Coalition Members and Agency Partners,

Just a huge Thank You to all those that helped make this year’s “WEENIEFEST” the most successful to date. We had our largest turn-out (by far) as many organizations/individuals/BCEH Board Members sold tickets, donated raffle baskets, or volunteered the day of the event and supported BCEH in our annual fundraiser. All of the net proceeds go directly to our “Friends of the Homeless Fund” and this year’s event nearly doubled the current fund balance. The application for the fund is published on our website (www.bech.org), has a maximum of $500/client application, and is targeted to help prevent a homeless episode or rapidly re-house after a client has experienced homelessness. The fund is “typically used” when there is no other resource available to solve the situation or issue.

The fund was established in 2017 in memory of the founding Executive Director of BCEH, Sharon Parker. Sharon was a relentless advocate for the homeless of Berks County. Because of her efforts, tireless enthusiasm and passionate campaigning – many individuals and families have been assisted in this fight against homelessness. Sharon worked every day behind the scenes making sure that Berks County received its’ fair share of government funding and assistance. Her work will pay off for years to come and the fund is a very personal way for her friends, business associates, and fellow advocates to keep her work moving - shaking - and evolving forward.

Please take a look at the pictures of WEENIEFEST 2019 in this newsletter. The weather was great but most importantly pay attention to the smiles. It was great to see the Coalition of Providers get together and work beside each other for a collaborative event. Looking forward to keeping the positive momentum going for WEENIEFEST 2020!

Peace,

Jack Williams

Executive Director  jack@bech.org

SAFE BERKS

Safe Berks serves all victims and/or survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault. All of the Services are free of charge (with the exception of Bridge House), available in English and Spanish, and completely confidential. They are trauma informed and culturally competent, serving diverse communities regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, or any factor. The facilities are welcoming and open to all who need them. They believe empowerment begins with recognizing and knowing that individually and collectively Safe Berks clients, staff and volunteers have the strength to make necessary change and to accomplish their goals. They recognize that success is defined by each individual given their experience, talents and culture and they celebrate this success. They offer multiple services; Emergency Shelter or Safe House, Bridge Housing, Housing Advocacy (advocacy and connections to transitional housing or permanent housing), Counseling, Legal Services, Education and Community Outreach and a 24 hour Hotline (844-789-SAFE).

For more information about individual programs see their website, www.safeberks.org

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

* COALITION MEETINGS
AUGUST 15TH
SEPTEMBER 19TH
OCTOBER 17TH

All meetings 1:30PM at the Salvation Army - 301 South 5th Street

*BCHC Community Days
Free Health Screenings
8/6 4-7pm 1040 Liggett Ave.
8/7 3-6pm 430 N. 2nd St.
8/9 3-6pm 1110 Rockland St.
8/10 10am—1pm 838 Penn St.

* Family Promise
9/25 Taste of Hope
5-8:30pm at the Double Tree

*NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)
9/3- 11/19 Family to Family Classes
2nd & 4th Thursday’s Recovery Support Groups (ongoing)
2nd Wednesday’s Family Support Groups (ongoing)

See website for locations and details
www.namiberkspa.org

*BeWise Event
Friday Nov. 1st at the Double Tree
9-4:15
In July, BCEH Staff met with representatives from Reading Police Department, Hope Rescue Mission, Opportunity House, Street Medicine, Downtown Improvement District and Santander Security. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the on-going problem of homeless individuals sleeping in and around the Santander Courtyard. As a result of this meeting, a team representing BCEH, Hope Rescue Mission, Street Medicine, Santander Security and the Reading Police would meet at 11 PM on July 8th to provide information about services and encourage people into shelters. On this night 19 individuals were spoken to with Hope Rescue Mission transporting 5 men to their shelter. Others refused to go to shelters at that time but indicated they might be interested in the future. The second Street Outreach took place on July 26 at 5 AM with BCEH, Hope Rescue Mission, Opportunity House, Street Medicine, Santander Security and Reading Police taking part. During this outreach 9 individuals were spoken to with 1 man being transported in the Hope van to Opportunity House. The areas focused on for these outreaches were Santander Courtyard, courtyard near Berks Encore, Dunkin Donuts, Family Dollar and City Park. All individuals the team spoke with were given information about Hope Rescue Mission, Opportunity House and other available services. This is an ongoing Street Outreach effort and will be continuing over the upcoming months. If you have information about other areas that we need to visit during outreaches contact Mike Noll at BCEH (mike@bceh.org) or 610-372-7222.

“There is a lot that happens around the world we cannot control. We cannot stop earthquakes, we cannot prevent droughts, and we cannot prevent all conflict, but when we know where the hungry, the homeless and the sick exist, then we can help.”

~Jan Schakowsky~ U.S. Representative

2019 NOFA RELEASED
 HAS BONUS PROJECT AVAILABLE

HUD has released the 2019 NOFA Competition, a national funding opportunity to provide financial assistance in support of ending homelessness. The FY 2019 CoC Program Competition on opened on July 3, 2019. Previous grantees have been notified and the deadline for applications is August 31, 2019. The deadline for CoC’s for their collaborative application is September, 30, 2019. These programs are necessary to keep shelters in Berks county, funded. NOFA documents are available on our website under forms and publications at www.bceh.org. Applications would then be completed in e-snaps.

This year’s NOFA again has a Bonus element as the Federal Government has targeted survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. The CoC Program FY 2019 NOFA includes funding for Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus projects to establish projects that serve households fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and other households that meet the criteria of paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless at 24 CFR 578.3, including survivors of human trafficking. For more information: check out this link ttps://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5851/applying-for-dv-bonus-projects-during-the-coc-program-competition/, call our offices at 610.372.3722 or email our HMIS/CoC manager Deborah Rhodes @deborah@bceh.org
BCEH Emergency Food

Just a reminder that BCEH is an emergency food distributor in conjunction with our Street Outreach Program and the Greater Berks Food Bank. Clients can receive a box of food in an emergency situation that will give them 1-2 days of food until they can get to a regular pantry or the Salvation Army Food Pantry. This service is available from 8am-2pm Mon. to Friday. If you have a client that is in need of emergency food you can send them to BCEH at 831 Walnut Street.

Donations of canned fruit and vegetables are always welcome.
BERKS COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

Mission Statement:

The Berks Coalition to End Homelessness develops and implements strategies, coordinates resources, and targets efforts toward ending homelessness in Berks County.

STAFF

Executive Director: Jack Williams
Coordinated Entry: Tracey York
Jobs Coordinator: Mike Noll
Finance Manager: Carol Frazer
HMIS/CoC Manager: Deborah Rhodes
HMIS/CoC Assistant: Natasha Schmidt

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chris Folk: Mary's Shelter
Rob Turchi: Hope Rescue Mission
Denise Comings: Re/Max of Reading
Carolyn Bazik: Co-County Wellness
Stephen Gieringer: NHS
Michael Kaucher: Council of Churches
Lorena Keely: SAM
Peggy Kershner: BCPS
Ken Pick: Redevelopment Authority
Stephanie Quigley: Abilities In Motion
Kristen Hoffa: BCIU

Facing homelessness – need immediate help?
Call 2-1-1 for 24/7 Social Service Referrals

(Please share 211 information on any communications from your agency, websites, e-mail communication...)