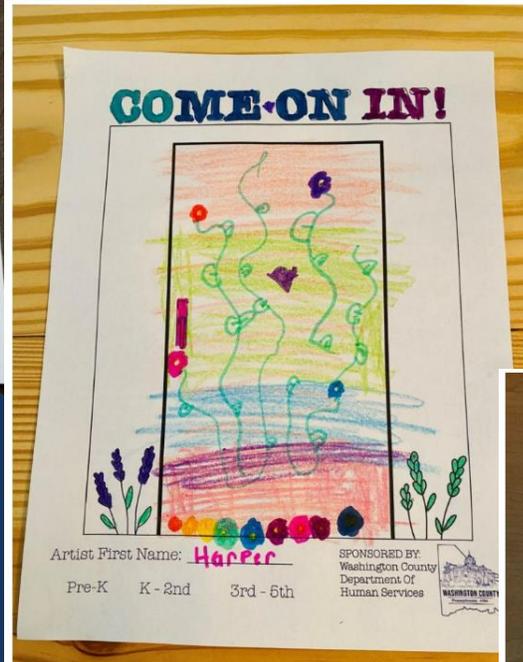


July 2022

Issue 10

# Washington County Department of Human Services



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## People's Choice Coloring Contest Winners:

Pre-K: Paislee

K-2: Harper from California Area Elementary School

2-5: Paige from Canon-Mac

## Department of Human Services

### Community Launch Recap:

The Department of Human Services hosted a community launch event on June 30, 2022. The purpose was to highlight the new human services system designed to better service our residents throughout their lifespan. Washington County residents can connect to a support within the county by simply calling 724-228-1234.

The event consisted of staff meet and greets, lunch, raffles, tours, a coloring contest and a children's corner. Over 400 people attended, and the coloring contest received over 350 entries from Washington County youth ranging from PreK-5<sup>th</sup>! The People's Choice coloring contest winners are featured on the cover of the newsletter.

The Department of Human Services consists of: Centralized Intake Unit, Clinical Evaluation Unit, Care Management Unit, Aging Services, Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Children & Youth Services, Housing and Homelessness Coordinator, and Veterans Affairs.

### Washington County Out of the Darkness Walk

October 2, 2022

Suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States, but there is something we can do about it. The Washington County Out of the Darkness Walk is one of more than 550 Out of the Darkness Overnight, Community and Campus Walks being held nationwide this year.

We are currently recruiting team captains, walkers, volunteers, sponsors and have FREE tabling opportunities.

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

### Washington County Department of Human Services is Proud to Announce their Newest Hires!

Pictured Left to Right: Kayla Forbes-Centralized Intake Coordinator, Jordin Mertz- Analyst, Christine Matson- Care Manager and Matthew Mascara- Centralized Intake Coordinator



## Dates to Remember

July 2022

July 6<sup>th</sup>-WCDHS Town Hall Meeting at 3:00PM [Join Here](#)

July 12<sup>th</sup>-Washington Salvation Army Produce Distribution

July 13<sup>th</sup>-Children Task Force Meeting

July 16<sup>th</sup>- 1PM-3PM Salvation Army Superhero Drive Thru at Camp Agape

June 26<sup>th</sup>-Out of the Darkness Committee Planning Meeting at 2:00PM [Join here](#)

### 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)



## Meet the Faces Behind the Department of Human Services:



### **Victoria Gesselberty: Centralized Intake, Human Services Coordinator**

Victoria Gesselberty is a Human Service Coordinator with the Centralized Intake Unit at Washington County Department of Human Services. Victoria has been with the Centralized Intake Unit and Washington County Department of Human Services since March 2022. Victoria graduated with her Bachelor of Arts from Waynesburg University in 2020 with a degree in Sociology Family Studies and a dual minor in Psychology and Child Development. Victoria's position with the Department of Human Services gives her the opportunity to serve the residents of Washington County, the same county she has known and loved since birth. In Victoria's free time outside of work she enjoys spending it with her wife, fur babies and extended family. Victoria is looking forward to accepting more calls at 724-228-1234 and helping more residents of Washington County

### **Matthew Emerson: Clinical Unit, Human Services Clinician**



Matthew Emerson is a Human Services Clinician for the Washington County Department of Human Services. He has been with the Clinical Evaluation Unit since March 2022 and Washington County since July 2021, where he first started working in the Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Department. Working for the CEU has allowed him to interact with and help people he had never imagined he would when he first started. It has been an amazing opportunity. He earned a M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and a Certificate in Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling from California University of Pennsylvania in 2020. He earned his B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Counseling from Waynesburg University in 2018. Professionally, he is interested in the intersection between theology and psychology, the role of intimacy in addiction, particularly pornography addiction, and death anxiety. When not at the office, Matthew enjoys playing Dungeons & Dragons with his fiancée and friends, spending time at his Church, snuggling his cats, and reading.

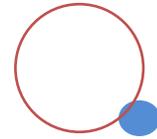
### **Donna Falvo: Care Management, Community Based Care Manager**



Donna Falvo is a Community Based Care Manager for the Washington County Human Services Department. In this position, Donna is able to go deep into the lives of those she serves to discover what needs are at the center of their present circumstance. Once identified, she locates services that may be available to assist her clients with those needs. Donna's background is mostly ministry, having graduated from North Central Bible College with a double major in Children's Ministry and Pastoral Studies. Having a heart to serve has always kept Donna in the Human Services field in one way or another over the years. Donna lives in Washington with her husband, 3 sons, and black lab, Rocky. They all stay active together pursuing activities through their church and school, as well as playing and watching baseball. Donna loves to garden, cook, and play games with her family.



# Salvation Army



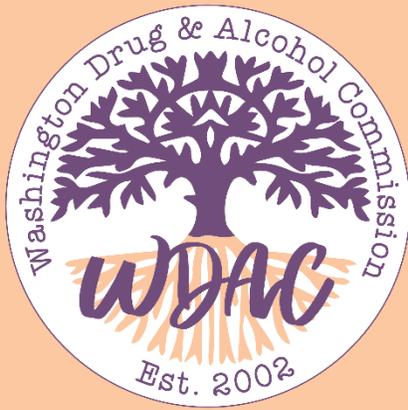
*Provider Spotlight Information Provided by Captain Amber Imhoff*

The Washington Salvation Army offers a wide variety of programming to engage the entire family in healthy activities as well as teach skills to last a lifetime. The Washington Salvation Army is located at 60 E Maiden St in downtown Washington PA.

The Washington Salvation Army's Family Literacy Effort supplies new books for area families through their monthly Family Reading Picnics from the months of March-October each year. Every year hundreds of people attend the Annual Read Across America Celebration, free book fairs and countless other events in the community where families are encouraged to spend time reading together and having fun as a family. On an average year over 10,000 books are put into the hands of area families through this effort. The Washington Salvation Army engages families through out the year during their Wednesday evening sensory friendly time of worship followed by a service project for all ages. The Washington Salvation Army offers free cooking classes for children in K-12<sup>th</sup> grade, where children learn to cook a complete meal each week from start to finish. The last night of each session the entire family is invited in and served dinner by the students. The Washington Salvation Army's HISPins Youth Archery Program helps young people to slow down and focus as well as work on basic math skills. This is just a few of the many ways that families are being impacted and learning skills for life at The Washington Salvation Army. The Washington Salvation Army strives to help families develop healthy lifestyles emotionally, mentally and physically all year long and our programs encourage taking the time to engage with one another in healthy activities and conversations.

The Washington Salvation Army offers a variety of comprehensive social service efforts in the community. The two most well know efforts are Love in a Backpack and Best Foot Forward. The Love in a Backpack Effort currently provides supplemental food on the weekends for children from eleven local schools. We focus on low sodium, low fat, high protein options. Children receive seven to eleven food items each week. The effort runs thirty-eight weeks a year. Each month the children receive a new book and at Christmas time receive a board game to encourage healthy conversations around the table. Our Best Foot Forward Effort provided almost 900 children new shoes in 2021. At Back-to-School time, to children needing shoes for sports, to Christmas, and receiving a pair for their first job shoes make a lasting impact on how the day goes. A pair of shoes can help give a child the opportunity to focus on the task at hand and can make their entire body feel good and function properly. Both efforts help knock out barriers that the young people of our community struggle with all too often. The Washington Salvation Army fights for good in the community every day of the year and strives to meet the needs of our community as they arise. We serve the Greater Washington area. We are one of two physical buildings for The Salvation Army in Washington County. The Mon Valley Salvation Army in Donora services families from the other side of the county. Whether it's a box of produce, a utility bill paid, a new bed, or a bottle of water at a fire you will find The Salvation Army and it's volunteers are ready to share hope with others that they can make it through today.





## Our Vision:

*To ensure every individual has the opportunity to achieve and sustain optimal wellness.*

The Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission is the Single County Authority (SCA) for drug and alcohol services in Washington County. Services provided at Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission include drug and alcohol intervention, prevention, recovery support, case management and case coordination services to the residents of Washington County. Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission provides mobile case management for those individuals in institutionalized settings, such as a hospital and for other social service providers such as Children and Youth, the Washington County Correctional Facility, and Washington County Probation. Services are available to all Washington county residents regardless of their ability to pay. All contacts with case management and recovery supports are treated in a confidential manner.

**If you or someone you love, is in need of drug and alcohol services outside of our regular business hours, please call the Washington Drug & Alcohol Center of Excellence (WDACOE) 24/7 hotline:  
1-833-888-0467**

At Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission, Naloxone (Narcan) is available to all Washington County Residents free of charge. To request a Narcan kit, go to: [www.wdacinc.org/narcan-request](http://www.wdacinc.org/narcan-request)

Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission partners with Ambulance & Chair EMS, Inc. to train all Washington County first responders, agencies/organizations, and communities on how to save a life. Through the HEART Program (Hands-On Emergency and Resuscitation Training), participants will learn three lifesaving and vital skills: Hands-Only CPR, Overdose Response, and Bleeding Control. To schedule a FREE training, please contact Breanne at 724-223-1181 x110 or [breanep@wdacinc.org](mailto:breanep@wdacinc.org).

**Hours of Operation:**  
Monday-Friday from 8:30-4:30

**Address:**  
90 West Chestnut Street, Suite 310  
Washington, PA 15301

**Contact Us:**  
724-223-1181  
Toll Free: (800) 247-8379

# Mon Valley Opioid Coalition Night Out

August 2, 2022 | 6-9 PM

DiVirgilio Recreational Complex  
129 Recreation Drive, Rostraver Township

Fireworks to follow

Sponsored by Vinoski Winery

Community members and students residing in Bentworth, Belle Vernon, Brownsville, California, Charleroi, Frazier, Monessen, Ringgold, and Yough are invited to come out and meet your local Police Officers, Firefighters, and EMTs!  
Local businesses and organizations will be present to share information about the Mon Valley Community.

Music!  
Food!  
Activities for kids!

Demos of  
emergency  
equipment!  
\*Jaws of life\*  
\*Life Flight\*

Police & Fire  
Responders  
Specialty  
vehicles!



## SAVE THE DATE

### International Overdose Awareness Day August 31, 2022



In observance of International Overdose Awareness Day, the Washington County Opioid Overdose Coalition in collaboration with the Washington Wild Things, will honor the lives of loved ones who have passed away as a result of overdose/substance use disorder.

Please submit names in memoriam of those who have passed to Shenna Wood no later than Friday, August 12th: [shennaw@wdacinc.org](mailto:shennaw@wdacinc.org)

Organizations interested in registering for a booth at the event, should contact Shenna: [shennaw@wdacinc.org](mailto:shennaw@wdacinc.org)

Additional information regarding this event will be forthcoming.



## PITTSBURGH RECOVERY WALK!

*Celebrating Roads to Recovery*

Join Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission at the  
2022 Pittsburgh Recovery Walk!

When: September 17, 2022

Time: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM with walk beginning at 11:00 AM

Where: Pittsburgh, PA  
11<sup>th</sup> and Waterfront (just north of Smallman St. in the Strip District)

FREE Transportation from Washington to Pittsburgh is available.

Meeting Location: Washington Drug and Alcohol Commission  
90 W. Chestnut St., Washington, PA 15301

**BUS LEAVES FOR PITTSBURGH AT 7:00 AM AND WILL RETURN AT 2:00 PM**

To register for the event and/or bus transportation, please  
contact Erin Dixon at 724-223-1181 x124 or  
[erind@wdacinc.org](mailto:erind@wdacinc.org)



To learn more about the Pittsburgh Recovery Walk, visit: <https://pghrecoverywalk.org/>

## Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission will be participating in these upcoming events.

For additional  
information regarding  
upcoming events, go to  
[www.wdacinc.org](http://www.wdacinc.org)