



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](#).

Whoopie! ExtraOrdinary Give Is Back: Give This Friday, Nov. 21, to Earn a Match

COBYS Family Services is gearing up for the third annual [ExtraOrdinary Give](#) on Friday, November 21. To sweeten the deal, we are partnering with [Zig's Bakery & Deli](#) to host [The ExtraOrdinary Whoopie Pie Event](#) (see page two).



COBYS is one of more than 300 organizations participating in the 24-hour online giving campaign sponsored by the Lancaster County Community Foundation.

Here's how it works: With credit card in hand, donors simply need to visit [ExtraGive.org](#) between midnight and 11:59 p.m. this Friday, choose COBYS from the list of organizations, and give a donation of \$25 or more. (After you give, check out the [Leaderboard](#) and see how we're doing, but be careful—it's addictive!)

The Foundation, with help from Presenting Sponsors, is promoting the event, providing prize money, and offering a \$250,000 "stretch fund" that will be divided proportionately among participating organizations. The more our donors give, the greater COBYS' proportion of the \$250,000. For example, if a total of \$3 million is given to all organizations and COBYS receives \$60,000 from its donors, we receive two percent or \$5,000 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 third year in a row! [Let us know](#) if you plan to stay up to give.** (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, the foundation will add \$1,000 to that donation. The more individual donations COBYS receives, the greater our chance of winning one or more prizes. [Click here](#) to learn more about prizes and the best times to give.

Additional information was mailed to COBYS supporters with a year-end appeal letter last Friday. If you know a potential donor who doesn't have access to a computer or just have questions about the ExtraOrdinary Give, contact Director of Development Don Fitzkee at 717-656-6580 or don@cobys.org. Or visit The ExtraOrdinary Give [FAQs page](#).



COBYS Connection/2

Looking for a Christmas Project?

If your church, business, or community group is looking for a hands-on Christmas project, please check out the recently updated COBYS [Needs List](#). The list includes a variety of items for kids and families that are needed on an ongoing basis.

The “Kids’ Closet” lists items for foster children. Each foster child coming into care receives a backpack filled with toys, games, personal care items, a Bible, and more. In addition, we visit our closet to find gifts for special occasions, supplies for caseworkers to use for therapeutic activities, carseats to transport children to appointments, and items to meet emergency needs.

The Needs List also includes a variety of toys, games, and craft supplies for use in our Family Life Education programs.

If you are seeking to designate a Christmas offering, the “Care for Kids Fund” meets needs of foster children that are not met by other funding sources.

COBYS also receives special offerings this time of year designated for our general ministries fund.

Contact [Don Fitzkee](#) for more information about any of these needs.

Give a Gift, Get a Whoopie Pie

In conjunction with The ExtraOrdinary Give, COBYS is hosting The Extraordinary Whoopie Pie Event this Friday, November 21.

Donors who stop in at the COBYS Family Life Center at 171 E.



King Street, Lancaster, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., and donate to COBYS through [ExtraGive.org](#) will receive an extraordinary whoopie pie, courtesy of [Zig's Bakery & Deli](#), as our token of thanks. How sweet is that?

If you have time, our staff will be glad to give you a tour of the facility while you are in the neighborhood.

Last year, even without whoopie pies, COBYS finished in the top 20 out of more than 250 organizations participating in the Extraordinary Give with a net income for the day exceeding \$35,000.

E-town Brethren to Host Alternative Gift Fair

Looking for gift ideas for that friend or relative who doesn't really need anything? We can help.

COBYS Family Services will be one of more than 20 local and national organizations participating in an [Alternative Gift Fair at Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren](#) on Sunday, December 7, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Stop in for a simple lunch, do some shopping, and receive a card to give to the person in whose honor your gift or gifts were purchased.

Shoppers may choose to give a donation to one or more organizations or give a donation through a catalog and allow their friend or family member to decide which organization will benefit. Children will have activities relating to a specifically selected group of organizations. People may also purchase fair trade items from around the world from a number of the organizations.

More information is available [here](#).

Please Include COBYS in Your Online Shopping

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](#). Simply sign up, pick COBYS as your cause, take advantage of special offers, shop, and COBYS gets a percentage of your purchases. It's fairly painless to sign up, and once you do, you don't need to take a lot of extra steps to make a purchase. When you shop for yourself or others, you also shop for us!

