



# 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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*Support us through [GoodSearch/GoodShop](#)*



*and [AmazonSmile](#).*

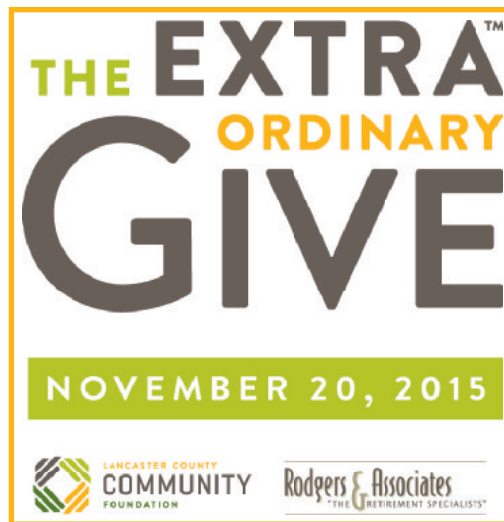


*COBYS Connection is an occasional e-newsletter of COBYS Family Services. Tell us what you think, let us know if you experienced technical difficulties, or [unsubscribe by e-mailing Don Fitzkee](#).*

## ExtraOrdinary Give Is Back Give Next Friday, Nov. 20, to Earn a Match

COBYS Family Services is gearing up for the fourth annual ExtraOrdinary Give, Lancaster County's largest day of giving. COBYS is one of 365 local organizations participating in this 24-hour giving marathon.

Every dollar donated at [ExtraGive.org](http://ExtraGive.org) on November 20 will be stretched with at least \$300,000 from the Lancaster County Community Foundation, Rodgers & Associates, and other corporate sponsors. In addition, at least \$50,000 in prizes will be awarded.



Here's how it works: With credit card in hand, donors simply need to visit [ExtraGive.org](http://ExtraGive.org) between 12:00 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. on Friday, November 20, choose COBYS from the list of organizations, and give a donation of \$25 or more.

The "stretch fund" will be divided proportionately among participating organizations. The more our donors give, the greater COBYS' proportion of the \$300,000. For example, if a total of \$5 million is given to all organizations and COBYS receives \$50,000 from its donors, we would receive one percent or \$3,000 of the match.

On top of the match, an additional \$50,000 will be awarded in [prizes](#). The first 10 organizations to receive 50 "unique gifts" will earn a \$1,000 Early Bird prize. ***We are looking for people to give at the stroke of midnight to help us win an Early Bird Prize for the fourth year in a row!*** (A unique gift is one person giving with one credit card. A couple can give two unique gifts if they use two different credit cards.)

In addition, during certain time periods, individual donations will be randomly selected. If a COBYS donor is chosen, sponsors will add \$1,000 to that donation. The more individual donations COBYS receives during designated times, the greater our chance of winning one or more prizes. Click [here](#) to learn more about prizes and the best times to give.

Last year, COBYS finished 25th in dollars raised out of 306 organizations. COBYS donors gave \$38,915. Included in that figure was nearly \$3,000 from first time donors and a \$1,000 Early Bird prize. It took just 12 minutes for COBYS supporters to reach 50 donations to win the prize.

Please mark your calendar and remember COBYS next Friday. For more information go to FAQs page at [ExtraGive.org](http://ExtraGive.org) or contact [Don Fitzkee](#).



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## Shop for COBYS While You Shop for Others

Christmas shopping season soon will be shifting into high gear. You can support COBYS ministries for free through two online shopping websites: [AmazonSmile](#) and [GoodShop/GoodSearch](#).

With AmazonSmile, you simply need to sign up once



and choose your cause, and then do your Amazon shopping through [smile.amazon.com](#), and a percentage of all your Amazon purchases will go to COBYS.

With GoodShop, designate



COBYS as your cause, and then shop at dozens of online retailers. COBYS gets a cut. Goodshop also offers coupons for online retailers. Goodshop is running a special offer right now. Sign up using [this link](#), choose COBYS as your cause, and your first \$25 purchase will result in a \$10 gift to COBYS.

## Give at the Village, Get a Tote Bag

As part of the ExtraOrdinary Give, this year COBYS is joining hands with Brethren Village to host a giving station at the Village. Stop in at Chives American Grill (Fieldcrest C) between 11 am and 2 pm to make your online donation to COBYS, Brethren Village, or other participating organizations and receive a COBYS tote bag (ideal for grocery shopping) as our thank you gift. Computers will be set up and development staff from COBYS and Brethren Village will be available to assist.



While you are there you can grab a treat and view the live leader board on a big screen to see how your favorite organizations are faring. If you already gave, feel free to stop in just to say hello and pick up a tote bag (while supplies last).

## Volunteers, Furnishings Sought for Expansion

The COBYS Permanency Unit is doubling in size, and we could use a few good painters (or mediocre ones) and some furnishings for two new visiting rooms. Located at 134 E. King St. Lancaster, the Permanency Unit is a specialized foster care program that works closely with the Lancaster County Children and Youth Agency. At the invitation of the County, which funds the program, Permanency staffing will increase from 8 to 16, by June 30, 2016. (The state budget impasse is delaying the hiring of new staff at present.)

To make room for more staff and clients, we have remodeled a previously underutilized area to create staff space and are refreshing an apartment to serve as rooms for supervised parent/child visits.

Remaining on the "To Do List" is painting. Our next volunteer work day is scheduled for Saturday, November 14, and a final work day will be held on Saturday, December 5. Both are from 8 am to noon. Donuts and drinks will be provided.

Also needed are these items to help furnish the visiting rooms:

Rocking chair

Child-sized kitchen sets (2)

Child-sized table and chairs (2 sets)

Small indoor slide

Baby doll stroller (2)

Bean bag chairs (vinyl or other wipeable material)

Floor puzzles

Duplos

Stacking blocks

Kitchen supplies (new or used) for visiting area kitchen: pots, pans, plates, cups, bowls, utensils, cookie sheets, measuring cups, mixing bowls, etc.

4 36-x-48-inch chalkboards for visiting room walls

Contact [Don Fitzkee](#) if you would like to help paint or donate items for the visiting rooms.