

COMMUNITY CARE CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

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Apple

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Letter from the CEO

Greetings Newsletter Readers,

How is Community Care Connections driven by its mission of empowering individuals with disabilities?

When asked, I often tell others that Community Care Connections (CCC) is a disability support organization. Many recognize that terminology, but I make sure I take it a step further by explaining we are a mission-driven organization. For the children and adults we serve, that means we actively take action to empower them to become more independent at home, in school, on the job, and in their communities. The steps we take will look different for every person we serve. For a very young child, it may mean teaching parents how to encourage first words. For a school-aged child, it may mean ensuring we find ways to build friendships between them and their peers, both disabled and typically developing.

For a young adult, we may be the key to obtaining a first job. For an adult with a disability who wants to live by themselves, we could provide services to ensure success. For an adult living in a CCC community home, it may be finding technology to support more independent ways to communicate wants and needs. Services tailored to fit the needs of each individual lead to greater independence regardless of ability for all. That's what we do at CCC, and we do it well!

Brenda Cole, V.D.Ed.

Ruckus For All Recap!



The 3rd annual Ruckus for All: Include! Empower! Connect! held on August 20th, raised over \$23,000.00 to benefit Community Care Connections. All proceeds from Ruckus for All filled the gaps where little to no government funding was available for our services that benefit infants, children, and adults with disabilities.

We want to thank everyone who made the day's success possible. Thanks to their hard work, we can continue to help our program participants learn and maintain the skills that will give them a lifetime of meaningful opportunities and inclusion within this community. More specifically, the day's success ensures the success of our mission to provide programs and services that empower children and adults with disabilities to live more safely and independently in their homes, schools, neighborhoods, and communities.

This event would not have been possible without the generosity of our sponsors, vendors, donors, volunteers, and local community. Community members, staff, and program participants are still raving about the event. Thank you again!

AGENCY NEWS

New Staff at CCC

Community Care Connections is pleased to introduce Ian Hunter as the Director of Development & Community Outreach and Nichole Merz as the Director of the Infant-Toddler Therapy Services.

Nichole started at CCC in March and has already taken Infant-Toddler Services to new heights. After growing up in the Shaler area, Nichole attended Allegheny College before attending the University of Pittsburgh to obtain her master's in Early Intervention. Nichole has worked in the early intervention field since 2005 and was a Therapy Supervisor prior to joining CCC. She loves to advocate for children with developmental delays and special needs. At home, Nichole is married with two children and two dogs. Welcome Nichole!

Ian began in May. He has already made connections throughout Butler County including becoming the co-chair for the project adopted by this year's Leadership Butler County class. Originally from western Pennsylvania, Ian's unique background in radio broadcasting has given him the opportunity to live in locations throughout the Midwest. His varied experiences have led to several creative ideas for outreach, fundraising, and more. In 2024, he will be assisting with grant writing at CCC. Ian lives in Cranberry Twp, with his wife and two young children. Welcome Ian!



Meet A Staff Member

Bridget Thompkins

How long have you worked at CCC?
6 months

What is your specialty?
Developmental Therapist. I specialize in child development as a whole: Motor, Speech, Play, Feeding, etc.

Favorite part of the job:
When the kids reach a goal. When they 'get it'. I have a little one where we are working on crawling. This week was the first time he crawled the entire visit. It's just so exciting when they finally say that one word, or do that one gesture, or whatever it is that we are working on. The parents just get so excited and it's like 'It's working!' What I'm doing is working and I am serving a purpose here.



Where did you grow up?
I'm from Akron, Ohio. I was kind of the oddball out after my family moved to Butler. So, I followed them out here!

Learn More About Disability Benefit Counselling

Are you receiving Social Security disabilities benefits (SSI/SSDI) but want to work? Are you worried that working would cause you to lose your benefits? Contacting [Community Care Connections](#) about your disability benefits counseling is one way to ensure this will not happen. Benefits Counseling is a service offered by the Ticket to Work Program, a program that assists individuals aged 18 through 64 who want to work but also receive Social Security benefits (SSI/SSDI). The program is free and voluntary.

With benefits counseling, individuals work with a certified benefits counselor who will explain how working will affect their state and federal benefits, including but not limited to:

- SSDI and SSI
- Housing assistance
- Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Healthcare benefits – including Medicare and Medicaid.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

What's Coming Up!

Big Event Announcement Coming Soon

Do you follow Community Care Connections on social media? You should! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram ASAP because we have a big announcement coming soon for you.

Giving Week

Community Care Connections wants to thank everyone who donated during our first Giving Week and helped us pursue our mission of empowering individuals with disabilities to live their best lives. One of the ways we work toward our mission is by keeping our Camp Apple program, an inclusive camp for children with and without disabilities, free for its participants. The donations received during Giving Week went to Camp Apple and other under funded programs. We couldn't do what we do without our donors. Please consider donating today. Read more by using the QR code below or visiting communitycareconnect.org.



Going to the Game!



A few residents and staff members recently took in a Steeler game at Acrisure Stadium! Look at that black and gold!

WE ARE HIRING!

Community Care Connections' Early Intervention program is looking for:

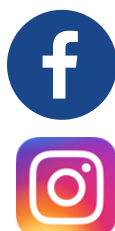


Occupational Therapist	✓	Developmental Specialist	✓
Physical Therapist	✓	Teacher of the Visually Impaired	✓
Speech Therapist	✓		
Hearing Specialist	✓		
Nutritionist	✓		

Email your resume to : nfulmer@communitycareconnect.org

Or apply using the QR code :





Have questions? We have answers! Visit the CCC blog page today.



The official registration and financial information of Community Care Connections, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply Endorsement