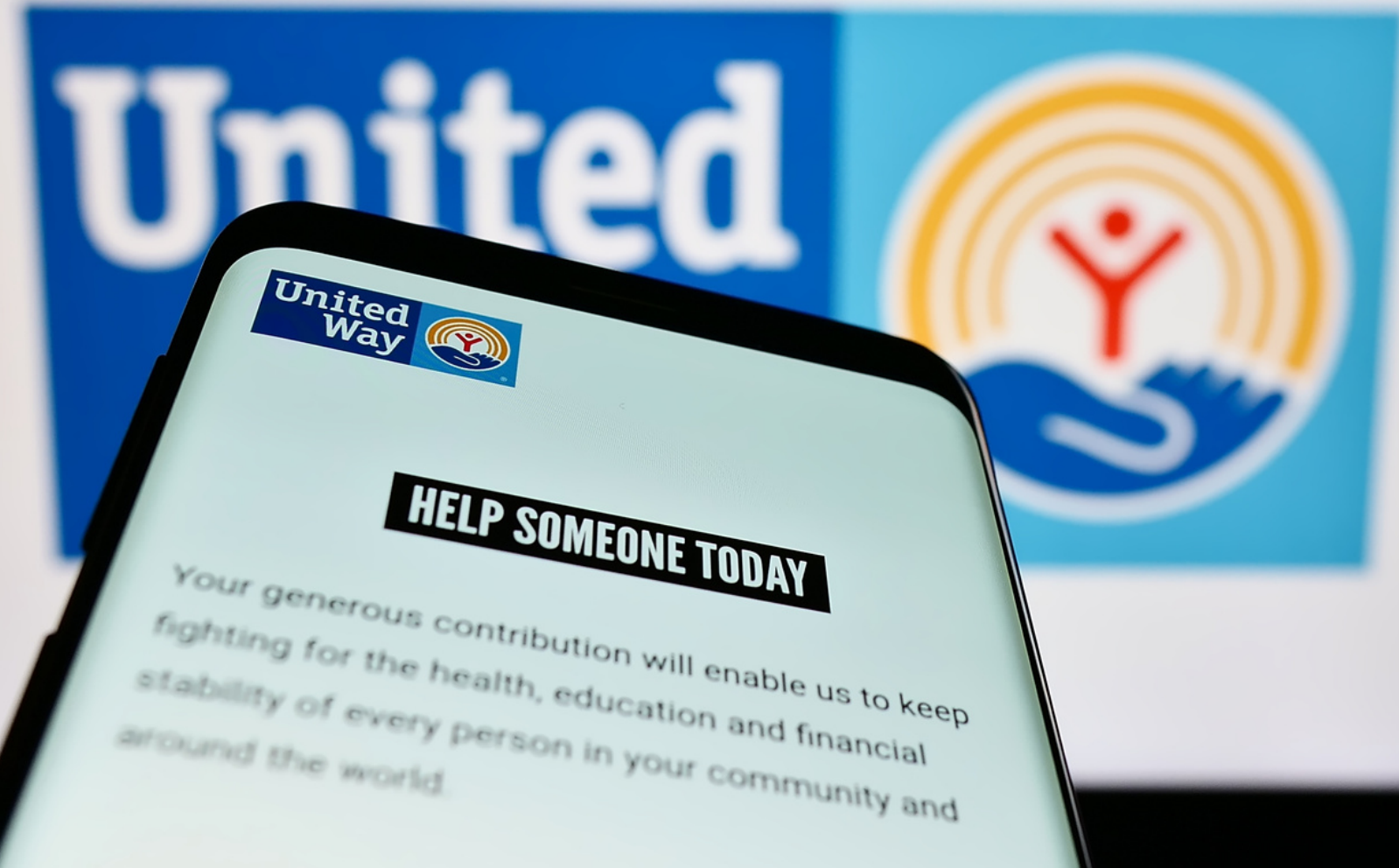


**OCT
2023**

**HERE AT
home.**



Live United:

Join our team in making a pledge to the United Way of York County!

Also in this issue:

- BRIDGES™ & SOAR Open House
- Holiday Gift Drive
- Back-to-School Drive
- And more!

**Children's
HOME**



There's no place like

HOME

**Help us create a
welcoming space for all.**

**Give today at
bit.ly/CHOYDonate**

The President's Corner

"I used to think it was "God's work," now I know it is our work!"

Mary Kay Bernosky, Esq. - Vice President of Development, York County Community Foundation

Abraham Lincoln was president when the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania met to enact the incorporation of "The Children's Home for the borough and county of York." The enormity of our legacy is not lost upon me and the team Here at Home. We know we have a responsibility to honor the intent of our founders, to serve our community's most in-need children and shepherd the assets of the organization prudently for future generations.

Children's Home of York has been blessed with innumerable benefactors who know it takes a village to meet the needs of children in crisis. They know that our work cannot be accomplished alone, and they have ensured that our community's most vulnerable have had a place to call HOME when they needed to for 158 years and counting.

Recently, the Children's Home of York Board of Directors made some important decisions about how to best use the resources provided by our community. We established a spending rate on our investments that will create a sustainable revenue stream to support the mission of the organization, while ensuring that our legacy assets do not dwindle. This puts benefactors' bequests into service as they intended, with a plan to continue to protect them in perpetuity and even grow the principle balance so the corresponding revenue grows too. We also established a bequest policy so that the resources provided by legacy donors go into the investment account to generate revenue, rather than being used in annual operations, unless restricted by the donor. This strategy combined with a focus on sustainable program models will position us well for years to come.

I share this with you, our community of supporters, because I want you to know the team and the Board of Directors take our responsibility seriously. We are committed to extraordinary outcomes and the sustainable business and program models required to achieve them. Just like our founders in 1865, we know it is our work and we are grateful to have so many people in our community who know that this is their work, too.

Ron Bunce, PhD., LMSW
President/CEO



York HALLOWEEN PARADE

Presented by

glofiber



Join our team!
www.ChildrensHomeOfYork.org

October 29th @ 2 PM

Come see us and other York County community members at the annual York Halloween Parade!

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JOIN US IN **ASSISTING 8,000**
WORKING HOUSEHOLDS TO ACHIEVE
FINANCIAL STABILITY BY 2033.

LIVE UNITED:
Make a pledge to the United Way of
York County!

The United Way has been a part of the York County community for over 100 years. Undergoing a recent revamp of their mission, the United Way of York County has begun to focus on the population of households who struggle to cover basic living expenses. These households are ALICE.

Who is ALICE?



Asset *L*imited

ALICE has no safety net in times of crisis



*I*ncome **C**onstrained

ALICE's income falls short of essential



*E*mployed

ALICE is working, yet not earning enough

ALICE represents people of all ages that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but make less than what's needed to afford basic essentials. ALICE people often earn too much to qualify for government assistance, but still isn't able to make ends meet. They are one financial emergency away from falling into poverty. These working folks are essentials to our community. They are our childcare workers, teaching assistants, and support staff. Their over-stretched budgets cannot keep pace with skyrocketing inflation.

1 in 4 York County households are ALICE.

CHOY's Independent Living Program at George Street benefits from the United Way. The young residents at George Street participate in a variety of skill training and community-based treatment options to establish the belief that despite the hardships they may have experienced, they possess the ability to change the trajectory of their life. Some residents enter George Street as a part of the ALICE community, but leave better prepared to face any challenges they may encounter.



As a dedicated organization of the York County community, CHOY holds an annual internal United Way campaign throughout the month of October. Our team is not only encouraged to donate to benefit our own George Street program, but to benefit the community as a whole. We invite you to join us giving back to York and follow our fun events on our social media pages!

What your donation means:

\$1/week (\$52/year) provides the funds for:

two residents to purchase their state-issued ID, which are required for employment.

\$5/week (\$260/year) provides the funds for:

purchasing seven monthly bus passes for residents to get to and from work.

\$10/week (\$520/year) provides the funds for:

purchasing ten pairs of steel-toed work boots for employment.

\$15/week (\$780/year) provides the funds for:

behind-the-wheel driving classes for two residents.

\$20/week (\$1,040/year) provides the funds for:

three weeks of meals for ten residents.

Read more about the United Way and find out how to get involved.

unitedway-york.org

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It's that time of year: Our annual Back-to-School event!

Our Back-to-School drive that occurred from July through August surpassed all expectations. The overwhelming generosity of our supporters ensured that each child under our care received essential school supplies, backpacks, and a sense of excitement for the 2023-2024 school year. Through the distribution of almost 100 backpacks, we were able to bring smiles, hope, and encouragement to the faces of our young learners.

The benefits of our annual school supplies drive extends far beyond the tangible school supplies. By providing children and adolescents the tools they need to succeed in school, we are fostering an environment where learning is not only possible, but enjoyable. Here's how our Back-to-School event benefits the children in our care;

- **Boosting Confidence:** Walking into school with a new backpack filled with supplies instills a sense of confidence and pride in our children. This positive mindset can pave the way for academic success.
- **Equalizing Opportunities:** The drive helps level the playing field for all children, ensuring that socio-economic disparities do not hinder their educational journey.
- **Easing Financial Burdens:** For many families, back-to-school expenses can be a significant financial burden. By providing supplies, we alleviate some of this stress, allowing parents to focus on other essential needs.
- **Fostering a Love for Learning:** When children are well-equipped for school, they are more likely to engage in their studies and develop a genuine passion for learning.



None of this would be possible without our community support. We extend our gratitude to all the individuals, businesses, and organizations that contributed their time and resources to make this year's event so successful. Children's Home of York was especially blown away by one of our CHOY families, who did their own summer fundraising and presented a check to CEO Ron Bunce to be used for the upcoming Holiday Drive. It's great seeing our families give back when they can.

The 2023 Back-to-School event cleared out our stock pile of school supplies. You can help us get a head start on next year's drive by continuing to donate supplies or funds throughout the year. Even outside of our event, some children come into our care in need of a backpack during the ongoing school year. Head to our online donation page or drop off items at our main campus office. You can find a list of our most-needed items on the next page.

Thank you to our donors for once again making the Back-to-School drive a resounding success. Each backpack, every set of school supplies, and all the smiles brought to our clients' faces is just a small testament to the positive change your contributions have made. Your generosity not only equips each student for success in the classroom, but makes sure they know that others care and will support their journey.

Donate to next year's Back-to-School Drive!

bit.ly/CHOYDonate

Stock our donation room with school supplies!

- Composition books
- Pencil pouches/boxes
- Backpacks
- Pencils
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Glue sticks
- Highlighters

*All items must be new and unused!



Contact Kasey at
klofties@choyork.org or
(717) 755-1033 x1243



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.

- 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

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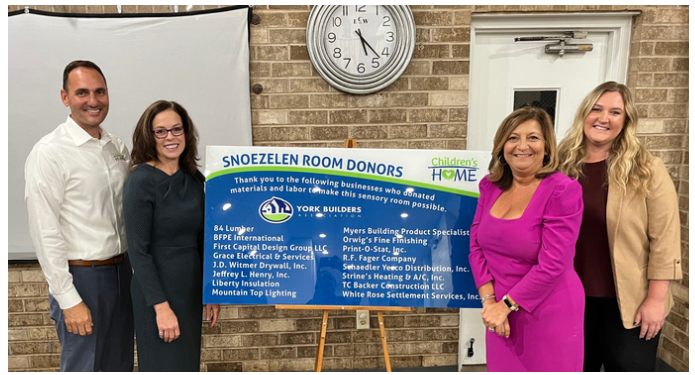


We're opening new doors: BRIDGES™ & SOAR Open House

CHOY welcomed community members and service providers on August 29th to tour our BRIDGES™ Partial Hospitalization Program. Operating year-round, BRIDGES™ welcomes students in kindergarten through twelfth grade in a hybrid academic and therapeutic program model to provide students the support that they need while ensuring they don't fall behind their peers academically. We not only wanted to showcase the great work we do, but also foster a greater understanding of the vital impact BRIDGES™ has on the York County community.

With so many essential community members on our campus, we finished our evening with a presentation about our newest program model, SOAR. Program Supervisor, Sarah Hieber, was able to share some of the new therapeutic milieus CHOY can now offer with the addition of SOAR. As SOAR is the first program model of its kind in Pennsylvania, it's imperative that our team continues to share the welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment that represents the culmination of research and collaboration not only within CHOY, but with local County officials & mental health service providers.

In addition to discussing our newest psychiatric residential program, the CHOY team was also proud to dedicate our Snoezelen® Room, a state-of-the-art sensory experienced designed to provide a calming and immersive experience for our residents and clients who benefit from sensory stimulation. Planning for the Snoezelen® began over three years ago, but was stalled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Thankfully, the York Builders Association stepped in and helped organize 16 local businesses to help get the room finished by donating their time and materials for the construction inside our A.N.G.E.L. Center.



The sensory room is equipped with the technology and tools to engage our clients in a multisensory experience that can help reduce anxiety, improve mood, and overall well-being. The dedication ceremony gave CHOY the opportunity to honor these businesses and thank them for the impact they have made on the children we serve and their families. A plaque is now hung above the sensory room entrance. For more information, you can watch our recap video of the evening below!

Thank you to the local business who made the Snoezelen® Room possible!



- 84 Lumber
- BFPE International
- First Capital Design Group LLC
- Grace Electrical & Services
- J.D. Witmer Drywall, Inc.
- Jeffrey L. Henry, Inc.
- Liberty Insulation
- Mountain Top Lighting
- Myers Building Product Specialists
- Orwig's Fine Finishing
- Print-O-Stat, Inc.
- R.F. Fager Company
- Schaedler Yesco Distribution, Inc.
- Strine's Heating & A/C, Inc.
- TC Backer Construction LLC
- White Rose Settlement Services, Inc.

Watch our video recap
bit.ly/CHOYopenhouse

Children's Home of York

Permanency Program presents

Trunk or Treat

October 26, 2023

6-7:30pm



Please consider donating candy or hosting a trunk for the children in our permanency program.

Contact Kasey for more information:
klofties@choyork.org

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Happy Holidays: Donate to our Holiday Drive!

The holiday season is upon us, and what better way to spread warmth and cheer than participating in CHOY's annual Holiday Drive?

Every year, Children's Home of York ensures each child in our care receives a gift for the holiday season. You can make sure a local child in need receives a gift they will cherish on their special holiday. Explore the three ways to give:

Present Registry

At Children's Home of York, we believe every child deserves the joy of unwrapping a special gift during the holidays. Our wish lists is a way for you to help fulfill the dreams and wishes of deserving children. You can browse our gift registries to find specific items that children have asked for. If you find the item at another retailer, that's fine too! Find out how it works:



Browse

Take a look at our linked registries.



Select

Pick out one or more items.



Send

If you purchase off the registry, you can send your gift directly to us!

bit.ly/CHOYAmazon

bit.ly/CHOYWalmart

bit.ly/CHOYTarget

Please contact the Development Department with questions

development@choyork.org

Gift card drive

Sometimes, kids don't know exactly what they want for the holidays. Instead of a specific gift, we like to give them gift cards. While **big-retail gift cards are preferred because of their variety of products** (think Target, Walmart), all gift cards are appreciated! We ask that the gift cards are in \$25 increments. Here's a list of cards gifted in the past:

- Amazon
- Apple
- Burlington
- Dick's
- Google Play
- Sheetz
- Target
- Ulta
- Visa pre-paid
- Walmart
- Xbox

Home linens for comfort

At CHOY, we understand the importance of a comfortable and welcoming living environment for the youth in our residential programs. Your generous contributions of home linens like bedding, towels, and blankets can not only provide a physical comfort, but also create a nurturing atmosphere that contributes significantly to our residents' well-being and sense of belonging. Your gift will ensure our residents can enjoy the comfort and dignity they deserve. Here's a list of items we are looking for:

- Comforter and sheet sets, twin and twin XL sizes (also called "bed in a bag")
- Bath towels and washcloths
- Throw blankets
- Bed pillows

For more information and to organize a large donation drop off, please contact Kasey Lofties

klofties@choyork.org