

The Alliance

SUMMER 2015

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Mission

Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance protects children by teaching citizens to recognize and report child abuse and neglect by providing information, educational materials, and programs that promote positive parenting.

www.pa-fsa.org

PFSA Offers Train-the-Trainer for Mandated Reporters

The recent, significant changes to Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) necessitate clarification in both policy and practice regarding Mandated Reporter Training. Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance (PFSA) realizes the immense **responsibility organizations have to prepare staff to be knowledgeable, proficient, and confident in their roles as mandated reporters of child abuse**. PFSA has more than 20 years' experience in training professionals on this subject and has trained thousands of mandated reporters across the state.

Many schools, social service agencies and other organizations have benefitted from PFSA's "Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse" Train-the-Trainer (TTT) Program. TTT helps organizations build and expand in-house expertise and capabilities to offer Mandated Reporter Training. The organization chooses which staff members will become their in-house resource; these professionals are called "organizational trainers." By designating a staff person as an organizational trainer, the other staff receive the best possible training and ongoing support in their roles as mandated reporters.

What does an organizational trainer do? The organizational trainer teaches PFSA's "Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse" content to his or her colleagues within the organization. The trainer helps participants complete the activities and answers questions, especially regarding specific situations that come up within their organization. Staff members with experience working with the child welfare system and who possess a high comfort level training colleagues make excellent candidates for organizational trainers.

How does PFSA prepare organizational trainers for this important role? PFSA is the only approved entity in Pennsylvania offering Train-the-Trainer. Our curriculum is approved for Act 48 credits and meets all requirements under both Act 126 and Act 31 for required training of mandated reporters.

Our TTT program is two full days of instruction, practice sessions and review of our comprehensive Trainer's Guide. TTT is taught by our corps of master trainers, professionals with decades of experience who have been providing PFSA's training in the field.

PFSA Offers Train-the-Trainer for Mandated Reporters

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The Trainer's Guide is an organizational tool for arranging facilities, people, time, and materials for training. It also presents information to improve general training skills. During the TTT, participants learn how to use the guide when facilitating organizational trainings. After participating in the TTT Program, trainers have knowledge and experience to keep everyone up-to-date on mandated reporter requirements.

“One of the main functions of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit is to provide professional development for educators in Allegheny County school districts. By participating in the PFSA training we are able to train our own staff and also provide current information and high-quality presentations to educators throughout our region.”

Diana L. Malone, PhD., IDEA TaC/Interagency Coordinator, Allegheny IU, Homestead, PA

What happens after the TTT session? If you've ever had the experience of attending training, but not having support to actually use the training when it's needed on the job, you understand the importance of ongoing technical assistance. PFSA views the TTT session as just the beginning of equipping mandated reporters with the skills they need to protect kids. In addition to the comprehensive training session and guide, we provide free update trainings whenever there are amendments

to the CPSL, ongoing technical assistance regarding mandated reporting (when you call our toll-free number, you speak directly with our expert staff) and trainer development teleconferences to increase the skill and expertise of the organizational trainers.

How do we participate in PFSA's TTT program?

Contact Staci Stettler, Coordinator of Mandated Reporter Training via email at [sstettler@pa-fsa.org](mailto:ssettler@pa-fsa.org) or phone at 800-448-4906. Staci will send you an application packet with all the details. Your organization will enter into a three-year partnership with PFSA in order to ensure continuity of training and availability of resources. Summer sessions are now scheduled (see box on right). Information is also available on our website – www.pa-fsa.org. ●

Mandated Reporter Train-the-Trainer Sessions

July 9–10 in Glenside (Philadelphia), PA

Register by June 21

July 13–14 in Indiana, PA

Register by June 22

July 16–17 in Pittsburgh, PA

Register by June 26

August 5–6 in Hummelstown (Hershey), PA

Register by July 15

August 10–11 in Erie, PA

Register by July 20

August 20–21 in Wyoming, PA

Register by July 24

August 20–21 in Lancaster, PA

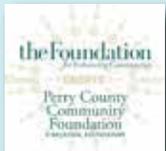
Register by July 24

August 25–26 in Pittsburgh, PA

Register by July 31

Welcome to PFSA

Staci Stettler has joined PFSA as Coordinator of Mandated Reporter Training. Originally from Lancaster County, she has returned to central Pennsylvania from New Jersey. Combining her background as a coach, manager, trainer, teacher, school administrator, and executive director with her experience in many educational settings, Staci shares her passion for learning with the organizational trainers throughout the state. She earned a Bachelor of Humanities in Secondary Education from Penn State University, a Master of Education from Wilkes University, and an Educational Leadership Certification from Penn State University. In her free time, Staci enjoys traveling, relaxing at the beach, reading, and spending time with her family. ●



A special thank you to the **Perry County Community Foundation**, a regional foundation of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. We are looking forward to holding a Front Porch Project session this summer with their support. ●

Thank You....

A special thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make the **Hershey 10K Race Aid Station** a success and to Hershey Entertainment & Resorts for including PFSA as a beneficiary. It started off as a cold day, but was very rewarding (and warming!) to see the crowd of runners supporting PFSA and the other organizations benefitting from the event. Shown above are PFSA Director of Training Tina Phillips (left) with volunteer Board of Directors members Raffy Luquis and Erica Weiler-Timmons on race day in Hershey. ●



Preventing Child Abuse

Bucks County

State Rep. Kathy Watson hosted two meetings in Warrington, giving PFSA the floor to discuss changes to the Child Protective Services Law, the need for clearances for those working with kids and our community prevention program, the Front Porch Project.

Cambria County

Painting for Prevention came to the Galleria Mall in Johnstown, as approximately 200 people added their brush strokes to the mural. Part of the observance of the Week of the Young Child, PFSA partnered with **Beginnings, Inc.** to make the day a big success!

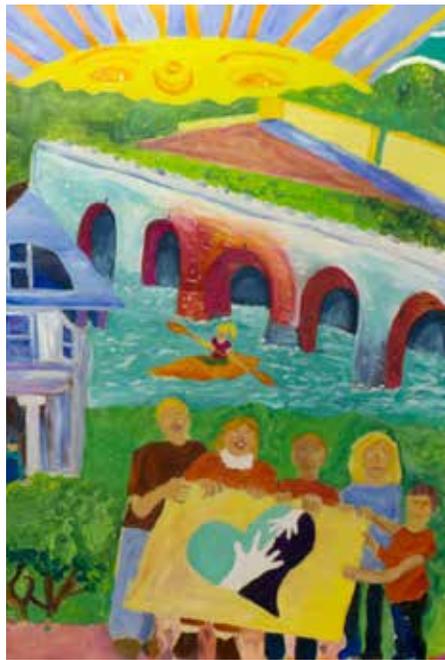


Painting the Johnstown mural (shown to the right).

PFSA also partnered with **Child First PA** to share information with health professionals at the 35th Annual Child Abuse Awareness Workshop in Johnstown, providing the most updated information on recognizing and reporting child abuse as part of the training.



PFSA President and CEO Angela Liddle, left, with Rep. Watson at the forum for professionals.



Dauphin County

PFSA started Child Abuse Prevention Month with our legislative breakfast in Harrisburg. Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman was honored as PFSA's 2015 Ambassador for Pennsylvania's Children. We also celebrated our partnerships with Rep. Julie Harhart, Members First Credit Union, and Hershey Entertainment and Resorts. Over 100 people attended the annual event.

Indiana County

CARE Center of Indiana County, along with JusticeWorks Youth Care, The ARC of Indiana County and the Indiana County Department of Human Services sponsored two Front Porch Project sessions as part of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Each day-long session brought community members together to talk about how and

when to safely intervene when there's a concern about a child's safety.

Northampton County

PFSA participated in **Project Child's** annual Child Abuse Conference in Bethlehem. This year's topic was "The Next Generation: Intimate Partner Violence, Its Impact on Children, and Our Role in Stopping the Cycle of Violence." We distributed parent education materials, awareness supplies and information on mandated reporting.



New this year: Angela Liddle joined ABC27's Daybreak program for updates throughout the morning at PFSA's annual legislative breakfast in Harrisburg

e Across Pennsylvania



Kaiulani and Roslyn Snyder enjoying the Sunbury event.

Northumberland County

Northumberland County Children and Youth Services hosted an event at Cameron Park in Sunbury, "Lighting the Way for Child Abuse Prevention." They placed luminarias through the park, to symbolize children that were impacted by child abuse in the county during 2014. In total, 72 luminarias represented 2,654 children receiving services from NCCYS. Several speakers highlighted the changes in the CPSL and how each community member can help to prevent child abuse. The event also included music and fun activities for families.

Potter County

More than 30 people attended the Front Porch Project session sponsored by **Potter County Human Services** in Coudersport. "This was an exceptional training," one participant commented afterward. "I'm now thinking about all of the little things I can do to help a child. I never thought about it much before but now I have some new ideas."

Schuylkill County

Parents of every baby born at Schuylkill Medical Center in Pottsville received one of **PFSA's blue ribbon pins**, along with tips for child abuse prevention, thanks to Dr. Carol Bilinski of the Integrated Medical Group, Blue Mountain Pediatrics, who donated the pins. "It's a very challenging job to be a good parent," she said, encouraging parents to ask for help when they feel overwhelmed. Sadly, Dr. Bilinski sees the results of child abuse as she reviews reports of child deaths. "It's all preventable," she said about child abuse. The doctor's next project is partnering with PFSA to offer the Front Porch Project in Pottsville in September.

York County

Our second *Painting for Prevention* event of 2015 took place at the Martin Memorial Library in York. Highlighting images from children's literature and the importance of reading to and with children,



Judith Yovshock of Heart to Art with York painters.

the mural will be housed in **The Lehman Center**, a crisis nursery and longtime PFSA affiliate in York. This was our 24th mural since beginning the program in 2008.



Painting for Prevention York mural

Helping Children Heal

The children at House of Hope and Peace in Philadelphia have each suffered loss and grief because of homelessness; many have witnessed tragic acts of violence, watched their parents struggle with addiction or been the victims of child abuse or neglect. But staff and volunteers of PFSA's affiliate **Council for Relationships (CFR)** are helping these children cope by encouraging them to discuss their losses in a therapeutic manner. For the past few months, they have been creating a mural to provide the kids with a safe, creative place to give voice to their experiences.

In each weekly meeting, a component was added to the mural. First, the children created a tree with a leaf for each thing for which the child is grateful. Things like having parents who care about them, a school to go to and being healthy were mentioned by many children. Then they were asked to identify things they hoped for, and write or draw them on flowers. Often when people have experienced significant loss, they find it hard to be hopeful; this is especially harmful to a child's emotional well-being, resulting in adolescent or adult depression or addiction. The third component of the mural centered on sadness, when the children wrote or drew things that made them sad in raindrops. In this way they were able to acknowledge their sadness, often discouraged in children, and see sadness as a way to become stronger, as the rain helps the hopeful flowers grow. For the next element each child drew a sun to represent people in their lives who provide support. Parents were involved in this activity as well, as they identified many of the same issues as their children: lack of emotional support, denial of emotions and limited ways of coping with emotions. Finally, the last piece of the mural helped children identify things they can do to calm themselves when they get angry and the impulsiveness that

often accompanies emotions in children. Handprints were used as a template to signify that people don't need a closed fist to soothe their anger; rather, they can count on their fingers a number of other ways to calm themselves down.

The project was the brainchild of Morgan Bloomfield, a MFT student in the graduate School of Health Professionals of Thomas Jefferson University, supervised by Dorothy Thomas, senior staff therapist at CFR. "I found this to be a productive process for the children as well as their parents. And our student therapists learned a lot about the difficulty of helping traumatized children identify and understand emotions. They are learning that it takes time to develop therapeutic relationships with wounded, fragile kids," Dorothy said. "I was amazed at how well they connected with our interns and how enthusiastic they were about sharing their ideas and strategies for healing. We learned a lot from the children in this process." What a wonderful example of how caring adults can help children heal from trauma and, hopefully, break the cycle of abuse and violence as adults. ●

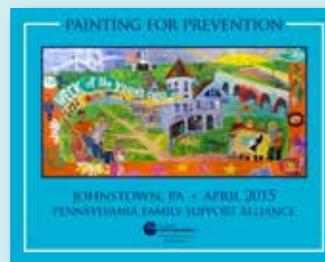


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You can support child abuse prevention and PFSA by simply

purchasing from Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com), the same convenient shopping website as Amazon.com. The bonus is that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible purchases to Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance. It doesn't cost you anything extra. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, use the search box on the right-hand side to type in Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance and hit enter. Your selection is remembered every time you sign on to Amazon and eligible purchases will mean **important support for PFSA!** ●



Painting for Prevention

Are you looking for a way to support child abuse prevention while bringing some colorful art on to your walls? Check out our **Painting for Prevention mural posters** in PFSA's online store. Posters are

available in two sizes – 11" x 14" cost \$12.00 and 18" x 24" are \$30.00. Posters are available for each of the murals created since we began the program in 2008. They make great gifts!

Support PFSA and "paint for prevention" all year. Visit our website to see the posters and place your order. ●

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“In every conceivable manner, the family is a link to our past and a bridge to our future.”
— Alex Haley

