

Good things (or blessings) come in threes

Terry and Becky Blimline had just been approved to be foster parents. On the third or fourth call from COBYS about a potential foster placement, they said "yes" to three siblings. This is not typical. But the Blimlines aren't your typical foster family - if there is such a thing.

In the "when you know, you know" department, Becky and Terry Blimline were married a short four months after meeting, (which included discussion about foster care on their first date). Into their third year of marriage, they began their foster to adopt journey with licensing and training from COBYS.

They were approved on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, and the children were in their home on Friday, April 21. Immediately going from a family of two to five and beginning to get to know one another became their plans for that weekend.

All three children (Joshua, 14; Tamsin 11; Victoria, 9), were comfortable in the home right from the start. Becky notes that, "They walked in like they owned the place." But, she also gushes that they are all amazing, smart, sweet and outgoing. Clearly, it turned out to be the right match.

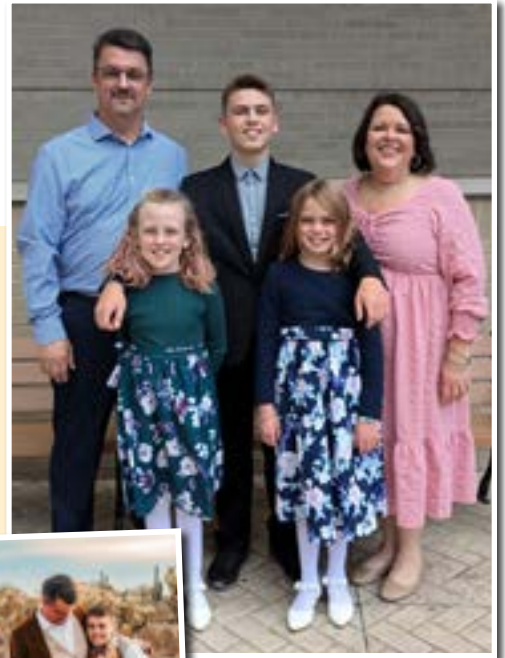
The Blimline family grew together over the year and a half foster care journey with adoption being finalized on November 6, 2024. As is to be expected, during the children's time in care, it wasn't always smooth sailing. All

"When we adopted them, the judge asked if they each wanted to testify and each one did and they did an amazing job! The kids are truly amazing! We are blessed to call them ours."

– Becky Blimline

foster children have lived experiences beyond their years, and the Blimlines are grateful for the support COBYS provided to address challenges. Services they received included trauma training and counseling as well as weekly meetings with Landon Miller, their parent trainer. (They can't express enough the admiration they have for Landon and the benefits of having a parent trainer.)

The quality and consistency of care from these resources was so beneficial for



The Blimlines on adoption day (above), and vacation (left and below)



the children and parents. Couple these services with the ever-available support from their case worker and the Foster

Care team, as well as trips to the COBYS Kids' Closet and support for overnight summer camp, and the Blimlines feel their journey has been blessed. They would whole-heartedly agree that good things and blessings really do come in threes.



"I feel like we've used EVERY service available through COBYS! Through COBYS we did TBRI, and our kids are currently in trauma counseling there. We had weekly meetings with Landon Miller, and without him we truly could not have done this. He counseled us in better ways to deal with our kids' behaviors, and helped us to be better parents."

– Becky Blimline

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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First Year Lessons

Below, is an excerpt from my recent comments at our Dinner and Conversation event. As I reflected on these remarks, I felt like they would be appropriate, with some minor modifications, to share with a wider audience. Thus, the inclusion here.

It was just over a year ago that I started as the Executive Director of COBYS. At that point, everything was new to me and, mercifully, everyone allowed me to observe for a bit. A year later, and knowing quite a bit more, I'd like to share three important items, from among the many things that I have learned in the past twelve months:

- **The strength of COBYS is our people.** We have the best employees who wholeheartedly believe in our mission.
- **Child welfare is a challenging business.** We encounter children and families on what may be the worst day of their lives and are called to provide hope when things may seem hopeless.
- **We absolutely cannot serve children and families without you.** Your support is paramount to what we do. For example, our liability insurance costs have skyrocketed over the past few years. Without your dedicated support, we would have a major gap in our funding which impacts our ability to show others the love of Jesus.

We have also had some major achievements over the past year, among these are physical restructuring to ensure we are good stewards of the funds provided to us and the completion of our five-year strategic plan, which is available for you to view on our website.

While engaged in our work at COBYS, I often think of Matthew 25: 35-40, when Jesus talks of having all the nations gathered before Him. He references those on His right and invites them to inherit the Kingdom because of feeding Him, giving Him a drink, clothing Him and visiting Him. The righteous to whom he is speaking are confused by this and ask Jesus when they did such a thing. Jesus responds by telling them that when they did this to the least, they did it to Him. We live in a society where serving self is valued above serving others. This is where I am proud to say that we at COBYS strive to be different, and our people regularly serve others above self.

Thank you for walking this journey with us and providing prayers and donations to COBYS. We cannot do this work without you. Your generosity helps us to serve others in their times of need.

Blessings,
Mike



New COBYS Board Member

COBYS is excited to welcome Doug Denlinger as our newest Board member. Doug brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with a degree in Christian Education, from LBC, and 40 years in commercial banking. He is married to Chris Denlinger, of 40 years, and together they attend Calvary Monument Bible Church in Paradise.

Doug enjoys quality time with family and friends, especially on the golf course. His heart mission is reflected from Micah 6:8, his favorite verse, "To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."



COBYS In Action (Things that did and could happen any day)

Makayla Malcolm, permanency case worker, has assisted a family with several children and both parents in prison. Despite the parents' actions and choices, they have a very loving and close relationship with their children. The children have had joyous visits with their mom in prison, despite the circumstances.

Recently, an incident happened during a visit that caused future visits to be suspended indefinitely. Makayla recognized that the reasoning provided by the prison did not match what she had seen while observing the visit. She spent time providing detailed information and advocating for the prison to reconsider its decision. **Makayla's advocacy paid off**, with the prison realizing there had been an exaggeration of the issue and visits were able to resume. Makayla's willingness to push back and ask for reconsideration has **ensured that these kids can continue to regularly visit their mom.**



nature of this client, this **simple thank you is so significant and shows how kindness and showing up for our clients can make a huge difference.**

Becky Stutzman, senior permanency case worker, has worked with a very challenging parent for more than a year. Despite the lack of progress and very combative nature of this client, **Becky has been a consistent source of support and has treated the client with kindness.** Recently, this client was incarcerated, and Becky took time out of her day to visit, knowing that it was the first time the client was incarcerated.

The client later texted Becky and said, "Thank you for visiting me, I really appreciated that, and it really meant a lot to me, thank you so much!" Considering the incredibly difficult



COBYS in the Community



SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025 Open Streets Lancaster

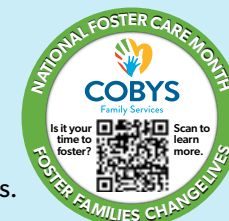
Lancaster Rec's 10th Annual Open Streets Lancaster event will temporarily close Water Street to motorized vehicles and open them to the Lancaster community.

Visit the COBYS booth for interactive games and prizes for the whole family. Talk with staff to learn more about the COBYS Difference in care.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH Coffee and Caring

New Holland Coffee and COBYS are teaming together to raise awareness of the need for foster families with a coffee cup sticker on all drinks during May, National Foster Care awareness month.

Enjoy your favorite hot beverage at NHCC and scan the QR code on the label to learn more about becoming a foster family or supporting COBYS in our mission to care for kids and families.





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Lancaster, PA 17601

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A Look Inside

Good things (or blessings) come in threes	1
Message from Mike	2
Mental Health Care Awareness Month.....	2
New Board Member	3
COBYS in Action	3
COBYS in the Community.....	3
Bike & Hike - Save the Date.....	4



Choose how to participate on
September 7,

- Three-mile walk
- 10 & 25-mile bicycle rides
- 1-1/2-mile Tasty Tour (treats at four Lititz eateries!)
- We all finish with the Incredible Ice Cream Celebration

Event Sponsorship
Opportunities Available
Invest in your community
Contact Anne Stokes
Today!
anne@cobys.org

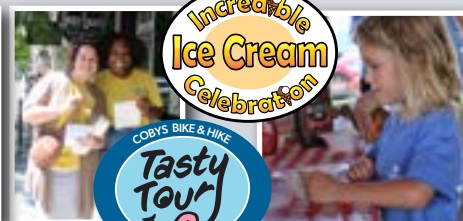
Sunday, September 7, 2025

Save the Date

Take a nice ride or stroll (a perfect, relaxing exercise after a hectic Labor Day weekend), and finish with a delicious ice cream sundae of your creation. It's a delightful way to spend an end-of-summer Sunday afternoon while supporting the work we do together.

Tasty Tour continues on firm footing

After a successful launch last year, the **Tasty Tour**, is returning for our foodie friends. It is a walk with stops at four popular eateries in Lititz making it a delicious option for Bike & Hikers.



Details and registration this summer:
cobys.org/bike-and-hike