

Five things we do together

Hope happens with a strong COBYS community

1 We show up.

Whether you're new to COBYS or have been a partner for years, **you already know this basic truth: with your help, we show up for children and families.** We meet them with compassion and empathy, because we know that is what is needed – almost as much as the services we are providing. We treat them with dignity and respect because it could be some of the hardest days in their lives.



Recent adoptions at COBYS include (top to bottom), the Ellis, Sensenig and Sittler families.



2 Nurture a culture of caring.

That is the COBYS way. Because of you our caseworkers are supported. **COBYS staff experience a work culture of care so they can give care.** Collaboration is commonplace in finding the best course of action for the best outcome for those we serve. There is support for one another and a total team approach working toward a common goal.

3 Do the ordinary extraordinarily.

Cooperation shines at COBYS. It's even visible in seemingly mundane, yet vital tasks, like the required county and state audits. All agencies are periodically audited to ensure rules and regulations are being followed. COBYS audit score comments are filled with praise for both completeness and accuracy and for the positive attitude and cooperation we provide during the audit. **Cooperation truly is ingrained in the way we do things** – because you make that possible by funding support staff.

4 Take time to care.

Your gifts don't just fund services. They protect the way we serve – with time, dignity, and real human care. Without your support we would be at risk of having to cut corners resorting to cookie-cutter, bare-bones services in order to stay viable. We believe we'd still try to deliver those services with a servant spirit (our employees all have that in common), but in time the heart could grow heavy from not being able to spend the time needed to truly connect. Overall outcomes would suffer.

5 We make a difference.

With your support we avoid that bleaker scenario **and continue to provide care that highlights the COBYS Difference.** Maintaining that difference has its challenges. The uncertainty of so many things in society and the economy are constant tests. Plus finding and engaging with new and potential donors across different platforms and media is necessary but diluted and expensive.

Giving Update

General giving is down for the year, so your support is as important as it has ever been.

We ask for your engagement:

- **Plan your yearly giving**
- **Attend a COBYS fundraiser**
- **Become a monthly or quarterly donor.** Ongoing gifts sustain both the work we do and the way we do it.

Scan the code to make a donation today



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
 Keith Fox Bill Kepner
 Doug Denlinger Donna Parcell
 Kathy Focht Kelli Wenger

Administrative Staff

Dr. J. Michael Lausch, Executive Director
 Abby Keiser, Program Director (Family Life Education and Counseling)
 Anne Stokes, Director of Development & Communications
 Celine Schell, Director of Business Operations
 Krista Rankin, Program Director (Foster Care, Adoption and Permanency Unit)
 Ashtyn Beers & Kristin Kuhn, Permanency Unit Supervisors
 Amy Wittmaier, Counseling Supervisor
 Courtney Beiler, Foster Care Supervisor
 Holly Hardin, Family Life Education Supervisor
 Jen McDowell, Adoption Supervisor
 Bethany Kauffman-Raub, HR Manager of Records & Benefits
 Tim Strawser, HR Manager of Personnel

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.



444 Murry Hill Circle
 Lancaster, PA 17601
 717-656-6580
 Fax: 717-656-3056
www.cobys.org

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. (EIN 23-2128881)

Living Open-Handed: The Joy of Christian Generosity

Generosity is at the very heart of the Christian life.

It is more than an occasional act of kindness; it is a posture of the soul, a daily decision to live open-handed before God and others. Scripture reminds us that everything we have is a gift, entrusted to us not to hoard, but to steward with love and purpose.



When we reflect on God's generosity toward us, the call becomes clear. He gives so freely to us without hesitation and in love without condition. As recipients of such abundant goodness, we are invited to mirror that same spirit in how we treat others.

Yet, being generous can feel challenging, especially in a world that encourages scarcity and self-preservation. We may wonder if we have enough to give or worry about what we might lose. But Christian generosity is rooted in trust, the faith that God is our provider, and that as we give, He continues to supply our needs.

When we give freely, we participate in God's work in the world.

We become vessels of His love, channels through which hope and blessing flow to others. In those moments, generosity transforms not only the receiver, but the giver as well.

The early church modeled this beautifully. In Acts 2:44-45, believers shared everything they had, ensuring that no one among them was in need. Their generosity was not driven by obligation, but by unity, compassion and faith. They understood that what they possessed was entrusted to them by God for the good of others.

At COBYS, we must rely on the generosity of others to ensure that we are able to serve children and families well. The unfortunate reality is, without the support of donors, we are unable to provide the level of care necessary during times of significant need.

As you consider where you can be generous, please keep us in mind. We love partnering with you to ensure that children are in safe and loving homes.

Blessings,
 Mike



Thank you, Cindy

Cindy Umberger, director of business operations, retired at the beginning of April after 16+ years of service at COBYS. We are grateful for her many years of overseeing and growing our business operations and all that it entails. From accounting system advances to annual government licensing, there have been significant changes in the child welfare system. Cindy led with

grace, accuracy and dogged determination in providing a firm financial foundation for all the work of COBYS.

We celebrate with Cindy in her retirement and being able to spend more time with her family and garden.



COBYS Community Baseball Bash

Support COBYS at the Lancaster Stormers game



Saturday, May 16, 2026

Penn Medicine Park 650 N. Prince Street, Lancaster, PA 17603

Family friendly fun for all generations

If you love baseball and COBYS, come join us for the Baseball Bash with the Lancaster Stormers! Enjoy the "suite" life in the Silverball Suite. In addition to a game ticket in suite level seating, you get to play unlimited pinball and arcade games in the Silverball Suite of Penn Medicine Park, a pre-game stadium tour, free food and a postgame fireworks show!

You can also purchase a Kids Park activity bracelet for \$5 each for access to more fun.

Schedule

- 4:45 pm Stadium Tour
- 5:30 pm Gates Open
- 6:00 pm Welcome & Buffet Opens
- 6:30 pm First Pitch
- 6:45 pm Game Time
- Postgame Fireworks

Ticket Packages

- Single Ticket plan:** Adult tickets (\$100) + child (12 & under) tickets (\$40) up to 6 people per family
- Family 4-pack:** 4 tickets - 2 adult ticket and 2 children (12 & under) for \$240
- Group Outing:** 4 Adult tickets for \$400
- Foster family plan:** \$40 per person (up to 5 people per family) = \$200 (Note: limited offer of 30 people)



Activities

- Stadium Tour: Behind-the-scenes at Penn Medicine Park
- Ballpark food buffet
- Suite level seating behind home plate
- Free arcade games
- Wristband access to Kids Park (\$5 fee per person)

Presenting Sponsor

Hope Sponsors



Compassion Sponsors





COBYS Family Services
444 Murry Hill Circle
Lancaster, PA 17601

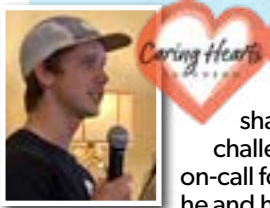
Non-Profit
U.S. Post Office
PAID
Permit No. 52
Lancaster, PA

Address Service Requested

Become our fan on
Facebook and Instagram

A Look Inside

- Five Things We Do Together 1
- Message from Mike 2
- Cindy Umberger Retirement 2
- COBYS Baseball Bash Invitation 3
- Upcoming Events/Save the Dates 4
- Caring Hearts Luncheon Recap 4



During the Caring Hearts Luncheon, Eric Albrecht shared both touching and challenging moments as an on-call foster parent. The care he and his wife, Marisa, provide is foundational, as it sets the tone during the turbulent first few days for kids just entering care. As a short term foster family, they need to remain flexible since placements can last for a few days or a week. They rely on community to help, just as COBYS relies on our community, to provide life-changing care.

Sunday, September 13, 2026



Save the Date

On a milestone year, come bicycle ride, walk or enjoy the Tasty Tour at our signature fundraising event. Plus ice cream for all!



Event Sponsorship
Opportunities Available.
Invest in your community
Contact Anne Stokes
by June 19!
anne@cobys.org

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