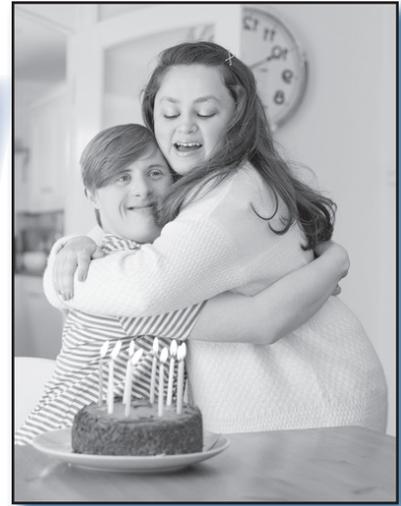


# Courier

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www.concern4kids.org



## Thoughts from the President/CEO

### CONCERN Values Our Greatest Assets - Our Staff

When reflecting on this past year at CONCERN, I can't help but have so many mixed feelings. We're coming out of COVID, then we're not, we're coming out of COVID, then we're not. Which is it? COVID still impacted the agency significantly this past year. It finally seems to actually be getting better.... Still some people out with COVID, but not as many, and people don't seem to be getting as sick. Now we will focus on living, working, and surviving in a post COVID world.

The changes forced upon us by COVID were not all bad. We pushed forward at supersonic speed to roll out as much technology as humanly possible. While we got out what we needed to, we still need to improve on how we utilize all our technology and how we continue to gain efficiency from its use. If you had any doubts about if/when technology was going to impact our work, those doubts should be gone. It is happening, and those who adapt and utilize it appropriately will be most successful in today's world. These technology advances help us improve our services to our children, youth, and families.

I know you've all heard it before, but we are now a Council On Accreditation (COA) approved agency. This achievement cannot be overstated enough. The amount of work, preparation, and changes we had to make over the last year and a half to become accredited was monumental. Now it's time to put the accreditation status to work to run successful programs and develop new programs. The groundwork has been laid!

Lastly, and most importantly....Our staff. I'm extremely proud of the direction we are headed related to investing in our most valuable asset, our staff! We made it through extremely tough times by working together, and coming together, while at the same time moving our

*(continued on page 3)*

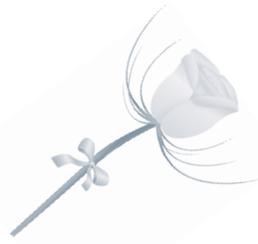
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Hope. Opportunity. Change.

# Obituary for Mary Beth Hughes



Mary Beth Hughes, recently retired Vice President spent most of her career (43 years) serving children, youth, and families at CONCERN. She retired at the end of July and was looking forward to spending her retired years traveling and enjoying the company of family and friends. Life is unfair sometimes – she passed away peacefully in her sleep on September 3, 2022 in her Wyomissing home at the age of 70.

Mary Beth graduated from Scranton Central High School, class of 1970, and recently celebrated her 52nd class reunion among many close friends. She obtained her Bachelor's degree from Kutztown University followed by a Master's degree in Social Work from Temple University. She worked for CONCERN Professional Services for 43 years until her retirement in July of this year. She was so proud to serve in many roles for the agency, including her most recent role as Vice President. She dedicated her life to children, youth, and families.

Mary Beth's most important role outside of her professional work was being a mom, and it brought her so much joy. She will be lovingly remembered by her daughters, Sarah Hughes Early and Stephanie Logan Deem, as well as her son-in-law, Robert Frederick Early III. She is also survived by her sister, Lynn Hughes Egan, as well as many extended family members and close friends. The family requested: In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to CONCERN Professional Services at <https://www.concern4kids.org/> . Please indicate "In memory of Mary Beth Hughes" in the description section when making a donation.

Mary Beth will be missed deeply on a professional and personal level. Her heart full of compassion is her greatest legacy.

## You Tube

Did you know that CONCERN has a You Tube Channel? You can view the videos here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCID1jKHQjhrUL0lpMKEbcSQ/videos>

Please subscribe to the channel. When we have 100 subscribers we can customize our link!



## Successful Events Held

### 2022 Fall Bingo

CONCERN hosted another successful bingo fundraiser. There were 178 bingo players and 27 sponsors for bingo. Bingo is always a night of fun while raising money for children, youth, and families. This year we raised over \$9,000.

We changed up the menu a bit- Gordon smoked his famous pork and it was a huge success! If you have not tried his smoked meat you don't know what you are missing! It was likely the highlight from the kitchen!

### New Towanda Office Opened

On Friday, November 4, 2022 from 3 pm – 6 pm the Towanda office hosted an open house. There were speakers, networking, give-a-ways, and refreshments. Staff and members of the community joined us to celebrate this grand opening.

### Golf Tournament in Maryland

CONCERN partnered with Silva Contracting to host a very successful golf event at Argyle Country Club in Silver Springs, MD on October 17th. 117 golfers attended the event and there were 37 sponsors.

### Foster Family & Staff Appreciation Picnic

CONCERN hosted our foster families and staff for food, prizes, rides, and fun at Knoebels. A great time was had by all with 500+ people in attendance. Cherished memories were made and we look forward to next year!

## Thoughts from the President/CEO

*(continued from page 1)*

programs and the Agency forward. No easy task in today's world. I am so proud of CONCERN's staff and the work they do!

This past year, we also created a wellness committee. A renewed focus on making sure CONCERN staff are taking care of themselves and we are doing all we can to promote wellness. Staff need to take care of themselves so they can help others, give their heart and soul, and focus on themselves so they can focus on CONCERN's clients. We encourage staff to participate in physical, mental, and social wellness during their work day and in their free time. We strive to support everyone toward living a healthy lifestyle, which includes establishing a healthy work/life balance. Just like I encourage staff – take care of your health and wellbeing. Together we can make this world a better place by supporting one another!



Gordon H. May, MSW

**Wishing you  
and yours  
a joyous  
holiday  
season!**





## Build More Together

**“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” – Helen Keller**

Dear Friends,

When we come together to support children, youth, and families this holiday season, we can do so much more than we can alone. Often those we serve feel alone during the holiday season, but we can help when we “build more together”.

Over the past year, when children in foster care participated in extracurricular activities, CONCERN was here to help by providing financial resources. When people throughout Pennsylvania and Southern Maryland needed support with services, CONCERN was here to help. When clients who received behavioral health services inquired about additional assistance, CONCERN rose to the occasion to start a behavioral health fund, so we will be there to help. We can build more together because of caring people like you - today and every day - because you believe in our mission and programs.

You can help children in foster care participate in extracurricular activities by supporting the special needs fund.

You can help clients who receive behavioral health services with basic needs to help them through a mental health crisis.

You can help children, youth, and families by giving to CONCERN this year, with a year end gift this holiday season.

**Special Needs Fund** - Last year, CONCERN supported 388 foster children. Many of these children needed extra financial assistance so they could participate in activities such as music or dance lessons, field trips, or summer camps.

**Behavioral Health Fund** - Last year, CONCERN served 7,172 clients in behavioral health. By giving to the behavioral health fund, we can build more together by helping clients get through tough times.

**With your help, we can Build More Together**

With Kind Regards,

George Kovarie, MSW  
Chairperson of the Board of Directors

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.

**View CONCERN's Holiday Appeal Video on You Tube: [https://youtu.be/\\_yaoEMPGxHA](https://youtu.be/_yaoEMPGxHA)**



# November is National Adoption Month

We are proud to highlight families who have recently adopted children through CONCERN

## Meet the Valentin Family

We had the intention of fostering to adopt from the beginning of our journey, which started in 2016. Our first placements were our daughters Alexis and Chloe. At the time Alexis was 3 and Chloe was 8 months old.

They lived with us for 10 months and went back to their mom. For the next 2 years we stayed in contact and would have the occasional sleepover and family parties. November of 2018, Alexis and Chloe were placed back in our home.

Finally, after a pandemic and tons of paperwork we were able to adopt the girls June 6, 2022. It was a long, worthwhile journey!

Alexis and Chloe started our family dynamic, not much has changed since 2016. We have grown closer and have enjoyed meeting the girl's biological family and adding them to our family dynamic. We have also added their little brother Jesse to the mix.

The biggest blessing of adopting for us has been the gift of our girls. The joy they add to our lives is unmeasurable. They have always completed our tribe.



## Frank Calabrese Legacy Gift

Thank you to Frank Calabrese and his family for the legacy gift in memory of Frank. Frank and his wife Dorothy were foster parents for 19 years and fostered 26 children during that time. Frank's contribution to CONCERN will be placed into the Behavioral Health Fund, Special Needs Fund, and STAR Fund. Frank's family feels it is important to support CONCERN's clients who need assistance from the behavioral health fund, support children in foster care (special needs fund), and support children who are aging out of foster care (STAR fund). Supporting children and those who need extra assistance was near and dear to Frank and his wife.

**Enclosed is my gift to CONCERN**

in the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge to my credit card:  MasterCard  VISA

\_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder signature (required) 3 Digit Code

\_\_\_\_\_

Card number Exp. date (month/year)

**Visit [www.concern4kids.org](http://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.

# Youthful Achievements

sharing our children's successes

**Tyler**, 11, is helpful to his foster parents by loading and unloading the dishwasher.

**Kimberly**, 1, now has two teeth.

**Sean**, 5, started kindergarten this year.

**Leland**, 3, started preschool in September this year.

**Abel**, 2, loves to climb on the foster family's indoor jungle gym.

**Aaliyah**, 20, has been stepping up her game in showcasing her independent living skills, but she also has been doing so at a time when her foster mother could use the extra help with recuperating from surgery. She has been attentive to the needs of the household and jumped in to help without being asked and with gratitude for what is usually done for her. This is what families do - mutually

aid and support one another to make the whole unit stronger!

**Malaysia**, 3, is making progress in so many developmental areas. She is walking while holding hands, is able to now come down the steps backwards on her tummy and is talking more every casework contact. She is doing things that at referral foster parents were told she would never be able to do. She is proving everyone wrong.

**Serenity**, 13, is working very hard on her personal and family issues. She is making much progress in her counseling sessions. She is also off to a good start for this school year. Her grades are very good.

**Robin**, 8, and **Issybelle**, 9, are settling into their new placement and their new school. They appear happy. They are possibly going to be going to dance class.

## Could you set an extra plate at your table?



Consider  
Foster Care  
&  
Adoption  
for a child  
in need.



[www.concern4kids.org](http://www.concern4kids.org)



## Highlighting CONCERN Staff

CONCERN's staff are the reason we are able to help over 5,000 people each year. Administrative staff, case workers, supervisors all contribute to the success of the agency and the outcomes we see among those we provide services to. Over the past couple of months, we highlighted the following staff



### Stacey Paige- Miller

Stacey is one of CONCERN's amazing employees! As the leader of the Lewisburg office, Stacey has demonstrated a strong client centered focus, she values developing

a strong professional network in the community, and she has led the development of a strong team! Numerous entities including state regulating entities, Behavioral Health managed care organizations, and County representatives have all expressed their kudos for the work that Stacey and the Lewisburg Team does.

### Joyce Hawkins

Joyce is a Business Office Legend as she has been processing paychecks and has performed all business office functions over the past 30+ years. According to Joyce's coworkers, "she is an outstanding mentor- Not only is she patient with explaining things, she also takes the time to listen. It is a pleasure and honor to be working beside her."



"Her work ethic, professionalism, ability to work as a team, knowledge of all business office duties, and sense of humor made the transition super smooth as a new team member."

## Wellness Tip



The holidays can be a stressful time for a lot of people. Often a change in our mindset will help us find more joy. Here are Five Ways to Remain Calm and Find Joy during this Holiday Season.

- Take time for yourself. There is often an added busyness to the holiday season, where you may feel increasing pressure say yes to every invitation and person. ...
- Maintain gratitude for what is. ...
- Let go of notions of perfection. ...
- Practice kindness. ...
- No shame in opting out.

For more information: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-first-impression/201711/five-ways-remain-calm-holiday-season>



## Mission Statement

CONCERN brings hope,  
offers opportunity,  
and inspires change.

## Vision Statement

To encourage growth and  
promote positive healthy  
lives!

## Board of Directors

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\*Director Emeritus (retired director serving in an  
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## CONCERN Service Sites

### Foster Care/Adoption Services/

#### Community Based Services

Greater Berks Regional Office  
Fleetwood • (610) 944-0445

Lehigh Valley Regional Office  
Bethlehem • (610) 691-8401

Northeast Regional Office  
Wilkes Barre • (570) 800-2332

Southeast Regional Office  
Willow Grove • (800) 562-1427

Susquehanna Valley Regional Office  
Lewisburg • (570) 523-1297  
Wellsboro • (570) 724-7142  
Towanda • (570) 268-3073

Maryland Regional Office  
Lanham • (301) 429-2370

#### Behavioral Health Services

Eastern Region  
Bethlehem • (610) 691-8401  
Easton • (484) 497-9699  
Fleetwood • (610) 541-2309  
Lehighton • (570) 386-2990  
Wyomissing • (610) 541-2309

North Central Region  
Lewisburg • (570) 523-1297  
Mansfield • (570) 662-7600  
Towanda • (570) 268-3073  
Wellsboro • (570) 724-7142

#### Residential Services

Treatment Units for Boys  
Coatesville Campus • (610) 384-8733

Gordon H. May, MSW, President/CEO

[concern4kids.org](http://concern4kids.org)

The Courier is published by CONCERN - Professional Services for Children, Youth, and Families  
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same services as the Amazon you know. Sign in using your  
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