

Blue Valley Times

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L-R Kirsten Esposito, Kristi Hammond, Keohi Huber, Francine Huber, Scott Huber, Christine Bush, Laura McClain

Kainoa's Ohana a Place for Healing

By Michael Ortoski

BANGOR - Francine and Scott Huber, along with their board of directors, Kristi Hammond and Ellen Griffith celebrated their grand opening with a ribbon cutting and welcoming meal on this month.

The Bangor family opened the doors to their home and hearts to those touched by the effects of addiction, offering a new approach to recovery at their farm on Saturday.

The event took place under a newly constructed pavilion by Scott Huber in memory of his son's favorite place on the farm.

"This is where he used to hang out a lot: look at the view, talk to me, come up with the dogs. It was a real peaceful spot. This is for him, and for anybody else that we can help."

The Hubers lost their son, Kainoa, in October 2017 when he overdosed at the age of 23 after struggling with addiction for years, both in public and private.

Francine invited the community to the event to change their perception on addiction, and instead offer empathy and love to

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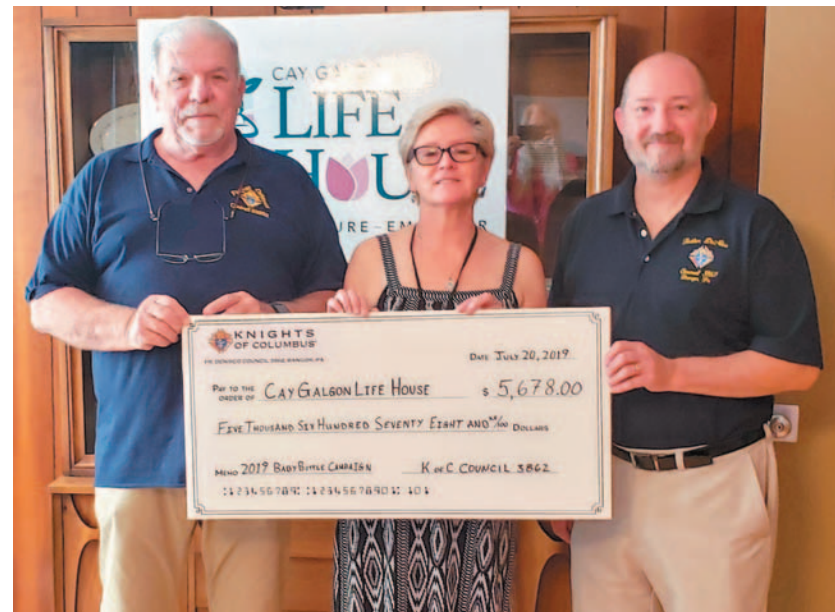
Winners Of The Slate Belt Heritage Center And Little Corner Café "Mystery Dinner Theatre"

By Karen Brewer

BANGOR - Over 30 people attended the event. Characters from the Heritage Center presented clues to who killed a quarry worker in Pen Argyl. Guests had to amass the clues to solve the mystery. Cia Kneebone 1st place winning a \$50.00 Gift Certificate complements of Sherry and Gary Haycock owners of Little Corner Café. Alexa McMaster 2nd place winning a Homefront Book & Margaret Pickler 3rd place winning a Heritage Center Book. A four course dinner was served by the hosts.



L-R Alexa McMaster 2nd place, Cia Kneebone 1st place, Margaret Pickler 3rd place



From left: Greg Findon (Grand Knight), Christine Duddy (Director of Operations), Tom Miller (Campaign Chairman)

Knights of Columbus "Baby Bottle" Fundraiser

By Michael Ortoski

On July 20, the Fr. DeNisco Council (#3862) of the Knights of Columbus, located in Bangor, concluded its "baby bottle" fundraiser for the Cay Galgon Life House raising a total of \$5,678.

Thanks to the generosity of the parishioners of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Roseto, and St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Pen Argyl, the council collected over 300 pounds of checks, bills and coins between Mother's Day and Father's Day. Chairman Miller stated, "This is the first time

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42ND ANNUAL



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Kainoa's Ohana

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those who suffer through it.

"This is a fellowship," Huber said. "Maybe it hasn't affected you, but you may know someone. This is our way, this is a foundation built on love. And this is what I would like to ask you, is to be kind and to love the families and the ones that suffer."

Francine and Scott began exploring how they could help in the battle against drugs that took their son's life and decided that they would use their farm to launch an innovative program that would welcome the afflicted and help them move forward after suffering from addiction.

With the help of their board of directors, the Hubers began working on the plan to provide a tiered recovery system featuring therapeutic work that fosters valuable professional and life skills for those in recovery from addiction. And so was born Kainoa's Ohana, a place where people could look past the stigma of addiction and embrace recovery efforts.

"I hope this farm is a place where you can find a little piece of understanding, a little way to offer some [understanding] to the people that are going through this," Huber said.

Friends, family and fellow advocates for recovery embraced Saturday's grand opening with words of encouragement and calls to volunteer.

"Certainly we hope that the efforts and the vocation that Fran and Scott have taken, that of finding a way to help people battling addiction and substance abuse, to help their families and loved ones who are all in some way affected, that indeed their efforts may grow and bear fruit," Deacon Charles of St. Rocco's Parish in Martins Creek said.

Representatives from the offices of State Senator Mario Scavello (R-40) and Representative Joe Emrick (R-137) applauded the Hubers for their effort in the battle against addiction and the fight to promote long-term recovery.

"Not only personally, but on behalf of the commonwealth and the House of Representatives and the Senate, we truly appreciate this here, in the 40th Senatorial District, in Representative [Joe] Emrick's district," Kristine Bush, district director to Sen. Scavello, said. "It's a much needed resource that is very unique, and we are very, very happy."

Board member Ellen Griffith said "Two years ago, Fran and Scott had this vision of wanting to create a place of love out of the loss of their son," Griffith said. "I look behind us and I see beautiful pictures of other lost loved ones, and I'm so proud to be part of your board, and to see this dream come true, and to have this place of love that you created. I know that we're going to be successful, and it's an honor to serve with you."

The mission of Kainoa's Ohana is to offer the opioid addict an opportunity to build life skills, through a progression of tiered tasks. We will work in partnership with local schools, businesses and the community to provide and grow their sense of direction and purpose. We will offer a place of open minds and hearts for the addict to be accepted and work on cultivating the human spirit, and creating opportunities to further and maintain their long term recovery.

Jana Morris, Founder/Director of Recovery Revolution was in attendance at the event. "Recovery Revolution is estatic about welcoming Kainoa's Ohana to the recovery resources available in the Slate Belt area. Recovery Revolution intends to work in a collaborative manner with this new program." Jana went on to say, "I recall a time when there was little to no recovery services in this area. I am a proponent for grass-roots non-profits that are being formed to support individuals that are in recovery. It can be a long and arduous road for both the person struggling and family/loved ones. Programs that address wholeness and help an individual with success to continue the journey are needed. The opposite of addiction is connection and I believe that Kainoa's Ohana is addressing that need."

Before the big feast featuring a Kahula pig roast, Francine Huber welcomed families of those lost to addiction to come up to the pavilion, proudly display photographs of their loved ones, and accept a red and white rose in memory of their loved ones.

It's one small step to combat the stigma of addiction, but the Hubers and those who stand with Kainoa's Ohana look forward to a productive future in providing an opportunity to those in need.

"I want to continue to self heal, and the way we feel, 'the more the merrier,'" Huber said. "Come to this farm and feel welcome, and feel that this is a safe place. I want people to respect that, and to encourage others to change that stigma."

Any recovering addict with at least 30 clean days of clean living can apply to work on the farm by contacting Kainoa's Ohana at 570-234-4776, or emailing kainoasohana@gamil.com, and filling out an application. Approved volunteers will tend the fields, care for the crops and make use of the harvest throughout the spring, summer and fall.



Francine and Scott Huber (holding a photo of their son) dedicate the new pavilion to their son Kainoa

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