

Network News

Voice of the SWAN / IL Network

In this issue:

page **6** *PSRFA Conference*

page **8** *Youth Summit*

page **12** *Meet Tyler*

Network News

is published quarterly by the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network and Independent Living Program

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare
Office of Children, Youth & Families
P.O. Box 2675
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2675



OCMI Turns Teens into Fashion Stars

*By Melanie Rehrig
Diakon Adoption and Foster Care*

In honor of National Adoption Month, Diakon Adoption & Foster Care hosted a fashion show and matching event on November 4, 2012 at Vanity Fair Outlet Center in Reading, Pennsylvania. Eight SWAN Older Child Matching Initiative (OCMI) youth participated in the fashion show, and each modeled two outfits provided by Vanity Fair. Twelve agencies and 12 families also attended this event.

The premise behind the event was to provide the youth with a fun-filled day while also giving them the opportunity to meet waiting families and participate in their own recruitment. Marcia Moll, OCMI recruiter at Diakon Adoption & Foster Care, was the mastermind behind the event.

“These waiting youth do not always see themselves in a positive light; I wanted them to feel good about themselves, and most importantly, to have fun,” said Marcia.

Prior to the event, the youth received makeovers. Hair styling was provided by Tammy Rheinman and Courtney



Wilson of Kuts and Karats in Fleetwood while makeup was provided by Mary Kay consultant Janet Weidner. The children really seemed to enjoy the one-on-one “star” treatment they received.

The large space that Vanity Fair provided was transformed into a fall-themed runway filled with pumpkins, mums and other fall décor donated by local businesses. The youth strutted down the red carpet runway to upbeat music provided by DJ Jeremy Raisfsnider while emcee Janet Peters provided the audience with information on their interests and the type of family they were looking for.

AJ Zehner, child preparation and profile specialist at Diakon Adoption & Foster (continued on page 4)

From the Department of Public Welfare
 By Lorrie Deck, Director,
 Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network



I began my career in child welfare as a houseparent in a group home for boys who were dually adjudicated, meaning that the court had found them to be both dependent and delinquent. We cared for up to six boys at a time, aged 12 – 18 in eight hour shifts. We did not reside in the home; we came and went from the group home no differently than if we were going to an office every day. In addition to that group home, the county I worked in had two other group homes for older youth who had been adjudicated dependent only, one for girls and one for boys. The staff who worked at those homes did reside in the homes for a week at a time. They were on duty 24 hours a day for 7 days, then off the following week.

That was 30 years ago. Many counties at the time had similar group homes or contracted with private providers for the same services. Although many things have changed for the better in the Pennsylvania child welfare system, the reliance on group homes and other such institutions continues. Today in Pennsylvania, 34% of the 13,285 children and youth in foster care are age 14 to 17. And of those older youth in care, 50% reside in congregate care. Congregate care includes group homes, institutions and facilities.

OCYF is committed to reducing the number of youth who have to reside in congregate care. While it is recognized that there will always be some youth who need to reside in such facilities in order to best meet their special needs, it is also true that Pennsylvania has some older youth in congregate care settings for various other reasons, including the fact that we do not have enough families who are willing and able to provide foster or long term care to older youth. As a system, we need to “right size” congregate care. No child, regardless of their age, should have to reside in a group home, facility or institution unless it is absolutely necessary and in their best interest. Children, regardless of their age, need families. Children need homes.

In recognition of the fact that we need more resource families who are willing to provide caring, nurturing homes to older youth, OCYF is in the process of developing a new Foster/Adoptive Family Recruitment campaign. The

campaign will feature new television, radio and print advertisements that focus on the need for foster and adoptive homes for older youth. We plan to feature actual youth from our foster care system and to have them discuss their need to live in a family environment. The spokesperson for the campaign will be Suzanne Cawley, wife of Lieutenant Governor Jim Cawley. Mr. and Mrs. Cawley are foster and adoptive parents themselves and are supportive of the SWAN program and OCYF’s efforts to enhance permanency services to the children we serve.

As this new campaign is rolled out, agencies should be prepared to respond to families who are interested in fostering older youth. Agencies should be prepared to train the families about caring for older youth, about their needs, about what they can expect as a family, about what to do when a crisis arises and about how to manage the grief and loss the youth experience in order to successfully provide them with a nurturing, stable environment.

One training resource available to help meet this need is the Pennsylvania Parents As Tender Healers, PATH, Training developed by the Pennsylvania State Resource Family Association, PSRFA, in collaboration with Spaulding for Children. The PA PATH Training is different than most of the foster and adoptive training that child welfare has relied upon in the past. It is a training that discusses the grief and loss foster children experience and what types of behaviors and difficulties resource families can expect and how to respond to such difficulties. In addition to covering Pennsylvania specific laws, regulations and policies related to foster care and adoption, the training includes such topics as Understanding Hurt Children, Tender Healing, Crisis Intervention and the Characteristics of Successful Resource Families. The training features real families who have been foster and/or adoptive families and uses their expertise to reach out to potential foster families. Copies of the training are available from PSRFA at 1-800-951-5151.

This Network is Amazing!

By Brenda Lawrence

SWAN Program Administrator

This fall I started the trip to Scranton thinking, “here we go on another round of SWAN/IL quarterlies.” I look forward to the travel, seeing prime contract staff, county and affiliate agency caseworkers, Independent Living workers and others with a vested interest in our network and the children we serve. I look forward to the morning matching presentations, the afternoon breakouts and, of course, hope there will be cereal as one of the continental breakfast options!

A few years ago network members were surveyed about which parts of the SWAN/IL quarterly meetings each attendee preferred. One third of those surveyed said staying in touch with and meeting other members of the network was their favorite; a third cited the matching presentations and opportunities; and another third said attending trainings to learn what is successful. From what I can tell, we should be making many folks happy because of the:

- trainings provided;
- variety of network folks taking advantage of the networking opportunities; and
- amazing and creative matching presentations and success stories.

It is such a privilege to assist in the administration of this network. It was exciting to learn of all the progress being made across the state during this round of quarterlies. Most of all I was struck by the scope of presentations and examples shared by the county attendees, affiliate agency staff, the SWAN paralegals and SWAN PAE coordinators. The goal these meetings was tie together the practices of Fostering Connections, Act 101 and Concurrent Planning by hearing stories from the network on how they are successfully implementing these practices. While some were concerned there may not be many examples of implementation of new legislation and policies, the concerns were quickly dismissed. Throughout each meeting, we discovered that a lot has happened to move policy to services and legislation into action!

Participants heard from many counties across the state. They shared information about how these laws and policies were implemented and the positive effects they had on their practices and the lives of the children and families with whom they work. Lackawanna County reported the positive impact of initiating Act 101’s voluntary post-adoption contact agreements, PACA, as well as impressive stories of permanency achieved while negotiating the

agreements. Beaver and Dauphin counties, along with SWAN affiliate agency Open Door, talked about effectively using the voluntary PACA. Dauphin County shared how they used the placement unit of service to assist in completing the PACA, which they reported worked very well. SWAN affiliate agency Families United Network from Monroe County shared their process of searching on behalf of young adults who were in the system and re-connecting them with their birth parents whose lives may have changed and are now living in different times and circumstances.

Wyoming, Bradford and Lehigh counties shared successes about Fostering Connections and the importance of continuing to look for permanency for children. They reported some great examples about expanding the search efforts for kin and relatives by using the diligent search process and online search engines. Many agency presenters reminded people to keep siblings together. A common thread in all three laws is the emphasis of keeping siblings together, and many agency speakers, including those from Susquehanna, Westmoreland and Washington counties reinforced this important practice with their stories. Venango County provided examples about overcoming geographic barriers and maintaining family connections.

Crawford County pointed out situations where the full disclosure provided by both parties – the family members and the county – dramatically helped children as they were moving from one place to another. The counties explained how they use family group decision-making and ice breaker meetings to comply with both Fostering Connections and Concurrent Planning. Blair County, which also practices ice breaker meetings, shared the importance and ease of registering a child’s information on the new Pennsylvania Adoption Information Registry, PAIR. Project STAR, Pressley Ridge and Family Pathways - all SWAN affiliate agencies – took part in sharing examples of implementing these policies and laws and bringing them to life.

Many attendees took notes to take back and reference in their own practice. Franklin County was one that informed us they made changes after hearing other counties share their protocols at earlier SWAN regional meetings or SWAN-facilitated county supervisory meetings.

(continued on page 8)

Teens Turn into Fashion Stars

(continued from page 1)

Care, noticed a certain energy emanating from the room. “During the fashion show, I really felt the energy from the kids, the decorated room, the announcer and the audience. It was really fun to feel so pumped up and excited; I was happy that these youth were given the opportunity to showcase themselves in such a unique way.”

Undoubtedly, the children were full of different emotions as they were asked to showcase their clothes as well as themselves in front of a large audience. Some of them were excited about the event and others were nervous. Many of the children, however, appeared to get more comfortable as the fashion show progressed. For instance, Geoff (PAE # C09AC58) slid on his knees across the red carpet while modeling his second outfit.

“Geoff has a quiet side but also enjoys being in the spotlight,” stated his OCMI worker, Helene Kosciolk,



“which is probably why he felt comfortable demonstrating one of his WWE (world wrestling entertainment) moves. This event really allowed his personality to shine through.”

Many of the OCMI youth had been looking forward to the event for several months. Perhaps it was because they were going to receive head-to-toe makeovers, including taking their favorite outfit home with them, or because they were going to have the chance to meet and interact with potential adoptive families.

As Helene added, “Geoff had been looking forward to the event since I told him about it back in August. He was excited to wear his new outfit home. He also mentioned that it was nice to meet other kids who want to be adopted.” Chassidy (PAE # C39AD16), seconded this, saying that she was most excited about finding a family and getting a “cool” outfit.

One last surprise for the children was Heart Gallery photographer Lauren Little, who was present to take



Teens Turn into Fashion Stars

photos of the event. Lauren not only took pictures of the youth who were in need of Heart Gallery photos, but she also snapped photos throughout the event to help capture their emotions. These photos will be shared with the youth to document their special day.

Lauren had this to say about working at the event, "I'm always happy to volunteer at any event where I feel like I can help make a difference, and as a children's photographer I feel drawn to work with children in need. I cannot even imagine going through what these children have gone through. Every child deserves a family and stability. To see them laugh and smile and give them the individual attention that they crave makes me happy."

Based on the turnout and feedback received, the event was definitely a success, thanks to the contributions of all the volunteers who made it possible. The youth had a once in a lifetime experience they will never forget.

The SWAN OCMI program is a free program that serves children over the age of 10 who have a



primary or concurrent goal of adoption. Sibling groups are also eligible as long as one child is over the age of 10. The children must also be registered with the Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange, PAE.

Since July 2012 an additional 26 matches were made; 19 youth were placed and seven youth were adopted.



If you would like to learn more about the SWAN OCMI program, please contact Melanie Rehrig, OCMI supervisor, at rehrigm@diakon.org or 610-682-1527.

36th Annual PSRFA Conference Big Success

By Kathy Ramper
Executive Director

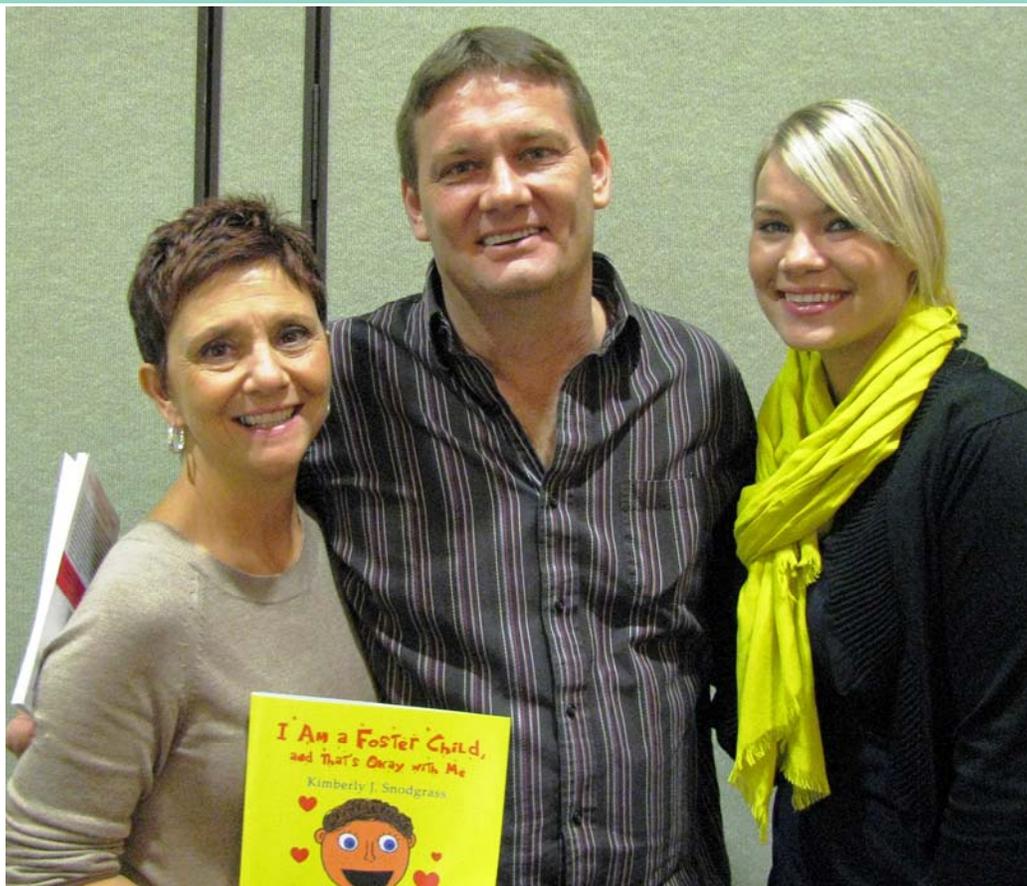
The 36th Annual Pennsylvania State Resource Family Association, PSRFA, conference was another great success. The theme of the 2012 conference was "The Path II Building Tomorrows." The theme was our way of celebrating our completion of the Pennsylvania specific Parents as Tender Healers, PATH, training that PSRFA worked on so tirelessly so families in Pennsylvania receive the best possible training.

The three day agenda included a variety of good trainings, a great keynote speaker in Eric Tyler Anderson, an auction benefiting high school seniors who are currently in the child welfare system, an awards banquet and a terrific young lady by the name of Kimberly Snodgrass who closed out our conference on Saturday. To me, the best part of the conference was being in the presence of so many families who do so much for the children.

Our award winners this year were: **Caseworker of the year**, Karen Kempert. Karen has been a caseworker with Westmoreland's Children's Bureau for 41 years.

Agency of the year went to Venango County Children & Youth. They are currently working on a mentoring program for new foster parents to be paired up with more seasoned and experienced resource parents for guidance and direction. Venango has taken the initiative to stay ahead of the curve and take a proactive approach to better serve their families.

Paul and Carol Minugh, **Foster Family of the Year**. The Minughs have been foster parents for over 35 years. They have fostered nearly 130 children, which includes teens, pregnant teens and babies. Paul and Carol also work side by side with the biological families to help them learn the skills



necessary to parent.

The **Community Partnership award** went to Daniel Worley. Dan is an attorney who represents children and is very much involved with the children in all aspects from the foster family to the biological, to the school, therapy sessions and progress meetings. As one foster parent said, "my husband may be fighting in Afghanistan, but Daniel Worley is fighting for the children with words, caring and standing up for what is right."

The 36th annual conference was deemed a success by all who attended. Plans are well under way for next year's conference to be better than ever.

As always thank you for all you do for the children.



Is the bear real?

Scenes from the 2012 PSRFA Conference



Youth Summit Offers Education, Discussion, Fun

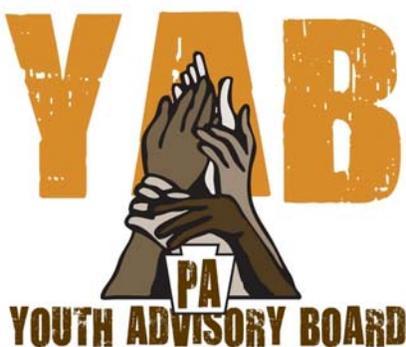
Greta Weise, Youth Ambassador

Once again, Pennsylvania's Youth Advisory Board, YAB, has been busy learning and making themselves heard! At the recent 2012 Youth Summit held in State College, youth representing all of the regions of the YAB met to discuss the new Fostering Connections law, learn about strategic sharing and participate in workshops on *Know Your Rights* and time management.

The summit culminated in a panel of youth presenting ideas of why parts of Fostering Connections are important and offered some recommendations for the implementation of the new law.

All parts of the Youth Summit created great discussion among the youth who attended. Youth learned more about taking care of themselves, shared their stories and learned to be aware of their audience and purpose when delivering their story. Youth also became experts on the Fostering Connections law and gained awareness about the important components and requirements of youth reentering the system.

Youth had an opportunity to participate in a time management workshop that taught ways to minimize stress and how to prioritize their schedules. Additionally, youth brainstormed methods to get motivated, stay organized and learned how to apply these skills to their involvement with the Youth Advisory Board.



Finally, each YAB region represented at the youth summit came up with recommendations for implementation of components of the Fostering Connections law that focused on permanency, housing, re-entry and planning, and age appropriate freedoms. They also discussed the potential barriers that could result from their recommendations. With their

recommendations and the potential barriers in mind, the youth developed strategic plans that outlined quick wins and goals for their ideas.

For the second and last day of the summit, six youth representing the Youth Advisory Board spoke as a panel to the Pennsylvania Children and Youth Administrators, PCYA. The youth talked about why permanency, housing, re-entry and planning, and age appropriate freedoms are such important parts of Fostering Connections. Some of the recommendations that were discussed the previous day were also addressed. Additionally, several impactful personal experiences were shared by members of the panel, who represented 65 years of experience with the child welfare system.

The input was powerful and was clearly heard by child welfare leaders. It's exciting and inspiring to think about where these recommendations will lead and how they will impact older youth!

Network is Amazing

(continued from page 3)

As I said at the beginning – this is an amazing network! It is evident that the visits to the counties and affiliate agencies make a difference in delivering services to youth in care and helping families. It is exciting to hear that the network events – local or regional trainings and matching or adoption awareness activities — strengthen the network, promote better practice, provide free access to experienced workers and improve the chances of children finding permanency. The stories we heard reflect both the persistence and creativity of the workers and the teamwork needed to make things happen.

Remember the movie *Field of Dreams*? The belief was “if you build it they will come.” That is exactly what happens over and over again with SWAN and the collaboration with Independent Living. Each of you has helped to create a network that offers many opportunities to come together. We have built it and we will continue to come together to participate, learn, grow and expand our services to bring permanency to so many children and youth and their families. Kudos to you, for helping to build and strengthen this tremendous network!



Going Gaga

Anyone who attends the Scranton SWAN Quarterly Meetings knows that the Matching Moment presentations always rock!

The Matching Moments at the October 3, 2012 Scranton Quarterly Meeting really rocked when “Lady Gaga” made an appearance to present a matching moment about one of her biggest fans, Cassidy. “Lady Gaga”, aka Tracey Mulrain, supervisor at Catholic Social Services in Hazleton, wowed the audience, not with her singing skills, but her creativity, enthusiasm and passion in presenting Cassidy.

Thanks Tracey for a job well done!

November is National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month and once again Pennsylvania was able to offer funding for adoption awareness events.

Thirty-one agencies and coalitions submitted proposals requesting a total of \$89,593. Though just \$50,000 was available, every proposal received some funding. In 2012 the variety of events celebrating and bringing awareness to National Adoption Month were just as creative, energetic and motivating as past years.

Bowling, bouncing, fashion shows, fun fests, festivals, ice skating, roller skating, adoption movie nights, luncheons, dinners and traditional awareness events are all designed with the same goal—to bring awareness to the permanency needs of Pennsylvania’s waiting children!

One of the SWAN prime contract staff was recognized too! Karen Lollo, SWAN PAE coordinator, was honored by the Capital Region Adoption Coalition at their event on November 15 at Crosspoints United Methodist Church in Harrisburg. Much thanks to all the folks who plan, support and make these events a reality!

Children Adopted from China Support Group

*By Barbara Herring,
Families Caring for Children*

Families Caring for Children Inc., FCCI, is offering a new group for children who were adopted from China.

Group members will enjoy creating connections with other like-minded kids facing similar issues. FCCI has worked with a number of children individually and has found that group experiences greatly benefit them. We believe the kids feel validated by sharing and exploring their experiences, feelings and questions with other kids who were adopted and sometimes simply by knowing others who are similar to them. The group will focus on issues such as self-esteem, adoption, social issues,

identity, as well as “tween” and teen issues as they relate to the particular groups. The goal is for children to feel supported by being in a like-minded peer group with similar issues and concerns. Parent support groups will occur throughout the group cycle.

If you are interesting in joining or learning more about the China Support Group, please contact Jean Barney, FCCI director, at 570-650-3358.

With a Little Creativity and a Big Heart...It Can Be Done

*By Roxana Cameron,
Wyoming County, SWAN LSI Paralegal*



Wyoming County's Third Annual Adoption Awareness Event was held on August 30, 2012 at the main gate of the Wyoming County Fair on a beautiful summer day.

I wanted to bring attention to the need for adoptive homes in Pennsylvania. I planned the two previous events in 2010 and 2011, and wondered how to reach an even bigger audience locally. I knew the fair was approaching and is a very large attraction in this area, as well as a family-friendly venue. The next thing to consider was the cost of an event and my limited budget. The county budget didn't have funds designated for such an event or to pay a vendor fee; so, I had to be fiscally creative! I found out that if we donated our time volunteering at a ticket booth, it could serve as a SWAN event at no cost! So, I notified the local paper about the event and got it listed in their community calendar free of charge. It was exciting to think of how many people would pass through the main gate and would hear all about SWANand they all did!

The 2012 attendance for the fair was approximately 44,000. Assisting at the adoption awareness event

were SWAN LSI Lead Division Manager Natalie Washine; SWAN LSI Coordinator Patti Eck; SWAN LSI Paralegals Connie Burt, Sarah Brennan and Kellie Valvano; SWAN Technical Assistant Roberta Daniels, and SWAN PAE Coordinator Jill Ferraro Bruce. All wore SWAN t-shirts, hung posters of waiting children along the gate and handed out pamphlets as we operated the ticket booth. A reporter also came to the event and wrote an article that appeared in the next week's edition. The local radio station also attended, and we recorded a sound bite promoting our event and educated listeners about SWAN services.

The hours really went by quickly that day because it was a fun day visiting with friends and members of the community, while promoting a good cause. The Kiwanis Club, which hosts the fair, affirmed that the event was a great idea and was also positively recognized by other organizations as well. I'm pleased to announce that we have been asked to return for the 2013 fair!

Cortez Lee Carey, Youth Ambassador

Being told that I was born on May 28, 1991 in a prison in West Virginia wasn't exactly the conversation subject I was looking for from my birth mother. I am the second to youngest child from both my birth mother and father. Together, I have four brothers and three sisters. With the exception of my oldest brother and sister from my mom, we were all separated and placed into the foster care system at birth; my parents did and still do struggle with substance abuse.

Unfortunately, I don't know really anything about my life before the age of 4 other than what I've been told. At the age of 6, one of my older brothers and I were adopted by a lady and had our birth names changed. I went from being born as Cortez Lee Carey to being adopted as Aaron Terrell Smith. We were too young at the time to know the reason for our name changes, but all we knew was that we had to answer to our new names. I didn't meet my younger brother (who is the only one of my siblings who shares the same mother and father as I) until soon after my adoption. My adoptive mother took him in as well; and not long after he was adopted by her his name was also changed.

While living in our adopted home, we endured a lot as young children; we were constantly getting beaten and sometimes we would go days without eating a proper meal. The crazy thing about this situation is we were too young to know we were being wronged. One good thing that came out of this relationship was that I earned excellent grades during every report card period; our adoptive mother was serious about our grades. School was a place where I could be and not worry about getting in trouble like I did at home. You see, I was a great student and grades were not an issue. That was until I was removed from my adoptive home at the age of 11. My adoptive mother made some serious accusations about me and claimed she didn't want anything to do with me anymore.

I was then placed in a group home and separated from the only family I had ever known. I was sheltered in Auberle without any contact with my brothers or other adopted family. At this time I was an

11-year old middle school student on the verge of failing because I had let my grades drop. Almost exactly one year later I was placed into kinship care with my biological aunt and reunited with my two



brothers. This was the time in my life when everything took a turn for the worst. I started taking advantage of marijuana and alcohol and getting into fights. This resulted in suspension from school, which became a regular thing all the way to high school. I honestly don't think graduating from high school would have been possible without my freshman guidance counselor. He knew my situation of being moved through different foster homes in the last couple years, and he also knew school was the last place I wanted to be. However, my guidance counselor stuck

with me and made sure I completed my school work. This was also about the time I was fighting to get my name changed back, and it finally happened when I turned 17.

As a result of my behavior in high school I was kicked out of school during my senior year and placed into an alternative school where I completed my 12th grade year. College had only been a thought in my mind during elementary school, and I could care less about it during high school. Fortunately, I was hooked up with an awesome Independent Living worker who explained to me what my life would be like without a college degree. She also helped me use a lot of the resources I now use today. Along with my job on the Circle C Youth and Family Services: R U Connected Street Team, I've taken advantage of many services through CYS.

Meeting my birth mother at 12 was not enough for me; I just had to meet my father as well. But after meeting him at 18 I then understood why he couldn't raise me. Although I've faced a few challenges in life, I am proud to say that I have an associate degree in liberal arts and sciences and will be transferring to Clarion University in the fall to pursue dual degrees in special education. At some point in my life I felt like the foster care system was holding me back in life, but believe it or not, all of the success that I have could not have been possible without the help of the system, and I am truly grateful for that.

Meet Tyler!

Tyler is a smart and stylish young man. One would be hard-pressed to find a teenager who places as much emphasis on his appearance as he does. Tyler is always well dressed and has a great sense of style. He has an open heart and is very considerate of others. While Tyler does not seek out others to build friendships, his peers consistently choose him as a role-model and consider him to be a leader. He does well in his adapted curriculum at school.

Tyler loves to read and has a strong affection for animals, especially dogs. He has a great imagination, is rarely bored and will find constructive things to occupy his time. He enjoys many outdoor activities, including



snowboarding, skateboarding and playing with Nerf toys. Tyler also enjoys playing video games and going to the Chinese buffet restaurant where he is adventurous in his food choices.

Tyler is thoughtful and has great insight given his young age. He has a great sense of humor, and his contagious smile is almost as good as his laugh. He knows he won't be a kid forever and wants to find his forever family. He is looking for a committed two-parent family who will provide him with unconditional love and acceptance.

All families will be considered for Tyler. He is legally free for adoption. His PAE ID number is C62AA27.

**For more information about Tyler,
contact Connie Snyder**

814-726-2100

snyderc@wc-hs.org

Meet Blake!

Blake is a charming, energetic young man who makes friends easily and has a great sense of humor. He has a very laid-back personality and tends to be somewhat shy and reserved until he gets to know you a little better.

Blake enjoys playing video games, coloring, riding his bike, playing basketball, cleaning, electronics and remote control cars. He claims to like doing chores and is typically willing to help out with whatever needs done around the house. He also enjoys cooking and some of his specialties are eggs, grilled cheese, hamburgers and lasagna. Blake's favorite foods are anything seafood, especially shrimp and meat-lovers pizza. To relax and unwind, Blake enjoys reading science fiction about dragons and adventures. When asked to describe himself, Blake said he is smart, outgoing, artistic and creative. He also said



that he is a "techno-geek" because he loves all things electronic such as computers, televisions and cameras.

Blake loves school and does very well academically. He excels in all subjects but his favorite is math. Blake likes to be challenged and would do well in a family that would motivate and encourage him to work hard and reach his full potential. He needs a family who will stick with him through the good times and the not so good times. Blake would do best in a family who already has parenting experience. He would like to be the only child or the youngest child in the family.

All families will be considered for Blake. He is legally free for

**For more information about Blake,
contact Katie Juliana**

717-795-0479

**Diakon Adoption Services-
Mechanicsburg**

adoption.

For more information about Blake, please contact Katie Juliana, 717-795-0479, Diakon Adoption Services-Mechanicsburg.

Pennsylvania resources

Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network
www.diakon-swan.org

Independent Living—www.independentlivingPA.org

Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange—www.adoptpakids.org

Pennsylvania State Resource Family Association—www.psrfa.org

SWAN Helpline—800-585-SWAN

Legal Warmline—888-793-2512 or lsiwarmline@diakon-swan.org

Office of Children, Youth and Families

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare—www.dpw.state.pa.us

Network News—Karen Lollo at klollo@diakon-swan.org

SWAN listserv through Google Groups—Desiree Weisser at
dweisser@state.pa.gov

SWAN Facebook page—Join the conversation

2013 Save the Date

SWAN/IL Spring Quarterly Meetings

April 10, 2013—Scranton

April 17, 2013—Monroeville

April 18, 2013—Clarion

April 24, 2013—Philadelphia

April 25, 2013—Ft. Washington

May 2, 2013—Harrisburg

SWAN/IL Summer Statewide Meeting—July 9-10, 2013, Lancaster, PA

21st Annual Permanency Conference—July 10-12, 2013, Lancaster PA

2013 Independent Living Retreat—August 5-9, 2013, Johnstown PA