

April 2023

Issue 19

# Washington County Department of Human Services



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# Car Seat Safety & Installation Checks

FIND A SEAT CHECK NEAR YOU!

Car Seat Checks are by appointment only!

Please contact your chosen location for availability.

3/10  
1PM-3PM

NORTH HUNTINGDON EMS/RESCUE  
11259 CENTER HIGHWAY  
NORTH HUNTINGDON, PA 15642  
Call Kristen Urso at  
412-885-0266 or email  
kurso@paaap.org for appointments.

3/23

1PM-3PM

WASHINGTON BUDD BAER  
71 MURLAND AVENUE  
WASHINGTON, PA 15301  
Call Kristen Urso at  
412-885-0266 or email  
kurso@paaap.org for appointments.

5/11  
4PM-6PM

ROSS/WEST VIEW EMS AUTHORITY  
5325 PERRYVILLE AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15229  
Contact Mark Ford at  
mford@rvems.org for appointments.

5/18

10AM-1PM

LLOYDSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT  
901 JEFFERSON STREET  
LATROBE, PA 15650  
Contact Jaci Brice at 724-518-6949 or  
jbrice@hsnetwork.org for appointments.

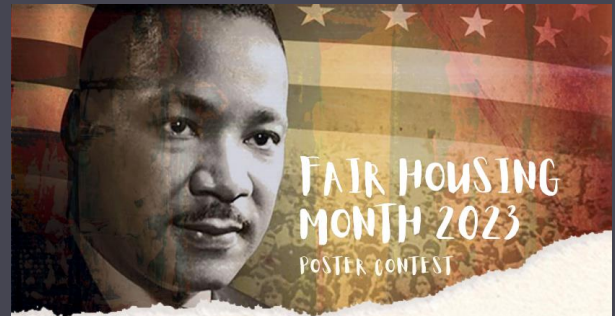
5/25  
1PM-3PM

PETERS TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPT  
245 E MCMURRAY ROAD  
MCMURRAY, PA 15317  
Call 724-941-4176 for appointments.

## Dates to Remember

April 2023

April 25 at 10:00-PATHfinders meeting [Click here to join the meeting](#)



### FAIR HOUSING ACT FACTS

- Passed on April 11, 1968 following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4, 1968
- Viewed as a fitting memorial to Dr. King's life work
- Protects people from discrimination when they are renting or buying a home, getting a mortgage, seeking housing assistance, or engaging in other housing-related activities
- Prohibits discrimination because of RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, SEX (including gender identity and sexual orientation), FAMILIAL STATUS, and DISABILITY

### THEME

CREATE A POSTER BASED ON YOUR FAVORITE DR. KING QUOTE THAT ENCOMPASSES HIS VISION OF EQUAL HOUSING FOR ALL

### RULES

- Contest open to students in 9th-12th grades
- Posters will be judged on appearance & use of the theme
- Entries must include the student's name, email address, school, grade, and teacher/advocate's name & email
- Any medium is allowed- be creative!
- Submit posters at [fhlaw.org/fair-housing-month](http://fhlaw.org/fair-housing-month) or mail to 10 West Cherry Avenue, Washington, PA 15301

### PRIZES

- \$250 gift card
- \$150 gift card
- \$100 gift card



ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 14TH



## Shine the Light

on

Mental Health & Suicide Awareness



Presented By Washington County Behavioral Health & Developmental Services

Saturday, May 20th, 2023

Registration 11:00 am-12:00pm, Run starts at 12:00pm; Event 12:00-2:00pm

Join us in our efforts to increase awareness & eliminate stigma



Washington Park /Stone Pavilion  
Park Road, No 1, Washington, PA 15301

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Additional Activities Include: Depression & Suicide Screening; speakers, music, refreshments & Prize Raffles

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST PRE-REGISTER

<https://forms.office.com/g/KWF57J2XA7>

Free event/Free t-shirts to those who pre-register (limited supply)

One t-shirt per household

For additional information please contact

Christina at 724-250-4135

Children under the age of 18 MUST be accompanied by a responsible adult



Sponsored by The Pennsylvania National Strategy for Suicide Prevention

# WALK WITH US

## TO PREVENT SUICIDE

# REGISTER TODAY

Washington County Out of the Darkness Walk

September 30, 2023

For information, email [rebecca.salsbury@co.washington.pa.us](mailto:rebecca.salsbury@co.washington.pa.us)

Register at [afsp.org/WASHINGTONPA](http://afsp.org/WASHINGTONPA)





## Month of the Young Child

Information provided by

Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

April is a special month for parents and educators because it celebrates the Month of the Young Child. Month of the Young Child is based on the National Association of the Education of Young Children's Week of the Young Child™, which occurs between April 1st–7th. This annual celebration was created to focus on the needs of young children and their families. It is designated as a month to recognize early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

Join the **Washington County Behavior Health and Developmental Services' Early Intervention Program** on April 22, 1:00pm – 3:00pm, for a Paint and Chip event, to be held at Off the Wall Art, in Charleroi. For more information and to register please refer to the flyer on the left or call 724-228-6832.



## What's the Buzz at Washington County Department of Human Services

### Meet Katelyn Waugh, Human Services Coordinator

Katie Waugh is a Human Service Coordinator with the Centralized Intake Unit at Washington County Department of Human Services. Katie has been with the Centralized Intake Unit and Washington County Department of Human Services since February 2023. Katie graduated with her Bachelor of Science from Saint Vincent College in 2022 with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Forensic Science. In Katie's free time outside of work she enjoys spending it with her dog pickle and her friends. Katie is looking forward to the opportunity at hand and continuing to grow with Washington County Department of Human Services!



# National Volunteer Appreciation Month

Information provided by

Mary Lynn Spilak, Director of Aging Services of Washington County

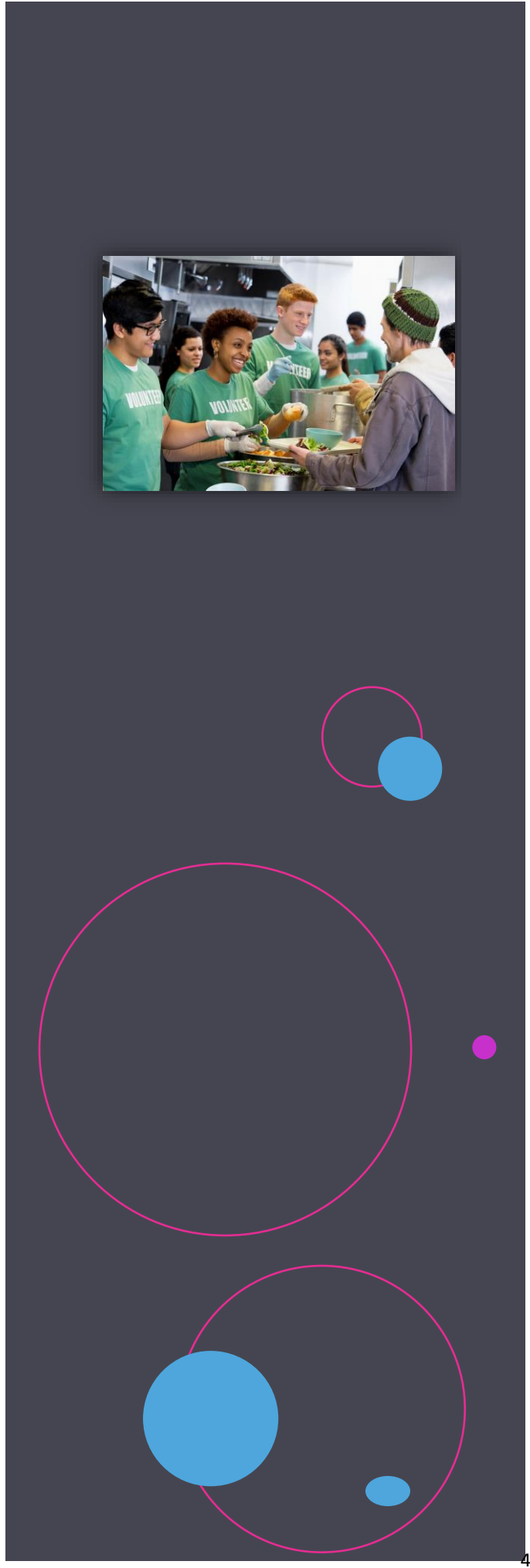
April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month. The theme for 2023 is “Volunteering Weaves Us Together.” This reveals the importance of volunteering to the strength and vibrancy of our communities through the actions we take to support each other. National Volunteer Month recognizes the importance of volunteer work and its impact when people dedicate their skills and resources to a collective good cause.

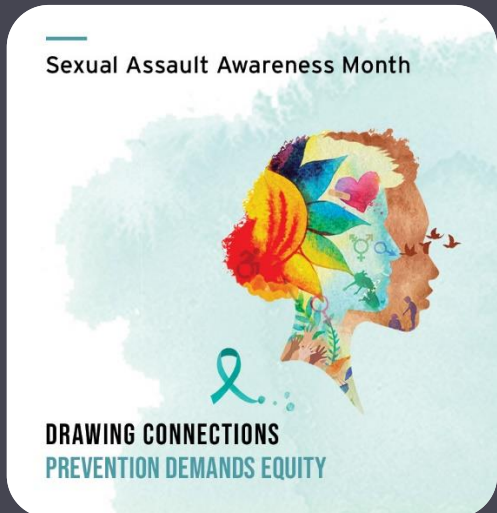
Volunteering is important because it enables people to help others in a selfless way. Volunteering benefits everyone and is a wonderful way to have a positive impact in the community. The personal benefits of volunteering include promoting good health. Volunteering can decrease the risk of depression by connecting the volunteer with other people and provide opportunities for positive social interaction. Volunteering helps to build interpersonal skills and it established new contact by forging new relationships through a common interest. Lastly, volunteering promoted happiness by giving them opportunities to help those in need.

Aging Services of Washington County employs nearly 300 volunteers throughout their Senior Community Center network. Annually over 36,765 hours of services are documented. These dedicated volunteers deliver meals, organize fundraisers, work in kitchens, and provide Center Leadership.

During the Month of April, Volunteer Appreciation Luncheons are scheduled at our Senior Community Centers. This event will provide recognition for the Volunteers. The Volunteers with Aging Services of Washington County are integral part of our senior delivery system. They are the backbone of our programs.

**If you are interested in volunteering, please call us at Aging Services of Washington County at (724) 228-6856.**





# Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Guest Columnist Information provided by  
Joanna Dragan, SPHS STARRS Supervisor

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month – a time to draw attention to the prevalence of sexual assault and educate individuals and communities about how to prevent it. Sexual harassment, abuse, and assault are widespread problems. In the United States alone, nearly one in five women and one in 67 men have been raped at some time in their lives (Smith et al., 2017), and one in four girls and one in twenty boys is sexually abused by the age of 17 (Finkelhor et al., 2014).

Sexual harassment, assault and abuse happen in all communities – including online spaces. The theme of this year’s Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign is “Drawing Connections: Prevention Demands Equity.” The campaign calls on all individuals, communities, organizations, and institutions to change the systems surrounding us to build equity and respect within the community, workplace, and the future our youth hold.

Each of us has the power to enact change. We can all make a difference to ensure that the communities in which we engage are safe and respectful for everyone.

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 to schools, professionals, and community groups on a variety of topics to address and prevent sexual abuse, harassment, assault, and trafficking. For more information, please call 724-229-5007.

# Child Abuse Prevention Month

Guest Columnist Information provided by

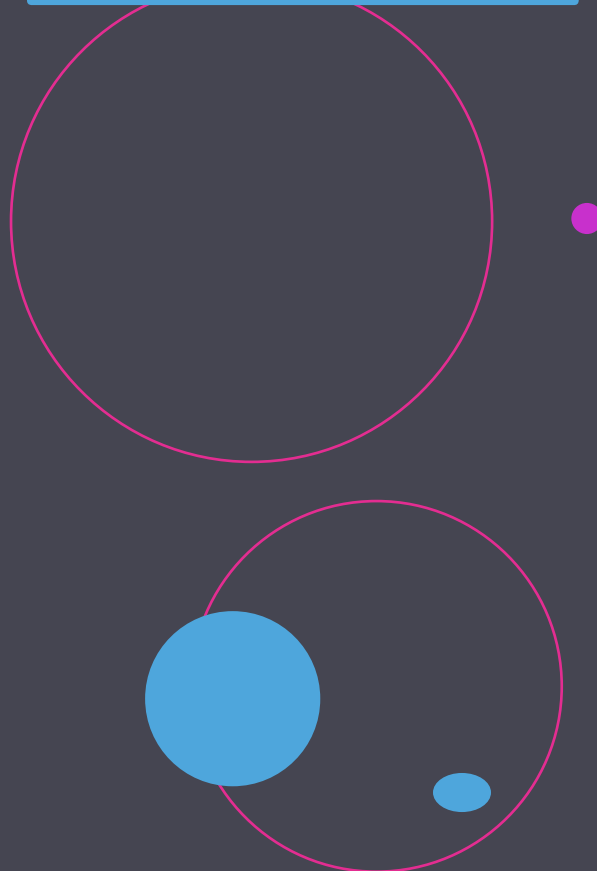
Kate Grant, CYS Community Engagement Specialist

Washington County Children and Youth agency is committed to the wellbeing of children and families. By empowering and engaging families and the community, safety and permanency can be achieved and all members can thrive.

The agency has a Toolkit in place to ensure that we can empower our families and give them the very best opportunities to be successful and aid in preventing child abuse.

The Pinwheel for Prevention Campaign is a national platform that began in 2008 and is the symbol of child abuse prevention. In April, look for the pinwheels on the County campus. The pinwheels shining in the sun, represent a bright future for our children and community. We want all children to live in a stable, loving and stimulating environments at home, in school and in the community.

We are asking that everyone wears blue every Friday in the month of April for Child Abuse Prevention Month to bring awareness and in support of our children.





# Drug Take Back Month

Information provided by

Tammy Taylor, WDAC Prevention Supervisor

## *Prescription Take Back Event April 22, 2023*

The Washington Drug and Alcohol Commission will assist local police departments in the semi-annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Event scheduled for Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at locations throughout Washington County.

For more than a decade, WDAC has participated in the DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Days events by assisting local police departments at collection sites throughout the county. In doing so residents were able to rid their homes of unused and unwanted prescriptions and over-the-counter medications from their home medicine cabinets.

During the height of the opioid epidemic in 2016 WDAC Executive Director, Cheryl Andrews and then District Attorney, Gene Vittone formed the Washington County Opioid Coalition to combat the opioid crisis and to reduce overdose deaths in the county. The vision of the coalition is to eliminate opioid overdoses, reduce the stigma associated with opioid use disorder and ensure every patient with an opioid use disorder has access to and support throughout their treatment and recovery.

Coalition members agree that these take back events play an essential part reducing the risk for misuse of opioids and contribute to the vision of the coalition. During the October 2022 collection events, coalition members and local police departments collected 1,126 pounds of unused prescriptions and over-the-counter medications.

Residents are encouraged to visit [www.DEATakeBack.com](http://www.DEATakeBack.com) to find a location near them. Proper disposal of unused medications saves lives. Disposal is easy, join us on April 29<sup>th</sup> from 10a.m. to 2p.m.