

Story Time Banquet



Thursday, March 14, 2019
Middle Creek Church of the Brethren

COBYS Shares Stories

COBYS Family Services "Story Time Banquet," held March 14 at the Middle Creek Church of the Brethren, revisited some old familiar children's stories and made inspirational parallels with the work done by the ministries of COBYS Family Services.

The program was offered at both a lunch and dinner seating. This year's event, with combined total attendance of nearly 500 people, raised more than \$56,000.



Executive Director **Mark Cunningham** welcomes the audience with a personal story about his childhood.

John Frye, Pastor of Music and Care at Calvary Church, provided a piano recital and sing-along at the lunch seating



Ridgeway Brass from Ridgeway Church of the Brethren provided lively music for the evening seating.

The Giving Tree

Director of Development **Anne Stokes** drew a parallel of the work of COBYS to the popular children's book "The Giving Tree". Where the tree provides for a boy throughout his life, COBYS provides for children in need throughout their journey of foster care and adoption.



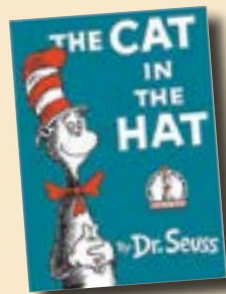
Director of Development **Anne Stokes** humbly invites the banquet audience to become part of the COBYS story with their support.



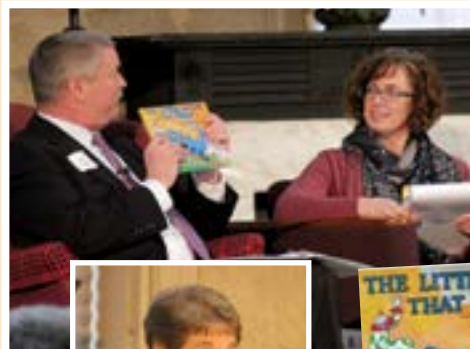
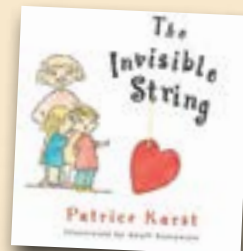
Mark Cunningham and Anne Stokes discuss options as they begin to make plans for the annual banquet.



Permanency Unit supervisors **Krista Rankin and Ruby Nolt** explained the difficult work provided by the **Permanency Unit** ministry at COBYS Family Services. They shared every day encounters as they provide foster care case management services for Lancaster County Children & Youth Agency. During the conversation, Mark interrupted with excerpts from "The Cat in the Hat".



Abby Keiser, Director of Family Life Services, shared information about the **Counseling Center**. She chose the book "The Invisible String" to explain some of the work done by COBYS therapists. Abby also introduced the Incredible Years group therapy program that incorporates puppets, videos, and role play to coach proper behavior in children.



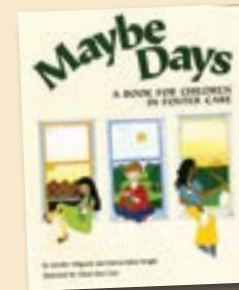
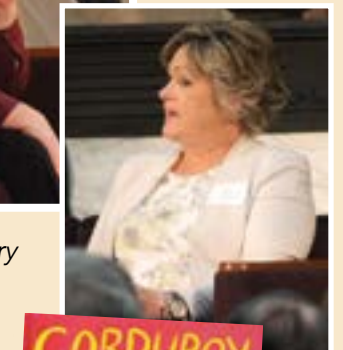
Family Life Education supervisor **Holly Hardin and Cindy Umberger**, Director of Business Operations, share with Mark the myriad of options available through the **Family Life Education program**. They showed how the FLE ministry mirrors the lessons in "The Little Engine That Could" through classes, seminars, and educational programs.



In a video interview, **Ida Long** shared her courageous story of becoming a **Kinship Care** grandmother raising her two granddaughters, and the help she received through COBYS.



Sarah and Kevin Esh told the story of their journey to becoming foster and adoptive parents in a conversation with Mark.



Director of Placement Services **Mary Sourber** chose "Maybe Days" as the story that sums up the feelings foster children experience during their time in the **Foster Care Program**. She also suggested "Corduroy" as an example of a children's story that displays what adoption feels like for the **Adoption Program**. Then she reminded us of the tremendous impact we make in the lives of the children we serve, but the need for more families is huge.

COBYS Supporters Share Stories Too!

New to the annual banquet this year was a storybook donation drive. Having books to call their own is important for the kids COBYS serves through our foster care and adoption programs. Attendees generously filled the bin to overflowing with donated books.

