

the link



Stacey Vaccaro
President & CEO

Dear Friends,

As the air turns crisp, it's always a reminder that the busy times of summer fun are behind us, and we are easing into fall. Here at Familylinks, we continue to partner with families and individuals to understand their complex needs and develop personalized programs to help them be Strong. For Life. Last year, our 350 team members had the privilege to serve 9,306 individuals (a 14% increase over last year) in 23 counties in Pennsylvania.

Thank you for continuing to support our remarkable work in the region! I hope you will take some time to read through this issue of our newsletter, which highlights our largest annual fundraiser, the 37th Annual Lanny Frattare Golf Classic, celebrates community programming, and shines a spotlight on one of our most dedicated staff members, Becky Haberstroh, MSW, before her retirement.

We can't do this work without all of you. If you would like to get involved by volunteering, donating, or joining our team, please scan the QR code on page 3 to access more information on our website.

Community Health Workers

Earlier this year, in partnership with UPMC Health Plan and the Allegheny County Health Department, Familylinks launched a Community Health Worker (CHW) program. **The goal of this program is to improve health outcomes for Allegheny County residents who face significant health disparities by increasing their access to critical health information, healthcare services, and community resources related to key social determinants of health.** Using a person-centered and culturally competent approach, CHWs help clients achieve meaningful improvements in their overall health and well-being, including their ability to live safely and independently in their homes.

The CHW program is being implemented in tandem with two longtime Familylinks programs: Options Care Management, which helps adults age 60+ remain as independent as possible, and Supports Coordination, which helps children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities and/or autism secure the services they need to be safe, healthy, and successful.

In addition to serving clients in these programs, the CHW program can also work with the other members of their household, ensuring the well-being of the entire family.

Our goal is to serve at least 200 individuals throughout the first year of the program. Pictured to the right is the CHW team!



Left to right: Scott Fisher, Ashlee Johnson, Hillary Holes DeFrancesco, Danielle Crump, Ragan Clark

A Busy September at Familylinks



Lanny Frattare

On September 11, 124 golfers gathered at Chartiers Country Club for the 37th Annual Lanny Frattare Golf Classic. This long-standing event is a vital fundraising source for Familylinks. With Lanny Frattare serving as the Honorary Chair, **the Golf Classic raised \$87,000 this year!** A special thank you to the 2023 lead sponsors: Giant Eagle, KeyBank, Henderson Brothers, PNC Bank, UPMC, Wise, and World Wide Technology. Familylinks would also like to thank all the sponsors, golfers, in-kind donors, and volunteers who made this year's outing a success. **Save the date for next year's outing – September 9, 2024!**



Monique Jackson Ricky Moody & Lisa Sylvester

On September 21, Familylinks hosted our **8th Annual Recovery Day**, presented by Highmark, to celebrate those in recovery and the individuals who support them. The event featured WPXI's Lisa Sylvester, the City of Pittsburgh's Community Health & Human Services Policy Manager, Ricky Moody, and 16 partnering organizations who distributed valuable resources in the areas of counseling, legal, housing, employment, and more.



Kate Freed & Heather Sedlacko

The Vintage Center for Active Adults is proud to celebrate 50 years of service to adults aged 60 and older. On September 28, supporters and friends gathered to celebrate this golden anniversary with a Wine and Tapas Event. The evening included live music, food, refreshments, and a toast to the next 50 years!

New Board Leadership

Familylinks is pleased to announce new executive leadership on the board of directors.



Anthony Spalvieri, Chair Erin Ickes, Vice Chair Walter Smith, Jr., Secretary Tony Matteo, Treasurer

These leaders, plus the 16 other members of the board, will help support Familylinks' mission to positively impact lives through integrated community, behavioral, and social programs.

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Staff Spotlight



Becky Haberstroh, MSW

In 1979, a young Penn State University student was completing her internship at The Whale's Tale. Soon after graduating, she was hired full-time as a Counselor. 43 years later, she remains a passionate and dedicated member of the Familylinks team. Of course, we are talking about the one and only **Becky Haberstroh, MSW.**

Since joining the team in 1980, Becky has climbed the ranks – Counselor, Senior Counselor, Youth and Family Specialist, Program Manager, Clinical Supervisor I, Program Supervisor II, Senior Program Manager – and became the Director of Youth and Family Services in 2009. Becky remained in this role until 2020, when she was appointed Interim Chief Operating Officer. In 2021, Becky took on the role of Familylinks' first-ever Director of Business Development.

As you can tell, Becky has worn many hats during her time at our agency, and she has worn them all extremely well. She has dedicated her career to helping ensure successful service delivery for youth, young adults, and families across the child welfare system. Becky's knowledge of human service delivery and her calm, reassuring, and approachable presence puts everyone at ease.

Becky will be retiring in early 2024 and to say that she will be missed is putting it lightly. She has been the heart of the organization for decades and her absence will be deeply felt. The number of lives Becky has touched is insurmountable and her passion is never-ending and contagious. Becky is a role model, a mentor, and an expert for all of us at Familylinks.

We want to take this opportunity to thank you, Becky, for 43+ years of service. Familylinks is a stronger organization because of you, the community is a safer place because of you, and everyone who has worked with you is a better person because of you.

Familylinks Exists to Positively Impact Lives

Familylinks is one of the Pittsburgh area's largest, most comprehensive, and most respected human service providers. Our mission is to positively impact lives through integrated community, behavioral, and social programs – and we are proud to have served Western Pennsylvania for more than 65 years. We provide a vast array of services that address the multi-dimensional and complex needs of individuals and families in the areas of **mental health, substance use, prevention, service coordination, emergency shelter, supportive housing, senior care, and more.**

As the needs of our community continue to grow and expand, we look to our supporters to help us continue to make our community Strong. For Life. **With your help, Familylinks can continue to serve more than 9,000 individuals annually in 23 counties across Pennsylvania.**

Please consider making a gift to support Familylinks' essential mission. Now more than ever, your contribution will make a real difference in the lives of those we serve. The enclosed envelope is a convenient opportunity to support a specific program or contribute to our most urgent need. You may also make a donation by visiting our website at www.familylinks.org/donate, or simply scan the QR code below to be directed straight there.



Our Mission – To positively impact lives through integrated community, behavioral, and social services.

Our Vision – Thriving communities of healthy and strong people.

Our Impact – Familylinks serves more than 9,000 individuals annually through programs and services that assist the most vulnerable members of our community.

Visit www.familylinks.org or call 866-583-6003 to learn more.



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866-583-6003



Pens4Purpose

Just in time for the holidays, the Pittsburgh Penguins are teaming up with Familylinks to bring you big discounts on tickets for a game! On February 20, the Pens host the New York Islanders, and Familylinks has special pricing available for upper level and lower level tickets. Scan the QR code to the right to purchase tickets.



GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday is a global generosity movement that encourages people to do good. Be a part of the movement on November 28, 2023 by donating to Familylinks at www.familylinks.org/donate.

We accept Medicare, Medicaid and Commercial Insurance Plans

Familylinks accepts Medicare and Medicaid insurance for many of our services, in addition to commercial insurance plans. If you don't have insurance, our staff can help you apply for assistance if you are eligible. In some cases, our services are also covered by government programs which we can identify for you. If you need help, don't hesitate. Call us at 866-583-6003. We are here for you.

Familylinks & United Way

You can donate to Familylinks through your United Way campaign where you work.

Our Contributor Choice number is

254

We are grateful for your support!