

The ordinary can be extraordinary

Everyday moments

Each day, children and adults in families create shared experiences and memories through ordinary, daily tasks.

Those of us who are blessed with functioning households might not realize how many of these ordinary, but special actions can make a big difference in the life of a child. These are just a few of the experiences our resource families provide to foster children served by COBYS.

Nurturing a teen's skills in writing poetry



Letting a child pick what to eat for supper



Taking a child fishing, and seeing the smile on their face when they catch a fish



Sitting down to enjoy dinner with other family members, engaging in supportive conversation

Laughing with family members during a game night, whether you win or lose

Providing a professional photo shoot to commemorate a milestone in a teen's life



Going on a trip to the beach, getting sand between your toes and seeing the waves



Throwing a birthday party for a kiddo

Taking a "men's only" camping trip, providing time for a foster father and foster brothers to bond with the foster son they've welcomed into their home

Mission Statement

Motivated by Christian faith, COBYS Family Services educates, supports and empowers children and adults to reach their full potential.

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Fostering Hope is the quarterly newsletter of COBYS Family Services, a Christian family service agency, affiliated with the Atlantic Northeast District of the Church of the Brethren.

COBYS Family Services

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Persistence pays off, part II



In my article for the newsletter last summer, I wrote about a bird who built her nest in the comfort of my front porch. I shared that the nest was about six feet off the ground and right next to the door so that every time I went out, I would scare Mrs. Bird (the name I have affectionately given her) and she would scare me. She would often leave the "evidence" of her fright on the bricks of my front porch. I, on the other hand, had a more controlled response to being startled.

Rarely do I get any feedback on my newsletter articles. But I did receive a few e-mails and letters about this one. A few shared similar stories of their experiences with birds. And a few gave some clever solutions to avoid this inconvenient situation. One of the solutions given was to place a ball in the area of the nest so there would be no room to build a nest. A simple solution, and one that I am embarrassed to say I didn't think of.

So this year, when Mrs. Bird returned and began building her nest, I got a red playground ball and placed it where Mrs. Bird was building. I was pleased! No more being scared and no more front porch messes! The very next day when I got home and was approaching the front door, I saw Mrs. Bird flying around, seemingly looking for a place to build her nest. It appeared to me that she was out of sorts (if that is possible with a bird).

I wondered if and when Mrs. Bird would find a place to build her nest. And not to sound braggadocios, but I wondered if there was any place better than my front porch to build her nest.

So as I watched Mrs. Bird flying around my front yard, I paused, grabbed the playground ball and went inside. My wife watched and smiled wryly as I walked past her and put the ball back in the garage, where it belongs. She knew Mrs. Bird had beaten me again. Mrs. Bird - 2, Mark - 0.

She is a worthy opponent. And one that will not have to worry about my interference next year.

Mark Cunningham,
Executive Director



The Faces of COBYS

Which of the COBYS core values (LIFTS) do you personally value most?

Lisa Stoltzfus,
FLE Education Specialist




For me right now it is all about teamwork. Things have changed in our department so much in the last year. It would not be possible to get everything done in our department without the great team that we have.

What is one word you would use to describe COBYS culture and why?

Ryan Carr,
Permanency Unit Caseworker



HONESTY – From the top of our organization to the families we serve, we aim to do what is right, what is honest and fair, ALWAYS.



Sunday, September 12, 2021

Lititz Church of the Brethren
300 West Orange Street, Lititz

Our 25th Year 25

Hi Ho Silver Anniversary
We ride (or walk) again!

3-mile Walk
10/25-mile Bicycle Ride
65-mile Motorcycle Ride



Mission & Ministries

Motivated by Christian faith, COBYS Family Services educates, supports and empowers children and adults to reach their full potential.

For the past 40 years COBYS has been carrying out this mission by providing safe and loving homes for children through foster care and adoption services; helping children and adults to overcome challenges through counseling; and leading family life education programs to teach skills and principles to parents, teens and children so families can become all that God intended them to be.

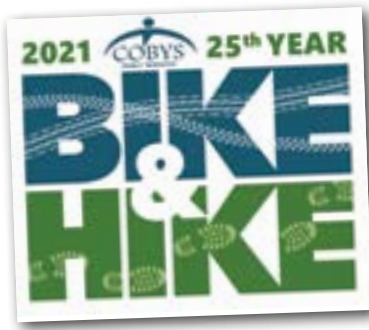
Whether you walk, ride a bike or motorcycle, sponsor or donate, your partnership with COBYS through the Bike & Hike helps make a positive difference in the lives of kids and families entrusted to our care.

Learn more about our work at www.cobys.org.



Event Sponsors





Hi Ho Silver Anniversary! *We ride (or walk) again!*

This is the 25th year of the COBYS Bike & Hike, our signature fundraising event which enables us to offer the children and families we serve the kind of transformative, positive, life altering care they deserve. We asked our generous sponsors to commemorate this milestone with an additional anniversary contribution to their sponsorship. Please give an extra "thank you" to the sponsors designated with the "25 star" icon. Like you, they're going above and beyond for COBYS. We hope you'll participate and consider honoring this special anniversary with a donation to our kickstart goal.

How to participate in the 2021 Bike & Hike:

1 On The Day

September 12, 2021

We're going back to basics. Group starts return to the Bike & Hike, with health, safety and fun in mind.

Schedule for the day:

Motorcycles (65 mile ride):

Registration..... 12:30 p.m.
Ride begins..... 1:30 p.m.

Bicycle Riders and Walkers:

Registration begins 1:30 p.m.

Bicycle (25 mile):

25-mile ride begins 2:00 p.m.

Bicycle (10 mile) and Walkers:

10-mile ride & Walk begin..2:30 p.m.

Ice Cream Sundae Bar and Celebration:

When participants begin to return..... around 3:15 p.m.

2 On Your Own

Use Our Course or Yours

If you are unable to attend the event in Lititz on September 12th, participants or groups of participants may choose to "Walk or Ride Where You Are", choosing your own convenient date and time. Please complete your walk or ride no later than September 12.

Use our posted courses or your own course. Simply gather your sponsors as usual, and do your walk or ride when it works for you.

Registration and the starts of the rides and walk will take place in the front of the church (along Orange Street).

Ice cream will be served in the pavilion in the back.

3 Get A Jump

A COBYS Kickstart

In honor of COBYS celebrating 25 years of the Bike & Hike event, we set a goal of raising \$25,000 before September 12. We're calling it COBYS Kickstart because it's our special way to get you excited and motivated to give. Executive Director Mark Cunningham will compete with some of COBYS staff in fun, friendly events prior to the Bike & Hike. Please consider contributing to help us meet our goal and stay tuned to emails and Facebook posts for videos of the competition!

Choose **COBYS Kickstart** on the pledge or donation form (paper and online) to designate your donation.

Visit cobys.org/bike-and-hike to register/donate online. You can create a personal fundraising page to forward to family and friends.

How It Works

- 1. READY – Register:** Pre-register online or by mailing a registration form with your \$30 minimum donation or sponsorship (sponsorships count toward minimum donation). Pre-registration is encouraged (Take a \$5 early bird discount if you register by September 5). Registration is available the day of the event.
- 2. SET – Gather Sponsorships:** Enlisting sponsors is optional, but we encourage you to expand the circle of giving by inviting friends and family to support your efforts. Please use the online fundraising page or the sponsorship sheet (print & digital forms available). Donations can be collected prior to the event or pledged for later giving. Submit your sponsor sheet and any money you choose to collect at registration, drop off or mail to COBYS at 1417 Oregon Rd. Leola, PA 17540. Those who donate \$20 or more will receive an acknowledgment for their tax records. We honor requests from sponsors not to add them to our mailing list. Please make checks payable to COBYS Family Services. **The top three fundraisers will receive grand prizes. Thank you gifts are also available.**
- 3. GO – Complete your walk or ride:** Join us for the 25th annual Bike & Hike on September 12 or walk or ride on your own time. If you complete your course on your own, or are unable to walk or ride that day, please stop by the Lititz Church of the Brethren between 12:30-4:30 pm on September 12 to pick up your T-shirt and a door prize.

2021 Bike & Hike Sponsor Sheet

Your Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Circle One: On the Day On Your Own

Circle One: Walk Bicycle Motorcycle

Email _____

	Sponsor's Name	Sponsor's Complete Mailing Address	Phone No.	\$ Pledge	Pay Type	Received?
	Example: Joe Biker	1234 5th Ave., Lancaster, PA 17608	717-555-5555	\$500	Cash/Check	Yes/No
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						
7.						
8.						
9.						
10.						
11.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor COBYS Kickstart					

Please provide complete information for all sponsors so we can collect pledges and send acknowledgments.

Photocopy this form for additional sheets or print more from www.cobys.org/bike-and-hike.

A spreadsheet version is available online or create your own fundraising page online.

2021 Bike & Hike Pre-Registration Form

To pre-register, please complete this form and mail it with a check payable to **COBYS Family Services, 1417 Oregon Road, Leola, PA 17540**. Or register at www.cobys.org/bike-and-hike. You may deduct \$5 per person if you pre-register by September 5, 2021. Additional donations are also welcomed!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Totals	Raised	Submitted
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Each participant: \$30 minimum donation/sponsorship.
Family registration: \$100 minimum donation/sponsorships (for families of more than three individuals).

Number of Participants	Dollar Amount
Walker(s)	Total \$
Bicyclist(s)	Total \$
Motorcycle(s)	Total \$
Motorcycle Passenger(s)	Total \$
Plus additional donation.....	
Less \$5/person pre-reg. discount.....	Total \$
Total	



Fun for the whole family

New this year, the Tree House of Lititz playground! The playground is located behind Lititz Church of the Brethren and right next to the pavilion where the Bike & Hike celebration takes place. This is a great place for the kids to play, so come join the Bike & Hike, whether you walk, bike or simply play and enjoy some ice cream, all for a great cause. We'd love to have you spend some time with us.



Fostering hope

Visit with our staff near the playground to learn more about foster care, adoption and all our ministries. Meet foster families to hear first hand about answering this call to serve.



Wanted, families with:

- ☒ Compassion
- ☒ Acceptance
- ☒ A heart for kids
- ☒ A servant spirit
- ☒ Generous hearts
- ☒ Open arms
- ☒ Love
- ☒ God's call to serve

Me, so far.

This poem was written by a 15-year old foster child living in a COBYS foster home, supported by our foster care staff and receiving child preparation services through an adoption caseworker. Writing poetry is an exercise completed as part of the child preparation services. The goal is to help children in foster care cope with their emotions and the uncertainty of the transitions on their journey. We added the title above because the poem supplies a snapshot of right now, with an eye to the future.

A Foster Child's Poem

I am the happy one, who likes to explore different things.
I am the hyper, crazy one, who might want to do fun things 24/7.
I am the intelligent one, who would never put myself in a situation that would jeopardize my future.
I am the one with the scars and their secrets.

I am the messed up one, who thinks everybody lies.
I am the helpless one, who can't change what people do, say, or think.
I am the hurt one, but much more hurt on the inside.
I am the one with the scars, and their angry message is I'm tired of people's b***s***.

I am the strong one, who is determined to accomplish my goals.
I am the dreamer, who imagines a different life, imagines a time when I am alone and focused.
I am the childlike one, who remembers funny times.
I am the one with the scars, but they are not me,
And one day their meaning will be to help others who have been on my journey and who are still taking it.

– Anonymous, 15-year old COBYS foster child

Resource family appreciation event

This year we didn't have our annual resource family appreciation banquet – instead we had a virtual event: The Price It Right game. Families participated in at home scavenger hunts and pricing games to earn points towards prizes. Winners received gift baskets from Stonewall Kitchen. Thirteen families are celebrating anniversaries in 2021.

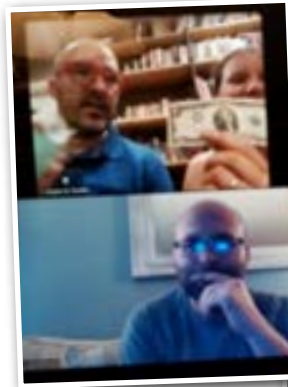
Celebrating five years of service:

Ben & Jill Armstrong	Anthony & Andrea Nolt
Joe & Daila Boufford	Darvin & Roseann Rutt
Darren & Emily Fox	Steve & Crissy Stoeffler
Greg & Lanessa Hess	Matt & Justine Trego
Jared & Leah Martin	Lou & Melissa Zoeller
Josh & Christina Martin	

Celebrating ten years of Service:

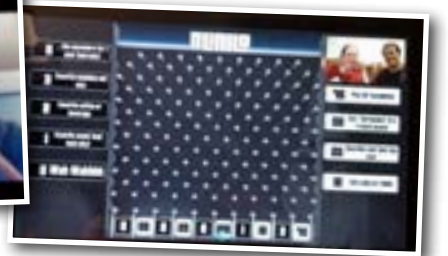
Jason & Brenda Breckbill	Dave & Rebecca King
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Together these families have provided foster/adoptive placements for 54 children and provided respite care for 44 children.



Left: Steve Stoeffler winning points for being the first to show a \$2 bill.

Below: Blinko was just one of the fun games in which resource parents participated.



Event Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors

Bronze Sponsors



Supporting Sponsors:

The Country Store, Keller Brothers Auto Company, J. B. Zimmerman, Accuwrite Print + Promo

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors for their generous funding in support of the mission of COBYS and our ministries. We encourage all participants to contact and patronize these businesses for products, service and solutions. **Missed out on sponsoring this year? Contact Anne Stokes at 717-656-6580 or anne@cobys.org for information on business support opportunities for next year's events.**

COBYS Core Values -LIFTS

Life is Sacred. Believing that all people are created in the image of God, we recognize the inherent worth of each client by exhibiting empathy, compassion and respect.

Integrity. We strive to be honest, authentic and trustworthy in saying what we mean, matching our behaviors to our words and taking responsibility for our actions.

Faith. Jesus is Lord of our organization. We trust him to provide for our ministry's needs and to empower transformation in our own lives and in the lives of those we serve.

Teamwork. Respecting our unique contributions, we value and care for each other, both personally and professionally, and enjoy working and growing together.

Servanthood. Servanthood leadership is reflected perfectly in the life and person of Jesus Christ. We seek to integrate the highest standards of professionalism with Christ's example of joyful service.





COBYS Family Services
1417 Oregon Road
Leola, PA 17540

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Our 25th Year

*Hi Ho Silver Anniversary
We ride (or walk) again!*

Sunday, September 12, 2021
Lititz Church of the Brethren

