



# Home Summer 2017

# Happenings

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



## Mission in Motion

### What's Inside:

Message from the CEO 2  
Spotlight on Options 3

Board of Directors Notes 4  
Prom Night and Dance 5

Community Events 6  
News and Wish List 7



Charles Walczak, CEO

## Message from the CEO

Hello, everyone —

Not that I'm counting, but I just enjoyed my 3-year anniversary at EHCA. WOW—it's been a whirlwind. There have been so many great things happening that I'm amazed at what we accomplished as a team.

The main thing I want to share is the awesome progress with our *Hope, Compassion and Possibilities* Capital Campaign. We are very close to meeting our target goal - \$1,500,000! The soliciting component of the campaign will close this summer, but the project component is well on its way.

We will break ground this summer for our first new home, located in Fairview near Fairview Middle School. All the homes will have six private bedrooms with generous space for dining, socializing, and all of the things we all do in our own homes. There will be a covered entrance, allowing for greater comfort and ease for our folks to get in and out. The homes will have all of the necessities for our staff to provide the highest level of care and safety.

The second home is tentatively scheduled to break ground in late summer or early fall and will be located in Millcreek near our MOVE facility. If all stays on schedule, we will be able to transition our residents out of our main facility by the end of the calendar year. This will then allow us to begin a process of repurposing our building on East 27<sup>th</sup> Street to improve our medical clinic and develop much needed training space and resources.

Our third home location is still in process and likely to be built near our main facility. We are also well along our way with scaling our infrastructure to support these new homes and additional clients as they come on board.

Beyond all of this, we have recently opened our newest community residence in Girard. We transitioned our special ladies from the Cochran Suite, and they are now enjoying a real home setting in a beautiful location. This new home also allows us to add an additional resident, and we are working on that placement.

So as I said – a whirlwind of activity. Next time, I'll fill you all in on some key operational enhancements and plans at the agency. In closing, I wish everyone a super summer and as always—thanks to all for everything you do!

### Management Team

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

Shannon Weber  
*Chief Financial Officer (CFO)*

Bev Keep  
*Chief Operational Officer (COO)*

Peg Smith-Rich  
*VP of Residential & Community Services*

Jonathan Rilling  
*VP of Marketing, Advancement, & Communications*

James R. McMann  
*Director of Education & Training*

Lorine Boboshko  
*Executive Secretary*

Penny Bebko  
*Director of Human Resources*

## Home Happenings

is a publication of EHCA  
and is distributed three times a year.

### Board of Directors

Jerry Cannon  
*President*

Carly Manino  
*President Elect*

Jeffrey J. Presogna, CPA  
*Vice President*

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*Secretary, Foundation Secretary*

Bruce E. Arkwright  
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Michelle Robertson  
Colleen Shaffer  
James Thomas, Jr. MD  
Ben Wilson

### Erie Homes for Children & Adults, Inc. (EHCA)

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Erie, PA 16504  
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[www.ehca.org](http://www.ehca.org)

*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.*



## Spotlight on EHCA's Options program

# Creating real *options* for fun, learning, friendships, and adventures

With a name like Erie Homes for Children and Adults, some people assume EHCA is exclusively a residential program for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Yes, EHCA offers outstanding community homes for individuals with a wide range of abilities and medical needs. But of the 400 people we serve each day, roughly 25 percent are EHCA residents. The rest live with family members or on their own. They and their caregivers need support and daytime opportunities in order to thrive. EHCA's community-based program takes its name from the hope and assistance it brings to these families: Options.

EHCA staff members work one-on-one with participants to help them learn everyday skills, volunteer in the community, attend events, enjoy a hobby, or participate in recreational activities. Confidence grows as clients make decisions and socialize with peers.

One of Options' most popular support choices is SNAP (Social Networking Among Peers). Small groups of individuals schedule their own activities, enjoy local events, take mini road trips, or volunteer together. The goal of SNAP is to create opportunities for making friends and sharing new experiences.

Some participants want to demonstrate their abilities and independence by earning their own money. Supported Employment helps these individuals obtain and sustain paid employment by offering the support and training needed to succeed. They learn job-search strategies and receive training for specific job assignments.

With the opportunities provided by Options, people with disabilities find friends, skills, and activities they both choose and enjoy. Families gain essential support for their efforts to care for their loved ones at home. That's a great option!

*You are also a part of the Options story. Your support makes community experiences like these possible.*



### Baby & Me Tobacco Free

Project First Step Director Tina Ferraro and Family Specialist Lisa Kobusinski (standing beside County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper) attended a press conference at the Erie County Health Dept. for Baby & Me Tobacco Free providers. PFS is one of the first agencies in Pennsylvania to offer the evidence-based program that provides incentives for mothers to remain tobacco free during their pregnancy and throughout their baby's first year. Women who quit smoking are less likely to have premature and low birth-weight babies. The goal is healthy babies born full-term!



## Capital Campaign Cabinet

Ann Halupczynski, Co-Chair  
 Edwin Smith, Esq., Co-Chair  
 Jerry Cannon, Board President  
 Vickie Lampe, PNC Financial  
 Jim Martin, Northwest  
 Frances McCormick, Esq., Board  
 Michelle Robertson, Board  
 Charles Walczak, EHCA  
 Jonathan Rilling, EHCA

## Campaign Goals

\$1.5 million Capital Campaign  
 Total for four homes ≈ \$5 million

## Pressing challenges addressed by project

- Number of individuals with medically complex conditions on the Pennsylvania waiting list for services
- The state's Community Rule, prioritizing the integration of individuals with intellectual disabilities into their community
- Inadequate state funding to build new community homes

## Board of Directors Notes

When I took on the office of President for the Board of Directors for EHCA just a little less than a year ago, I knew that there would be the usual challenges associated with the role: helping to maintain the quality of services that we offer to our individuals, making every effort to assist in providing the best possible work environment for our staff, and doing whatever possible to promote the agency and contribute to its high standards. This year, though, presented a unique challenge, both for the agency and Board and for me personally.

With the introduction of the Capital Campaign, every one of us was asked to expand our efforts, often outside of our comfort zones, to achieve a goal that would welcome in a new era for this agency. Initial steps were sometimes a little halting as each of us found our footing, especially when it came to asking for pledges from a wide range of donors. What we had going for us, though, was an aspiration that was so exciting and so meaningful for our folks, that any discomfort became secondary to pursuing that end.

As we've watched the pledges begin to build from staff, from Board members, and from so many people who believe in this mission, the sense of gratification for how our community has responded is often overwhelming. We've known that the people of Erie believe in EHCA, but they've shown that belief this year in some extraordinary ways.

So, as this first year winds down, I find myself, as always, grateful to be associated with EHCA, fortunate to be working with a Board that is committed to the mission, and proud of what we've accomplished in moving this agency forward. I am also so proud to be a member of this community. Bring on Year Number 2!



Jerry Cannon, Board President



## EHCA campaign receives a grant from The Erie Community Foundation

EHCA received a \$100,000 Helping Today grant from The Erie Community Foundation. The donation will help fund EHCA's Capital Campaign to build new community homes for residents with complex medical conditions. Pictured are (l-r) Jonathan Rilling, EHCA Vice President of Marketing, Advancement and Communications; Jerry Cannon, EHCA Board President; Ed Smith, Esq., Capital Campaign co-chair; Michael Batchelor, President, Erie Community Foundation; Ann Halupczynski, Capital Campaign co-chair; and Charles Walczak, EHCA CEO.

# Prom Night

On June 2, the Young Women's Leadership Committee (YWLC) of Fairview High School created an evening of excitement and glamour at our MOVE studio. It was Prom Night: Casino Royale! Some participants created elaborate "prom-posals" to invite their favorite dancing partners.



## PARTNERS IN DANCE

**Summer** was the theme of the June 12 performance of Partners in Dance, an adaptive dance collaboration between EHCA MOVE participants and Dafmark Dance Theatre. The program featured EHCA dancers, choreographed by dance instructor Jennifer Dennehy, as well as Dafmark dancers and hoop dance students. Now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year, Partners in Dance is supported by grants from Erie Arts & Culture, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, ECGRA (Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority), and the Kern Family Foundation.



**THE Spring Event  
Fiesta reigned at the  
Sheraton Erie Bayfront on May 5!**

The salsa beat never quit at EHCA's Spring Event—destination Cinco de Mayo fiesta! We are truly grateful to all of our terrific guests, event sponsors, host Jill McCormick from WJET/WFXP TV, auctioneer Kevin Wheeler, prize donors, staff, and volunteers for creating such a memorable event. Your generosity will continue far into the future because you are helping us build new homes for our residents with complex medical conditions. That's something to celebrate!



*What will the destination be in 2018?*

**Saturday, August 26**



*When you're a biker at heart,  
disabilities won't stop you.*

**VICTORY  RIDE**

Belle Valley VFD, Erie, PA  
Registration/resident ride at 10 a.m. • Party at 3 p.m.  
Visit us on Facebook: **Victory Ride to benefit EHCA**  
[www.ehca.org/upcoming-events](http://www.ehca.org/upcoming-events)

**HIGHMARK.**   
**WALK FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY**

We want to thank this year's terrific walkers, sponsors, donors, staff, families, and of course the Highmark Walk organizers for helping us have such a successful event at Presque Isle on June 3. The weather was perfect, and the new starting point at Beach 11 allowed for more parking and amazing lake views. Proceeds benefit our Capital Campaign to build new homes for our residents with complex medical conditions.

***You're awesome!***





Here is a list of equipment and supplies that would be greatly appreciated by the people we serve. If you can help, contact Karen at 814-315-1857 or karen.tuminello@ehca.org.

**Project First Step**

- Diapers, baby wipes
- Personal hygiene products
- Gas cards
- Car seats (infant and larger)
- Cribs, pack-n-plays

**MOVE Program**

- Storage containers
- Art/craft supplies
- Fabric and sewing supplies
- Yarn, knitting looms, craft kits
- Scrapbooking/stamping supplies
- Gift cards for supplies
- Gift cards for restaurants, activities
- Guest passes to the YMCA

**Erie Gives Day**  
**Tuesday, August 8, 2017**  
*Online only, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.*  
**www.eriegives.org**

**Erie Gives Day** provides a 12-hour *online blitz* for donating to Erie-area nonprofit agencies. Your gift will receive a pro-rated match from The Erie Community Foundation and its many Erie Gives partners. All donations must be made online using Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. Minimum donation: \$25.



**Your donation to EHCA on Erie Gives Day will help keep our Mission in Motion by purchasing specialized vehicles that enable individuals with disabilities to fully participate in their communities.**

*If you intend to donate to EHCA's Annual Appeal, consider making your gift on Erie Gives Day.*

**EHCA is grateful for the extraordinary contributions of these retiring board members**



**Angela Leasure**, owner of Angela Leasure Accounting & Tax Service, joined the board in 2002. In addition to serving as President of the Board of Directors 2005-08, she applied her many talents as a member of the Ways and Means, Finance, Foundation Board, and Future Planning committees. The beautiful quilt hanging in the entrance at Carpenedo Commons is her creation!

**Lisa McChesney** joined the board in 2016, serving as chair of the IT committee. She is employed as Chief Information Officer, Regional Hospitals North, at UPMC Hamot. Lisa holds a BS in Nursing and an MS in Nursing Administration. Her enthusiasm for EHCA's mission and her background in nursing and information technology made her a true asset to the board.





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*extraordinary **people**, extraordinary **programs***



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

—  
 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.

## Save the Date

### Erie Gives

Online giving blitz

**Tuesday, August 8, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

Sponsored by Erie Community Foundation

[www.eriegives.org](http://www.eriegives.org)



### Memorial Service

**Tuesday, August 22, at 6:30 p.m.**

MOVE Studio

4950 West 23rd Street, Erie

### Victory Ride 2017

**Saturday, August 26**

Belle Valley Fire Department

10 a.m.

Resident Ride

Biker Registration

11 a.m.

Victory Ride Start

3 p.m.

Party at Belle Valley Social Hall

