

Giant Company Announces \$200,000 Grant Program For Child Care Centers Impacted By Covid-19

By Katie Kring-Schreifels

CARLISLE, Pa. (October 8, 2020) – The GIANT Company announced today the creation of a \$200,000 grant program, designed to provide funding to child care providers in Pennsylvania who are facing operational and financial challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is being offered in partnership with Pennsylvania Key and The Hershey Company, to child care organizations who are licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). Beginning today and through Nov. 13, child care providers can apply for grants up to \$10,000.

“When our team members expressed the challenges they were facing with their own child care situations, we knew that others in our community likely were too, and we wanted to do something about it,” said Nicholas Bertram, president, The GIANT Company. “The GIANT Company is committed to connecting families for a better future, and that’s especially true in times of need. Together, in partnership with Pennsylvania Key and The Hershey Company, we’re making a difference as we work to ease the unexpected burdens child care providers are facing while offering families a little more peace of mind in a time when so much is uncertain.”

Child care providers, which provide essential services to working families and employers, have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and remain at risk for continued disruption. In August, researchers at Penn State Harrisburg’s Institute of State and Regional Affairs released a report on the operational and financial impacts of COVID-19 on Pennsylvania’s child care industry. The report found that as of the end of June, 125 providers had announced permanent closure. Further,

researchers stated that without immediate assistance to offset increased expenses and reduced enrollments, at least 4% of the Commonwealth’s child care providers (280) will close permanently and estimated an additional 1,000 providers were at risk of closure without financial assistance.

The grant program aims to support child care centers that have remained opened during the pandemic. Grant funding will help child care centers overcome new challenges created by the pandemic and invest in new measures to help support families struggling to balance work, school and child care. Grant assistance is open to child care centers in communities served by GIANT or MARTIN’S stores that serve children from birth through 13 years of age. Preference will be given to applicants in underserved areas, those that serve meals, those impacted by school scheduling changes, those that are offering innovative services (such as technology and tutoring for students who need more in-person learning), and those that may be forced to close without financial support. Applicants must have remained open for at least part of the last seven months since stay-at-home orders were



implemented.

“Child care is an incredibly important part of any community, and we empathize with families and child care providers during this challenging time,” said Leigh Horner, vice president of global sustainability and social impact at The Hershey Company. “The opportunity to partner with The GIANT Company and Pennsylvania Key aligns closely with our desire to make a difference in our communities, and honors Hershey’s longtime legacy of supporting children and youth.” For full criteria and to apply for funding, visit www.pakeys.org/GIANTprovidergrant. Recipients will be notified in late November and funds will be distributed before the end of the year.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH WORKSHOP SERIES



Our DVAM workshops are at no cost and will be held every Tuesday in October from 12:00-1:00pm. They can be found on our website and on our Facebook page.

Workshop #1

10/6 - Recognize, Respond, Refer for Medical Professionals

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/rrrfmpdw/>

This interactive workshop is geared towards students and professionals in any medical practice, clinical setting, mental health or rehabilitation center to learn how to refer someone for services at Turning Point.

Workshop #2

10/13 - Introduction to Domestic and Intimate Partner Abuse

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/itdaipadw/>

This at no cost, interactive workshop will cover different types of abuse as well as highlight the resources that Turning Point provides to the community.

Workshop #3

10/20 - Teen Dating Abuse: Creating Healthy Boundaries in Virtual Environments

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/tdachbivedw/>

This at no cost, interactive workshop will explore teen dating abuse and how virtual learning environments are influencing teens' ability to have effective boundaries with dating partners.

Workshop #4

10/27 - Community Forum DVAM Workshop

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/cfdw/>

Join Turning Point's Outreach Team for the final Domestic Violence Awareness Month Workshop Series. This workshop will be in the style of a Q&A as the Outreach Team fields questions from the community about topics related to domestic and intimate partner abuse.



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DOING THE MOST GOOD®

Merry Christmas Fund for the 2020

By Captain Barbara Cure

PEN ARGYL - The Mission Of The Salvation Army: The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human need in His name without discrimination.

The Salvation Army has been in Pen Argyl since the early 1900's, serving the families of The Slate Belt and beyond. Every Christmas an effort is made to serve as many families as possible. For the 2019 Christmas season we served over 125 families with food and gifts.

We would like to begin a Merry Christmas Fund for the 2020 Christmas Season with donations being made to help the Pen Argyl Corps stretch its regular operating budget during the holiday season and beyond. (These donations could be made in memory/honor of loved ones).

Those who wish to contribute to this fund can send donations via check or money order made payable to The Salvation Army, P.O. Box 57, Pen Argyl, PA 18072. Contributors who wish to be recognized in the Blue Valley Times during the month of December 2020 should include a very brief, legible holiday message with their donations.

