



COBYS Connection

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Motivated by Christian faith, COBYS Family Services educates, supports, and empowers children and adults to reach their full potential.

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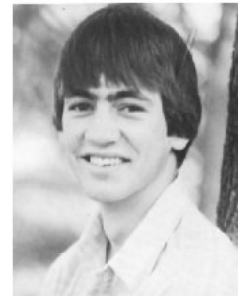
COBYS Connection is an occasional e-newsletter of COBYS Family Services. Tell us what you think, let us know if you experienced technical difficulties, or [unsubscribe by e-mailing Don Fitzkee](#).

Banquet to Spoof a High School Reunion New This Year Is a Second Daytime Program

COBYS Family Services invites you to their version of a high school reunion at the annual informational/fundraising banquet. The "School Daze Reunion Banquet" is slated for Friday, March 4, at the Middle Creek Church of the Brethren. In addition to the evening banquet, for the first time we also will include a daytime program. For the noon program, doors open at 11:30. For the evening, doors open at 6:00 for the 6:30 banquet. (For more details, view the [invitation](#).)

Both events will include a family style meal, followed by a program in the guise of a 35th class reunion for the imaginary Mid-Central High School Class of '82.

The program will feature alumni of our imaginary school who have gone on to accomplish great things. Along with those Middlers who have become excessively rich, invented truly amazing gadgets, found cures for incurable diseases, and are running for high office, a remarkable number of MCHS alumni have a connection to the ministries of COBYS Family Services. We'll feature some real people who have dedicated themselves to providing compassionate care for children, walking alongside parents facing challenges, or encouraging people who need help.



Executive Director Mark Cunningham (left) and Director of Development Don Fitzkee haven't changed a bit since 1982, but you should see some of their classmates.



Among those you will meet are Brad & Mimy Rollman (Mimy pictured above right with son, Carson), who will adopt their fourth child through COBYS the week before the banquet, and members of the Stan and Cindy Bucher family (above left), who have built lifelong relationships with foster daughters Jessi and Jenni, who first came into their lives more than 25 years ago.

Acoustic duo Ryan Shenk and Mark DeRose will provide music for each program. Ryan is Worship Arts Professor at Lancaster Bible College, and Mark is a performing songwriter with numerous recordings and extensive touring experience. Ryan and Mark have been performing together for about two years.

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Sigman, Taylors to Headline Praise Dinner

Speaker Mike Sigman and gospel artists The Taylors will provide inspiration and entertainment at the 21st annual Wenger Foundation Praise Dinner on Thursday, April 21, at 6:00 p.m., at the Lebanon Expo Center. The event will benefit COBYS Family Services and three other ministries.



Sigman is the Lead Pastor at Grace Community Church in Lancaster, a frequent preacher at area churches and camp meetings, and past president of Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown.

The Taylors are a nationally



known brother-sister quartet from North Carolina. In 2008, The Taylors won first place in the Talent Showcase

of the National Quartet Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

The Praise Dinner will include a buffet meal catered by Country Home Catering. Other ministries benefitting from the event are Evangelical Seminary, Friendship Community, and On Fire Youth Ministries.

The cost to attend is \$125 per person or \$1,250 per table of 10 guests. All donations support the designated ministries, as The Wenger Foundation and other business partners underwrite all expenses.

Last year's Praise Dinner attracted some 850 people, and raised more than \$130,000, including \$26,038 for COBYS. Since 1999 COBYS has received more than \$331,000 through the Praise Dinner.

Invitations will be mailed in early March. For more information about the event, please contact The Wenger Foundation at 717-866-2130 or rwalmer@wengers.com.

Seating for each banquet is limited to 450 (a reduction of 100 from previous years). If both time slots fit your schedule, we encourage you to choose the daytime event. Your chances of getting a good seat are higher at noon, and we are anticipating possible over-booking for the evening. We'll have the same delicious food and an inspirational, informative, and entertaining program each time.



Ryan Shenk

Mark DeRose

Reservations are required, and the event will include an opportunity to support COBYS ministries. Guests may reserve a table of eight for \$300 or a table of 12 for \$450. Individuals or couples also may attend without reserving a table and give as they feel led at the event. Those not at purchased tables will be assigned seating at unreserved tables.

To reserve your place, please tear off the response slip from the [invitation](#), or contact Nicole Hurst at 717-656-6580 or nhurst@cobys.org by Monday, February 22, 2016. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. A table is considered reserved when payment is received.

If you are unable to attend, you can support COBYS ministries by sending a check designated for the banquet to COBYS Family Services, 1417 Oregon Road, Leola, PA 17540. Or give online and write "banquet" in the description.

For more information, please contact Nicole Hurst at 717-656-6580 or nhurst@cobys.org or Don Fitzkee at don@cobys.org.

Family Fun Walk Slated for May 1



The 22nd annual Family Fun Walk will take place on Sunday, May 1, at 4 p.m. at Peter Becker Community in Harleysville.

The event consists of a three-mile walk, followed by ice cream, refreshments, and awarding of door prizes. Walkers donate, enlist sponsors to benefit COBYS ministries to children and families, or both. Last year 94 participants raised more than \$11,100 to support COBYS ministries.

Brochures will be available on the [News & Events page](#), and will be mailed to COBYS supporters in eastern Pennsylvania in late March. Business sponsors and prize donors currently are being sought. For more information about the event, please contact Don Fitzkee at 800-452-6517 or don@cobys.org.