



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](#).

COBYS Has Talent! How Much Remains an Open Question

COBYS invites viewers to tune in for the COBYS Has Talent! Banquet on Thursday, March 5, at 6:30 p.m. at the Middle Creek Church of the Brethren.

The evening will include a family style meal with a program to

follow in the format of a light-hearted talent competition. The deadline for reservations is Monday, February 23. Seats are filling fast, but the main hall still has some room.

New this year is a less formal option. Instead of coming for the full banquet meal in the main hall, guests may come at 7:00 for a light buffet in the church gathering area, catered by Country Home Catering, and then watch the livestream of the show on the screen in the church sanctuary, beginning soon after 7:30.

Seating in the main hall is limited to 550, and last year the event sold out. The light buffet and livestream option is intended to make the program available to all who desire to come. See the [Banquet Invitation](#) for more detail and a reservation form.

"For those who haven't registered yet and would like to come to the main banquet," says Director of Development Don Fitzkee, "we are recommending that they sign up for the banquet, but also check the option to attend the light buffet and livestream if the main banquet hall sells out."

Regardless of the meal option chosen, the talent show will be the same. In addition to some acts of varying quality and insightful comments from our highly qualified judges, the show will feature some contestants who have really useful talents, such as ability to provide compassionate care for children, meet community needs, or encourage people who need help.

Ryan & Sarah Rutt will share some of their adoption story and COBYS' new Community Mobilizer Rithy Ung will introduce the work he is doing in Southern Lancaster County (and juggle golf balls off of his head). In addition to the talent show judges on the program, Real Judge Leslie Gorbey, who serves on the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas, will speak of how she sees COBYS programs serving the



**Mean
Judge
Don
Fitzkee**



Nice Judge Caitlin Landis



**Glamorous
Judge Krista
Rankin**



COBYS Connection/2

Praise Dinner to Feature Monville, The Browns

Speaker [Marie Monville](#) and gospel artists The Browns will provide inspiration and entertainment at the 20th annual [Wenger Foundation](#) Praise Dinner on Thursday, April 16, at 6:00 p.m., at the Lebanon Expo Center. The event will benefit COBYS Family Services and three other ministries.

Monville is the widow of Charles Roberts IV, perpetrator of the October 2, 2006, Amish schoolhouse shootings in Nickel Mines, Pa. She

has shared her testimony in a book *One Light Still Shines*.

The Browns are a family of award-winning gospel musicians from Iowa, comprised of Shelly Brown and her grown children



Adam, Andrew, and Michaela. Their music prominently features vocal harmonies and violins. Learn more at thebrownsmusic.com.

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 \$125 per person or \$1,250 per table of 10 guests. Thanks to generous sponsors, all donations support the designated ministries.

Last year's Praise Dinner attracted more than 800 people, and raised more than \$100,000, including \$18,652.50 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.

community. (Judge Gorbey will not bounce balls of any kind off of her head).

We also have at least one legitimate musical act. [Mindy Nolt and Jared Hankee](#) are a husband/wife duo from Lancaster. Blending the banjo, mandolin, guitar and their voices, they invite listeners to enjoy some down-to-earth music with creative harmonies and thoughtful lyrics. In addition to performing during the main show, Mindy & Jared also will provide gathering music in the main hall, soon after the doors open at 6 p.m.



Other performers include a magic act by Caseworkers Caitlin Landis (also playing our nice judge) and Katrina McClean; vocal performances by Jon Landis, COBYS bluesy board member Kent Rice, and Permanency Unit receptionist Leonida Gonzalez; an amazing disappearing act that will leave host Mark Cunningham without a leg to stand on; and a demonstration of fundraising prowess by Director of Development (and mean judge) Don Fitzkee.

Reservations are required, and the event will include an opportunity to support COBYS ministries. The cost to reserve a table for eight is \$300. A few tables for 12 are available for \$450. Tables are reserved when payment is received. (Those who have reserved tables, but not yet submitted all names are encouraged to do so by the February 23 deadline.)

Guests also may come as individuals or couples, give as they feel led at the event, and be assigned seating at unreserved tables. There is no assigned seating for the livestream in the sanctuary, but reservations still are required. See the [Banquet Invitation](#) for reservation options. For more information (or if you miss the reservation deadline), please contact Don Fitzkee at 717-656-6580 or don@cobys.org.

Family Fun Walk Slated for May 3

After all that eating at the two COBYS-related spring banquet events in March and April, it will be time to get some exercise. The 21st annual Family Fun Walk will take place on Sunday, May 3, 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 75 participants raised nearly \$10,000 to support COBYS ministries.



Brochures will be available on the [News & Events page](#), and 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.