

# CROSSROADS CONNECTION

March 2015

Volume 16, Issue 1

Crossroads Connection is an annual publication concerning issues of domestic violence in Clearfield and Jefferson Counties.

For more information, call (814) 938-3580 or Toll Free 1-800-598-3998

## New Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Laws

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania passed new Child Protection Laws that went into effect on December 31, 2014. The new laws redefine what child abuse is and who is considered a perpetrator. The law changes also outline the persons or officials required to report child abuse (a mandatory reporter) and the criminal charges for failure to act by mandatory reporters.

The definition of Child Abuse will be *“A recent act or failure to an act committed intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly against a child by a perpetrator that causes or creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury; serious mental injury or physical neglect; sexual abuse or exploitation, and/or death.”*

Child abuse also occurs if a perpetrator fabricates, feigns, exaggerates or induces a child’s medical symptoms; kicks, bites, throws, burns, stabs, or cuts a child; unreasonably restrains or confines a child; forcefully shakes, slaps, or strikes an infant; interferes with a child’s breathing; causes a child to be present at a meth lab; and/or leaves a child unsupervised with a registered sex offender that is not the child’s parent.

Changes to the definition of a perpetrator also went into effect with the new laws. A perpetrator is now defined as *“A parent of the child, a spouse or former spouse of the child’s parents; someone 14 years or older responsible for the child’s welfare or lives with the child; or someone 18 years or older not living with the child including grandparents, great grandparents, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.”*

Mandatory reporters shall immediately report abuse to ChildLine or an additional alternative electronic reporting mechanism. Failure to do so results in the mandatory reporter ***continued on page 5***



## Domestic Violence Hurts Everyone!

Say **No More** to domestic violence!  
Be part of the solution.  
Contact Crossroads 1-800-598-3998



The Crossroads Project provides services to adult victims of domestic violence and their dependent children. For service, call Crossroads 24-hour toll free hotline at 1-800-598-3998 or the nearest office: Punxsutawney 814-938-3580; Brookville 814-849-2779; DuBois 814-371-1223; Clearfield 814-768-7200

Crossroads is administered by Community Action, Inc. The Executive Director of Community Action, Inc. is Robert A. Cardamone. The address is Community Action, Inc.’s Crossroads Project, 105 Grace Way, Punxsutawney, PA 15767-1209.





## Cyber Bullying: Understand the Cyber Risks Children Face

Bullying used to be on playgrounds, in schools, or on school buses. Cyber bullying gives bullies new ways to bully other children at school **and** at home. Bullies can use cell phones and other electronic devices to harass others using text messaging or vicious emails. Cyber bullies create web sites to post stories, pictures, or jokes that ridicule others, as well as "hi-jack" email addresses to harass others under someone else's name or email address (placing blame on otherwise, innocent children).

Children learn about computers and the internet at much younger ages today both at home and at school. The audience can be much larger and the issues are no longer private. All children regardless of age or gender are susceptible to cyber bullying and in many cases, emotional and mental abuse from a cyber bully can cause much more damage to children than traditional bullying.

Protect your children, monitor electronic devices, keep them secure, and watch out for the potential cyber bully!

### Internet Safety Tips for Parents to Review with Kids

- Remember "Stranger, Danger!" Never agree to meet; tell a trusted adult if asked to meet an online "friend".
- Tell your parents right away if someone (especially someone met online) tells you "don't tell your parents".
- Do not post photos of yourself, friends, or family online. Bad people can use the photos in bad ways.
- Email, chats and instant messaging are used best if messages are short, polite and respectful!
- You can't see or hear people online; they may be lying about who they are or what they want..
- Tell an adult you trust if you see something on the internet that makes you uncomfortable.
- Everything on the internet is public; don't think "private" information is actually private!
- Don't use attachments from emails received from people you don't know.
- Don't give out personal information to someone you meet online.
- Only allow "friends" access to profiles, sites, or blogs.
- Don't say something online you wouldn't say to a person.
- Don't respond to emails from people you don't know.
- Don't SHOUT (use all capital letters) when you type.
- Talk to parents if asked for personal information online.
- Don't accept gifts from someone met online.
- Avoid "adult only" web sites



### Do You Know What Your Kids Are "Saying"??

In today's society, kids use technology to communicate quickly, without using sentences or proper grammar. Parents may find the coded communication hard to understand. The below messages are examples of what you might find when checking a child's cell phone:

Just checkin' in-- Sup! CD9 tho, PIR, PAL, and PAW. GEEZ! Now PLOS so NAGI...whew, 99! We gotta KPC and this P&C! RU/18? WTTP or ?^?? I'd love to MIRL 'cause I think 143  
Lemme no DOC, 420 or CID for fun at 1174'--Most Def need 2 no--no need 2 get BROKEN, KWIM?

Parents, don't feel helpless; be informed; act quickly; and know what children possibly "say."



CD9 - Parents around/Code 9  
PIR - Parent in room  
PAL - Parents are listening  
PAW - Parents are watching  
PLOS - Parent looking over shoulder  
NAGI - Not a good idea  
99 - Parent gone  
KPC- Keeping parents clueless  
P&C - Private and confidential

RU/18 - Are you Over 18?  
WTTP - Want to trade pictures?  
?^ - Want to Hook Up?  
(L)MIRL - Let's meet in real life  
143 - I love you  
1174' - Party meeting place  
DOC - Drug of choice  
420 - Marijuana CID - Acid (the drug)  
Broken - Hungover from alcohol  
KWIM - Know what I mean?

## Phones, Tablets, & Social Media provide abusers easily accessible information!

### Regularly update, test, & monitor social media privacy settings:

- Shut off GPS & Wi-Fi services
- Don't use Facebook & other social media
- Run anti-virus software
- Password protect all devices
- Enable secure browsing
- Disable "friend tags" & "check-in"
- Disable instant personalization
- Disable public search features
- Limit information sharing
- Create & monitor friend lists



## RU Safe?

### Dangerous Relationship Assessment Application

#### Free for Apple and Android Systems

- *Helps users identify if they are in a potentially dangerous situation*
- *Free dangerous relationship assessment application*
- *Invites user to answer series of questions about his/her relationship*
- *Responses are analyzed and enables user to call directly to the Domestic Violence Hotline nearest them based on responses*
- *User can call 9-1-1 within the Application if in immediate danger*

### If you're concerned someone watches your internet usage...

#### Clear Browsing History of ALL Visited Websites and Turn on Private Browsing

##### Netscape:

##### Clear History:

"Edit" menu -> "Preferences" -> Click "Navigator" -> choose "Clear History" -> Click "Advanced" & select "Cache" -> "Clear Disk Cache"

##### Internet Explorer:

##### Clear History:

Tools menu -> "Delete Browsing History" -or- Tools menu -> "Internet Options" -> "Delete Browsing History on Exit"

##### Private Browsing:

Tools menu -> "InPrivate Browsing"

##### America Online:

Clear History: "Members" menu -> "WWW" icon -> "Advanced" -> "Purge Cache"

##### Mozilla Firefox:

##### Clear History:

Tools Menu -> "Clear Recent History"

##### Private Browsing:

Tools menu -> select "Start Private Browsing"

##### Google Chrome:

##### Clear History:

Ctrl+Shift+N" opens "New Incognito Window"

##### Private Browsing:

Click "Customize and Control" in top right -> Click History -> Select "Clear Browsing data"

Crossroads served 1,295 domestic violence victims between July 2013 and June 2014 in Clearfield and Jefferson Counties. Victims were provided with 4,373 hours of counseling and/or advocacy, 1,802 nights of emergency shelter, and 12 individuals received relocation assistance. Of these victims, 758 were new adult victims, 353 were children, and 184 were friends or family members affected by violence. On behalf of all of them, Community Action, Inc.'s Crossroads Project sincerely thank the following who helped to make services possible.

**Individuals:**

- |                                 |                              |                              |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Bill Allenbough</b>          | <b>Beverly Divilbliss</b>    | <b>Tami Hurd</b>             |
| <b>Mary Lucille Ames</b>        | <b>Kate Doverspik</b>        | <b>Jan Kaza &amp; Family</b> |
| <b>Brooke Ananea</b>            | <b>Randon Doverspik</b>      | <b>Marlene Kerr</b>          |
| <b>Donna Anderson</b>           | <b>Deborah Doverspik</b>     | <b>Barbara Keough</b>        |
| <b>Wayne &amp; Judy Anthony</b> | <b>Deborah Elder</b>         | <b>Rebecca Lindenmuth</b>    |
| <b>Jean A. Barbe</b>            | <b>Catherine Ellenberger</b> | <b>Thomas Lingenfelter</b>   |
| <b>Hazel Barrett</b>            | <b>Jim Emmerick</b>          | <b>Sherry Lingenfelter</b>   |
| <b>Hannah Baumgardner</b>       | <b>Edna Enterline</b>        | <b>Maria Lotito</b>          |
| <b>Chris Bell</b>               | <b>Robert Exley</b>          | <b>Elwood Loughin</b>        |
| <b>Carmen Bickings</b>          | <b>Kasey Ferguson</b>        | <b>Jennifer Manderfield</b>  |
| <b>Lisa Bradley</b>             | <b>Kim Furl</b>              | <b>Dianna Manners</b>        |
| <b>Anita Bowser</b>             | <b>Molly Haney</b>           | <b>Ginger Momyer</b>         |
| <b>Betty Burnett</b>            | <b>Janis Harrold</b>         | <b>Carolyn Motter</b>        |
| <b>Martha Carns</b>             | <b>Karen Herriotts</b>       | <b>Darlene Mowry</b>         |
| <b>James Cassidy</b>            | <b>Angel Heltzenrater</b>    | <b>Lesla Murray</b>          |
| <b>Lacy Chittester</b>          | <b>Mary Emma Hoover</b>      | <b>Kay Nesblitt</b>          |
| <b>Patricia Conway</b>          | <b>Rebecca Fink</b>          | <b>Pauline O'Rourke</b>      |
| <b>Joyce Cooper</b>             | <b>Carl Gotwald, Sr.</b>     | <b>Dave Osikowicz</b>        |
| <b>Thomas E. Cressley, Jr.</b>  | <b>Helen Griebel</b>         | <b>Paul Pape</b>             |
| <b>Jennifer Cummings</b>        | <b>Laverne Hooks</b>         | <b>Jen Paulate</b>           |
| <b>Jean Deeley</b>              | <b>Patty Hurd</b>            | <b>Jeff Paulate</b>          |
| <b>Dave Deemer</b>              | <b>Michael Johnston</b>      | <b>Pearle Penle</b>          |

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

We again received a memorial donation from the Wayne Pifer Trust

Memorials provide a meaningful tribute and help Crossroads continue to shelter, support, and advocate for victims of domestic violence.

- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Renee Paulate</b>       | <b>Roberta Spigle</b>     |
| <b>Judy Plyler</b>         | <b>Bobbie States</b>      |
| <b>Elizabeth Ranlowski</b> | <b>Deborah Stewart</b>    |
| <b>John Ranlowski</b>      | <b>Glenn Stewart</b>      |
| <b>Dorothy Reed</b>        | <b>Robert Tallman</b>     |
| <b>Candace ReInard</b>     | <b>Sandy Tallman</b>      |
| <b>Kelly Reitz</b>         | <b>Judy L. Vandervort</b> |
| <b>Ellen Rose</b>          | <b>John Waltman</b>       |
| <b>Gloria Shaffer</b>      | <b>Trish Waltman</b>      |
| <b>Jeffrey Sleigh</b>      | <b>Kira Weaver</b>        |
| <b>Ann Smith</b>           | <b>George West II</b>     |
| <b>Michele Smith</b>       | <b>B. Wilkins</b>         |
| <b>Sam Smith</b>           | <b>Michele Young</b>      |
| <b>Jane A. Spencer</b>     |                           |

**SPECIAL THANK YOU TO  
ONE LIFE CHURCH  
FOR PURCHASING AND INSTALLING  
FENCING AT THE SHELTER**

**Churches:**

- Beechtree Union Church Missionary Society
- DuBols Church of our Savior
- First United Methodist
- Luthersburg Saint Peter Luthern
- Mount Pleasant United Methodist
- Mount Zion United Methodist
- Punxsy First Baptist Church
- Punxsy First Church of God
- Punxsy Lutheran Parrish
- Richardsville Munderf WCTU
- Rockton Saint John Luthern
- Roseville Independent Chapel
- Salem Luthern Church
- Saint Peter United Church of Christ
- Steffy United Methodist
- Woodland Avenue United Methodist

**Businesses:**

- Creative Garden, LLC
- Burma Corporation
- Nicole's Niche
- Buck's Pizza
- Todd Stoltz Toyota Dealership
- Christ the King Manor
- Jefferson County Clerk of Courts

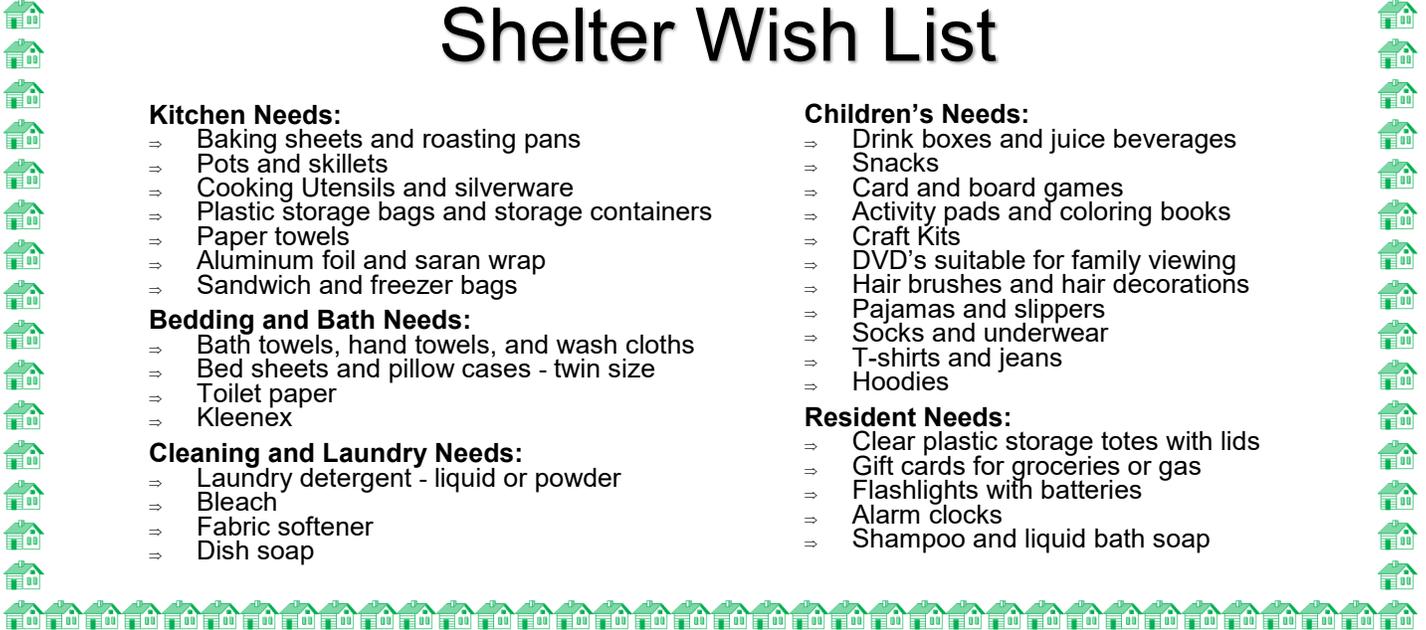
**Organizations:**

- Brookville Area United Fund
- Cloe Women's Christian Society
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- Dubois City Police
- HandiCaps R Us
- Kiwanis Club of Punxsy
- Laughing Ladies Life Group
- Mahoning Grange
- Oliver Township Volunteer Fire Co.
- P.E.O Chapter W
- Punxsy Area School District Central Office
- Punxsy B.P.O Elks
- Punxsy Rotary Club
- Women's Club of Sigel

**SPECIAL THANK YOU TO  
REVOLUTION GYMNASTICS AND  
BOBBI REITZ  
FOR 15 YEARS OF DEVOTION TO THE  
CAI CROSSROADS PROJECT BY PROVIDING CHRISTMAS  
GIFTS TO CHILDREN IN THE SHELTER**



# Shelter Wish List



**Kitchen Needs:**

- ⇒ Baking sheets and roasting pans
- ⇒ Pots and skillets
- ⇒ Cooking Utensils and silverware
- ⇒ Plastic storage bags and storage containers
- ⇒ Paper towels
- ⇒ Aluminum foil and saran wrap
- ⇒ Sandwich and freezer bags

**Bedding and Bath Needs:**

- ⇒ Bath towels, hand towels, and wash cloths
- ⇒ Bed sheets and pillow cases - twin size
- ⇒ Toilet paper
- ⇒ Kleenex

**Cleaning and Laundry Needs:**

- ⇒ Laundry detergent - liquid or powder
- ⇒ Bleach
- ⇒ Fabric softener
- ⇒ Dish soap

**Children's Needs:**

- ⇒ Drink boxes and juice beverages
- ⇒ Snacks
- ⇒ Card and board games
- ⇒ Activity pads and coloring books
- ⇒ Craft Kits
- ⇒ DVD's suitable for family viewing
- ⇒ Hair brushes and hair decorations
- ⇒ Pajamas and slippers
- ⇒ Socks and underwear
- ⇒ T-shirts and jeans
- ⇒ Hoodies

**Resident Needs:**

- ⇒ Clear plastic storage totes with lids
- ⇒ Gift cards for groceries or gas
- ⇒ Flashlights with batteries
- ⇒ Alarm clocks
- ⇒ Shampoo and liquid bath soap

*Donate today to help struggling victims live free of abuse*

Yes! I want to help provide emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

My contribution is enclosed  Invoice Me / My Organization

Room sponsor \$5,000.00

Bed Sponsor \$1,000.00

Shelter Family Night Sponsor \$100.00

Shelter Individual Night Sponsor \$50.00

Other - Give what you can, every dollar makes a difference! \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To make a contribution on-line using PayPal, visit [www.iccap.org](http://www.iccap.org). Your donation may be tax deductible. Community Action, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable corporation. The official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

This contribution is:  In Memory / Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgement to: \_\_\_\_\_

**New Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Laws (cont. from page 1)**

committing a misdemeanor of the second degree if they willfully fail to make the report. The offense may be graded a felony of the third degree if the abuse constitutes a felony of the first degree or higher and/or the mandated reporter has direct knowledge of the nature of the abuse.

The law states all of the following adults must make a report if they have reasonable cause to suspect a child is an abuse victim:

- Licensed health professionals, medical examiners, coroners, or funeral directors
- Most health care facility employees and emergency medical service providers
- School or child care service employees and religious and spiritual leaders
- Social Service staff with direct contact with children and peace officers or law enforcement officials
- Paid or unpaid individuals involved with a routinely scheduled program, activity, or service for children

It is also classified as a second degree felony to intimidate, retaliate, or obstruct any reporter, victim, or witness from making a report, from withholding information, documentation, testimony, or evidence and/or failing to appear at, or participate in, a child abuse proceeding or meeting.

Visit the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center website at [www.reportabusepa.pitt.edu](http://www.reportabusepa.pitt.edu) for additional information.

# CROSSROADS CONNECTION

Community Action, Inc.  
105 Grace Way  
Punxsutawney, PA 15767-1209



## CROSSROADS CONNECTION

814-849-2779 Brookville area  
814-938-3580 Punxsutawney area

**24-hour hotline**  
**toll free 1-800-598-3998**

814-371-1223 DuBois area  
814-768-7200 Clearfield area

### Crossroads Project Advisory Council Membership 2014-2015

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Shannon Kelly  
Kim Kesner  
Lisa McFadden  
John Raniowski  
Jane Ann Spencer



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