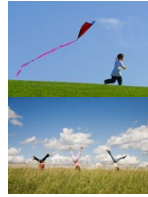


POSSIBILITIES are endless...



Hope For Kids
Specialized Foster Care



Kidz Rainbow Center
Daycare & Early Learning



TRAININGS & EVENTS

*April is Child Abuse Awareness Month
May is Foster Child Awareness Month*

New Foster Parent Orientation
Apr. 10 and 17

Foster Parent Support Meetings
May. 11 and 18

BIACC Business After Hours
June 16 -PIG ROAST

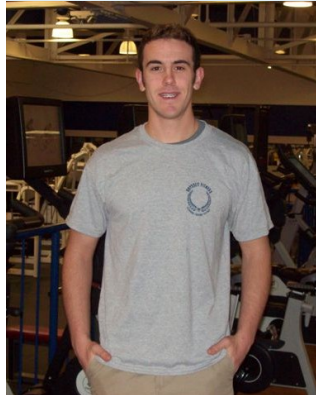
Benner Township Fall Festival
Sept. 18

Foster Parent Annual Training
Oct. 2

Hope For 5Kids Run
October 16

Christmas Party
Dec. 4

Success Story!



Gabe Rosenberg, CSCS

Over ten years ago, I became a part of the foster care system under the Hope For Kids agency. After traveling between different homes and agencies, it was clear to my family and I that HFK were truly concerned about what was best for me. Ten years later, I graduated from Penn State University, (B.S. Kinesiology) had a wonderful high school and collegiate basketball career and I'm starting a successful career in the Fitness/Health industry at The North Club/Downtown Athletic Clubs 1 & 2 as the General Manager & the

Conditioning Specialist. To this day, I still incorporate life concepts that HFK helped instill in my life; a positive attitude towards myself and others, perseverance, and a good work ethic. I encourage anyone who crosses my path to instill the same ethics and morals that I learned from that period in my life because I would not be where I am without them. Thanks so much!

Sincerely,
Gabe Rosenberg

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Annual United Way Site Visit.....page 2
- Foster Parents Needed.....page 2
- Staff Mentors Local Students.....page 2
- Renewed Strength.....page 2
- KRC Staff Spotlight.....page 3
- A Better Tomorrow for Today's Children
.....page 3
- KRC Trainings & Events.....page 3
- KRC Wish List..... page 3
- KRC Parent Testimonial..... page 3
- How You Can Help.....page 3
- Business After Hours Pig Roast.....page 4
- Volunteer Spotlight..... page 4

My Broken Heart

Little Girl

Little girl
3 years old
no place to go
Little girl cries for her
mommy
Little girl taken away
from her family
Little girl hurt inside
Little girl don't know
what to do
Little girl wish she could
go back.

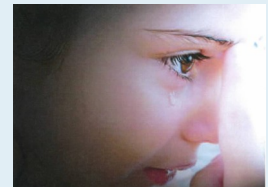
Late at Night

Nowhere to go
No one to see
No one to hold
No one to hold
No one to talk to
No one to help me through
the pain
No one to be there
When I wake up
Who is going to
Be there forever?

Grown Up

As I get older I realize there
Are people who care
As I get older I know right
From wrong
As I get older I look back at all
The pain I went through
As I get older I know that it
Was not my fault
As I get older I don't cry as
much
As I get older I realize that I am
not alone.

*(These poems were written by a teen-
age girl in our foster care program.)*



(814) 353-0200
www.hopeforkidsinc.org

Hope For Kids ♦ Kidz Rainbow Center
1400 Fox Hill Rd, State College, PA 16803
Between Toftrees and University Park Airport
1.2 miles from PSU

(814) 353-7777
www.kidzrainbowcenter.org



Anticipation Mounts for Annual United Way Site Visit

Hope For Kids staff is eagerly anticipating our annual site visit and presentation with the Centre County United Way on April 8, 2010. As a member agency since 1998, HFK has received monies to support staff and foster parent continuing education, to offer community wide trainings of topics relating to children's mental health, and to purchase specialty treatment services for foster children. During the 2008/2009 fiscal year, monies from the Centre County United Way purchased nearly 700 hours of outpatient treatment and consultative services for our clients. These services are a vital component to the healing experience we work to create for the children in our program.

Staff Mentors Local Students

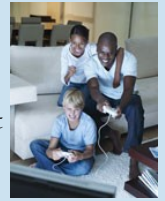


For more than 10 years, Hope For Kids has been an internship site for Penn State

University students who are majoring in human development or rehabilitation services. Each semester, we consider accepting two students for this fifteen week experience. We currently have one student intern training with us this spring. Additionally, HFK began serving as a job shadowing site for undergraduate students from Shippensburg University. For students in their junior year of college, the job shadowing experience is intended to help them hone in on the kind of organization where they would like to do their semester long internship during their senior year. HFK is also excited about the new partnership it began with Lock Haven University to offer both undergraduate and graduate level internship experiences for students majoring in social science programs such as social work. We look forward to offering Lock Haven University students a real world glimpse into human service professions. Our staff considers it a great privilege and opportunity to mentor local students as they complete their degree requirements and explore career opportunities.

Foster Parents Needed

The Hope For Kids foster care program continues to re-group and recover from the impact of the 2009 financial crisis in Pennsylvania, which stopped the flow of referrals and admissions for nearly six months. During a recent four week period, we considered more than 12 potential clients for placement within HFK. In order to offer a foster home placement to a child, HFK must have foster parents willing and able to meet his/her needs. Families often want younger children which leaves agencies struggling to place children eight years and older. We need families who would consider taking elementary or middle school aged children. If your family is open to doing 3rd grade math again or tackling the social studies projects that a 5th grader might have then there may be a place for one of these youngsters in your home. There are emotional and physical sacrifices that come with being foster parents, however, the rewards of the experience are tremendous too. We would love to include your family in one of our pre service trainings scheduled for April and July. Please contact Tacee Sechler, Assistance Programs Director for more information at 814-353-0200, x336.



Renewed Strength

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles."
Isiah 40:31

It's Tuesday, March 9, 2010 and the sun is shining, it's 50 degrees and there is good energy everywhere today. As I'm sitting at my desk with my window open I can hear all the sounds of our children from the daycare center playing outside and I found myself smiling and thanking God for such a blessing. Then a plane takes off into the air from University Park airport and the roar of the engines vibrate as it fly's overhead and I smile again and thank God for another blessing. It's after 5:00 p.m. and I still have staff at the office working together to place a child in one of our foster homes. There is excitement and a nurturing tone to their voices as they work together for the common goal. I share all this because at times it can be all too easy to forget why we do what we do because some days our circumstances and challenges can falsely define us as weak and unsuccessful. For example, human-service agencies are still feeling the financial impact of last year's state budget impasse. The result for all of us in the non-profit foster care industry who care for our most needy, abused and neglected children will be given less funds. A survey by the United Way of PA showed that 61% of human service agencies cut services during the impasse. Many of us are working to rebuild our financial reserves and are looking at deficits arising from higher interest costs or unemployment compensation costs. Private foster care providers haven't received a cost of living adjustment (COLA) in over four years. State, local and county governments are requiring private providers to provide more services for children, foster parents and staff. On January 1, for the first time I had to lay off several staff members and change our operational hours to a 4-day work week. I had hope that we would be back to full operation by now, but it could be another couple of months. So as Co-founder and President of HFK's I am thankful for today because while I feel disheartened for having to layoff my staff (my co-workers and friends) and know that some of them are struggling financially, I am reminded by their attitude and commitment that no matter what our circumstances are there is a need for our services and together we have an obligation to fulfill. So I thank God for the warmth and light of the sun because it represented comfort and energy and the sounds of the children's voices because it represented innocence and joy, and the sound of the roaring plane because it represented hope and possibilities.

For over a decade HFK's has provided homes, adoptions and specialized services for over 350 children and families and I am excited to see what God will do with our ministry over the next decade. With your help of a financial gift of any amount we can begin our financial recovery quicker and continue to strengthen and provide care and services to children and families.

God Bless,
Brenda Goldman, President/CEO



Staff Spotlight



Victoria Feters,
Summer Program
Teacher

Hello, my name is Victoria Feters and I am the Summer Program Teacher for the school-age children. I have been with KRC for approximately 2 years and I have worked with all age groups but primarily focus on those ages 3 and up. I have 3 siblings and have been blessed with 3 nieces and a nephew all under the age of seven. I love working with kids. I'm a 22 year old college student at Penn State University majoring in secondary education with an option in Social Studies. Our theme for the KRC Summer Program is "Around the World." Field trips are planned to coincide with each week's theme. For example, we are going to Shaver's Creek for Nature Week. The children will have fun while learning new things on these adventures. I look forward to going on adventures with your children. We will also be learning new languages and customs from other countries. I want to share my love for history by encouraging the children to learn other cultures as well as appreciate their own.

Upcoming Trainings & Events

Staff In-Service Trainings

Apr. 2, July 23, Oct. 15

Parent Educational Support

May 11 & 18

Spring Program

May 21

Graduation

TBA

BIACC Business After Hours

June 16 -PIG ROAST



A Better Tomorrow for Today's Children

According to the National Association of Early Childhood Education, 60% of children between birth and age 5 spend time in the care of someone other than their own parents. Before the age of 5 the average child who attends an early childcare and education center most likely will spend 12,500 hours in care. This amount is equivalent to the time spent by a child/youth going thru elementary and high school. **WOW!**

'A Better Tomorrow for Today's Children' is a new initiative to increase our professional development and training opportunities for our early childcare educators. We will financially support this initiative through grants, fundraisers and partnerships .

Grants Applied For:

AAUW— \$10,00, Professional Development and Training
Kiwaniis— \$500, Certified Playground Mulch

Grants Received:

Keystone Stars—\$3,780, Educational Curriculum and Equipment
Marianna's Fundraiser—\$928, Classroom Equipment

We welcome you to visit or visit our website and help to support our educators and the children of your community.



KRC Wish List

- Rocking Chairs
 - Strollers
 - Music Mobiles for cribs
 - Educational Toys
 - Bean Bags and Large Pillows
 - Art Supply Cabinet
 - Van or Mini-Bus
- Please call us at (814) 353-7777



Parent Testimonial

"We are extremely satisfied with the level of care Oliver receives at Kidz Rainbow Center. He is always happy and well-cared for. Our older children really enjoyed the summer program and bonded with care-givers in a nurturing environment.

~The Thornburgs

How You Can Help

PRINT Full Name _____ Business Name (For Donations Only) _____
Street/Address/Apt # _____ City/State/Zip _____
Contact Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

____ I would like to make a tax-deductible donation of \$_____.

*To make a gift online, please visit our websites for safe, [PayPal](#) donation.

____ Please contact me about making a planned gift or bequest.

*To make a gift over the phone or if you have any questions, please call

____ I am interested in supporting scholarship funding.

Joe Viglione, Finance Manager at 814-353-0200 x322.

____ I would like to sponsor the publishing of this newsletter with a donation of \$_____.

*All personal data is kept confidential.

Hope For Kids
POSSIBILITIES
Kidz Rainbow Center

1400 Fox Hill Rd,
State College, PA 16803

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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State College, PA
Permit No. 213



You're Invited to a
Pig Roast

We're hosting a BIACC Business After Hours

When: Wednesday, June 16, 2010
Where: 1400 Fox Hill Rd, State College
Time: 5:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.
RSVP: 353-0200 or pmenges@hopeforkidsinc.org
May 26th

**Never Deprive a Child of Hope
It Might Be All They Have**



For more information or questions regarding this newsletter, please contact the Newsletter Editor: Patti A. Menges at pmenges@hopeforkidsinc.org

Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteer Name: Naomi Bonilla-DelValle

Position: **Student Volunteer**

Year/Major: Sophomore/ Social Work Major attending Lock Haven University

How did you find out about Hope For Kids/ Kidz Rainbow Center?

Last year I attended a volunteer/internship fair hosted by Lock Haven University. While in attendance, I met Hope For Kids Public Relations Coordinator, Rebecca Weaver.



What made you want to become a volunteer at Hope For Kids/ Kidz Rainbow Center?

I was seeking volunteer opportunities and knew that I wanted to work with children. Hope For Kids offers a lot in the way of my interests and they're faith based too, which is important to me.

What has been the best part about being a volunteer at Hope For Kids/ Kidz Rainbow Center?

The best part of my experience has been the children and the people who work at the agency. "I love the Curious George Room and the two year olds are my favorite!" The environment is also open and friendly and they're willing to work with your schedule no matter what, because they appreciate the help.

Why should others volunteer at Hope For Kids/ Kidz Rainbow Center?

It's a great opportunity to get into the field. You observe first hand the developmental stages of children and it's neat to see how they learn values at an early age. Each child is able to move at their own pace no matter what that may be.