



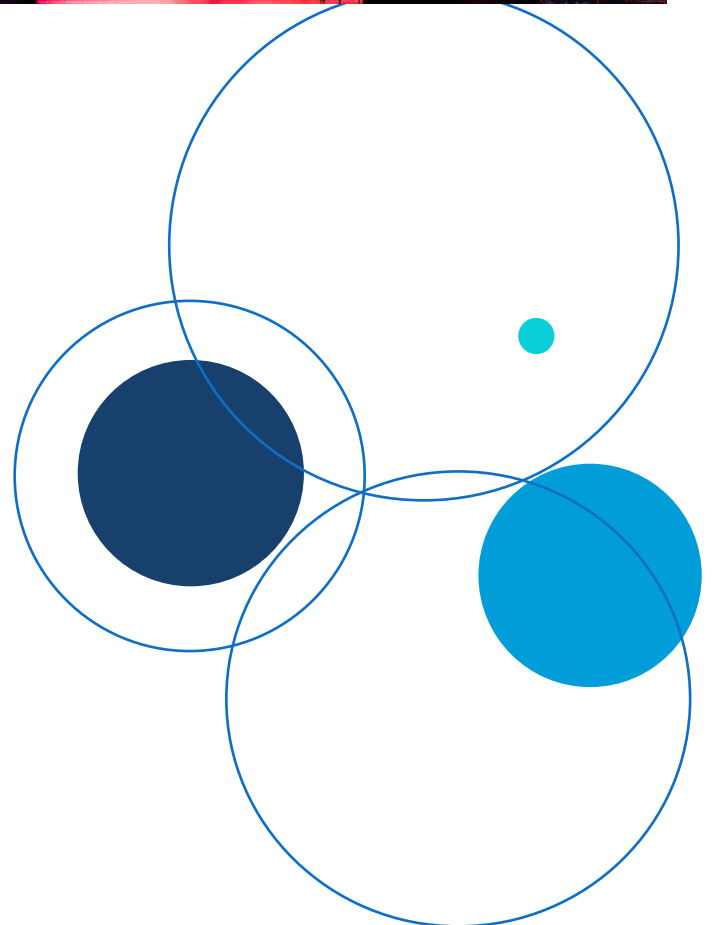
January 2025

Washington County  
Department of Human Services



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# WE NEED YOU!

Are you interested in being featured as a provider spotlight or a guest columnist? Do you have information about an upcoming event to share? Reach out to Abby Gerlach at [abigail.gerlach@co.washington.pa.us](mailto:abigail.gerlach@co.washington.pa.us).



# Save The Date

Department of Human Services - Town Hall

January 8 at 3:00pm

Join us by Microsoft Teams



## 2025 Produce Distribution dates

January 14th

February 11th

March 11th

April 8th

May 13th

June 10th

July 8th

August 12th

September 9th

October 14th

November 10th (This is a Monday as we are closed on Tuesday the 11th for Veteran's Day)

December 9th



## UPCOMING EVENTS JAN. 2025

6

January

HARMONY LIFE CENTER

75 E MAIDEN ST  
WASHINGTON PA 15301

22

January

HARMONY LIFE CENTER

75 E MAIDEN ST  
WASHINGTON PA 15301

29

January

VISION SERVICES PRESENTATION

566 E MAIDEN ST  
WASHINGTON PA 15301



Come see us at these upcoming events!

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

The Washington County Department of Human Services has released a video highlighting their achievements in 2024. In this video, our 4 agencies, 3 units, and housing and homeless coordinator share some key moments from the past year. (If you are unable to watch the video, please [click here](#).)



Abigail Gerlach, Human Services Community Outreach Liaison, gave presentations at several libraries in Washington County. She met with library staff and patrons at Bentleyville Public Library, Citizens Library, Donora Public Library, and Heritage Public Library. Abigail provided information about our services and shared details about upcoming events. In 2025, Abigail will present at Chartiers Houston Community Library, Monongahela Area Public Library, and Peters Township Public Library.



Washington County Children & Youth Services held their annual Helping Hands Holiday Gift drive from December 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. During this event, caseworkers had the opportunity to select and shop for a variety of gifts for the children and families served by the agency. The drive aimed to provide support and happiness during the holiday season. Through collaboration with local donors and community partners, the initiative successfully brightened the holidays for many families in Washington County.



On December 17<sup>th</sup>, Washington County Behavioral Health & Developmental Services hosted a Holiday Outreach fair in Charleroi. This festive event welcomed community members of all ages to gather and connect with various local resource providers. Attendees had the opportunity to meet Santa Claus, who added a special touch of holiday magic by posing for photos. In addition to these activities, the fair featured delicious holiday-themed cookies and hot chocolate.

# Employee Spotlights

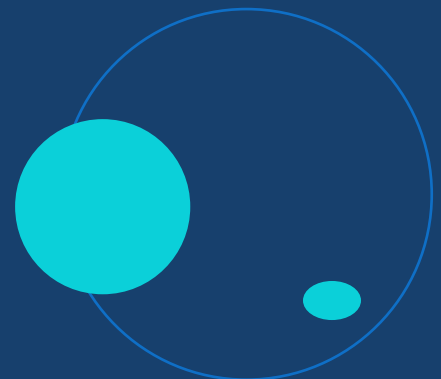
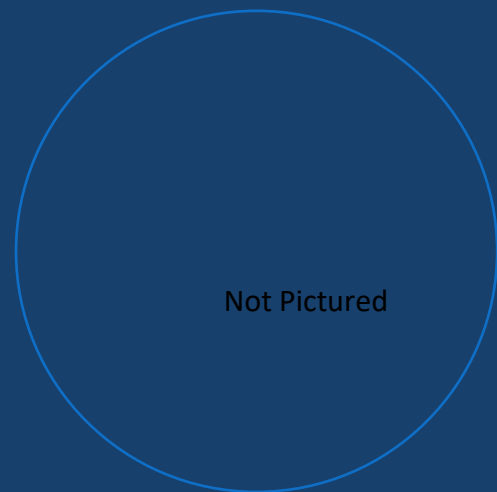
## **Kimberly Scalise, BHDS Mental Health Program Director**

Kim attended California University of PA where she obtained her bachelor's degree in education. She is currently working towards her master's degree in social work at Penn West. Kim was previously employed with SPHS Behavioral Health and has worked in the mental health for over 20 years. Kim expressed that the most rewarding part of her job is the ability to influence positive change while helping individuals in need of treatment and mental health services. She also finds empowering, supporting, and mentoring her team rewarding. Kim stated that she looks up to Christ Garrett, retired Director at SPHS, because of her leadership and work ethic. Chris always provided guidance and support that helped Kim navigate any challenges in the behavioral health field. Kim enjoys spending time with her three children. Her daughter is a senior in high school and Kim enjoys watching her play soccer and cheer. Kim's oldest son is a freshman, who plays football and her youngest is 5 years old and keeps her very active. Kim is also part of the Washington County SWAT Negotiation team. Kim's favorite tv series is The Rookie.



## **Nicole Snyder, Children & Youth Services Program Specialist – Resource Coordinator**

Nicole attended California University of PA where she obtained her bachelor's degree in criminal justice. She is currently working towards her master's degree in the CWEL program at the University of Pittsburgh. Nicole expressed that the most rewarding part of her job is having a positive impact on the children and families served in Washington County. She stated that she looks up to a previous manager, Kristin Young. Nicole's favorite tv series is Suits.



# Neighbor 2 Neighbor of SWPA

Guest Columnist: Bill Burns, Executive Director

Neighbor 2 Neighbor of SWPA is a faith-based nonprofit organization that was originally established as a local volunteer group in Washington, PA in March of 2018. The group officially incorporated in June of 2021 and now operates seasonal outreach efforts in 5 of the 7 counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Neighbor 2 Neighbor organizes local outreach initiatives to share resources and meet the seasonal needs of families through weekly, monthly, and annual events in partnership with local churches and other organizations, impacting thousands of individuals throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania. Our primary operations are focused in Washington and Greene counties, with additional outreach into Beaver, Fayette, and Allegheny counties.

While our services are available to everyone, we particularly concentrate on traditionally underserved communities, including local housing projects and low-income urban and rural areas. Neighbor 2 Neighbor partners with approximately 50 churches each year, as well as 50 additional nonprofit organizations and businesses that provide essential services to families and individuals. These services range from addiction and recovery services, vocational services, military and veterans' services, housing, mental health services, and education, all aimed at sharing information and make referrals within our communities.

Neighbor 2 Neighbor of SWPA is known for its weekly "Under the Bridge" outreach events in Washington County, quarterly laundry outreach events at local laundromats, and various annual events such as Easter egg hunts, the Womens Communi-TEA event, back to school initiatives, Coats for Kids (with 24 distribution sites), and Ciarra's Community Christmas Giveaway, among many others.

We believe that serving individuals should address the comprehensive needs of mind, body, and spirit. Everyone is welcome at our events, and there is never a cost to participate or receive assistance. Dignity, self-esteem, and the hope of something greater are fundamental to everything we do. Rooted in Matthew 22:37 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

