



The CONNECTOR

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It's Time to SHINE

PennCAC officially launched the 2024 SHINE Campaign in Pennsylvania this past weekend. SHINE is an annual campaign observed by CACs nationwide to transform the conversation about child abuse to one free of shame and isolation. The light of survivors connects to the light of supporters and fellow survivors in a universe of healing. As a CAC, it is our responsibility to continue making that light SHINE.



Friday, August 30th is Show Your SHINE Day: An opportunity to wear your brightest, boldest yellow to show your support for child victims and survivors!

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14,922 Pennsylvania Children came to a CAC because of suspected child abuse last year.

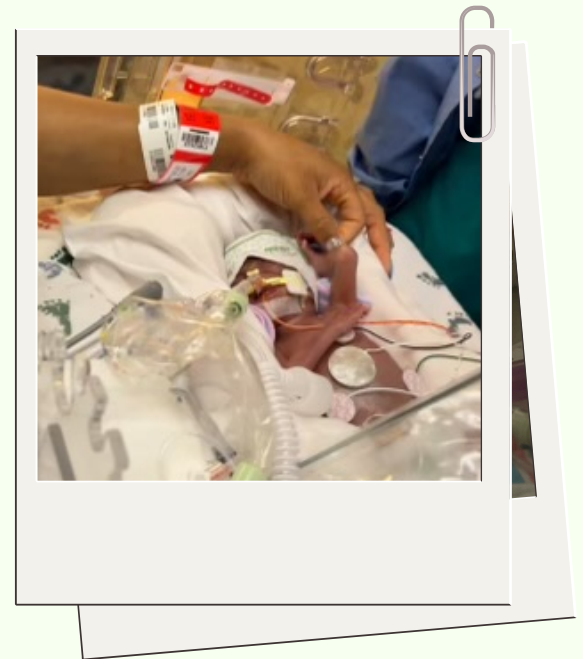
- Download** "Learn The Facts & Support Survivors" PDF
- Connect** with survivor support resources
- Donate** to support the CAC movement in PA
- Register** to participate in the 9/20 awareness walk & fundraiser in Harrisburg



Healthy Parenting Impact Story

Healthy Parenting Program client Dr. Patricia Sullivan began with the Standard Triple P program and transitioned to Stepping Stones for her 1-year-old son, Baysin. He experienced a condition at birth characterized by excess fluid build-up in the brain, called hydrocephalus, due to a brain bleed. Baysin required a four-month stay in the NICU and the installation of a shunt in his head to drain the excess fluid.

Initially, doctors were uncertain if he would have difficulty feeding himself, crawling, walking, or speaking. However, thanks to his mother's strength and determination, the support of his occupational and physical therapists, and the services provided by A Child's Place PA, little Baysin has made remarkable progress. Not only can he now feed himself, but he also played independently for an hour last week. He started crawling efficiently a month ago and, this past weekend, learned to crawl up the stairs. Dr. Sullivan is very grateful for our work and dedication to the growth and development of both of her children, especially Baysin, who required the most care.



“Dr. Deonna Dykes was a wonderful parent educator. She was available to answer my questions or concerns whenever I needed her. She was very knowledgeable and I appreciate the care she had for my family.”

-Dr. Patricia Sullivan



<https://www.achildsplacepa.org/healthy-parenting-program>



healthy parenting@achildsplacepa.org



Healthy Parenting Program at A Child's Place, PA



Hi, I'm Megan!

- **Position:** *Parent Educator*, with community outreach
- **Team Start Date:** November 2022
- **Office Location:** Allegheny County
- **What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?:** I can't narrow it down to one, I have two. As a parent educator, it's that moment when a parent realizes that they are not alone in their parenting struggles – sometimes you can actually

see the relief on their face. And when I'm doing community outreach, I just love spreading the word about our program to other service providers because it's such an amazing resource.

- **What are you looking forward to most this year at ACP?:** Reaching as many parents and caregivers as we can.
- **What is your definition of success?:** Success is committing to a goal knowing that it will take patience, persistence, and navigating around roadblocks to get there.
- **What do you like to do in your spare time?:** I love hiking, walking cool neighborhoods and trails, going to concerts, and playing games with my family. I especially love it when all 5 of our children are able to be there.
- **If you were to write a self-help book, what would the topic be?:** The importance of personal relationships and building community.
- **Favorite go-to Pittsburgh spot:** Bicycle Heaven on the North Side. It's amazing! Definitely check it out!
- **Favorite movie and/or book:** Lost Connections by Johann Hari
- **If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?:** I'd love to go to Europe – every single country.

Get to know [Megan](#) better and reach out!

Welcome to the Team!

Shannon

Parent Educator, Parents as Teachers – Beaver

We're so happy
you're here!

Work Anniversaries

Kevin

*Clinical Supervisor/
Forensic Interviewer*
22 Years

Jaden

Accounting Specialist
1 Year

Lindsay

Family Advocate
1 Year

Law Enforcement Liaison Team

Training

The Law Enforcement Liaison Team continues to work together offering trainings to police, the Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF), Children and Youth Services (CYS), and other community agencies across multiple counties. On July 31st, they completed a third combined Law Enforcement and CYS Workshop in Westmoreland Co. at the Monessen High School. There were over 20 participants in attendance between both police and CYS workers, a great turnout for a third workshop. Throughout the session, there was engaging conversation and collaboration amongst the group!

The three workshops offered in Westmoreland Co, and the previous two workshops in Fayette County were structured as a full day of training including Workshop #1 (Basic Child Abuse Overview) and Workshop #2 (Minimal Facts and Forensic Interviews), that originated as a pilot program in Allegheny County. Both the District Attorney's offices and Children's Services offices of each county have also presented at these workshops. Tiffani M., Forensic Interviewer, has been working with the Liaisons Team in these trainings and has done a great job presenting the minimal facts and forensic interview portions of the trainings. Megan S., Parent Educator, has also collaborated with these trainings to present about the Healthy Parenting Program. The team is eagerly working on scheduling Workshop #4 in Allegheny County for Fall of 2024, and is hopeful to schedule an additional workshop in Beaver County soon.

Outreach

Law Enforcement Liaison, Ann, and Parent Educator, Megan S., have continued their outreach efforts in Allegheny County, speaking with police departments in White Oak, Duquesne, McKeesport, West Mifflin, Munhall, and West Homestead. These visits share information with law enforcement about the services we offer. Their work has been very successful, leading to an invite to speak at a department wide training for West Homestead on August 2nd. They have also been requested to speak at an upcoming multiple-department training in Brentwood during off hour role call sessions.

Healthy Parenting Spotlight

Allegheny County

— The Healthy Parenting Team in Allegheny County has had a successful round of Triple P Groups at Auberle House of Healing, Passages, and Allegheny County Jail Collaborative! They also continued Parent Chats at Hearth, Women’s Behavioral Health IOP, Auberle, and Hilltop Family Center.

— Megan S. attended an outreach event hosted by Judge Dan Konieczka, the magistrate of Shaler, to assist parents and their kids who had been charged with vaping. The session featured several professional speakers who spoke to the group about the hazards of vaping and resources to quit. The parents then met with Megan S. privately to learn about our Healthy Parenting Program, strategies to build a positive relationship with your teen, and how our program can support them as parents. The event was complete with donuts and juice, and all in attendance were dropped of their charges.

— On July 26th, Parent Educators Deonna and Lloyd attended the Jerebear Fair held by Jeremiahs Place, Pittsburgh’s only crisis nursery, at the Kingsley Association. The fair featured carnival themed food, fun games and activities, music, raffles, and resources from partner community agencies. This event was well attended with the PEs speaking with a total of 44 families. One of the families were already enrolled with us!



Fayette County

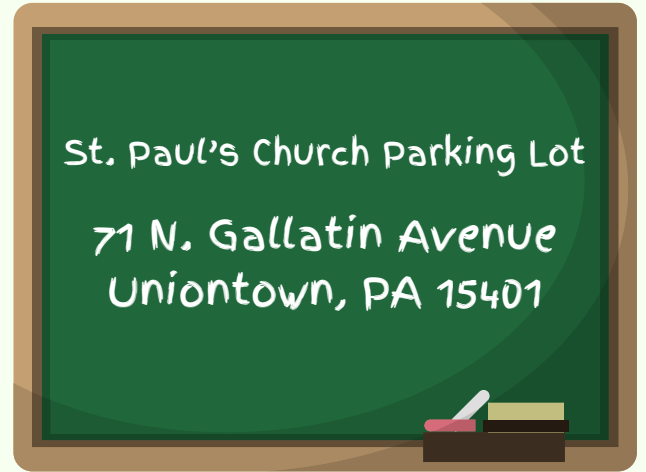
— The PAT team attended a Beverly’s Birthdays event in Uniontown to outreach for Parents as Teachers. Beverly’s Birthdays is a nonprofit organization that provides birthday parties to children experiencing homelessness, and families otherwise in-need.

— Parent Educators Tristan & Kate have continued to deliver the Positive Parenting Program to the Men’s & Women’s groups at the Fayette County Jail.

Healthy Parenting Spotlight

Fayette County (continued)

— The Parents As Teachers (PAT) team is hosting a Back to School event in Fayette County on Monday, August 19th from 4:30 to 7:30pm. The event offers kids' hair cuts, backpacks and school supplies, and refreshments amongst fun family activities. This event is one of many Healthy Parenting Program outreach events occurring in the month of August to prep parents for getting their little ones Back to School.



Beaver County

— PAT Team Lead Marlena presented the Parents As Teachers program at the Children, Youth and Families (CYF) quarterly partner meeting and was met with much excitement!

— Parent Educators Christine and Shannon attended the Ross Housing Block Party at Morado Dwellings. This block party featured community resources to offer to the families living at these sites.

SPECIAL SHOUT OUT to Parent Educator Deonna! She has provided ongoing support to a client who came to the program in a challenging situation. Deonna graduated the parent through Triple P and continued support for over a year. This parent has worked tirelessly towards reunification and life change and is currently being reviewed for full custody of their child as a result of their dedication. Deonna has many success stories within the Healthy Parenting Program and her commitment to parent support is admirable. We can't praise her enough!



Birthday Crew!

Kevin

Clinical Supervisor/Forensic Interviewer

Tiffani

Forensic Interviewer

Shannon

PAT Parent Educator

Lory

PAT Parent Educator



There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.

- Edith Wharton

ACP Open Positions

- [Family Advocate - All Sites](#)
- [Nurse Practitioner - All Sites](#)
- [PAT Parent Educator - Beaver County](#)
- [Triple P Parent Educator - Fayette County](#)
- [Triple P Parent Educator - Westmoreland](#)

Tech Tip: Scheduling Assist

Whenever you're looking to schedule a meeting with multiple participants, an efficient way to weed out schedule conflicts is the Outlook Scheduling Assistant tool. In Outlook calendar, first click "New Meeting" in your toolbar. Then move over to "Scheduling Assistant" that appears at the top of the screen of the new tab. Enter your required meeting participants, and you will see at which times each attendee already has an event scheduled. The empty boxes provide the ideal meeting times for all participants.

