

Courier

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Falling into Gratitude



*Gordon H. May, MSW
President/CEO*

What are you grateful for today?

Here at CONCERN, the changing seasons remind us of the everyday moments that matter most. Whether it's a child finding safety in a loving foster home, a teen making progress in therapy, or a family growing stronger through prevention services—these are the small wins that keep us moving forward. As summer winds down and we begin to feel that crisp breeze in the air, it's the perfect time to pause, reflect, and ask ourselves- What am I grateful for today?

The newsletter theme, "Falling into Gratitude" made me wonder – do we fall into gratitude or is it something we have to practice? Something we have to remind ourselves about? For me, it is a practice and when I think about what I am grateful for at this moment, I find myself thankful for YOU! To our dedicated foster families and staff, our community partners, our donors. I am thankful for all of the times you show up. You give your time, your energy, your resources, and your commitment to CONCERN.

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Chloe Ciferri

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Foster Parent Highlight - Chloe Ciferri

What inspired you to become a foster parent?

Our journey to fostering began after the loss of our daughter, Addie. In the deep grief that followed, my heart kept pulling toward the idea of opening our home to a child who needed one. I wanted to mother in a new way—to give love, stability, and family to a child who might not otherwise have it. Fostering felt like a way to honor Addie's life while helping another family and child.

How long have you been fostering, and how many children have you fostered?

We began fostering in 2018 and have had the privilege of fostering 2 children, and adopting TJ, the first kiddo to enter our home.

What was your first placement like, and what did you learn from that experience?

Our first placement (now our son, TJ) was overwhelming and beautiful all at once. You open the doors thinking you're prepared, and in many ways, you are, but nothing compares to the moment a child walks into your home and says, "are you my mommy?" I learned that love grows quickly, that grief and hope can exist at the same time, and that saying goodbye (if and when it happens) is both heartbreaking and hopeful.

Can you share a memorable moment that made you feel proud to be a foster parent?

Finalizing TJ's adoption will always be one of the proudest, most emotional moments of my life. To know that he is safe, loved, and our son forever, it's hard to put into words. It wasn't just a legal process, it was the moment we became a forever family.

How has fostering impacted your family?

It's expanded our hearts and our understanding of love. We've have gained an entire family through our son, that we never would have. We've learned that family isn't always defined by blood, but by commitment, support, and love. Fostering has made us stronger and more deeply connected to one another. It has allowed us to have honest conversations with our kids, even though they are still very young.

What has been the most rewarding part of being a foster parent?

The most rewarding part has been watching love rewrite someone's story. Seeing our son go from uncertainty to security, from surviving to thriving, is a gift I will never stop being grateful for. It's in the little moments—the way he reaches for my hand without hesitation, the pride in his smile, the peace in his sleep. Knowing I get to be his safe place, his forever, is the greatest reward of all.

How has CONCERN supported you throughout your journey?

CONCERN has been an incredible partner throughout our journey. From day one, they've been there with guidance, encouragement, and practical support. I never felt like I was doing this alone—they truly care about both the children and the families who decide to foster.



Falling into Gratitude *(continued from page 1)*

One of my favorite researchers and motivational speakers is Dr. Brené Brown. She once said:

"I don't have to chase extraordinary moments to find happiness—it's right in front of me if I'm paying attention and practicing gratitude."

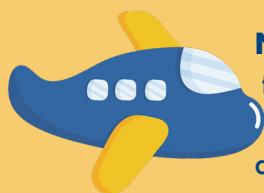
So, this season, let's pay attention to what we are grateful for. Let's celebrate the little wins. Let's continue "falling into gratitude" for what we have and for what we are able to give. Together, we are helping others and that's something to truly be grateful for.

With Gratitude,
Gordon May, President/CEO

Celebrating Our Youth - We Are Grateful For You



Taylor drew a self portrait which depicts her graduating from Kindergarten. What an awesome feeling to move on to the next step in her young life ! We are so proud of you Taylor!



Norahline graduated pre-k and is traveling for the first time on a plane; she is going with foster parents to Arizona and is very excited.



Jude graduated high school and will hopefully be attending LCTI for Plumbing starting the fall.



Mikhaela took her first step on her own a few weeks ago.



We Are Grateful For Our New Leaders

We're excited to share some leadership updates at CONCERN! We are grateful for their knowledge and leadership skills as they continue to advance CONCERN's mission throughout PA and MD.



Kelly Crum has stepped into her new role as Central Region Director while continuing to provide oversight for both adoption and foster care programs.



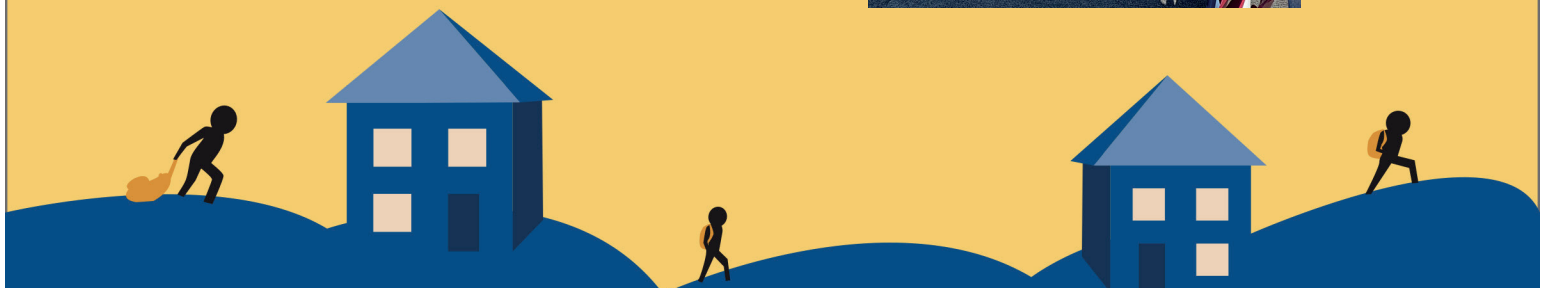
Amanda Carson has been promoted to Northern Tier Region Director, bringing her experience and dedication from her previous position as Region Development Coordinator.



Jen Bowen has advanced from Northern Tier Region Director to Director of Program Services and is now a member of CONCERN's Senior Leadership Team.

Staff Retreats - Investing in Wellness

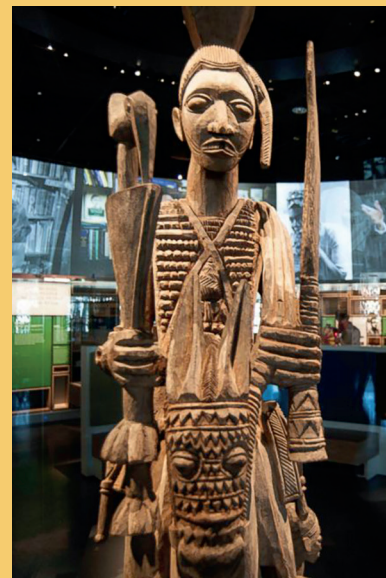
This summer, CONCERN's offices took time away from daily responsibilities to focus on team connection and personal wellness. These retreats remind us that caring for our staff is just as important as caring for our clients. By pausing to recharge and prioritize well-being, we help prevent burnout and foster a healthier, more balanced workplace.



Mission Moment

CTUB residents and staff were able to take a trip to Washington, DC to visit the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History. This was an amazing moment for so many of the kids who have never even been out of the state of PA. Additionally, to be so close to the White House, The Capital Building and other historical landmarks that they learned about in school was great teaching moments for them. Of course, the museum itself taught the boys a lot about how African Americans have made such a huge impact on the world as they know it today. It taught them about their struggles and all of the achievements throughout history.

Many boys expressed their excitement, especially when the learning about sports because they all know so much about that but still found exciting new facts to learn. They were also excited to learn more about Crystal Boggs- Jennings' (Director of CTUB) cousin, Arthur Ashe and his impact on the world of Tennis. Crystal states, "It was a day that I won't forget and I'm so glad that we could make it happen."



A huge THANK YOU . . .

. . . to **Sheetz** for their generous \$1,000 donation to CONCERN's Special Needs Fund!

This incredible gift helped children in foster care attend camp this summer—giving them opportunities to grow, explore, and make lasting memories.

We're so grateful for community partners like Sheetz who help make a difference in the lives of the kids we serve.



. . . to **The Iris Companies** (@iriscompanies) for designing and donating beautiful lanyards to be used with staff IDs! Your community involvement and support is appreciated.



Enclosed is my gift to CONCERN

in the amount of: \$ _____



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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.
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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.

Upcoming Events

Join us for our upcoming events supporting children, youth, and families while offering an opportunity to build lifelong meaningful connections.

Casino Night Signature Event - Friday, November 7, 2025 - This event is being held at the Hilton Double Tree Hotel in Reading, PA. Ticket price will include a dinner buffet and a fun night of casino play. More information will be coming on CONCERN's website, <https://www.concern4kids.org/events-1/casinonight>

You're Invited To...

A CASINO NIGHT

Fundraiser

CONCERN
Hope. Opportunity. Change.

Join us for a night of **GAMBLING FOR GOOD** benefits CONCERN's Behavioral Health Fund.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025
DOUBLE TREE, READING, PA

Adults 21+ Only ♠ **Red, Black & White Cocktail Attire (Optional)**
Registration/Cocktails 5:30 ♠ Dinner Buffet 6:00 - 7:00
Games 6:00 - 9:00 ♠ Program/Raffles 9:00 - 9:30

Tickets
Early Bird Price by 10/1:
\$100 per person/\$175 per couple
10/2 - 10/22:
\$125 per person
Cash Bar
Purchase your tickets at
www.concern4kids.org/events-1/casinonight

Included in your ticket:
Buffet Dinner
150 Casino Coins

Craps ♠ **Roulette** ♠ **Blackjack**
Money Wheel ♠ **Texas Hold 'Em**

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HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW

Get Ready to Sparkle and Shop!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

FLEETWOOD GRANGE
9:00AM - 3:00PM

Get ready to sparkle and shop at our community Christmas Craft Fair offering unique, handmade holiday gifts, and beautiful decorations

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Artisan gifts & decor
- Festive holiday treats
- Food Trucks
- Raffles
- Free Admission

CALL 610-215-9569 OR EMAIL
JZETTLEMOYER@CONCERN4KIDS.ORG
FOR MORE INFO

Join us to celebrate the season, support local makers, and find that perfect holiday gift!

<https://concern4kids.org/events-1/craftshow>

Holiday Craft Show - Saturday, November 22, 2025 - This event is being held at the Fleetwood Grange from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. CONCERN is looking for vendors and food trucks wishing to participate in this event. More information is available on CONCERN's website, www.concern4kids.org or by contacting jzettlemoyer@concern4kids.org.

Donations and Upcoming Sponsorship Opportunities



Casino Night Sponsorship Opportunities

Join us in making our Casino Night a success, while showcasing your business! Sponsorships range from The High Roller (\$10,000 with 10 event tickets and premium recognition) to The Poker Face (\$1,500 with 2 tickets and event promotion). Each level includes event tickets, recognition in promotional materials, and special opportunities for visibility before, during, and after the event. Every sponsorship supports CONCERN's behavioral health clients.

Craft Show Sponsorship Opportunities

Join us in making a difference for children in foster care while supporting our first Craft Show! Your sponsorship helps provide meaningful experiences and opportunities for the children we serve. All sponsorships include social media recognition, signage at the event, and acknowledgment in our next newsletter. \$500 sponsorship includes a craft fair table.

\$500 – Hope Sponsor: Be a beacon of hope as an overall event sponsor, helping children in foster care attend camps, receive tutoring, lessons, and more.

\$100 – Opportunity Sponsor: Give the gift of opportunity by making it possible for children in foster care to enjoy enriching field trips.

\$50 – Change Sponsor: Small contributions lead to big change. Help us craft meaningful experiences for children in foster care and provide support to foster parents where it's needed most.



Mission Statement

CONCERN brings hope,
offers opportunity,
and inspires change.

Vision Statement

To encourage growth and promote
positive healthy lives!

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For more information on
location and services visit:

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The Courier is published by CONCERN - Professional Services for Children, Youth, and Families

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