

## JIS Celebrates the Season with Feast and Family

For 17 years, PEI Kids' Juvenile Intervention Services (JIS) programs have marked the holiday season with a lively gathering including a home-cooked feast for current and former program participants, their siblings, children and family members, and supporters of the JIS programs. This year's events, were held the weekends before Thanksgiving and Christmas at the Sam Naples Center, and were collectively attended by over 100 youth, guests, funders and supporters, and members of PEI Kids' extended family.

The event is truly a community effort. For three days leading up to the event, decadent main dishes were artfully prepared by a team, including Program Coordinator, Rob Fiorello, who cooked trays of baked ham, two baked turkeys, and stuffing; and program Facilitator, Mark Parrish, whose southern-style collard greens accompanied the main dishes. Finally, home-baked macaroni and cheese was prepared and delivered with care by sisters, Miss Theresa and Miss Mary, the mother and the aunt of former program participant, Jarrett James (deceased).

Each year, this special celebration provides an opportunity for program participants, mentors, funders, supporters, staff, parents and community stakeholders to gather informally in a spirit of holiday fellowship and collegiality to celebrate the success of the juvenile intervention programs' participants. Executive Director,

Roz Dashiell, commented, "It's our privilege to take this opportunity to enjoy the spirit of family and community with the youth in our programs, and to let them know that they're important to us, and they're appreciated."

Program Coordinator, Rob Fiorello, takes pride in the tremendous involvement and support of former participants — now parents themselves — who often return and bring their children to share their experiences and wisdom with youth currently in the program. Fiorello points out, "It's not often that you see people voluntarily returning to their probation program. But this event has become a counted-upon tradition for the youth we serve -- past and present. It shows the importance of community and the power of caring people working together."



*Pictured at the December JIS luncheon are (L to R) Rob Fiorello, Roz Dashiell, and Fiah Gussin - Director, Division of Recreation, City of Trenton.*



231 Lawrence Road  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648  
609-695-3739

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## Arbonne Hosts an "Evening of Pampering" for Girls and Moms

On a cool December evening, participants in our Mother/Daughter Support Group gathered to celebrate inner beauty and self-esteem through an empowering evening of pampering and care made possible by Arbonne Charitable Foundation. For four years, the Foundation has provided funding and beauty products along with the support and talent of its local team, known as "Arbonne Angels", to provide an Evening of Pampering for clients in our Crisis Intervention counseling program and the Mother/Daughter Support Group.

grant which Arbonne Charitable Foundation provides to support the work of the Crisis Intervention for Child Victims of Sexual Abuse program. The check presentation was followed by a self-esteem building activity wherein mothers and daughters identified positive features about themselves and each other, and shared them with the group in a lively discussion. Participants were then treated to instruction in skin care, facials and make-overs provided by Arbonne's team of skin-care and beauty professionals — the Arbonne Angels.

Guests and participants enjoyed a light dinner before winding down the evening, and everyone received a personal gift bag packed with premium Arbonne skin care and beauty products. Arbonne's Evening of Beauty has become one of the agency's most popular and well-attended support group events of the year. As one mom aptly explained, "It was a night which sparked my daughter into thinking about her inner strengths, the value of replacing negative thoughts and views with words of strength, empowerment, and truth." We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Arbonne Charitable Foundation, local ERVP Jenny Childs, and the team of Arbonne Angels for a lovely evening and for the empowering message of self-worth that they imparted to our girls and mothers.



*Arbonne gift bags provided to participants*



*Arbonne ERVP, Jenny Childs (3rd from left) and the Arbonne Angels present PEI Kids with grant check.*

The evening began with a check presentation by Arbonne Vice President Jenny Childs to commemorate the Foundation's \$5,000

## Dr. Steven Johnson Joins PEI Kids' Board



Steven A. Johnson, M.D., FACS

bringing Capital Health's violence-prevention education initiative to the youth in PEI Kids' CJOOS program in 2015 and 2016.

PEI Kids' Board President, George Meyer explained, "The Governance Committee has been working to identify the needs of our Board, and we were unanimous in our high opinion of Dr. Johnson and that he would be a welcomed addition to our leadership team. We are fortunate to continue to attract such highly-qualified talent with a passion for the agency's mission and work."

In January, PEI Kids welcomed Dr. Steven Johnson to its Board of Trustees. Dr. Johnson is a dual board certified acute care surgeon specializing in general surgery with added qualifications in traumatology and surgical intensive care medicine. He currently serves as the Medical Director of Surgery and Surgical Critical Care at Capital Health Medical Center Hopewell.

Dr. Johnson has a wealth of first-hand trauma experience and a passion for engaging in violence-prevention work with youth. He was instrumental in bringing Capital Health's violence-prevention education initiative to the youth in PEI Kids' CJOOS program in 2015 and 2016.

## SAVE THE DATE

Friday, April 28, 2017

PEI Kids' 26th Annual  
**Dinner & Auction**  
at Greenacres Country Club

Call to reserve your tickets  
before they're

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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](http://www.peikids.org)

# POSTINGS

Winter 2017 Newsletter

## A Message from PEI Kids' Executive Director

Hello family,

As we began the 2016-17 school year this fall with a flurry of activity in our school-based prevention programs (see articles, page 2), I was affirmed that our partnerships with the education community form a foundation of support for our children — ensuring that all young people have access to safety and bullying-prevention training, child-assault and sexual-abuse prevention education, and intervention and support when needed — so that they can thrive in an environment that is free from violence, abuse, and neglect.

The world is a very different place now than it was in our beginnings, and as we continue to work closely with schools, districts, law enforcement and community leaders, I am humbled by the many young peoples' lives we touch through our programming...over 12,000 each year and more than 300,000 since our founding in 1985. Much of our prevention work occurs in schools across Mercer County and classrooms today are filled with young people who identify in many different ways. We are all on a journey of learning as these young people teach us about what respect and diversity means for them.

Recently, I was deeply moved by high-school-student Dannah Wilson's powerful and emotional message about the ways that we adults marginalize some children. This has led me

to think deeply about PEI Kids' role supporting all children as we advance our mission to promote and maintain a safe environment for them at home, in school, and in the community.

Our work is affirming and challenging. Through changing times, I believe that our legacy is a celebration of connecting with so many young people for so many years. And our future is a call to action to determine how best our work can be informed through ongoing dialogue with the young people we serve. They should have a seat at the table when it comes to discussing how we can best support them and the efforts of leaders dedicated to their development.

With deep gratitude,

*Roz Dashiell*

Roslyn E. Dashiell  
Executive Director



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

Karen Alexander & Warren Harris Jr., AMC Cares Foundation, Anonymous, Thomas & Francesca Bartlett, Megan Buzzetta, County of Mercer (NJ), David Mathey Foundation, EisnerAmper LLP, George H. and Estelle M. Sands Foundation, Global Planners Inc., Lawrence Township Community Foundation, Chris & Denise Pratico, Quality Packaging Specialists International, Robert & Joan Dircks Foundation, The Tuchman Foundation, Tulsa Community Foundation, Ventura Wealth Management, Nicholas & Michelle Ventura

\*Contributions over \$1,000 received July 1, 2016 to January 15, 2017



# Prevention Programs Launch the 16-17 School Year with Success

PEI Kids' Prevention Education program provides school-based workshops for over 10,000 pre-K to 9th-grade Mercer County students each year — teaching them how to stay safe in potentially dangerous situations. This year brought changes for the program, including the hire of new Prevention Director Erika Hillman, new Program Assistant, Rebecca Thompson, and new classroom facilitator, Carol Miller (*see sidebar, New Faces of Prevention*).

“We are honored to be delivering the Child Assault Prevention (CAP) program in several schools for the first time this school year including Lawrence Middle School and STEM Civic Charter School where we'll be presenting the TEEN CAP program,” explained Prevention Director Erika Hillman. “The TEEN CAP program is designed for 6th through 9th grade students to prepare them for more complex social situations, addressing topics such as healthy relationships, dating violence prevention, sexting, and the difference between flirting and sexual harassment,” added Hillman.

PEI Kids will also be conducting whole-school implementation of the CAP Bullying-Prevention Program at Washington Elementary School in

Trenton, reaching every student from Kindergarten through 5th grade along with staff and parents. Overall, the Prevention team will present 528 workshops in over 65 public, private, and charter schools throughout Mercer County. Workshops address sensitive topics through age-appropriate content on issues like bullying prevention and peer assault, child abuse and neglect, sexual abuse prevention, and stranger abduction.

Executive Director, Roz Dashiell explains, “We provide prevention education to reduce children's vulnerability and to ensure that children understand the elements of a safe environment, and that all children have rights. Through role-play we help children understand how to identify and respond to potentially unsafe situations, and how to solicit the help and support of trusted adults. These simple messages can go a long way toward empowering our children and reducing their vulnerability.”

To find out whether your child's school provides the Child Assault Prevention program, feel free to contact the school's guidance counselor or contact PEI Kids' Prevention Department by calling 609.695.3739 or by emailing [Prevention@peikids.org](mailto:Prevention@peikids.org).

# PEI Kids, Washington School Partner to Confront Bullying

With support from the New Jersey Child Assault Prevention (CAP) program and the Trenton Public School District, PEI Kids has partnered with Washington Elementary School to deliver a school-wide bullying-prevention program for the 2016-17 school year.

The CAP Bullying-Prevention Program (CBBP) uses a comprehensive curriculum with a whole-school implementation approach which involves faculty, staff, parents, students, and the entire school community. The program gathers information to identify areas and times when students feel most vulnerable to potential bullying; gauges student and teacher perceptions; provides strategies for bullying victims, perpetrators, and witnesses; and provides administration with specific recommendations for responding to bullying incidents and creating a safer school climate.

According to PEI Kids' Executive Director, Roz Dashiell, “To effectively address an issue like bullying, it is critical to give all stakeholders a voice – teachers, parents, students, even the perpetrators themselves. There are often underlying factors which lead to counter-productive behaviors like bullying -- factors which we can identify and address to create an environment most conducive to learning, achievement, and healthy socialization.”

Research indicates that bullying behavior typically emerges between grades 2 – 3 and peaks in middle school. The bullying-prevention program is being implemented at Washington Elementary School as a preventative measure to minimize the likelihood of bullying behavior taking root or becoming a pervasive problem. Washington Elementary's program implementation begins with adult workshops to teach parents, teachers, and staff how to reinforce anti-bullying



Photo credit: [www.trenton.k12.nj.us](http://www.trenton.k12.nj.us)

strategies and messaging, and respond appropriately to bullying incidents should they occur. The workshop will also begin to raise awareness and encourage addressing and discussing bullying behavior in a productive and solution-oriented way.

Prevention Director, Erika Hillman explains, “Our prevention workshops aim to empower participants. The Bullying-Prevention Program, like all CAP curricula, is based on an empowerment philosophy which teaches children that they have rights and provides strategies for exercising their rights to be *safe, strong, and free*.”

PEI Kids provides over 500 bullying- and child-assault-prevention workshops in 65 Mercer County public, private, and charter schools each year. To learn more about the agency's programs and services, visit [www.peikids.org](http://www.peikids.org).

# New Faces of Prevention

In September, PEI Kids welcomed Erika Hillman as Prevention Director and Mercer County CAP (Child Assault Prevention) Coordinator. In this role, Erika is responsible for the leadership and direction of PEI Kids' 15-member prevention Task Force and she spearheads our work as lead agency of the Greater Mercer Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and the Enough Abuse Campaign. As such, she works in partnership with community agencies and schools throughout Trenton and Mercer County to educate and raise awareness on the issues of child abuse, sexual assault and peer violence, and she helps schools and communities cultivate safer climates for our children and youth through PEI Kids' school- and community-based prevention programs.



Erika Hillman,  
Prevention Director/  
Mercer County CAP  
Coordinator

Erika has a background in conducting positive youth development workshops with at-risk youth and has provided prevention workshops for a variety of age groups including middle- and high-school students and victims of domestic violence. Erika is DVVRT (Domestic Violence Victim Response Team) and SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) certified, and she is well known for her presentations on relationship violence and dating safety.

In September we also welcomed new Facilitator, Carol Miller, to the Prevention Task Force. Since joining, Carol has become certified in the Elementary and Early Childhood CAP curriculum, and she is prepared to present prevention workshops to children from Pre-K through 5th grade.



Carol Miller, Prevention  
Facilitator

Finally, we congratulate long-time Facilitator, Rebecca Thompson, on being promoted to Prevention Scheduler/Program Assistant. In this vital role, Rebecca works with the Prevention Director to ensure that workshops and facilitators are scheduled accurately, conducts outreach to ensure quality service and satisfaction, and she helps our Prevention operations run smoothly. Join us in welcoming this dynamic team in their new roles as they continue to build on PEI Kids' legacy of *promoting and maintaining a safe environment for all children* while empowering the children of Mercer County to be free from abuse and violence.



Rebecca Thompson,  
Prevention Scheduler

# PEI KIDS' WINE & FOOD TASTING FUNDRAISER IS A SUCCESS!

**More than 300 community members and supporters came out for PEI Kids' signature Wine & Food Tasting Fundraiser which featured exotic and luxury cars, private jets, raffles, games, and food and wine from the area's finest eateries and wine vendors.**

Friends, community members and businesses came out in support of PEI Kids' 11th Annual Wine & Food Tasting event on Friday, October 14th. The event, which was held at Signature Aviation hangar located at Trenton-Mercer Airport, featured food from 22 food, confection, and beverage vendors along with wines from distributors affiliated with West Trenton Fine Wine & Liquors located in Ewing. All event proceeds support PEI Kids' child abuse prevention and intervention services, which benefit over 12,000 children and families annually.

“We couldn't be more pleased with the community support received for this event,” said George Meyer, PEI Kids' Board President. “Restaurants, wine vendors, local businesses, and volunteers donated generously to make the event successful for PEI Kids. It is demonstration of the tremendous community support that makes our work in the community possible.” This event is produced thanks to the support of sponsors and in-kind services donated by restauranteurs and beverage vendors who donated food, beverage and wine samplings, Interstate Motorsport who provided foreign and exotic cars for display, Signature Aviation which provided the venue and secured a private jet for guest tours, and Mercer County Golf Academy which provided a putting green for guests to win raffle tickets. Additionally, Front Row Seat Productions, in cooperation with Reid Sound, provided audio/visual support including a large screen for displaying sponsorships and live interviews with guests throughout the evening.

Executive Director, Roz Dashiell, added “Our event partners and sponsors are the unsung heroes who continue to play a key role in the success of this event which generates critical program funding and enables us to deliver valuable programs and services throughout the year at no cost to children or their families.” This year's event sponsors include AAA Mid-Atlantic, Bartlett Family Foundation, Bloomberg LP, Capital Health, Customers Bank, Chris & Denise Pratico, AmperEisner, Fennelly Associates, Inc., George C. Meyer, Global Planners Inc., Hill Wallack LLP, Hopewell Township PBA Local 342, Hopewell Township Police Superior Officers Association, Investors Bank, Marcus & Loni Hand, Mark Mucciacciaro at Merrill Lynch, Margaret Chipowsky, NJM Insurance Group, Nola Bencze & Thurman Gates, Nottingham Insurance, Szaferman Lakind Blumstein & Blader, PC, Taco Bell, Trenton Printing, The Tuchman Foundation, Ventura Wealth Management, and Whitehead Motors.

The photo gallery from this event can be viewed online at [www.peikids.org/?p=3923](http://www.peikids.org/?p=3923). To learn how you can participate in PEI Kids' upcoming events, please contact Janina Akins at [jakins@peikids.org](mailto:jakins@peikids.org) or by calling 609-695-3739.



Bloomberg volunteers helped transform the airport hangar into a beautiful venue



Lisa Festa-Hayden tries for a hole in one!



Event Co-chair Robert Bullington visits one of the exotic cars on display



Hank Trueblood, proprietor of Bonefish Grill (Princeton)



Guests relax inside the private jet (L to R): Mayor Eric E. Jackson, Jack Donnelly (Event Committee), Aviation Charters rep, and Jennifer Pierson (Event Co-chair)



Guests enjoy the deluxe wine pairing: premium wine paired with a gourmet dish



Guests choose from a delectable selection of savory dishes