



COBYS Connection

February 2014

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 1

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](mailto:Don.Fitzkee).

Banquet to Feature 'Nightly News' Format

Have you heard the news? COBYS Family Services is branching out into television news on Thursday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m. at the Middle Creek Church of the Brethren, 351 Middle Creek Road, Lititz. Doors open at 6 p.m.

"The COBYS Nightly News Banquet" will feature aspiring anchormen Mark Cunningham and Don Fitzkee (who haven't quit their day jobs as COBYS Executive Director and Director of Development just yet) delivering "all the news, real and imagined" on the WCOBys evening newscast.

"Last year's Prairie Home Companion radio show banquet format was such a success," said Fitzkee, "that we figured it's time we take the next step into television."

WCOBys Nightly News will feature some real news about COBYS ministries to children and families, along with some more whimsical fare. Expect up-to-the-minute traffic, weather, and sports reports, along with a unique take on the news of the day. And, of course, no television show is complete without a few commercial breaks. Expect a word from our sponsor, Gene Wenger's Meats and Fine Foods.



The Arts & Culture segment of the program will feature a performance by **The King's Strings**, comprised of adoptive parents John & Cindy King and some of their eight stringed instrument-playing children. They play a variety of musical styles, but specialize in fiddling.

There is no charge to attend The Nightly News Banquet, but reservations are required and the event will include an opportunity to support COBYS ministries. Register by contacting Don Fitzkee at 717-656-6580 or don@cobys.org no later than February 28, 2014. Seating is limited.

Guests have the option of reserving a table of eight by submitting a donation of \$250 or more with their registration. (A few tables of 12 also are available.) Those who reserve tables will receive preferred seating. Only those reserving a table are required to donate in advance.

Those unable to attend can support COBYS ministries by sending a check designated for the banquet to COBYS Family Services, 1417 Oregon Rd., Leola, PA 17540 or by **[giving online.](#)**

[A printable invitation](#) with directions to the church is available on our website.





Christmas Card Creates Buzz

Corporate Christmas cards usually don't attract much attention. The 2013 COBYS card was an exception.

We received many positive comments about our COBYS card via e-mail and Facebook, and in personal encounters. Among comments received: "Thanks for your great Christmas card. It put a smile on my face!" And "Seriously . . . the best Christmas card ever!"

Modeled after a feelings chart like one a therapist or caseworker might use to help children express their emotions, the card featured nearly 50 of our staff portraying various feelings, ranging from ecstatic to enraged, bored to terrified.

The front of the card observed, "It's Beginning to Feel a Lot Like Christmas!" After depicting a full range of emotions, the card ended with: "The staff of COBYS Family Services mostly are feeling thankful this holiday season for people like you who partner with us to serve children and families."

Though Christmas has passed, that sentiment is still true. We continue to give thanks for the many people who make our ministries possible!

Regarding next year's card, we are feeling . . . worried. How do you follow up the best card ever?

Praise Dinner to Feature Penn View Choir

The Penn View Bible Institute Choir and Instrumental Ensemble will provide a program of inspirational music at the 19th annual Wenger Foundation Praise Dinner on Wednesday, April 16, at 6:00 p.m., at the Lebanon Expo Center. The event will benefit COBYS Family Services and three other ministries.

The 60-voice choir and instrumental ensemble are touring groups from Penn View Bible Institute. Located in Penn's Creek, Pa., the school offers Christian education from kindergarten through postsecondary level in the conservative Wesleyan-Arminian persuasion. The Institute prepares men and women, at the postsecondary level, for the pastoral ministry, missions, the Christian music ministry, Christian school teaching, Bible teaching, and other church ministries.



In addition to music, 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 \$100 per person or \$1,000 for a table of 10. One hundred percent of

donations support the designated ministries.

Underwriting all of the event's expenses are: John Byler; Country Fare Restaurant; Roger & Marjorie Gerhart; Good's Disposal Services; Bud & Joyce Mitstifer; Tom B. Morrissey TV & Appliance; Roger & Carolyn North, North Group Consultants; Reedy Diesel Service; Bill & Nancy Smeltzer; Gene Wenger's Meats & Fine Foods; Sight & Sound Ministries, Inc.; and Wengers of Myerstown.

The Wenger Foundation, Inc., was established in 1996 as the charitable giving arm of the Wenger Family of Companies. Since then, the Foundation has awarded more than \$2 million to a variety of Christian and community ministries, including \$287,109 to COBYS, which first became a beneficiary of the Praise Dinner in 1999. Last year's Praise Dinner attracted a record attendance of some 900 people, and raised more than \$100,000, including \$20,049 for COBYS.

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

Recycling Earns Cash for COBYS

You can support COBYS ministries by donating used printer cartridges, cell phones, and electronic devices and by buying refurbished cartridges through Planet Green. You can print UPS labels at www.planetgreenrecycle.com/cobys to ship 20 items or more directly to the recycling center. Or deliver any number of items to a COBYS office and we'll ship them for you. Purchases from Planet Green's online store also earn COBYS 15 percent of each sale.