



"New" Main Office

**It is now official** that COBYS has sold the "Old Mill" office at 1417 Oregon Road. The Business and Development departments now are in rental offices closer to 444 Murry Hill Circle, Lancaster where our foster care, adoption and family life education staff have been based for seven years.

**The Counseling Center** has moved and now sees clients at the Murry Hill Circle location.

Moving of offices aren't the only recent changes at COBYS. Our **Permanency Unit**, at our third location on E. King Street in downtown Lancaster, has been steadily restaffing to meet the needs of our partnership with Lancaster Children and Youth Services. These dedicated staff have quickly adopted the COBYS Difference in the way care is provided. This was evident in a recent, quickly arranged 5-hours trip to a neighboring state to bring back a runaway youth to give them a chance to start anew.

## COBYS on the Move

*There is a frequently quoted adage that claims "The only constant in life is change."*

It's hard to argue against that observation. Change is inevitable in this ever-changing, rapidly changing, world. COBYS Family Services is no stranger to change, having adjusted to the needs and requirements of providing high quality, compassionate care to those with whom we journey in their time of need.

The **Family Life Education department** has been moving forward too. COBYS is the North American "Trainer of Trainers" for the Blues Program, the evidence-based prevention program for teens with symptoms of anxiety, stress and depression. In the past year, the number of new trainers as grown almost 400% (training 292 Blues trainers), conducting 26 training classes which included people from 11 states and Canada and Mexico.

COBYS **Resource Home Unit** has significantly revamped the pre-service training process for foster and foster-to-adopt parents. The new training, which occurs prior to licensing, is a streamlined combination of training videos and mostly virtual, live sessions. These updates have eliminated redundancies, added more evidence-based instruction and personalization. The new training almost cuts in half the number of hours previously needed, while being more

advanced to help families deal with the issues they face. Additional training is a continual process for foster families throughout their time of fostering.

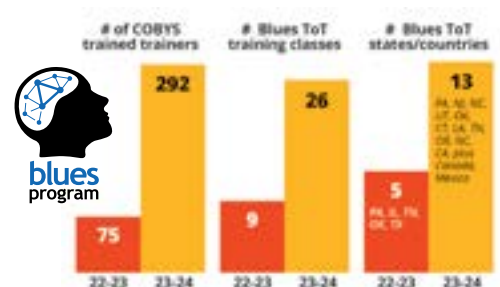
The trend we are encountering in the **Foster Care and Adoption** units is the increasing number of difficult cases. The trauma experienced by the clients our staff is serving is more pronounced in a field of work where the norm already starts with hard, messy situations. Yet these teams move forward with united efforts to work through the challenges and remarkably continue to do so with compassion and grace.

Clearly, COBYS has recently experienced an upswing of changes and challenges. And while change is inevitable, one constant is our mission to provide care and service to children, individuals and families who are dealing with real, often dire issues.

**For COBYS, that commitment is as constant as change.**



*(l to r) Some of COBYS Counseling staff gather in the new Counseling Center space. (Inset) Therapist Tracy Bosis in her new office; Screenshots from the new Resource Home Unit training videos; A graph displays the rapid growth in preparing trainers for the Blues Program for teens.*



## 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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Fax: 717-656-3056  
[www.cobys.org](http://www.cobys.org)

## An Act of Stewardship

I recently asked some friends what Biblical stewardship meant to them. The themes that emerged were centered around three words: ownership, responsibility and accountability.

Ownership as a theme quickly emerged. Ironically, it was not because we believed we own anything, but rather we agreed that we own nothing! Everything we have belongs to God, we are only stewards of what He has created, we simply manage our "stuff" on His behalf (see Psalm 24:1). Through further discussion, we landed on the themes of responsibility and accountability. If we are stewards of all that God has entrusted to us, then we are responsible to manage it well because, one day, we will be called to give an account for how we managed it.



This conversation fits well into what has been occurring at COBYS. As you are aware, we recently went through some reorganization. Our Counseling Department moved into our Murry Hill Circle building and Business Operations moved into a smaller, leased space just down the road from the Murry Hill Circle location. The 1417 Oregon Road location was sold. The reason why these changes occurred was due to the Oregon Road location being significantly vacant throughout the week for a few years now. As hybrid work schedules allow for people to work remotely, the building

was not being fully utilized. Through prayerful consideration, we realized that we were not being good stewards of the resources provided to us by continuing to operate in a space that was significantly larger than what we needed. At every step, things fell easily into place; we could clearly see God's hand at work for our transition!

These organizational changes strengthen our delivery of services as consolidation allows for a greater level of collaboration among employees, which has always been a hallmark in the COBYS difference in care.

We appreciate your continued partnership and prayer as we steward to what God has provided us.

Blessings,  
Mike

## TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025 - SAVE THE DATE! Wenger Foundation Praise Dinner



COBYS is blessed to be supported by the Wenger Foundation through their annual Praise Dinner, with donations directly benefiting Family Life Education services.

**Entertainment for 2025 will be Wilson Fairchild.**

[www.wengerfoundation.org/events](http://www.wengerfoundation.org/events)



Life is Sacred  
Integrity  
Faith

Teamwork  
Servanthood

Core Values:  
LIFTS

# Common Threads

## You're Invited to Dinner & Conversation



Thursday, March 20, 2025 • 5:30-8:00 pm

The Inn at Leola Village, Casa di Fiori  
38 Deborah Dr., Leola, PA 17540

*Join us*  
for this celebration  
fundraiser; an evening  
of conversation and good  
food where we celebrate  
our common threads  
across the generations.

THE GREATEST  
GENERATION



Baby Boomers



Gen X



Millennials



Gen Z



*We'll share COBYS updates and highlight the care we deliver together. This year we'll look across generations at best practices training, classes and care across COBYS departments meeting the complex needs of the children, individuals and families we serve.*

*Hear about the real world impact of our ministries as together we are making life-impacting differences in the community.*

**No matter which generation you belong to, the COBYS mission resonates with you.**

**We all have a call and part to play in this ministry of healing, to make a real difference in the lives of those we serve.**

### Evening Schedule:

5:30 - 6:00 pm Welcome reception and appetizers  
6:00 - 6:45 pm Dinner  
6:45 - 8:00 pm Families and Q&A

### Cost:

\$75 per person  
\$150 per couple  
\$550 per table of eight  
*A freewill offering will be taken.*

### RSVP by March 7, 2025:

Make reservations online at:  
[www.cobys.org/SpringDinner](http://www.cobys.org/SpringDinner)  
or scan the QR code

*On the form you will list all attendees and their food selection by option number.*



Or coordinate with Steve Nichols:  
Email: [steven@cobys.org](mailto:steven@cobys.org)  
Call: 717-656-6580 ext. 161  
Mail check and information to:  
Steve Nichols, 444 Murry Hill Circle, Lancaster, PA 17601

### Entrée Options (Your choice of main course)

**Includes one drink ticket to enjoy a glass of wine or beer**

- Free Range Chicken Breast** filled with Spinach and Ricotta, Whipped Potatoes and Assorted Vegetables (*gluten free*)
- Roasted Salmon Romesco** with Herbed Quinoa and Oven-Roasted Asparagus
- Orecchiette Pasta** with Sautéed Broccoli, Crushed Cauliflower, Tomatoes and Garlic Oil (*Vegan/Vegetarian*)

A copy of the official registration and financial information of COBYS Family Services may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

### Presenting Sponsor



### Compassion Sponsors







COBYS Family Services  
444 Murry Hill Circle  
Lancaster, PA 17601

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## A Look Inside

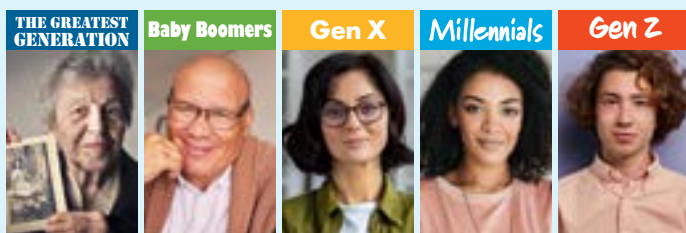
COBYS on the Move.....	1
Message from Mike .....	2
ExtraGive Recap .....	2
Dinner & Conversation Invitation Information .....	3
Common Threads .....	4
COBYS Community Is Action .....	4

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No matter which generation you belong to the COBYS mission calls you to play a part in this ministry.

## COBYS Community In Action

**ExtraGive 2024** We raised more than \$51,000 from 198 donors on November 22, 2024 ExtraGive Day. It is encouraging to see so many people in the region who trust and value our care.



**In October, our COBYS Care Fund** had a low balance of a few hundred dollars. Just as we were going to launch a giving campaign, gifts of several thousand dollars came in, allowing us to provide the extras in care and counseling for the next few months.

**Individuals, churches and businesses** provided Christmas gifts for 68 foster children served by our Permanency program. These gifts, whose value is over \$4,000, really are priceless because they meet the needs and wants of children while providing moments of joy in the Christmas season.



COBYS' Steve Nichols (l), accepts gifts for the Permanency Unit from volunteers from St. Edward's Episcopal Church