dfS announces the opening of our first “Workshop Services Program” on September 2, 2003. This day program, located in the Salvation Army Building on Fisher Hill in Sharon will provide an opportunity for many individuals to have an additional option in employment services. The hours of operation are 8:15 am – 3:45 pm Monday through Friday.

The “Workshop” will include training in the areas of cooking, money skills, hygiene skills, social skills, horticulture, crafts, safety and many more. The program will focus on teaching participants critical skills needed in the work force and then will allow them the opportunity to practice these skills in a learning environment. In the cooking curriculum participants will have the opportunity to prepare and sell lunches to the others. The money skills curriculum will include a snack shop that will be managed by the participants to benefit the dfS building fund.

The program will also include prevocational training that will allow individuals to earn money. A janitorial program will enable people interested in this career to earn money by cleaning the physical site. Participants will also complete mailings, newsletters, and do simple assembly jobs.

Please spread the word around your community and family about or new “Workshop.” Remember, all referrals are received through Mercer County BHC. For more information regarding admission and placement, contact Katie Coyer, Vocational Services Supervisor at 724-346-2123, ext. 548 or by contacting your Supports Coordinator.

Contributed by: Katie Coyer, Vocational Services Supervisor
In Loving Memory
Of
Judy A. Crum

Oct. 7, 1944
May 31, 2003

Pennies From Heaven

Every Time It Rains, It Rains,
Pennies From Heaven
Don’t You Know Each Cloud Contains
Pennies From Heaven

You’ll Find Your Fortune Falling
All Over Town
Be Sure That Your Umbrella Is Upside Down

Spend It On A Basket Of Sunshine
And Flowers
If You Want The Things You Need,
You Must Have Showers
So If You Hear It Thunder, Don’t Run
Under A Tree
They’ll Be Pennies From Heaven
For You and For Me

You Will Be Sadly Missed!
CONGRATULATIONS!!

Taunya Smith, SSA and Sara Laslow, RPW on the births of their sons.

This summer dFs is inviting everyone to join our summer "Boot Camp". "Boot Camp" will be similar to the Arts Workshop offered in 2002. This year, camp will be held at Shelter #1 in Buhl Park. Camp will be the first three weeks in August, from 9am-3pm Monday through Friday. Campers need only to pack a lunch and show up ready to have some fun!

Some of this year’s activity includes story creation, dance, theater, visual art, and music activities. Also, be sure to mark your calendar for August 22, 2003 to join us for the Camp Performance Night. Keep in mind that individuals who receive waiver funding from the county will receive full tuition for "Boot Camp". We are looking forward to another great summer and hope to see you there!

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Taunya Smith, SSA and Sara Laslow, RPW on the births of their sons.
This year’s 3rd Annual dFs Staff Retreat was held on June 19, 2003 at the Hermitage Volunteer Fire Department. The theme for the retreat was the Staff Training Challenge. Each group home, along with SSA’s and TAA’s, created a training video, scrap book, and other creative materials to aid in new staff training. The presentations were judged on the training components, creativity, teamwork, team spirit, and staff participation. Each team presented their materials and dFs provided lunch for all staff.

This year’s winner was Victoria Drive Group Home. The team chose an activity that they would like to do as a group, sponsored by dFs. The team showed spirit by wearing custom made "Team Victoria" tee-shirts, colorful client information cards, an activity scrapbook, and a training video set to music. In addition to the Grand Prize, all staff at the retreat received gift certificates for the Shenango Valley Mall in appreciation for all of their hard work over the past year. Staff also voted for the most helpful, best attitude, and best cook or best sense of humor in their group. All of the presentations were excellent, and the team effort was a testament to the wonderful group of staff here at dFs!

Team Victoria
Row 1 – Christina Holler, Diana Tarr, Alicia Colon
Row 2 – Melissa Leedham, Bob Jackson, Sara Laslow, Rochelle Borders.
Elena Colon, Saul SotoPacheco
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the dFs membership will be at 9:00 am, Tuesday, September 27th in our conference room. The agenda will include election of directors and officers to our Board of Directors. Also, Marilyn Klemens, executive director, will present highlights of the 02-03 fiscal year. All members and those interested in membership are invited to attend.

Saying Goodbye to Breakthrough

Contributed by:
Kellie Berkson, Adoption Caseworker
Jennifer Freed, Vocational Services Worker
Sonia Boatwright, Residential Program Supervisor
All former Breakthrough Caseworkers

On June 30, 2003, dFs said goodbye to the Breakthrough Program and two great Breakthrough employees, Mike Egbert, Breakthrough Supervisor, and Jeremy Lutz, Breakthrough Caseworker. This program began at dFs in 1994. Breakthrough was designed to help teens experiencing problems with family conflict, truancy, or inappropriate socialization. It offered families the opportunity to accept casework intervention designed to preserve the family unit.

Throughout the nine years of service, Breakthrough served over 566 clients and families in Mercer County. Breakthrough services were for teens between the ages of 12 and 17. Breakthrough was a voluntary program, which allowed parents the support to resolve issues with their teen without the stigma of having an open case with Children and Youth Services. The program offered support to families when it was needed while allowing the child to remain in the custody and control of their parents. It also provided parenting skills to parents who did not have resources needed to be effective.

Breakthrough caseworkers typically carried a caseload of 10-15 clients. This allowed them the time needed to develop a rapport with clients, and engage them in positive activities. Many of the clients felt comfortable discussing issues with their caseworker, and were willing to work to meet their goals. Among some of their achievements were improved family structure, making new friends, gained employment, and learning that there was a more positive outlook to life.

Over its years of service, Breakthrough had many clients whose cases were closed successfully. In the end, everyone was sad to see the program go, especially the kids! Overall, the program was able to make many successful discharges at its end. It is unfortunate that Children and Youth Services decided to discontinue this service which kept so many children out of placement, and with their families. It was also sad to say goodbye to two employees who were truly devoted to helping these at-risk youths. Fortunately, dFs was able to place most of the Breakthrough staff in other positions within the agency, allowing us to maintain employment here.
Are you toenail conscious? If not maybe you should be! A fair number of patients are seen in the ER because of "in-attention" to toe nail care.

Trimming tips:

1. Soak your feet in warm water and cleanse the nail area with a small soft hand brush (used only for the toes, nails and feet) and using an alcohol based gel foam cleanser (instead of regular soap.)

2. If the nail or nails are thickened, file with an emery board to thin the nail.

3. Clip nails regularly — using a long handled toenail clipper that resemble "wire cutters" for better control of the instrument.

4. Take small clips — cut off a small piece at a time!

5. Make as straight a cut as you can! Do not round the corners down into the nail bed (thus reducing the chance of an ingrown toenail.)

6. Ladies! Wear roomy shoes. Leave plenty of room for those cute little toes to move around. They perform a big function in balance and locomotion for us. Leaving enough room may prevent friction and wear that may cause the nail to thicken.

DIABETICS: Get special instructions from your family doctor for care of your feet and toes!

A special cream that many doctors recommend is LAMISIL. This can be used for a week at a time for skin irritations or fungus infection. Lamisil can be bought in the drug store without a prescription. If pain and redness appear — see your doctor.

All of us need to "Toe" the line! (adapted from the "Mayo Clinic Health Letter")
Sabrina Bell, Residential Program Worker — Sabrina likes to play the cello. She currently attends Penn State and will receive an Associate degree in the fall. Sabrina would like to continue her education to become an RN. She has a 5 year old son, two cats and is a resident of Hermitage.

Kristine Burke, Residential Program Worker — Kristine’s hobbies/interests include dancing, bowling, swimming, exercising, cooking, watching movies, and caring for others who need help. She is a CNA and is getting ready to start school for phlebotomy. She has a daughter who is almost 5 years old and resides in Farrell.

Stephanie Cornelius, Secretary — Stephanie enjoys horseback riding, spending time with her family and friends, and meeting new people. She is a graduate of Mercer High School and Mercer County Career Center. She will be graduating in September from the ICM School of Business and Medical Careers with an Associates degree in Computer Management. Stephanie lives in Mercer and has a chocolate lab named Jocker, a Beta fish named Benny, and 11 Holstein cows.

Teresa Hall, Therapeutic Activities Aide — Teresa lives in Sharon and has two daughters, two sets of twin boys, two grandsons, and one granddaughter. She likes traveling, computers, listening to jazz, gospel, and contemporary Christian music, shopping, going to flea markets and garage sales, home decorating, and being with her family. She graduated from high school in Pittsburgh and attended Kentucky State University for two years. She is currently in ministry training and will be teaching an etiquette class/school in her church and community. Teresa is the director of TCC Music and Books.

Kayla Johnson, Residential Program Worker Substitute — Kayla’s interests include playing and watching sports, dancing, reading, learning American sign language and furthering her education. She is currently attending Kent State University, majoring in Intervention Specialty / Moderate-Intensive. Kayla resides in Sharpsville with her parents, two brothers, and her cat, Sketcher. She was named to the Spring 2003 Dean’s list with a 3.8 GPA and she is interested in getting her Master’s degree in either counseling, gifted education, or deaf education.

Jenna Meighen, Social Services Aide — Jenna likes to watch movies, read, and bowl. She also writes stories. She was born in Las Vegas, but now lives in New Castle with her husband.

Resetta Ramsey-Wilder, Social Services Aide — Resetta enjoys collecting dolphin memorabilia and helping the homeless. She is a graduate of Farrell High School. Resetta is a movie buff and likes to watch all types of movies. Her favorite actor is Samuel L. Jackson. She lives in Sharon.

Taylor Sieg, Residential Program Worker / Social Services Aide — Taylor’s interests include riding horses, dancing, and riding four wheelers. She graduated from Hickory High School and is currently a senior at Thiel College. She and her two cats reside in Hermitage.

Saul SotoPacheco, Residential Program Worker — Saul likes to go swimming and biking. He is a graduate of Sharon High School and currently attends Penn State, majoring in Liberal Arts and Nursing. He lives in Sharon.

Continued . . .
Linda Speed, *Residential Program Worker Trainee* — Linda’s interests include reading, quilting, draperies, and interior design/decorating. She has been married for 33 years and has two sons, one daughter, two grandchildren, a dog and a cat. Linda has attended school for Business Administration, Roanoke College, Virginia, and she attended a course in Communicating with the mentally ill. She is a lives in New Castle in a home that she and her husband designed and physically built themselves. Linda is a board member for the Mental Health Association in Beaver County, and she also served as the Administrative Director for the Beaver County Chamber of Commerce.

Autumn Welton, *Social Services Aide* - Autumn’s hobbies/interests include guitars, antique shopping, clothes, and sewing. She has attended Edinboro for 1 ½ years majoring in criminal justice. She has a fish named Millie. Autumn resides in Meadville and states that her favorite TV show is the Golden Girls!

Heather Williams, *Residential Program Worker* - Heather likes to swim, sing, and lay out on the beach. She has a BS in Elementary/Special Education from Clarion University. She lives with her parents, two younger sisters, and her dog Zach in Greenville.

Mike Egbert, *Breakthrough Casework Supervisor* - Mike has worked for dFs since May, 2001.

Dale Gibson, *Residential Program Worker* - Dale has been employed by dFs since February, 2003.

Joyce Gregory, *Van Driver* - Joyce has been an employee since January, 2003.

Melanie Jarvis, *Residential Program Worker* - Melanie has worked for dFs since August, 2001.

Jeremy Lutz, *Breakthrough Caseworker* - Jeremy has been an employee since November, 2002.

Kristie McCurdy, *Vocational Services Worker* - Kristie started working for this agency March, 1996.

Wendy Mendez, *Van Driver* - Wendy has worked at dFs since March, 2003.

Sandra Miller, *Residential Program Worker* - Sandra has been employed by dFs since March, 2003.

Brandi Park, *Social Services Aide* - Brandi has been an employee since February, 2003.

Toni Smith, *Secretary* - Toni started working for this agency June, 2002.


Mark Yount, *Social Services Aide* - Mark has worked for dFs since January, 2003.

Best wishes to all they attempt in the future.
**Stars of the Month**

Contributed by:
Stacey Llewellyn, Personnel Assistant

- Dorothy Collers, Residential Program Worker, was selected as June’s “Star of the Month.”

- July’s “Star of the Month” was Jody Rust, Social Services Aide.

- Rose and Don Becker, Foster Parents with 12 years of fostering, are August’s “Star of the Month.”

A certificate was placed in the office waiting area in honor of each “star.” Each “star” had exclusive use of the dFs Employee of the Month parking space for their month and also received a $30 gift certificate to the restaurant/store of their choice. In addition, each “star’s” name was added to the “Star of the Month” plaque that is located on the “dFs Wall of Fame.”

Congratulations to all recipients of this award! Keep up the good work!

*Please remember, if you would like to nominate someone for this award, nomination forms are located at the secretary’s desk.

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Resource Room Feature
Contributed by: Lorraine Livosky, Foster Care Supervisor

The featured resource for this issue is a book by Jan Nisbet called *Natural Supports in School, at Work, and in the Community for People with Severe Disabilities*. The book offers vital perspectives and guidance for using natural supports.

The author promotes that support is based upon informed choices and individual strengths and needs rather than upon options limited to a narrow range of existing programs. The author also gives the professional, ideas on how to enhance natural supports. For example, strategies for building community membership for individuals with disabilities, examinations of support programs and networks available to families, the role of natural supports in public schools, the effect of natural supports in employment settings and public policy, the development of natural support, how to help people with disabilities establish friendships, job supports and training, and supporting people with disabilities on how to live on their own.

This book offers a lot of important information that could be very useful. It is also very organized and can save you time if you are looking for only a specific topic or concern. So, if you feel this is the book that can help you clear up some questions, the book number is MR65. It is located in the dFs resource room in the Mental Retardation section. Just see Stephanie at the front desk to sign out this or any other excellent resource available there.

American Heart Association ~ American Heart Walk
Contributed by: Katie Coyer, Vocational Services Supervisor

dFs will be participating in the annual American Heart Walk on Sunday, September 14th. This event will be taking place at Buhl Park shelter #2 at 2 pm. All dFs employees, Family Living Providers, Foster Parents, and clients are encouraged to participate.

Prior to walk day the office will be participating in various fund-raisers, which will include the sale of red paper hearts that can have names written on them and also an office “dress down” day.

The dFs team goal is 15 walkers with a donation grand total of $750. If you are interested in participating in the 13th Annual American Heart Walk, please contact Katie Coyer at extension 548.
Kid's Page

Why Do Turtles Cry?

With all the seawater and food a sea turtle ingests, a lot of salt can build up in its body fluid — enough to cause dehydration. To maintain the right salinity, sea turtles have extra large tear glands that condense excess salt and squeeze it out in huge, salty tears.

See how many words you can make out of the word ABOMINABLE — below are a few hints to get you started. You can find the answers to the hints on page 9. There are at least 111 possible words that you make.

1. Keeps babies clean (3 letters)
2. Old-fashioned word for beer (3 letters)
3. A charged atom (3 letters)
4. An arm or a leg (4 letters)
5. Soothing ointment (4 letters)
6. What people call you by (4 letters)
7. “It’s your fault” (5 letters)
8. A sour fruit (5 letters)
9. Can be moved (6 letters)
10. An Italian baby (7 letters)

What do you call a boy on your front porch?  MATT

What did Willy Wonka name his daughter?  CANDY

How did the butcher introduce his wife?  MEAT PATTY

Choosing the Right Backpack

Choose a backpack with wide padded straps. While you’re looking, try to find one with multiple compartments. Multiple compartments and a waist belt will help to distribute the load more evenly and take some of the stress from your lower back. Although it’s fashionable to carry your backpack on one shoulder, it’s better to use both straps. Also, wear the backpack on your upper or mid back area. Having it rest on your lower back or buttocks will cause more strain on your back. And remember don’t pack it too full. Your backpack with books and supplies should weigh no more than 15% of your body weight. Or, if you don’t want to bother trying to find the perfect backpack, you can consider buying the new trendy backpack on wheels.