

Out and About for Child Abuse Prevention Month

April was Child Abuse Prevention month which provided a wonderful opportunity for PEI Kids to highlight its community education and outreach efforts. As lead agency of the Greater Mercer Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and the statewide Enough Abuse campaign in Mercer County, we were quite busy making connections, raising awareness, and training adults in the community how to prevent, recognize, and respond appropriately to child sexual abuse.

For April, we scheduled a series of Enough Abuse workshops throughout Mercer County, including:

- April 12, 2016 - “Just Jenna” workshop at Calvary Baptist Church in Trenton
- April 18, 2016 - “Understanding & Responding to Sexual Behaviors in Children” at Millhill Child & Family Development Center in Trenton
- April 19, 2016 - “Understanding & Responding to Sexual Behaviors in Children” at the YMCA in Hamilton
- April 29, 2016 - “She Sad What? He Did What!” for parents and community members of Hopewell Valley Schools in Hopewell.



Dr. Daisy Freer conducts an Enough Abuse workshop in Hopewell

While prevention education is a year-round effort, we are excited about the progress made in expanding our community education efforts during Child Abuse Prevention month. If you are interested in attending or hosting an Enough Abuse workshop, please contact Prevention Director, Jill Keller, at jkeller@peikids.org or call 609.695.3739. With your support we will continue to advance our goal of educating every adult in Mercer County in how to keep our children safe from the risk of sexual abuse.

PEI Kids Recognized at ICAP Conference

On April 14th, PEI Kids received a recognition award at the International Child Assault Prevention (ICAP) Conference in Atlantic City. PEI Kids was recognized for being a charter agency for launch of the statewide Child Assault Prevention (CAP) project in New Jersey. PEI Kids has delivered this school-based, children's prevention program in Mercer County schools continuously since 1985...for over 30 years!



PEI Kids' Executive Director Roz Dashiell (left) receives recognition award at the International CAP Conference in Atlantic City

PEI Kids provides classroom-based CAP workshops which reach nearly 12,000 pre-K through 8th grade students in 65 public, private, and charter schools each year. CAP workshops empower children by teaching them that children have rights and by providing safety strategies which teach them to be “Safe, Strong & Free!” To find out if your child's school offers the CAP program, or to learn more about bringing CAP workshops to your school, call PEI Kids at 609.695.3739.

Craig Hubert Receives Industry Honor

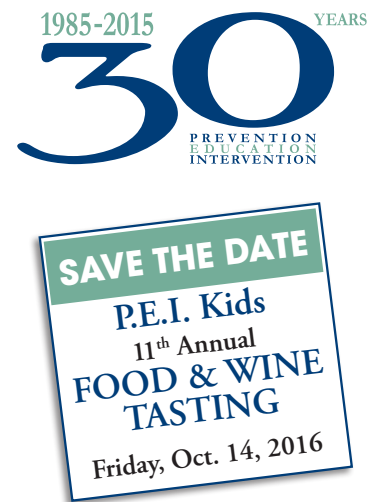
Congratulations to Trustee, Craig J. Hubert, Esq., for being named 2016 Professional Lawyer of the Year. Each year, the Mercer County Bar Association recognizes one attorney who “exemplifies professional practice, maintaining the highest ethical standards while zealously advocating for clients,” according to the announcement. A partner in the law firm Szaferman Lakind Blumstein & Blader PC, Mr. Hubert is a member of PEI Kids' Board of Trustees and sits on its Marketing & Fund Development Committee.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



GET INVOLVED!

Did you know that there are many ways you can get involved with PEI Kids' to help us make a difference in the lives of Mercer County children and families?

Volunteer – We invite you to volunteer as a committee member for our signature fundraising events which generate funding for PEI Kids' programs and services. Our 11th Annual Wine & Food Tasting Event Committee meets weekly, from August to October, to plan and promote the event and lend support to make sure the event run smoothly.

Host a workshop – Our prevention education program includes community outreach and education. Your group or organization can host a free, Enough Abuse community workshop where we will teach adults how to reduce children's vulnerability and prevent, recognize, and respond appropriately to child sexual abuse.

Donate – We are always grateful for donations big and small. In addition to making a direct donation, you can generate donations when you shop online at smile.amazon.com. Many employers also match charitable employee donations. Check with your HR department to see if they will match your donation to PEI Kids.

In-kind Giving – Donations of needed goods and services are

gratefully accepted, and they're tax deductible! As our cars age and wear, for example, we are challenged to find affordable ways to replace them. This year, we are hoping to replace our 2003 Chevy Impala with a newer, more reliable vehicle. If you know of a person or business interested in donating a recent-model, low-mileage, family car, we would be honored to receive a vehicle donation to support the continuing work of our Transportation Plus program.

Making Connections – If you have a friend, colleague, potential donor, or if you know of an organization or foundation that may be willing to make a grant or donation, please introduce us!

Pay us a compliment - If you love our work then tell the world! Stories from people like you -- donors, friends, clients, supporters -- help us make an even bigger impact. GreatNonprofits is a third-party organization that honors highly regarded nonprofits with their 2016 Top-Rated List. Help us raise visibility for our work by posting a brief story of your experience with PEI Kids at <http://greatnonprofits.org/reviews/write/pei-kids>.

To get involved, please contact Development & Community Relations Coordinator, Janina Akins, at 609.695.3739 or jakins@peikids.org.

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MISSION STATEMENT

PEI Kids is dedicated to promoting and maintaining a safe environment for all children. PEI Kids works with the child, family, and caregiver to provide prevention, intervention, and advocacy programs relating to personal safety, sexual abuse, and the overall well-being of the child.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!



Scan the QR code
image above or visit
www.peikids.org

POSTINGS

Summer 2016 Newsletter

A Message from PEI Kids' Executive Director

Hello family,

Summertime gives us an opportunity to downshift and catch our collective breath before the flurry of fall, back to school, and the holiday season. As I take this time to reflect, my heart overflows with gratitude and humility as Director of this awesome agency where we empower children to channel their hope and to live to their fullest potential all the dreams that a safe environment offers. In a complex world, there is something pure and uncomplicated about the innocence of a child with hope.



healing. I see it in the donations we collect which enable a young abuse survivor to attend summer camp where she can pursue her dream career – because her hope has been restored. It is this daily doing of small things with great love that has created significant impact in so many lives.

They say that which is measured is done. Having just produced our annual report, the measures we have at PEI Kids are top of mind: 12,000 children and family members received services, 100 teens re-committed to educational and career goals, 1,968 counseling sessions provided for child sexual abuse victims, 1,628 visits coordinated between children in foster care and their family members, 498 school-based safety workshops taught to 10,647 children, 65 schools visited, and 642 adults were trained/educated in how to protect children and keep them safe.

One thing we haven't figured out how to measure yet is the amount of hope we preserve, cultivate, restore, and fulfill; but I assure you, the bounty is well beyond measure. It is here that we do small things every day with great love, and from where I sit it is truly a sight to behold and a gift to be part of every day.

With deep gratitude,

Roslyn E. Dashiell
Executive Director

*Thank you to the following organizations and event sponsors that have provided recent funding for our programs and operations!

AAA Mid-Atlantic, Thomas & Francesca Bartlett, Nola Bencze & Thurman Gates, Bloomberg, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Capital Health, Margaret A. Chipowsky, Christine's Hope For Kids, City of Trenton CDBG, Customers Bank, ETS, Fennelly Associates, Loni & Marcus Hand, Lisa Festa Hayden and Michael Hayden, Help for Children / Hedge Funds Care, Hill Wallack, Hopewell Township PBA Local 342, Investors Bank, Investors Foundation, Lawrence Township Community Foundation, David Mathey Foundation, Merancas Foundation, Mercer Foundation-Community Foundation Of New Jersey, NJM Insurance Group, Phoenix Advisors, LLC, PNC Foundation Deborah Roldan, Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein & Blader P.C., The Provident Bank Foundation, The Tuchman Foundation, Tyler Foundation

*Funding over \$1,000—received December 6, 2015 to June 30, 2016

PEI Kids Welcomes New Board Member



Earlier this year, PEI Kids welcomed Jennifer M. Pierson to its Board of Trustees. Ms. Pierson is a PIP Litigation Administrator and has worked for New Jersey Manufacturer's Insurance Group for over fifteen years. In addition to her professional skills and business acumen, Ms. Pierson has dedicated her time and service to PEI Kids over the past four years as a member of our event committees for our annual Food & Wine Tasting and for our annual Dinner & Auction. During this time, she has introduced many friends and supporters to PEI Kids through our events.

"I couldn't be more impressed with the caliber of individuals attracted to serve on this board," said George Meyer, PEI Kids' Board President. "We are very excited to add Jennifer's talent and experience to the depth of talent currently reflected in our board membership," he added. Ms. Pierson's professional experience paired with her support and dedication for the mission of PEI Kids will bring great innovation and support to our planning, fundraising, and operational efforts.

Juvenile Intervention Programs Focus on Making Community Connections

PEI Kids' Juvenile Intervention programs serve youth on probation and those at-risk of juvenile justice involvement – helping them redirect their lives, reduce recidivism, and pursue their career and educational goals. The youth in our programs have been busy this spring participating in a range of activities, trainings, and special events focused on personal and character development and community connection and pride. In April, members of Capital Health's EMS team taught program participants life-saving skills through instruction in Friends and Family CPR and First Aid. Training included adult, child and infant CPR; the Heimlich maneuver; and use of an AED device for victims of heart incidents. The training prepared participants to assist someone who may be in need of life-saving intervention.

On June 18th, program youth teamed up for a clean-up project at Cadwalader Park where they spent Saturday morning helping to remove garbage and debris and preparing the park for residents to enjoy summer activities and events. During the cleanup, our youth received a surprise visit from Mayor Eric E. Jackson who spent time connecting with them and sharing words of encouragement and support.



Mayor Jackson (right) engages youth during Cadwalader Park clean up.

PEI Kids Welcomes New Development and Community Relations Coordinator



In April, PEI Kids welcomed its new Development & Community Relations Coordinator, Janina Akins, to spearhead the agency's community outreach, fundraising, and donor relations efforts.

In addition to her eight years' experience working in development and communications in Mercer County's nonprofit sector, Janina has an extensive background in event production and management. In this capacity, Janina has gained experience working with various vendors, venues, entertainers, and handling event- and production-related issues; and she has gained an excellent reputation for her relationship-building and outreach skills.

Janina will be responsible for continuing to implement PEI Kids signature fundraising events, recognizing donors, conducting community outreach, and cultivating relationships with key stakeholders and supporters in the community. This includes producing key communications pieces like our annual report and conducting educational workshops for prospective supporters and interested community members. "I welcome the opportunity to join the team of dedicated and compassionate individuals working hard to make a difference in the lives of Mercer County children and their families," says Janina. Please join us in welcoming Janina to her new role.



CIOOS participants learn CPR from Capital Health's EMTs.

Historically, the juvenile crime index spikes during the weeks of summer when youth have extended periods of unsupervised time. Thanks to the City of Trenton's CDBG program, we received funding to serve an additional 20 youth this year through a more intensive, summer-session program which meets twice a week and runs July 5 to August 29. The Summer Initiative is designed to give youth a structured environment and positive outlet to spend their time engaged in constructive activities and personal/character development. Summer sessions take place outdoors at parks throughout Mercer County – exposing youth to the natural beauty and various resources available right here at home.

PEI Kids' Juvenile Intervention programs are funded by the County of Mercer, the City of Trenton, PSE&G, ETS, Church & Dwight EGF, and Janssen Pharmaceuticals.

PEI KIDS' 25th ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION BRINGS OUT THE BRASS

PEI Kids' 25th annual Dinner & Auction drew the participation of two local mayors, one County Freeholder, and hundreds of friends and supporters.

In the crisp night air on Friday, April 8th, nearly 200 guests, friends, supporters, clients, and dignitaries gathered at Greenacres Country Club in Lawrenceville for PEI Kids' 25th Annual Dinner & Auction. The event included a packed agenda kicked off by an invocation from The Honorable Mayor Eric E. Jackson of Trenton, and followed by recognition of honorees, Nola Bencze and Thurman Gates, who were presented with a proclamation by Freeholder Pat Colavita. The dinner and live auction were attended by dignitaries including the Mayor of Lawrenceville, Dr. David Maffei, Hopewell Township Committee person, John Hart, and a host of friends and guests.

With the support of over 30 sponsors, this event is PEI Kids' biggest fundraising effort of the year, and generates an important share of the agency's operating and program revenue for its child abuse prevention and intervention programs which serve abused children and at-risk youth in Mercer County. The evening integrated spontaneous moments with memorable ones, including a special appeal from a former client of PEI Kids' Crisis Counseling for Child Victims of Sexual Abuse program.

"I always look forward to this special event," said Roz Dashiell, PEI Kids' Executive Director. "It's one of the few times during the year that we are able to bring together our PEI Kids family to celebrate our work while supporting the mission." Consistent with the theme of the event, which was "An Eye Toward the Future," Dashiell spent a portion of the evening discussing the agency's legacy and the vision for moving PEI Kids forward.

Live auction items donated by community members and local businesses brought in over \$17,000 and included:



Freeholder Pat Colavita (right) presents proclamation to honorees Nola Bencze and Thurman Gates

- Six box seats with VIP parking to a Philadelphia Phillies home game donated by David & Marlene Thompson

- Original, hand-crafted retro electric guitar donated by Michael Virok of Bordentown Guitar Rescue plus private guitar lessons donated by Jean Cheaumont of Princeton.

- Behind-the-scenes tour of the Hopewell Valley Police Department, including a police ride-along, donated by Chief Lance Maloney

- A hand-carved, wooden bear-a 19-year PEI Kids tradition-donated by Thurman Gates

- One-week luxury-condo vacation in Williamsburg, VA donated by Eugene Coughlin

- Luxury-condo vacation in Beaver Creek Olympic Village, CO donated by Nicholas and Michelle Ventura plus air travel for two donated by George Meyer

- Pair of St. John original clutch purse and shoulder tote donated by Nicholas and Michelle Ventura

- Dedication and naming of PEI Kids' Infant/Toddler Family Visitation room

- Tickets to NY Giants home game with field seating and VIP parking donated by Tom and Fran Bartlett

- Two tickets with field seating to NY Yankees home game plus 4 tickets with VIP package to a Trenton Thunder home game donated by Szaferman Lakind & Craig Hubert, Esq.

- Spa package consisting of 10 luxury treatments at area salons and spas plus premium Shiseido beauty products.

To everyone's surprise, an auction item was donated on the spot by Dianne Pepe, Director of Sales & Marketing for Renaissance New York Midtown Hotel, who was so moved by the agency's work that she donated a weekend stay in the penthouse suite of Renaissance's newest mid-town Manhattan location. With a book value of \$20,000 for the weekend, the lucky winner received a great deal with a winning bid of \$4,000.

Sponsors of the event included AAA Mid-Atlantic, Nola R. Bencze & Thurman Jay Gates, Customers Bank, Szaferman Lakind Blumstein & Blader, P.C., Dave & Marlene Thompson, Borden Perlman Salisbury & Kelly, Marcus & Loni Hand, Hopewell Township PBA Local 342, Mark Mucciacciaro of Morgan Stanley, PNC Bank, PSE&G, Capital Health, Margaret A. Chipowsky, Credit Union of New Jersey Foundation, Michael & Brenda Cseremsak, Fennelly Associates, Inc., First Choice Bank, Michael & Lisa Hayden, Hill Wallack, Hopewell Township Police Superior Officers' Association, Horvath & Giacini, Investors Bank, Kalavruzos Mumola Hartman & Lento LLC, George C. Meyer, Nottingham Insurance, Mr. & Mrs. Vincent A. Piacente, Jennifer & Paul Pierson, Ivan & Shelly Punchatz, Mr. & Mrs. Chris and Denise Pratico, Stark & Stark, and Taco Bell.

To learn about sponsoring or participating in future events, contact Janina Akins at 609-695-3739 or jakins@peikids.org. For event photos, visit our Facebook photo album at www.facebook.com/peikidsnj.



(L to R): Lawrence Mayor, Dr. David Maffei, PEI Kids' Board President George Meyer, and Trenton Mayor Eric E. Jackson



Event co-chairs Jennifer Pierson and Loni Hand



Volunteers from Bloomberg LP help set up for the Dinner & Auction

Tom & Fran Bartlett Name PEI Kids Family Room

At our 25th Annual Dinner & Auction, PEI Kids provided the opportunity for a lucky bidder to dedicate and name our Family Visitation room. PEI Kids' long-time supporters, Tom and Francesca Bartlett, placed the winning bid during our live auction; and the Family Room has been dedicated and named The Philip John Sturiale Family Room for the 2016-2017 year in honor of Fran's father who so loved the mission of PEI Kids.

PEI Kids Family Rooms provide a welcoming, family-friendly space where children in foster care can spend quality time with their biological family members during their foster-home placement. We provide a safe, nurturing environment where children can visit with parents and siblings, strengthen family bonds, and share in important family milestones and events. "During visits in our Family Rooms, we see tender moments—children running into their mothers' arms, dads playing on the floor with their young children, parents comforting their children through a difficult time," says PEI Kids' Executive Director Roslyn Dashiell. "We are honored to have this Family Room dedicated on behalf of the Bartlett family who has been such a steadfast supporter of our mission over the years," added Roz.

"My husband, Tom, and I have been involved with the agency for years," explained Fran Bartlett. "We have a deep appreciation for PEI Kids' mission and for the work they do in our community, and I couldn't think of a better opportunity to show our support for the agency and the work being done there," added Ms. Bartlett. In 2015, PEI Kids supervised 1,628 family visits. For more information on PEI Kids' Supervised Visitation program, please visit our website at www.peikids.org.