



Home

Fall 2016

Happenings

Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Inc.
*extraordinary **people**, extraordinary **programs***



The Victory Ride: Breaking Down Barriers and Celebrating Abilities

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Charles Walczak

Message from the CEO

Our agency provides services for individuals of all ages and all levels of intellectual disabilities. This diversity of needs includes those who can speak and those who are nonverbal, those who can walk without assistance as well as those who require customized wheelchairs for mobility, those who can eat solid food and those who need pureed meals or feeding tubes, and those who are physically healthy along with those whose medically complex conditions require specialized equipment and 24-hour nursing care.

It is our exceptional care for this last group, our residents with complex medical conditions, that EHCA is known for throughout Pennsylvania and beyond. Special attention to this segment of the population did not come about by accident; it was a deliberate, well-planned choice. Our individuals were aging (we have residents who have been with us for 40+ years), and our Board of Directors and staff did not want anyone to be turned away because of changes in their medical condition. They had a home here, and this was where they belonged.

We have two residences, both of them within our main facility, which are equipped and staffed to care for individuals with advanced medical needs. As our residents age, however, and the state's waiting list for medically complex services continues to climb, we see an urgent need to increase capacity for specialized care. It is also important to note there are only a few facilities in PA that can accommodate individuals with complex medical conditions, and EHCA is the only agency in NW PA that can do so.

Over the past 30 years, the state transitioned from a centralized model of care to the community residence model we enjoy today. We have witnessed the positive impact of neighborhood homes on our residents' quality of life and the increased acceptance of people with disabilities in our communities as a result. It is our intent to be able to provide that same environment of community inclusion for our more medically challenged individuals and increase capacity for others needing specialized services.

We will soon announce plans outlining our steps to help meet the needs of this very special population. This will be a project of significant magnitude requiring substantial resources. It will also be life-changing and thoroughly rewarding. We know that because we know and care about these individuals. EHCA will exceed expectations in providing the quality environments and opportunities that will help them enjoy healthy and fulfilling lives. We invite you to join us and will soon provide you all the exciting details.

Management Team

Charles Walczak, MBA, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Donna Huckno
Vice President of Nursing & Health Services

Shannon Weber
Chief Financial & Informational Officer

Bev Keep
Chief Operational Officer

James R. McMann
Director of Education & Training

Peg Smith-Rich
Vice President of Residential & Community Services

Jonathan Rilling
Vice President of Marketing, Advancement, & Communication

Lorine Boboshko
Executive Secretary

Penny Bebko
Director of Human Resources

Home Happenings

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The mission of EHCA is to assist people with disabilities to live rich and fulfilling lives.

Admissions, provision of services, and referrals of residents or program participants shall be made without regard to race, color, religious creed, disability, ancestry, national origin, age, gender, or limited English proficiency.



Riding On to Victory



Why ride? Why motorcycles? When you see the smiles on our EHCA riders' faces, you discover the answers: because they want to, because they can, because the sound of the engines and freedom of the road are just as exciting for them as they are for the motorcycle drivers riding beside them.

This year's Victory Ride, held September 10 at Belle Valley Fire Department, brought together riders, residents, families, and volunteers for a day of fun and celebration. We want to thank all of our Victory Ride sponsors, prize donors, sidecar drivers, the Chrome Angels, DJ Brian Shank, our registered riders, staff and community volunteers, and party guests. The money raised will be used to support important updates and improvements in the advanced care homes serving our residents with complex medical conditions. Everyone wins! Victory doesn't get any sweeter than that.



Thank you to our many Victory Ride sponsors, including the following:

Suspension Sponsors

Circolo Nazionale Lodge #122

Pulaski Club

Welders Supply Company

ECGRA (Erie Co. Gaming Revenue Authority)

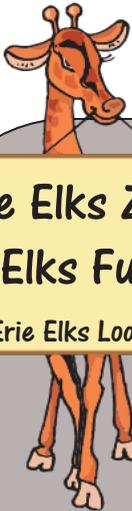
Event Sponsors

Admiral Heating & Air Conditioning

Star Club



HAPPY CAMPERS



Erie Elks Zoo Day
& Elks Fun Days

Erie Elks Lodge #67



Thanks to the generosity of the Erie Elks, residents and their families headed to the Erie Zoo in July to visit the animals and enjoy a picnic lunch, a train ride, and fun and games with the Erie clowns. The Elks also hosted Elks Fun Days for our Options program every other Tuesday during the summer. Participants ate lunch and played lawn games.

Our Mission

Summertime fun included warm, sunny days at Camp Sherwin for both our EHCA residents and our MOVE program participants. Whether they were making crafts, splashing in the pool, playing lawn games, or wheeling through the Spray & Play Park, the campers loved being outdoors and joining in activities with friends.



News from Crawford County

Crawford Co. Options headed to Stainbrook Park in Meadville for a **Blast to the Past Picnic Bash**



A sweet delivery...

Titusville DSP Tina Wetmore and resident Neil Haines recently delivered a plate of home-baked cookies to the Titusville Police Department. Each week, Neil helps bake the cookies in the morning and delivers them to the police or fire department in the afternoon. Happy to accept the baked goods are Captain Glenn Ciccarelli and Titusville Chief of Police Harold Minch.

Seeing Possibilities, Not Disabilities

Nonstop *Zumba* workout becomes a dance party benefiting MOVE program



ZUMBAthon®



A huge THANK YOU goes out to Wegmans, Best Fitness, and DJ Tony B for sponsoring a 2-hour Zumbathon at our MOVE studio in September. Who knew exercising could be so much fun! We are also grateful to the local businesses that donated prizes for the raffle table. The event raised \$1,125 for EHCA, which will be used for supplies, equipment, and activities for our MOVE program participants. Everyone had a great workout and a super time.



A disability is what I have, not who I am.

Wish List

Project First Step

Diapers, baby wipes
Personal hygiene products
Gas cards
Car seats (infant and larger)
Cribs, pack-n-plays
5-ride bus passes
Single ride bus tokens

MOVE Program

Art/craft supplies
Fabric and sewing supplies
Scrapbooking/stamping supplies
Gift cards for supplies
Gift cards for restaurants, activities
Guest passes to the YMCA
Crayons, markers, colored pencils
Coloring books for adults
Cassette tapes
Spirograph, Connect Four
Baking items
Seasonal/holiday paper products
(napkins, plates, cups, decorations)
Guest passes to Splash Lagoon
Movie passes

If you can help, contact Karen at 814-315-1857
or karen.tuminello@ehca.org.

Save the Date



The
Spring Event
Friday, May 5, 2017



Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel

New family series includes child with disabilities

Let us start off by saying that EHCA is not promoting any TV network, station, or program. We just want you to know about a new TV series portraying a family with a nonverbal child who has cerebral palsy. Some of our EHCA families could offer the show's writers some great story lines.

Created by *Friends* writer Scott Silver who grew up with a sibling with special needs, *Speechless* debuted in September on ABC. The series addresses important issues related to disabilities, but the focus is really on family. Critics are calling it "sweet and funny without being overly sentimental."



The cast of *Speechless*

Micah Fowler, the actor portraying the son with cerebral palsy, actually has CP himself. Another actor gives voice to his thoughts. Viewers will have the opportunity to gain insights into the lives of people with disabilities and their families. We hope they will realize that words like "disabilities" and "speechless" don't tell the full story. What those words reveal is our need to expand our definitions of ability and communication.



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Be a holiday friend...

Make the holidays a little merrier by shopping for someone special



EHCA friends and supporters are invited to share the holiday spirit with our community program participants and their families. The Be-A-Friend project provides gifts for children and adults served by EHCA's Options and Project First Step programs whose parents or guardians cannot afford to buy gifts for them. Those receiving services range in age from infant to age 70. Gifts are also provided for the older children in families so that siblings are not excluded from receiving a gift.

Please contact EHCA by **Friday, October 28**, if you want to add an EHCA participant to your holiday shopping list. Gift donors will receive a card with the recipient's name, age, and a "wish list" to make shopping easier. We ask that donors bring their **unwrapped** gifts to EHCA's main office by **Friday, December 6**.

Spread the cheer during EHCA's Be-A-Friend project by contacting EHCA at 814-454-1534.



The mission of EHCA is to assist people with disabilities to live rich and fulfilling lives.

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Each person with a disability should have the opportunity to make choices, to contribute to his or her own daily lifestyle, to obtain the best education and training available, and to enjoy a home-like atmosphere with quality caregivers.