

**We know you care about kids and families;** you are part of the COBYS Community after all. You trust an organization like COBYS to do the hard work, to deliver quality services with respect, dignity, a sense of empowerment and hope. We enjoy sharing the impact of the care we provide together in many different ways. Sometimes we share statistics and percentages, sometimes Q&As with



families about their adoption journey, sometimes specific programming highlights. These are all important, but equally so are the daily actions of our staff and of our supporters, adapting to meet pressing needs. These everyday actions might get overlooked, but at COBYS we recognize their importance and want to highlight COBYS Care in Action.

## Care from Our Staff

**Care is truly what drives us.** A call to provide the kind of servant care that is so much more than "going through the motions" care. It is a care rooted in love for one another and affords everyone a chance for a future with hope. This care would not be possible without adapting on a daily or sometimes moment-to-moment basis. Adaptability at COBYS is :

- **A caseworker patiently, doggedly, creatively finds a way to connect with a foster child** to build trust and confidence so the child will know and understand that the caseworker is there for them – to help them and walk with them through an unsettling time. The caseworker may develop that bond through sports, games, toys, books, cooking, art projects, or maybe just going for ice cream for a chance to talk in private. It sometimes takes relentless effort to even open the dialogue, even without eye contact, but breaking through can be a major accomplishment that opens the door to a chance for a hopeful future.



## Care from Our Donors

The care offered to those we serve begins with care for each other. The COBYS staff and community (that's you!) support one another with collaboration and a team mentality. We see this when:

- **Prayers for the mission and the work** we do together are offered by individuals and congregations around the region.
- When new donors step forward with a **recurring donation or sponsorship**.
- When longtime donors **make an extra gift this year** because they recognize the necessary and complex care being provided.
- When children encourage their friends to **give change instead of birthday gifts**, then they pass that gift along to COBYS.



- When **friends and family donate baby items to our Kids' Closet** or find just the right Christmas gift for a child.
- When **family foundations** agree to changes in designation for their gifts, because they trust us and know we wouldn't be asking if there wasn't a need.

**COBYS Care in Action.** It happens every day. It happens in big ways and a thousand little ways.

We are glad you see our care and appreciate it.



- **Staff cross-trained in services to meet current needs.** It's a supervisor with counseling credentials taking on several therapy clients to help with the demand for counseling services and streamline expenses within COBYS.

*continued on page 7*

## Mission Statement

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

## Board of Directors

Becky Fuchs, President  
Ken Craul, Secretary  
Rachel Bucher Swank  
Doug Denlinger  
Kathy Focht

Sheri Johnson  
Donna Parcell  
Merv Wampler  
Kelli Wenger

## Administrative Staff

Dr. J. Michael Lausch, Executive Director  
Cynthia Umberger, Director of Business Operations  
Anne Stokes, Director of Development & Comm.  
Abby Keiser, Director of Family Life Services  
Mary Sourber, Director of Placement Services  
Jen McDowell, Adoption Supervisor  
Holly Hardin, Assistant Director of Family Life Services  
Amanda Storrs, Resource Home Supervisor  
Courtney Beiler, Foster Care Supervisor  
Amy Wittmaier, Counseling Supervisor  
Krista Rankin, Summer Weaver Permanency Unit Supervisors  
Tim Strawser, HR Manager of Personnel  
Bethany Kauffman-Raub, HR Manager of Records & Benefits  
Doug May, Communications & Development Manager

**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

444 Murry Hill Circle  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
717-656-6580  
Fax: 717-656-3056  
[www.cobys.org](http://www.cobys.org)

## COBYS Care In Action

At COBYS Family Services, providing care is more than just a mission—it's the heartbeat of everything we do. Whether we're serving children in need, supporting families, or empowering individuals through counseling and education, COBYS' commitment to care extends across every corner of our organization.

### Care That Begins with People

COBYS believes that caring for others starts with caring for our own. Staff members are supported in a culture that values respect, open communication and collaboration. The Leadership Team works to ensure that every team member feels heard and appreciated. Regular check-ins and a strong emphasis on work-life balance are just some of the ways COBYS demonstrates care internally.

### Care That Extends to Families

The families we serve experience this same intentional care. From the moment someone connects with us, they are met with compassion, empathy, and professionalism. Resource parents are given training, support, and a dedicated team that walks beside them through every step of their journey. Biological families and adoptive parents are met with the same level of commitment—because at COBYS, every family matters.

### Care That Uplifts the Community

Beyond individual services, COBYS is deeply invested in the well-being of our broader community. Through Family Life Education and counseling services, we offer tools that empower individuals to build healthier relationships, navigate challenges and grow stronger together. These programs are not just about education; they are about healing, hope and transformation.

### Care That is Rooted in Faith

As a faith-based organization, COBYS' care is rooted in the belief that every person has inherent value. This perspective drives us to serve with integrity, humility and unconditional love. It's what motivates us every day.

### A Unified Commitment

Care at COBYS is not confined to one department or role. It is a unified commitment, woven into the fabric of our organization. Across our programs and teams, COBYS remains steadfast in its mission to provide care that makes a lasting difference.

I hope you appreciate the examples of adaptability in this newsletter. Thank you for helping us help others.

Blessings,  
Mike



## Kids' Closet Urgent Needs

COBYS has one big closet for all our kids. Each foster child coming into care receives a backpack filled with clothes, toys, personal care items, a Bible and more. Here are some pressing needs:

**Girls clothing** sizes 8-12 -basic (white/gray/black) t-shirts, shorts and leggings.  
**Boys clothing** size 6 - basic t-shirts, shorts and pajamas.  
**Diapers/pull ups** of all sizes and baby wipes.

For more information visit: [cobys.org/support-us/kids-closet/](http://cobys.org/support-us/kids-closet/)





**Sunday,  
September 7, 2025**

Lititz Church of the Brethren, 300 W. Orange St., Lititz

**10 or 25-mile Bicycle Ride** New Routes  
**3-mile Walk**  
**1.5-mile Tasty Tour Walk**

## Mission & Ministries

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

COBYS carries out this mission by providing safe and loving homes for children through foster care and adoption services; helping children and adults overcome challenges through counseling; and leading family life education programs teaching skills and principles to parents, teens and children.

No matter how you participate, your partnership during the COBYS Bike & Hike helps make a positive difference in the lives of kids and families entrusted to our care.

**Learn more about us at [www.cobys.org](http://www.cobys.org).**

For up-to-date info and to register scan this code



**Tasty Tour is on firm footing**

After a successful launch last year, the **Tasty Tour**, is back for our foodie friends.

The **Tasty Tour** is a walk with stops at four popular eateries in Lititz making it a delicious option for Bike & Hikers. Yum!



## We all scream for...

... **ICE CREAM!** We all end together with the **Incredible Ice Cream Celebration** for a delicious treat and good fellowship.



## Event Sponsors







# Sunday, September 7, 2025

Lititz Church of the Brethren, 300 W. Orange St., Lititz

Save the date, think about how you'll participate to ride your bicycle or walk (or walk and snack). And of course, we all end with the **Incredible Ice Cream Celebration!**

## Kick us off with a head start

### The Bike & Hike Kickstart

The Kickstart sets the foundation for our biggest fundraiser, getting you in gear or stepping up to support COBYS at this event.

\$25,000 GOAL



## Join us on the day

Choose your event, arrive on time and let the fun begin, all the way through to the ice cream celebration. We cherish the chance to gather with you to celebrate in support of the ministries of COBYS.

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

### Schedule for the day:

#### 25-mile Bicycle Riders:

Registration/Check-in begins..... 12:00 p.m.  
Ride begins..... 12:30 p.m.

#### 1 1/2-mile Tasty Tour Walkers:

Check-in begins ..... 12:30 p.m.  
Tasty Tour Walk begins ..... 1:00 p.m.

#### 10-mile Bicycle Riders and 3-mile Walkers:

Registration/Check-in ..... 1:00 p.m.  
Ride and Walk begin ..... 1:30 p.m.

#### Incredible Ice Cream Celebration:

When participants begin to return ..... around 2:45 p.m.

We finish with ice cream! Delicious Fox Meadows vanilla and/or chocolate ice cream and your choice of toppings!

**Ice cream will be served in the pavilion in the back of the church.**

## The Tasty Tour Menu

- Dosie Dough:** A chocolate or butter mini croissant
- Café Arabella:** Sweet treat
- Slate Café:** Pinwheel sandwich and coffee (hot/iced) or tea
- Location TBD:** We're lining up more goodness.

(Some gluten-free and vegetarian options available. Selection is subject to change.)

**Note: Participation in Tasty Tour is pre-order only and minimum donation/sponsorship is \$60/person. Sign up before August 25.**



1 READY

### Register:

- Pre-Register online or by mail with a \$30 (\$60 Tasty Tour) minimum donation or sponsorship.
- \$5 Early Bird Discount if you register before August 25 (August 11 for Tasty Tour).**
- Family registration:** \$100/(\$200-Tasty Tour) minimum donation/sponsorships (for families of more than three individuals).
- NOTE: Due to planning for food, Tasty Tour is pre-registration only by August 25.**
- Registration is available up to 9 AM online on September 7, or at the event (not Tasty Tour).
- All donations \$20 and more will receive tax acknowledgment.

2 SET

### Gather Sponsorships:

- Expand your circle of giving – invite others to join you or support you and COBYS with a pledge.
- Create an online fundraising page.
- Collect donations – credit card online or by check.
- Submit sponsorship information and monies to COBYS at the event or mail to: 444 Murry Hill Circle, Lancaster, PA 17601.

3 GO

### Enjoy A Walk or Ride:

We look forward to seeing you September 7 at Lititz Church of the Brethren.

For more details or to register/donate online visit:  
**cobys.org/bike-and-hike**

If you have any questions please contact Steve Nichols at: [steven@cobys.org](mailto:steven@cobys.org).

Top Three

Top three fundraisers get Grand Prizes

Sign up Early

Register before August 1 to be entered to in a drawing to win two tickets to Hersheypark!

Door Prizes

For all participants. Raise more, earn thank you gifts!

## 2025 Bike & Hike Sponsor Sheet

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One: \_\_\_\_\_

Bicycle

Walk

Tasty Tour

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

	Sponsor's Name	Sponsor's Complete Mailing Address	E-Mail Address	Phone No.	\$ Pledge	Pay Type	Received?
	Example: Joe Biker	1234 5th Ave., Lancaster, PA 17608	joebiker9876@aol.com	717-555-5555	\$500	Cash/Check	Yes/No
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							

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](http://www.cobys.org/bike-and-hike). A spreadsheet version is available online or create your own fundraising page online.

## 2025 Bike & Hike Pre-Registration Form

To pre-register, please complete this form and mail it with a check payable to: **COBYS Family Services, 444, Murry Hill Circle, Lancaster, PA 17601.** Or register at [www.cobys.org/bike-and-hike](http://www.cobys.org/bike-and-hike). You may deduct \$5 per person if you pre-register by August 25, 2025, or Tasty Tour before August 11. Additional donations are also welcomed!

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Totals \_\_\_\_\_ Raised \_\_\_\_\_ Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

Each participant: \$30 (\$60-Tasty Tour) minimum donation/sponsorship.  
Family registration: \$100/(\$200-Tasty Tour) minimum donation/sponsorships (for families of more than three individuals).

Number of Participants

Dollar Amount

\_\_\_\_ Bicyclist(s) @ \$30 ea. .... Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ 3-mile Walker(s) @ \$30 ea. .... Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Tasty Tour(s) \* @ \$60 ea. .... Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Number of gluten-free or allergies of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Plus additional donation/Kickstart Fund ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Less \$5/person pre-reg. discount Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Deadline for Tasty Tour registration is August 25, 2025



## Everyone Wins at Bike & Hike!



**Bike & Hike 2025 will be held rain or shine. Registration fees are non-refundable.**

## Fostering Hope

Look for our staff in new navy blue shirts (with STAFF on the back) and say hello.

**Have a question about the care we provide for kids and families? Ask us.**

We are passionate about what we do and sharing the services we provide!



### Event Sponsors



### Gold Sponsors



### Silver Sponsors



### Bronze Sponsors



**Supporting Sponsors:** J. B. Zimmerman, Keller Brothers Auto Company, PennMedicine-HealthWorks, Penway Construction Inc., Rodgers & Associates, Sheetz

**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](mailto:anne@cobys.org) for information on business support opportunities for next year's events.**



*continued from page 1*

- **It is administrative assistants and case aides** who seem to innately know exactly what a caseworker needs next and stay one step ahead of those needs.

- **Coworkers who graciously and willingly** step in when needed, that could mean anything from covering a visit or office responsibilities to even sharing "court-appropriate" shoes for a last-minute scheduled hearing.



- **It's preparing foster families**, ordinary people with a special call in their heart, with the best trauma-informed training to afford them the best chance at meeting foster children



with complex needs where they are. That means support from a dedicated resource home coordinator, a caseworker assigned

to each child in their care, access to an on-call caseworker any time day or night, fast-track placement with a therapist when prescribed and if the need calls for it, personal training sessions with a dedicated skills trainer. It's walking with those families through trials and joys, through tears and laughter and giving them the tools and support so the children in their care can thrive.

Adaptation has always been a trademark of the organization, meeting the needs with the best current solutions to the issues of the time. COBYS will continue to adapt to the ever-changing human services world. Thanks to you, as a part of the COBYS community, we keep making this happen.

## Planning Your Support for COBYS

Investing in the work of your favorite charity, like COBYS, is personal and has many options. Planning is key to finding what works for you. Not only can you provide an undesignated gift or designate to the Care Fund, you can choose the method that works best for you.



### A Subscription to Change Lives – Monthly Giving.

Make an automatic, monthly donation to COBYS. Think of it as a subscription that is making a difference beyond your own entertainment. Consider committing to COBYS what you pay for Netflix or NFL Sunday Ticket. Automatic giving allows you to spread the gift out over the year and provides COBYS consistent financial resources. [www.cobys.org/donations](http://www.cobys.org/donations) and click "Make Recurring Gift".



### IRA Giving

Starting at age 70 ½, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA. At 73, you can make a QCD as part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) each year. This gift comes directly from the financial institution to COBYS and provides you with tax benefits. Talk to your financial advisor about setting this up.



### Donor Advised Fund

Establishing a Donor Advised Fund through a financial institution allows for gifts of cash, stocks, commodities, bonds and other assets. The donor receives immediate tax benefits with the flexibility on when to support charities like COBYS with a donation. DAFs grow over time and enable larger charitable gifts. This gift comes directly from the financial institution to COBYS.



### Bequest

A will can be a reflection of your faith, values and priorities. Those who value our ministries to children and families enough to give faithfully while they are living may want to include COBYS in their will. An estate gift can make a lasting impact that continues many years after the donor has passed away. Often, people choose to designate a percentage from their estate to charities like COBYS.



### Employer Matching Gifts

Many corporate employers match charitable contributions by their employees. Have you checked whether your employer has a matching gift program? Why not double your gift?

To discuss using any of these options, contact Director of Development Anne Stokes at 717-656-6580 x101.

To ensure your gift is designated properly, our EIN Number is 23-2128881.

**Please contact your financial advisory or attorney for information about your specific situation and further details about each option.**

**NOTE: Please inform your financial institution about our change of address:**

**COBYS Family Services, 444 Murry Hill Circle, Lancaster, PA 17601**



COBYS Family Services  
444 Murry Hill Circle  
Lancaster, PA 17601

Address Service Requested



Become our fan on  
Facebook and Instagram

**REMINDER NOTE: we will no longer receive  
mail forwarded from our old address.**

Please use new remittance envelopes or address  
your envelope to this address.

Non-Profit  
U.S. Post Office  
PAID  
Permit No. 52  
Lancaster, PA

## A Look Inside

Adaptable Care .....	1, 7
Message from Mike .....	2
COBYS Kids' Closet Needs .....	3
Bike & Hike 2025 Invitation.....	3-6
Planning Support for COBYS.....	7
Bike & Hike - Save the Date.....	8



### Choose how to participate on September 7

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

**New  
Routes**

**Door  
Prizes**

*Prizes for all participants.  
Raise more, earn  
thank you gifts!*

*Top three fundraisers  
get Grand Prizes*

**Top  
Three**

## Sunday, September 7, 2025

## Make your plan

**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 is back** with stops at four popular eateries in Lititz.

**Plan early, a chance for more fun.**

Register before August 1, 2025 to be entered  
in a drawing for two tickets to Hersheypark!



**Registration opens in early July:  
[cobys.org/bike-and-hike](http://cobys.org/bike-and-hike)**