

Courier

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www.concern4kids.org



45 Years of Excellence

45 years ago, a group of caring human service professionals started CONCERN as a foster care agency. As the story is told, everyone was concerned about children, concerned about their well-being, concerned about their future, concerned, concerned, concerned.The group decided the best name for this new non-profit would be CONCERN and that is how the 45-year journey toward excellence began!

Through the late 70s and early 80s, the agency focused on foster care. Since then, CONCERN has expanded the focus of its service to include behavioral health services, community-based programs, and residential treatment. Here is a snapshot of CONCERN's 45 years of EXCELLENCE:

- 👣 Providing support and services to over 200,000 people
- 👣 Supporting 27,000 children in youth and placement services
- 👣 5,000 adoptions
- 👣 70,000 behavioral health clients
- 👣 2,200 residential treatment clients

During my 6 years at CONCERN, I'm most proud of our staff and their ability to provide new and innovative services to meet the ever-changing needs of the children and families we serve. For example, in response to the mental health crisis our country is experiencing and experienced through COVID, it was evident we needed to expand our mental health programs. To respond to this need:

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Come Celebrate With Us

Tickets and Sponsorship Opportunities are NOW available!

CONCERN celebrates 45 years of providing services to children, youth, and families.

We hope you will join us for a night of dinner, dancing, silent auction, and program highlighting 45 years of excellence

RSVP today or consider a sponsorship opportunity! Visit our website at www.concern4kids.org for more information.



45th Anniversary Celebration



CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF SERVICE

ON FRIDAY
November 10, 2023
SIX O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON HOTEL
701 PENN STREET, READING, PA 19601

RSVP at  by October 28, 2023

Purchase CONCERN 45th Anniversary Apparel here:


**** All Proceeds benefit the Behavioral Health Fund ****



Celebrating 45 Years of Excellence

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- 👣 We have increased our number of therapists substantially
- 👣 We have developed multiple school-based programs
- 👣 Added/enhanced crisis programs for mental health services
- 👣 We have also added more evidence-based practices to these programs
- 👣 Beginning Functional Family Therapy (FFT) in the Fall 2023 ***

The heart of CONCERN has always been and will always be its people and its mission. ALL the employees we have must live and breathe our mission to provide hope, offer opportunity, and inspire change. Our mission is at the center of all we do, and we live it every day!

***(Functional Family Therapy (FFT) is an evidence-based intervention for youth and families. This high-quality, strength-focused family counseling model is designed primarily for at-risk youth who have been referred by the juvenile justice, mental health, school, or child welfare systems. Services are short-term and conducted in both clinic and home settings, and can also be provided in schools, child welfare facilities, probation and parole systems, and mental health facilities <https://www.fttllc.com/>)

45 Years of Highlights

1978	Begins to serve children in foster care	2007	Mother/Baby Foster Care begins in Maryland
1981	First Regional Office in Lewisburg, PA	2009	Community Residential Rehabilitation Services (CRR) begins
1984	1,000th child is admitted into placement	2010	CONCERN Counseling Services begins Telephone Crisis Intervention Service
1985	Begins serving medically fragile children	2013	Begins School-based Outpatient Services Program in Fleetwood (PA) Area School District
1988	CTUB opens in Coatesville, PA	2014	Visit Coaching program is initiated
1993	The 5,000th child is admitted into placement	2015	Nurturing Parenting Program is initiated
1994	Receives license for behavioral health rehabilitative services in PA	2017	Adopts new mission and vision statements
2001	The Foster/Adopt program begins	2020	Trauma Focused Foster Care begins
2002	New logo is introduced utilizing the tagline Hope. Opportunity. Change.	2021	Easton Clinic Opens
2003	Mother/Baby Independent Living Program is initiated in PA	2023	CONCERN celebrates 45 years!!!
2004	The 10,000th child is admitted into placement		

* This is a snapshot of our success and is not all inclusive



Focus on Our Youth

A client at CONCERN's Treatment Unit for Boys (CTUB) was awarded student of the month at the high school he is attending.

April's student of the month goes to Joshua

Here is what his teachers had to say about him:

👣 Josh is in my advisory and is always the first student in our classroom. He helps set up the supplies for the day and sharpens the pencils. He works well with other students and responds well to negativity from other classmates. He is always kind, helpful, and respectful of everyone in the classroom. He is more than well-deserving of student of the

month!

👣 I nominate Josh as student of the month. He is respectful, kind to all staff and peers. He has consistently done what he needs to do all year long. He's an excellent student and a joy to have in class!!!

👣 I'd like to nominate Josh. This young man has a number of challenges outside of school that could cause him to be bitter, angry, and unpleasant all of the time. Despite these obstacles, he attends school and does his best and he is generally a nice kid. Students like him are often overlooked because he doesn't cause problems on a daily basis. This would mean the world to him.

👣 I can back Josh as well. He is always pleasant and polite. He works hard in class as well.



CONCERN's Treatment Unit for Boys (CTUB) celebrated the graduation of two boys and an end of school year BBQ.

For **ALAIYA**, May was an eventful month full of accomplishments! She attended prom, graduated from high school and turned 18 years old! She currently works at a Beauty Supply store; is seeking a full time job and is attending Cosmetology School!

KAYLA graduated from high school! What a wonderful accomplishment! We are so proud of her! Keep up the great work and can't wait to see what you will do in the future!

ZION is getting more active and social as he grows! He has become steadier on his feet, exploring the world around him including the animals! He is often ready to greet those around him and ready to play.

Focus on Our Families

On August 3, 2023, Sarta Freeman celebrated 31 years as a foster parent for CONCERN! Ms. Freeman is a proud African American who came to the US in 1969 from Liberia; she was in middle school at that time. After being a student at Prince George Community College, she started as an LPN after getting married. She worked as a nursing assistant in dialysis in various positions until her retirement three years ago.



In recent years you may have heard her wondering aloud if this is the year she should retire from foster parenting. But every year there seems to be a young man who has captured her heart and she will declare, “Just one more year” so she can see this one launched. And that heart of hers is a big one. She has raised two sons and a daughter of her own, enjoys three grandchildren, and has cared for more than 35 young people over her years as a foster parent.

Ms. Freeman has nurtured a diverse spectrum of clientele, from clients with differing physical or developmental abilities, a wide range of mental health challenges, a client struggling with gender/sexual identity, and one parenting teen. Some of her clients were involved with the Department of Juvenile Services, and at one point Ms. Freeman was on a first-name basis with several of her friendly local police officers.

Through it all Ms. Freeman has patiently and calmly provided guidance, affection, and a listening ear. She is most often soft-spoken, tolerant and generous. Ms. Freeman has developed solid parenting skills over the years and continues to be open to learning new ways of coping and responding to the stresses of foster parenting.

Ms. Freeman lives her life as a foster parent as expressed by the concept of “ubuntu.” Ubuntu is a Xhosa phrase meaning “I am because we are.” At its most basic Ubuntu is human kindness, but really it is so much more than that; this philosophy that champions the collective over the individual and embodies the ideas of connection and community. As Liberian peace activist, Leymah Gbowee summed it up her way: “I am what I am because of who we all are.”

As a result, many of her former clients remain in contact with her, even years after they have left her care. She has successfully assisted with reuniting clients with members of their legal family and helped to launch numerous young people into independence. One former client is currently serving in the US Marines.

Ms. Freeman lost her mother during the COVID-19 pandemic, a gut-wrenchingly difficult time for her. During this time, the two clients in her home were able to stand by her and allow her to grieve, modeling some of the skills they had seen Ms. Freeman use when listening to and caring for them. Other current and former clients often check in with her to see how she’s doing, or to report on their own successes.

Sarta Freeman has been a valuable member of the CONCERN family and we are fortunate to be able to continue to partner with her, however much longer she decides to keep giving from that big heart of hers.



CONCERN's Spring 2023 Events Were a Huge Success

Thank you for helping us achieve excellence for 45 years and beyond!

Spring Bingo



Thank you to the many sponsors who helped to make our Spring 2023 bingo a huge success. With more than 185 attendees and, the sponsors listed here, bingo raised over \$11,000 to benefit the children and youth in CONCERN's care through the Special Needs Fund.

Don't miss CONCERN's Fall Bingo scheduled for Thursday, October 5th at the Fleetwood Grange.

Visit <https://www.concern4kids.org/events-1/bingo> or contact Jane Zettlemyer at jzettlemyer@concern4kids.org or 610-215-9569 for sponsorship information or to purchase tickets.

2023 Highmark Walk for a Health Community

CONCERN joined the Highmark community with three teams walking to raise money for children, youth, and families on June 3, 2023. We raised \$5,200. Thank you to Wawa Corporate Office for supporting the walk.





Open your
heart and
your home

**You Can Make a Difference!
Be a Foster or Adoptive Parent**



**For more information visit
www.concern4kids.org**

Enclosed is my gift to CONCERN



in the amount of: \$ _____

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

e-mail _____

Please charge to my credit card: MasterCard VISA

Cardholder signature (required)

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Visit www.concern4kids.org for secure online donations.

Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Please mail coupon to: CONCERN • Development & Marketing Dept.
One West Main Street • Fleetwood, PA 19522

The official registration and financial information of CONCERN - Professional Services for Children, Youth, and Families may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

A copy of the current financial statement of CONCERN – Professional Services for Children, Youth, and Families is available by writing One West Main Street, Fleetwood, PA 19522 or by calling (610) 944-0445. Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, (410) 974-5534.

Scholarships Available



MARY BETH HUGHES SCHOLARSHIP

**FIVE COMPETITIVE
SCHOLARSHIPS - \$1,000 EACH**

AWARDED TO A FOSTER CARE OR ADOPTED
YOUTH, WHO WERE IN CONCERN'S CARE PRIOR
TO THEIR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
&
ARE PURSUING POST EDUCATION OR TRAINING

DEADLINE DECEMBER 31, 2023

The Mary Beth Hughes Scholarship is a newly created scholarship in memory of CONCERN's late Vice President, Mary Beth Hughes. Mary Beth worked for CONCERN for 45 years; leaving a legacy of compassion and care behind. She affected the lives of so many children, youth, and families.

Five \$1,000 Scholarships will be available to children in CONCERN's foster care or adopted through CONCERN's adoption program prior to their high school graduation and are pursuing post high school education or training.



Mission Statement

CONCERN brings hope,
offers opportunity,
and inspires change.

Vision Statement

To encourage growth and
promote positive healthy lives!

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Services

Community Based Services

Behavioral Health Services

Residential Services

For more information on
location and services visit:

concern4kids.org



Gordon H. May, MSW, President/CEO

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Your comments and suggestions are always welcome by mail, phone,
fax or e-mail addressed to the Development & Marketing Department at our Corporate Office: One West Main
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