



April 2022

Issue 7



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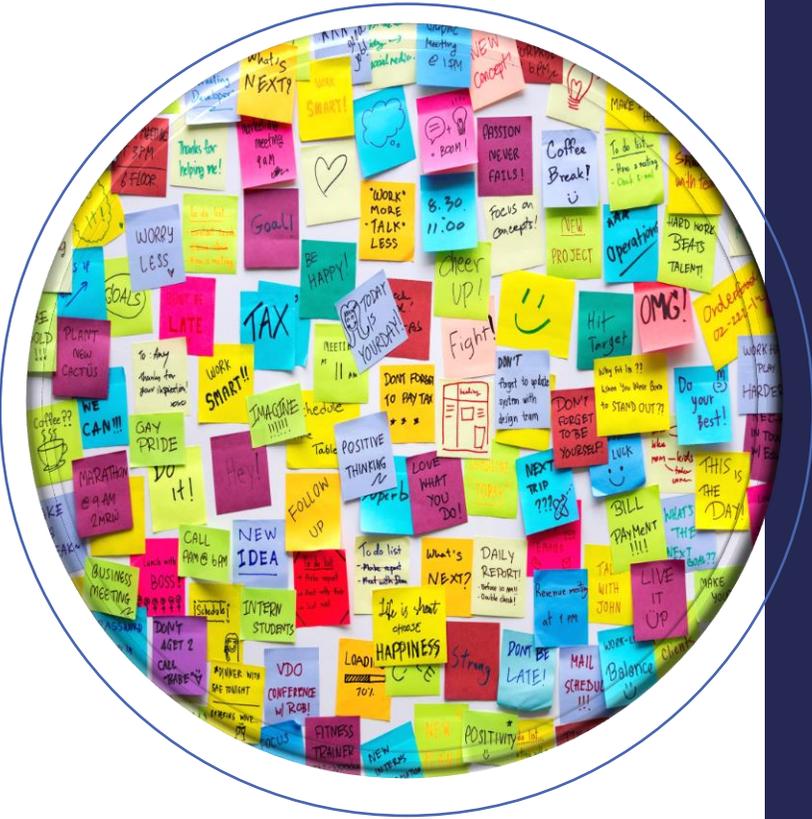
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# Dates to Remember

April is

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Autism Awareness Month

**April 5<sup>th</sup>**-“Trauma In Children” training with the Sprout Center for Emotional Growth and Development from 1-2:30 -[Join Here](#)

**April 6<sup>th</sup>**-Grief Talks Educational Webinar Series “I Wanna Hold Your Hand-But Is It Safe? Re-Engaging With Life in the Face of Uncertainty”-[Register Here](#)

**April 6<sup>th</sup>**- Washington County Town Hall Meeting

**April 7<sup>th</sup>**-CYS Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month

**April 9<sup>th</sup>**-Dads Together

**April 19<sup>th</sup>**-“Secondary Trauma of Staff” training with the Sprout Center for Emotional Growth and Development from 1-2:30-[Join Here](#)

**April 21<sup>st</sup>**-Proclamation for Vietnam Veterans

**April 26<sup>th</sup>**-Suicide Prevention Task Force Meeting

**April 26<sup>th</sup>**-Out of the Darkness Walk Committee Meeting at 2:00 -[Join Here](#)

**April 27<sup>th</sup>**-CYS Sponsored Community Resource Fair in Charleroi

# Walk to Fight Suicide

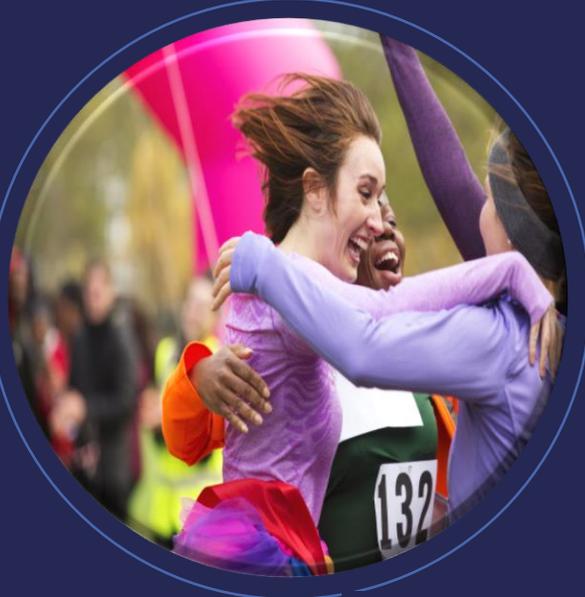


**Washington County Out of the Darkness Walk**

**October 2, 2022**

Wild Things Park  
1 Federal Way, Washington, PA 15301

Register at  
[afsp.org/WashingtonPA](https://afsp.org/WashingtonPA)



## Dads Together:

A Saturday Event by and for Fathers/Father figures of Children with Disabilities and Special Healthcare Needs



**April 9, 2022**

in person at Lawrence County Association for Responsible Care (LCARC) LCARC, 28 South Mercer Street New Castle, PA 16101

**8:45 AM** - Registration & Light Breakfast

**9:00 AM - 1:00 PM** - Event

[REGISTER](#)

Fathers (and father figures) from: Fathers from Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango and Washington especially.

### Dad's Tackling Issues Together!

Featuring Jon Kolb, former Steeler left tackle and Defensive Line Coach, father of an adult child with a disability, and current Director of Physical Training at Adventures in Training for a Purpose (ATP). ATP is a non-profit helping Veterans and individuals with disabilities who, due to insurance limitations, would otherwise be unable to address their need for ongoing treatment.



In conjunction with:



## Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Update

Information Provided by:

*Mary Jo Patrick-Hatfield, Mental Health Program Director*

Washington County Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (BHDS) is pleased to be the recipient of a Staunton Farms Foundation grant directed towards the startup of what will be another evidence-based practice added to existing the pool of evidence-based practices offered through its provider system for adults.

Cognitive Enhancement Therapy is a technique developed by Professor Gerard Hogarty and Samuel Flesher, PhD at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Since its development, several rigorous research trials have demonstrated that the technique is an effective method for the treatment and rehabilitation of schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder, as well as more recently autism.

Cognitive Enhancement Therapy is a comprehensive, neuro-developmental approach to remediation of social and non-social cognitive functions. Currently the technique, which uses computer software as well as group and individual sessions, is delivered through Psychiatric Rehabilitation services.



# Blueprints

Spotlight information provided by Jessica Hajek-Bates, Director

Blueprints is a change agency that shapes futures by equipping and educating people to improve their lives. Incorporated as a Community Action Agency in 1965 to serve Washington & Greene Counties, Blueprints now operates 35+ programs that serve nearly 20,000 lower-income participants annually. In 2015, Blueprints expanded its service area to include two additional counties in Pennsylvania and the entire state of West Virginia through the agency's foster care and adoption division.

Since its founding, Blueprints' mission has been the same: to serve as the catalyst to mobilize the resources of the entire community to enable individuals and families to attain the skills, knowledge, motivations, and opportunities needed to become self-sufficient.

Each Blueprints program fits within one of four service pillars:

**MIND:** From ABCs to GEDs and beyond, Blueprints helps participants learn everything needed to build futures through Early Head Start, Head Start, Pre-Kindergarten, Digital Literacy and Truancy Prevention.

**HOME:** From safety for kids to stability for families, Blueprints helps participants establish a place to live and thrive through Foster Care and Adoption, Independent and Transitional Living, Home Ownership Center, Rental and Utility Assistance and Reentry Planning.

**HEALTH:** From health checks to healthy greens and grains, Blueprints helps participants stay active and strong through Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Senior Centers, Senior Care Management, Home Delivered Meals and Community Health Initiatives.

**WALLET:** From budget basics to savings strategies, Blueprints helps participants earn and balance livable wages through Financial Literacy, Matched Savings Accounts, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Career Development.

Each Blueprints service is delivered in a "quilted" or seamless manner, to provide entire families with the options needed to maximize self-sufficiency. It is Blueprints' intention to provide a depth of service that changes people's lives and works to sustain those changes over time. Blueprints does this by engaging employers, service providers, public policy makers, educators, and other stakeholders in its work

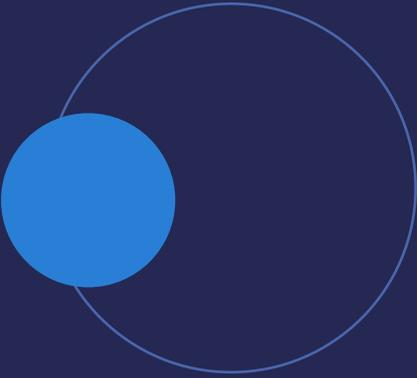
From cradle to gray, Blueprints serves individuals of all ages through its array of programs. Blueprints has embraced a 2GEN Approach to service delivery that focuses on the needs of parents and the needs of children together. While children prepare for Kindergarten through the agency's array of early learning programs, Blueprints is committed to engaging parents in its adult economic self-sufficiency programming to help families break barriers and build their futures.

Blueprints was named the Washington County Community Foundation's Charity of Excellence in 2020. The award was created in celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Foundation and recognized Blueprints for its quality and variety of programming, community impact, volunteer engagement and the agency's financial position.



Top Picture: Blueprints' Board of Directors

Bottom Picture: Blueprints' Executive Team



**Current programs include:**

#### ***Head Start, Early Head Start & Pre-K Counts***

Blueprints has been Washington & Greene Counties' Head Start provider since 1965. Currently, Blueprints serves hundreds of pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and children through its array of Early Head Start, Head Start and Pre-K Counts Programs. The agency's high-quality services include early learning and school readiness, health and family well-being while engaging parents as partners every step of the way. Participants may choose from classroom, home based or childcare center options.

#### ***Women, Infants & Children***

Last year, Blueprints served 4,283 participants through the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program. The agency has been providing WIC for more than 40 years. WIC supports pregnant and postpartum women, infants and children and provides positive health outcomes, supplemental nutrition, and breastfeeding support.

#### ***Foster Care & Adoption***

Blueprints places children from birth through 18 years of age who have been removed from their home because of abuse, neglect, or excessive home conflict into foster homes. Blueprints can also assist families through the adoption process which includes child/family profiles, post-placement services and finalization services.

#### ***Home Ownership Center***

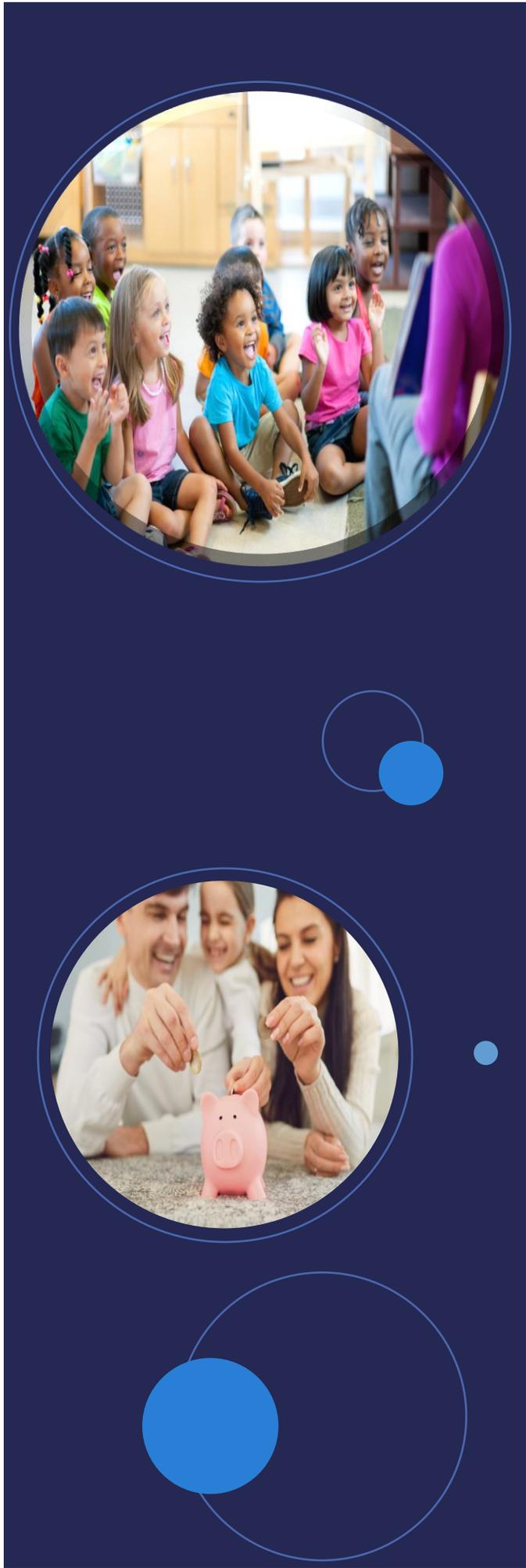
Blueprints' Home Ownership Center supports residents as they work to achieve and sustain the "American Dream" of home ownership. It is the only center of its kind in the area and serves as the catalyst for all available housing resources through national, state, and local programs. It offers Group Workshops facilitated by HUD and NeighborWorks' Certified Housing Counselors and individual counseling sessions centered on these topics:

- Pre-Home Purchase
- Home Maintenance & Repair
- Credit Repair
- Pre-Home Closing Counseling/Post-Purchase Counseling
- Foreclosure Prevention

#### ***Consumer-Family Satisfaction Team***

Blueprints partners with Washington County Behavioral Health & Development Services (BHDS) to coordinate Washington County's Consumer-Family Satisfaction Team (CFST). The CFST surveys consumers and their families regarding the services they receive from County-funded BHDS providers to determine their level of satisfaction. On average, more than 1,200 individuals are surveyed annually.

Residents interested in learning more about Blueprints can contact the agency's Welcome Center at 724.225.9550 ext. 400. An overview of Blueprints' programming is available on the agency's website: [www.myblueprints.org](http://www.myblueprints.org) along with a "Contact Us" form where emails are routed to the appropriate staff contacts.



# Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Column information provided by Joanna Dragan-SPHS CARE Center Supervisor of Sexual Violence Services (STTARS)

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This year's theme is "Building Safe Online Spaces Together." This message calls on all of us to practice digital consent, intervene when we see harmful content or behaviors, and promote online communities that promote safety and respect.

We can build online communities where harassment, assault, and abuse are taken seriously. In promoting safer virtual spaces, we can translate these values, skills, and actions for use in both on-line and off-line spaces.

We invite you to join us this April in making respect the norm everywhere, taking action to promote the safety of others, and showing survivors they are believed and supported.

The STTARS Program offers free and confidential services to survivors of sexual violence and their families including counseling, legal and medical advocacy, and a 24-hour hotline. Prevention programming is also available on a variety of topics to address and prevent sexual abuse, harassment, and assault. For more information, please call 724-229-5007.

## FindHelp Information

Washington County has launched a new site to help community members connect to services more easily. The site is hosted on a platform called findhelp which enables users to quickly pinpoint the services they need by zip code then by category such as: food, utility, and housing assistance, legal help, employment support, and counseling.

[washingtonpa.findhelp.com](http://washingtonpa.findhelp.com)

**We are now accepting submissions for the May, June and July issue. Please reach out to Rebecca Salsbury at [Rebecca.Salsbury@co.washington.pa.us](mailto:Rebecca.Salsbury@co.washington.pa.us) if you are interested in being a guest columnist or if you know of any upcoming events!**