



Mahoning Matters

1. matter (n.) – material, topic, issue or subject
2. matter (v.) – to be of importance, to count, to make a difference

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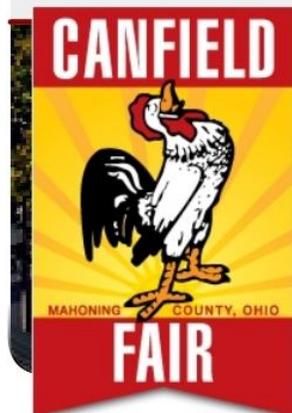
Mahoning County Children Services Participates in 165th Canfield Fair

Mahoning County Children Services will be proudly represented again this year at the Canfield Fair. The agency's booth, located in the Mahoning County Medical Society building will be staffed by agency employees from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. during the fair from August 31st until September 5th. This is an opportunity to highlight agency services and promote recruitment for foster and adoptive homes.

In addition, Crouse Hardware has graciously donated a model train set to the agency which will be featured at the agency booth during the Fair and raffled at no charge to a lucky participant. These events provide the perfect opportunity to talk with individuals attending the fair about our agency and our need for adoptive and foster homes.

We are currently recruiting for 24 children waiting for a permanent family. In addition, foster homes are needed to help the children in our community reunited with their families.

For more information on becoming a foster or adoptive parent please stop and see us in the Medical Building during your visit to the Canfield Fair or contact our agency for more information at 330-941-8888.



Visit our booth at the Canfield Fair!



Located in the Medical Building. See Page 6 for more information.

222 West Federal Street, Youngstown, Ohio 44503
(330) 941-8888 www.mahoningkids.com

Mahoning Matters

From The Director's Desk

With our mission and guiding principles firmly in place, we are gearing up for new challenges in the next year. We have much to be proud of at Mahoning County Children Services. Our Alternative Response Program is going strong; we continue to make strides in meeting state mandates; and with our decrease in placements, we have contributed to Ohio achieving the highest safe reduction rate in out of home care of any state in the nation.

Like so many other agencies in the State, we struggle with budget reductions. The State of Ohio's investment in child welfare is the lowest in the nation—less than 10% of the total cost of resources and services. We are faced with doing more with less in order to maintain quality services to children and families in our community.

Our Public Children Services Association will continue to work with policy makers to help them understand the critical impact budget cuts place on child welfare services. In line with our strategic plan, through our independent living program, we strive to improve outcomes for older youth; through our Family Intensive Program, we continue to emphasize family engagement to reduce the number of youth coming into care; and through our permanency reviews, we work to provide safe and stable families for children. Our dedicated staff, along with our partnerships in the community, creates the momentum to keep us moving forward.

Denise E. Stewart
Executive Director

Mahoning County Children Services Celebrates the Careers of Cathy Gagliardi, Anna Marie Jones, Marilyn O'Neil and Albert Manigault

by Bonnie Macinga, Radhika Cruz and Dan Thomas



Cathy Gagliardi

Cathy began her career at the agency on February 2, 1981 as Child Welfare Caseworker 2 in the Intake Department. She moved to the position of Child Welfare Caseworker 3 in the Abuse Unit on May 16, 1983. On April 1, 1985, Cathy transferred to the position of Child Welfare Caseworker 3 in Resource Services. Cathy was promoted to the position of Child Welfare Casework Supervisor 1 in Family Services on May 21, 1990. Cathy served as the supervisor for the Northside Pilot Project, Family Services from November 24, 1997 – December 31, 1999. Cathy transferred to the position of Child Welfare Casework Supervisor 1 in the Abuse Unit on May 8, 2000, and on June 4, 2001 Cathy transferred to the position of Training Officer. On January 28, 2002, Cathy was promoted to her current position of Child Welfare Casework Supervisor 3, Chief Supervisor/Program Administrator.

We would like to thank Cathy for her 30+ years of service and wish her well in retirement!

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Marilyn O'Neil

After 25 years of dedicated service, Marilyn O'Neil retired on Friday, July 29, 2011. Marilyn began her career with the agency as a typist in the Clerical Unit in February, 1984 and was promoted to account clerk in the Fiscal Department in September, 1984. Managing payables and receivables, Marilyn was instrumental in the smooth transition of not one, but two accounting software programs introduced by the County. As an integral part of the agency's fiscal operations for over a quarter of a century, Marilyn's expertise will be missed. ***We wish her well in her retirement!***



Albert Manigault

Albert began his career at the agency on April 30, 1981 as a Youth Leader in the agency's Group Home Program. Albert was promoted to the position of Caseworker in the Family Services Department on September 24, 1990, and transferred to his current position as Caseworker in the Residential Unit on April 15, 1991. ***We would like to thank Albert for his 30 years of service to the agency and wish him well in his future endeavors.***

Anna Marie Jones

Anna Marie Jones began her career as a Caseworker in the Residential department at Mahoning County Children Services on September 2, 1980. She then transferred to the Adoption unit as a caseworker in April of 1983 and was later promoted to the position of a Supervisor in the Foster Care unit in September of 1986. In May of 2000, Anna Marie transferred to the position of Training Officer where she coordinated and met the training needs of new staff. In July of 2001, Anna resigned from the agency to pursue her doctorate degree. She later returned to the agency in January 2003 as a Caseworker in the Intake Unit where she provided safety and risk assessments and crisis management to families in need. In October of 2004, Anna transferred to the position of Community Education Specialist in the Training Unit where she educated the community on mandated reporters and recognizing/reporting child abuse and neglect. In November of 2005, she was promoted to the position of Adoption Supervisor in the Placement Services Department where she remained until the completion of her career. It was in this department that she oversaw the recruitment of adoptive families for children in permanent custody which included child centered recruitment and adoption preparation. Her words of advice to agency staff is to "remember why you came here and keep that in your heart " thus acting as a guide to ensure the best interests of every child. Her plea to the community is "We can't do it alone." "We need you to help us care for and protect children" who are defenseless and powerless on their own. ***Best wishes to you in your future endeavors!***

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It Matters To Meghan

By Meghan Tarantino

TRANSITIONING BACK TO SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

That time of year is soon approaching. Children with ADD, ADHD, autism, learning disabilities and other special needs often have difficulty with the social or academic aspects of school and they can be reluctant to return to the demands of the school environment. These children require a proactive approach with the start of a new school year to ensure a smooth transition. Parents who build support with

routines that are established and maintained during the summer help to make their child feel safe and secure when they return to school.

Here are some tips that can help to ease the transition back to school and relieve back to school jitters:

- 1) Begin the process early. Make use of a calendar to plan for the big day. Talk to the child about the transition in a positive manner. Use social stories to discuss the new school year.
- 2) Begin to add more structure into your child's schedule. Don't wait until the week before school starts or your child will have greater difficulty adjusting to the new schedule.
- 3) Shop for back to school supplies, allowing the child to be involved in the selections.
- 4) Discuss with the child what the new routine will be, including before and after school. This is a good time to discuss rules about homework.
- 5) Keep papers organized.
- 6) Use a communication log if possible with teachers. This way everyone stays informed.
- 7) Review your child's IEP and be familiar with the law.
- 8) Parents can set up a meeting with the new teacher to discuss your child's unique needs and establish a method of preferred communication should issues arise.
- 9) Share with the teacher important pieces of information regarding the child, their areas of difficulty, their strengths, interests, and any other relevant information.
- 10) Attend the school's open house and continue to be involved throughout the school year.

Children with special needs can be fearful and uncomfortable with transitions, making it important for parents to give special consideration and care to the back to school season. With careful attention to routines and advanced planning, our kids can handle transition with ease.

References: www.ldonline.org/back - SCHOOL TIPS FOR PARENTS
www.examiner.com/special - EDUCATION
www.suite101.com/special - EDUCATION TIPS

2011 Community Cup – Taking the Challenge

by Marisa Litch



It's that time of year again....Community Cup time!

This Friday, August 5th from 6pm to 7pm in the Community Gym at the downtown Y, our very artistically talented staff will be competing in the Banner Competition. Please come to support Team CSB. There will be voting for the public to choose the winning banner.

The kick off ceremony will be Friday, August 26th beginning at 6pm at the downtown Y where the t-shirts will be displayed and our swim and basketball teams will compete. Then on Saturday, August 27th our golfers and bowlers will have their time in the spotlight. On Sunday, August 28th our volleyballers will be bumpin', settin', and spikin' it up!

Please join us for a fun filled day of activity on Saturday, September 10th at Rocky Ridge where the final events of walking, running, biking, obstacle course, and tug of war will take place. We will have a tent full of goodies to come and celebrate at. Hope to see you all during the events showing your support to Mahoning County Children Services.

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Although most scholarly dictionaries now endorse both singular and plural presentations of the word *data*, it is, historically, a plural form that, through the workings of pop culture, has devolved to a widely accepted but oft misused word divorced from its original context. For example, saying "Scientific data is cited three times in Professor Kemp's article" may sound just fine, but it is an incorrect presentation because the sentence's plural subject, *data*, requires the verb *are* to maintain proper subject-verb agreement. Therefore, one should say "Scientific data are cited three times in Professor Kemp's article." The singular form of *data* is *datum*, making "Scientific datum is the backbone of Dr. Bosch's finding" an odd sounding but correct presentation.

When determining whether to use *awhile* or *a while*, simply remember that when the word slot in question is immediately preceded by a preposition (e.g. *in* or *for*) the two-word form, *a while*, is used, and all other cases require the one-word version, *awhile*:

To purchase a ticket, Neville stood in line for *a while* then he had to sit *awhile* until the bus arrived.

By the way...The world's third largest coffee producer is *Colombia* NOT *Columbia*, so it's Colombian coffee not Columbian coffee.

E-mail me your English questions at pkm32mpf@aol.com and I'll give you my words.

Did You Know?

That... www.mahoningkids.com is a valuable source of information about Mahoning County Children Services and provides information on *Children in our county waiting for families!*

That... July 2011 had 5 Fridays, 5 Saturdays and 5 Sundays. This only happens once every 823 years.
Chinese Feng Shui

That... If you take the last two digits of the year in which you born and add it to age you be this year the results will be 111 or 11 for EVERYONE in the whole world!
Chinese Feng Shui

That... Seven percent of Americans eat McDonald's every day. *The Book of Useless Information*

That... In 2009, Mahoning County Children Services finalized 30 adoptions of waiting children. *MCCSB*

That... The Hoover Dam was built to last two thousand years. The concrete in it will not even be fully cured for another five hundred years".
The Book of Useless Information

That...The elephant is the only mammal that can't jump!
Theresa Pancoe



Several years ago, I brought my then teenage niece to work for "Bring Your Daughter to Work Day". After that experience she stated that she would never complain about having chores or her mother setting rules because she realized how much she has compared to others. Similarly, we recently took our church youth group to Orlando, Florida for an "I Serve Movement" conference. While there, some of the children went to the homes of elderly living in a high-rise apartment to do general cleaning and came away with a different outlook on life. They realized that in all of their complaining, they are truly blessed. They live in roach-free homes, they have clean water to drink, and they have friends to talk with.

I am reminded that when I am feeling down, the best way to help myself is to help someone else. When you stop feeling sorry for "me" and focus on someone else's problems and how you might help, you will feel better. With this in mind, the next time you are down in the dumps, contact a homeless shelter, the local food bank, try reading for the blind or contact the local volunteer service agency and experience the joy in helping others!

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Health Matters

By Melinda Lackner

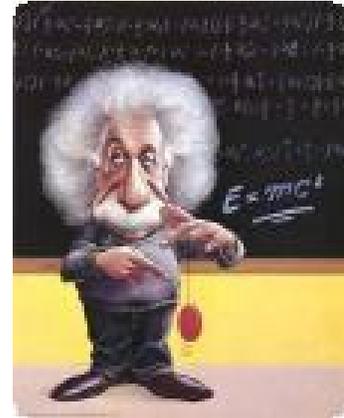


It is time for back to school!

Looking for healthy alternatives to PB & J's? Below are some ideas for fun and healthy sandwich combo's found on "Parents-Healthy Kids/Happy Families" web site.

Use your child's favorite whole grain bread for the following:

- Tuna with tomato slices
- Veggie cream cheese with cucumber slices
- Almond butter with slivered almonds and dried cranberries
- Hummus with chopped peppers
- Apple butter with apple slices
- Whipped cream cheese with fresh blueberries
- Laughing Cow light spreadable cheese with ham and grated carrot
- Blueberry cream cheese with strawberries slices
- Reduced sugar strawberry jam and cream cheese



"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reasons for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, or the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity."

Albert Einstein

"Life is not measured the by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away."

Maya Angelou

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit."

Unknown

Upcoming Community Events

Nonviolence Parade & Rally Downtown Youngstown

Sunday, October 2, 2011 at 3:00pm

Contact Penny Wells at 330-788-0545 for more information
Sponsored by Sojourn to the Past and Increase the Peace

Youngstown State University's Hispanic Heritage Celebration

When: Saturday, October 15, 2011 from Noon-3:00p.m.

Location: McDonough Museum of Art
410 Wick Ave, Youngstown

Canfield Fair

August 31 – September 5, 2011

2011 marks the 165th year for the Canfield Fair. It also marks the 61th consecutive combined medical-health exhibit.

Mahoning County Children Services believes every child deserves a family! This year you can give a child in our community "*something to crow about!*"

Learn more about becoming a Foster/Adoptive Parent! Staff will be available to answer all your questions.

Please come and visit us at the FAIR!

Located in the Medical Building - 10:00 AM - 8:30 PM

We are looking for agency staff to be an active part in the Newsletter. Would YOU consider contributing to the Newsletter? If the answer is Yes, please contact a member of the Newsletter Committee.

Theresa Pancoe, Editor
Floree Stubbs, Supervisor
Peggy Messer, Casework Specialist
Julie Rudolph, QA Supervisor

Radhika Cruz, Co-Editor
Philip Murphy, Abuse Supervisor
Meghan Tarantino, Casework Specialist

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