

New Report Stresses Urgent Need for High Quality Infant Toddler Child Care

By Maria Pisano

HARRISBURG - Across Pennsylvania, Start Strong PA released a new report demonstrating the benefits and need for high quality infant toddler child care. According to the Pennsylvania KIDS COUNT Data Center, Pennsylvania is home to 1,270,433 families with children and 418,455 of the children are under three years old.

"Infant and toddler brains make millions of neural connections every second - At no other time in a human's life will the brain develop at this remarkable speed. Every second matters because each second that passes is one we cannot get back," said Cara Ciminillo, Executive Director, Trying Together.

Research shows that high-quality child care makes the difference and Pennsylvania serves as a model for other

states in how we rate quality in our child care settings. Keystone STARS, Pennsylvania's quality rating system, uses research-based standards focused on: staff qualifications, curriculum, environment, family and community partnerships, and business practices.

With 69% of families having both parents working and with 70% of all mothers in the labor force, high-quality child care settings can have a positive, lasting impact on brain growth for thousands of children birth to age three.

Unfortunately, only 43% of child care capacity in the state currently meets high-quality standards as determined by Keystone STARS. This means many families across our Commonwealth do not have a high-quality child care option for the care and education of their child.

Infant and toddler care not only plays a significant role in giving children a strong foundation but it also offers a support system for hardworking families and develops a strong community and economy. Parents, employers, and taxpayers benefit from an affordable and accessible child care system.

"Through our wide-ranging workforce development initiative, we have found that a big barrier to work for a large population of individuals is access to affordable child care. Addressing this issue is a key component to: fixing the

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Professional License New Online Guide

By Michael Ortoski

BANGOR - A new online guide to PA license processing is available to help Pennsylvanians know what to expect when applying for a professional license.

Each guide breaks down the licensing process into three phases, gives the average timeline for each phase, provides tips to avoid delays, and explains how to best use the Pennsylvania Licensing Systems (PALS) in applying for a license in their field. PALS is the new licensure system of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA).

Applicants can also watch two short videos on "How to Apply for a Professional License" and "What Happens to My Application?"



Pancake and Sausage Breakfast With Santa!

Join Santa Clause and Washington Township Vol. Fire Co. for an All-U-Can-Eat Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on Sunday, December 8th from 8:30am-11:30am

\$7.00 Per Person
3 and Under FREE!
For Advance Tickets
610-588-2113

Professional Pictures with Santa Available For Purchase

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Buy A Chance and Win
Some Great PRIZES!



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Mission of Love Annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner

By Mickael Ortoski
BANGOR -

"We had another successful turn out this year, we had close to 300 people come in enjoy the holiday Thanksgiving dinner" said Pastor Frank Pons. "We thank the good Lord for our sponsors Waste Management who donated 20 turkeys when we fell short at the last minute, St. Peters Church Wind Gap, Merchants Bank and all of our community sponsors."

Pons also thanked all the volunteers for without them he says "we couldn't put this on."

"We are thankful for everything comes from God, Happy Thanksgiving to our community said Pons."

The Mission of Love Food Bank/Pantry will be receiving their brand new \$50,000 16' box truck for transporting food to the Food Bank in the coming months. They were the recipient of an LSA grant from casino monies from Northampton and Monroe Counties and Northampton County was their sponsor.

Mission of Love serves over 500 families in the Slate Belt every week. They provide meat, vegetables, dairy, fruit, dry and caned goods, toiletries, vitamins, skin care and more to their community.



Pastor Frank Pons unloads 20 turkeys into his 42' Outdoor freezer for the Thanksgiving dinner. Waste Management donated both the turkeys and \$10,000 towards the 2018 freezer project.



The Luke William Hahn Foundation presents:

Night of Light

Please join us as we remember those we have lost with a ceremonial candle lighting, inspirational speakers and heartwarming music. This non-denominational event is open to children and adults of all ages, and there is no cost to attend.

This year we have two amazing guests, Congresswoman Susan Wild and singer Brenna Grealish. Congresswoman Wild will be attending to speak about her loss experience and the ways in which she is finding peace. Brenna Grealish will be singing two of her beautiful original songs for everyone that night.



November 30, 2019
7pm - Grace United
Methodist Church
Pen Argyl

Bangor Exchange Club Recognizes 50 Years Of Service



By BEC
BANGOR - On November 19, 2019, the Bangor Exchange Club recognized Richard M. Shaplin for his 50 years of Service. Richard joined the club in September 1969 and has remained on the Boards of Directors of Exchange and the Blue Valley Farm Show. Citations were presented by the offices of Marcia Hahn and Mario Scavello. The dinner was attended by many of his friends from Pen Argyl class of 1959, First United Methodist Church, Exchange Members and his many friends from all walks of life. Also in attendance were his wife Carolyn and son Rick and his wife Karen.