

Annual Summary

2020

A Year in Review

YOUR IMPACT AND SUPPORT AT WORK!

We Care About Children is a program of the Dauphin County Bar Foundation (DCBF) which promotes access to justice for those struggling with poverty, domestic violence, and custody issues. WCAC is our collaboration with MidPenn Legal Services to provide a full-time specialized attorney, handling approximately 546 domestic violence and child custody cases annually. 100% of all donations benefit WCAC and do not support administrative fees. With legal support...

- Our court system can run more efficiently.
- Families are stabilized.
- Our entire community is strengthened.



COVID IMPACT

Our services are needed more than ever.

COVID-19 has significantly impacted all of our lives. Those who already struggle with poverty, domestic violence, and/or custody issues need our help more than ever. Without our legal support the children in these families are stuck in unsafe and unhealthy environments for indefinite periods. Extra stress on the parents/caregivers from housing and work instability, school expectations, and community unrest are complicating already volatile households.

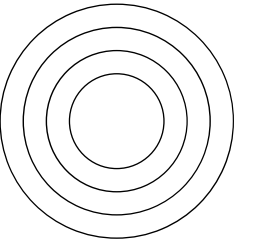
We anticipate this need to rise in 2021 as more families face housing issues, loss of wages, shortage of mental health resources, varying opinions on schooling/daycare, and the court system being stalled. COVID-19 shines a spotlight on growing challenges we are all too aware of and will be equipped to address with your continued support.

DID YOU KNOW?

In Dauphin County during 2019 – 2020, 268 cases were closed and 763 adults and children were helped with the support of WCAC. From July to October of 2020, 127 cases were handled; this is a 30.9% increase from the same time period in 2019.



We are here now to assist families and have been since 2010.



IN DAUPHIN COUNTY
(2019-2020), WITH THE
SUPPORT OF WCAC:

Closed 268 cases
Helped 763 adults and children

SINCE 2010, WITH THE
SUPPORT OF WCAC:

Closed 1,558 cases
Helped 4,151 adults and children

DID YOU KNOW?

The average cost of a domestic
violence or custody case is
\$598.

WCAC by the Numbers



JULY 2020

AUGUST 2020

SEPTEMBER 2020

OCTOBER 2020

Cases Handled: 42

Cases Handled: 36

Cases Handled: 25

Cases Handled: 24

Cases Closed: 31

Cases Closed: 22

Cases Closed: 10

Cases Closed: 3



Reunited with Dylan!

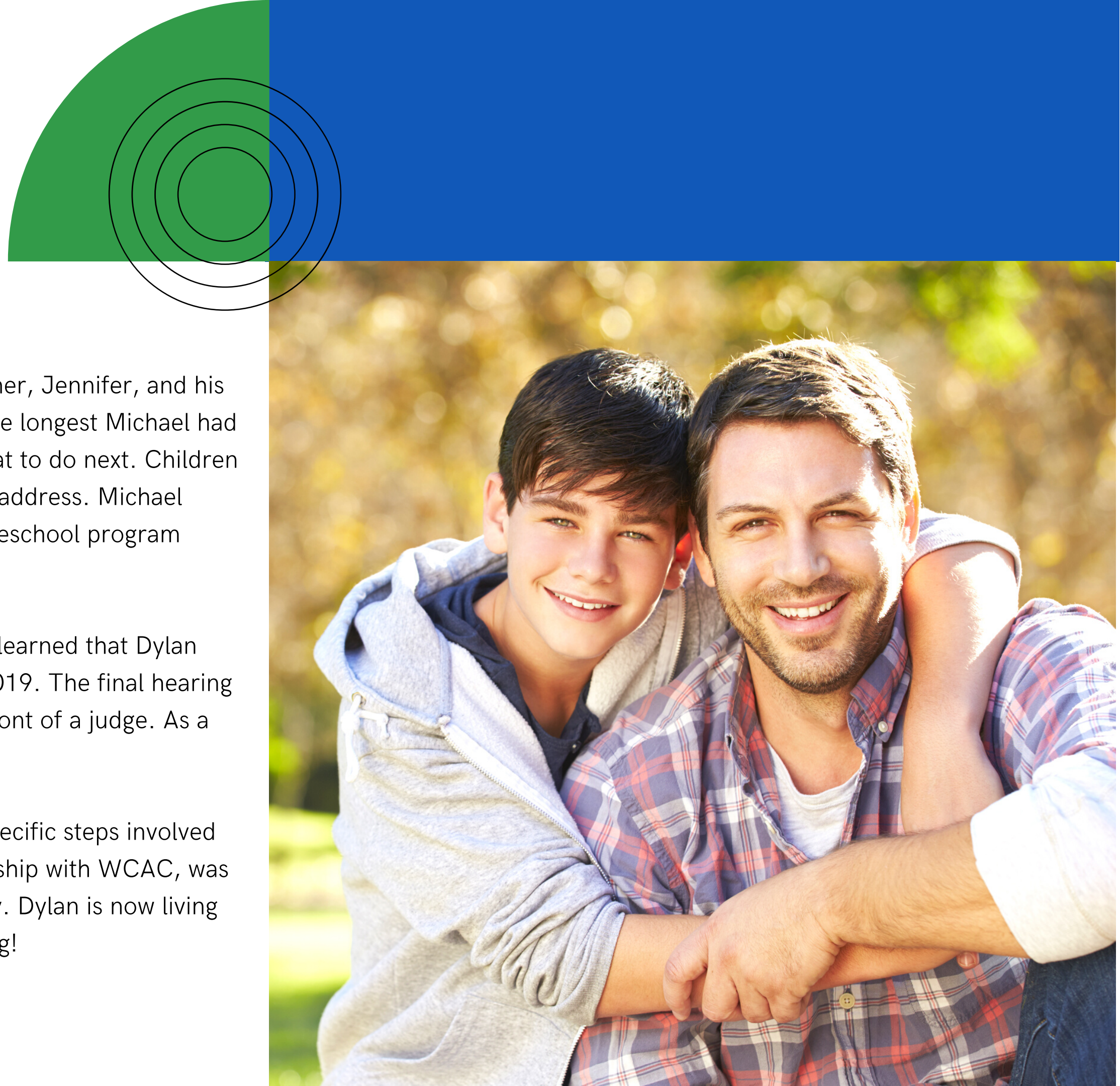
ALL MICHAEL WANTED WAS TO SEE HIS SEVEN-YEAR-OLD SON, DYLAN.*

It was the end of summer and Michael did not know where Dylan's mother, Jennifer, and his son were located. Despite having joint custody with Jennifer, this was the longest Michael had ever gone without seeing his son. He felt hopeless and did not know what to do next. Children and Youth Services became involved and were able to locate Jennifer's address. Michael discovered that Jennifer did not have Dylan enrolled in school or a homeschool program during that time he was unable to locate them.

In the beginning of September 2019, Michael filed the first petition. He learned that Dylan was still not attending school and filed a second petition at the end of 2019. The final hearing was delayed due to COVID and a virtual hearing took place in June in front of a judge. As a result of the hearing, Michael was granted primary custody of Dylan.

The WCAC's family law attorney explained the court process and the specific steps involved in gaining custody. Michael said having a family law attorney, in partnership with WCAC, was essential to securing his son's safety and reuniting with him permanently. Dylan is now living primarily with his father, attending virtual school full-time, and is thriving!

**Names were changed to conceal the identity of the client.*



DCBF Hosted 1st Annual CLE Fundraiser

EVENT RECAP

In October, DCBF hosted a virtual CLE fundraiser for the We Care About Children campaign. Over 30 attorneys, paralegals, and law students attended. This CLE covered how domestic violence and custody issues have increased since COVID began and practice pointers in the new virtual world. All proceeds from registration fees benefited WCAC. Thank you to our impressive panel featured on the right!

THANK YOU TO OUR PREMIER SPONSOR:



THANK YOU TO OUR MODERATOR!

A big thank you to Hon. Lori Serratelli,
Schiffman, Sheridan & Brown, P.C..



HONORABLE ROYCE L. MORRIS

Judge, Dauphin County
Court of Common Pleas



HILARY PEERY VESELL, MA, ESQ.

Vesell Law, LLC



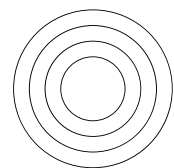
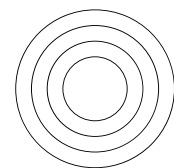
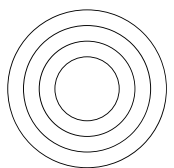
LYNDSAY CONFORTO, ESQ.

Family Law Attorney at
MidPenn Legal Services



NICHOLE M. WALTERS, ESQ.

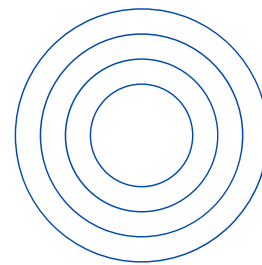
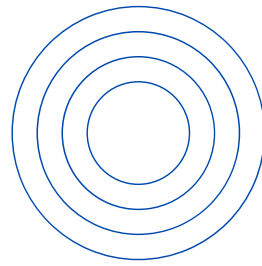
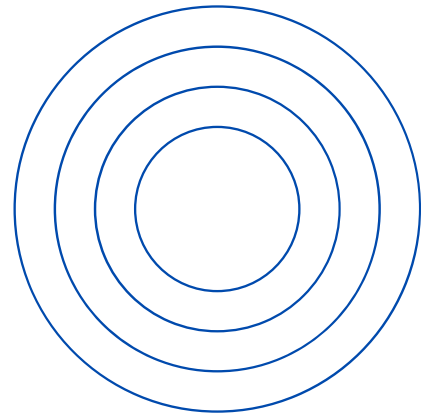
YWCA Legal Center,
Director of Legal and Visitation Services



WHAT CAN WE EXPECT IN 2021...

“These issues are on the rise and I anticipate seeing a greater number of families who need our services throughout the new year. We will also see an increase in domestic violence cases as families continue to stay at home without childcare, reliable jobs and income.”

LYNDSAY CONFORTO, ESQ.,
FAMILY LAW ATTORNEY, MIDPENN
LEGAL SERVICES



2019 & 2020

Thank You to our Sponsors!

ONE MONTH+ OF JUSTICE

Joseph A. Curcillo

Hilary Vesell

Franklin H. and Ruth L. Wells Foundation

ONE MONTH OF JUSTICE

McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC

TWO WEEKS OF JUSTICE

Beckley & Madden

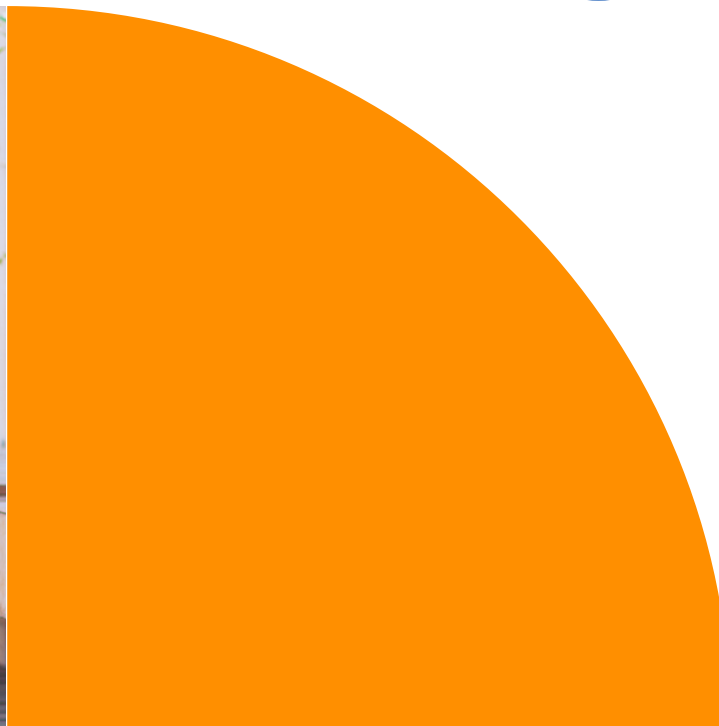
Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Co.

James P. DeAngelo

Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP

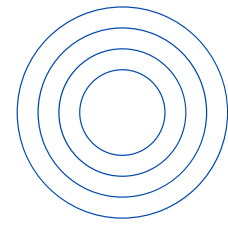
Pamela C. Polacek

William F. Rothman



ONE WEEK OF JUSTICE

Barbara A. Darkes
Robert H. Harris
John F. Jurasits Jr.
Franklin A. Miles Jr.



Pennsylvania Bar Foundation (Birdsall Impact Grant)



FRIENDS

George Audi
Pillar + Aught
Dean A. Weidner

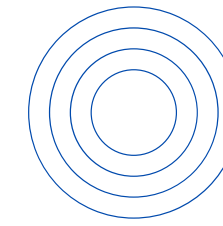


DID WE MISS YOUR NAME?

We apologize for any oversight. Please contact us about corrections or if you have already left a legacy gift to DCBF. Contact Kristin Schab, Campaign Consultant, Helix Strategies so we can update our database!
kristin@helixllc.org or 717-857-7425

ONE DAY OF JUSTICE

David M. Kleppenger
Sherill T. Moyer
Elizabeth P. Mullaugh
Elyse E. Rogers
Elizabeth G. Simcox
Marc Witzig
Laura H. Williams



THANK YOU TO THE DCBA
DIRECTORS FOR HOSTING A
CARING CIRCLE AND ACHIEVING
100% PARTICIPATION AND
CONTRIBUTING \$8,400 TO WCAC!



DCBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The DCBF recognizes and thanks the entire 2019 - 2020 DCBA Board of Directors for their generosity and support of WCAC!

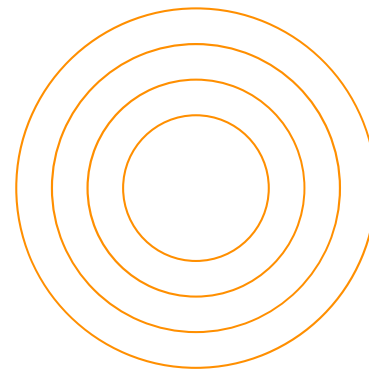
William L. Adler
*Lisa M. Benzie
*Robert E. Chernicoff
Scott B. Cooper
Robert H. Davis
Jill E. Family
*Thomas P. Gacki
Peter M. Good
*Joshua A. Gray
Brooks R. Foland
Cory Allan Iannacone
Fawn E. Kehler
*Teresa C. Marino
*Paula J. McDermott
Arlene A. Marshall-Hockensmith
Tracey S. Lewis
**Christopher J. Marzzacco
Alexis Miloszewski
Renee Mattei Myers
Kenneth A. Rapp
Kimberly A. Selemba
Jessica E. Smith
**Leonard Tinter



**One Week of Justice
*One Day of Justice

NICOLE ANTOS BIRTHDAY
CARING CIRCLE!

Nicole Antos
Judy Bagrowski (Omni Bedford Springs Resort)
Scott Cooper
Joseph A. Curcillo
Robert H. Davis, Jr.
Brian & Jen Fertenbaugh (Café Fresco Center City)
Ron Finck
Brooks R. Foland
Erik Gerhard
Harrisburg Maennerchor
Ashlyn Hawkins (Rubicon)
Brian Hinkle
Adam Hollinger (F&M Trust)
Lisa Katterman
Dennis Kergick
Alaina Koltash
Emily Lewis
Eugene McHugh
Christian Merritt (F&M Trust)
Judson Perry
Kim Selemba
Jessica E. Smith
Ed Spreha
Kym Temyer
Hilary Vesell



THANK YOU!
Thank you to the following
individuals and groups who hosted
a Caring Circle!

WHAT IS A
CARING CIRCLE?

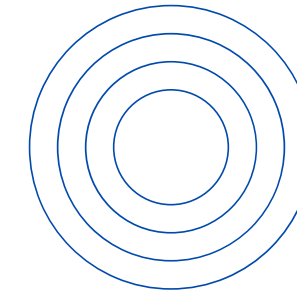
A Caring Circle is an opportunity to make an
impact together through one overall goal. A
Caring Circle brings together friends/colleagues
to rally behind the DCBF WCAC mission.

Do you have ideas for our next Caring Circle?
Or want to host your own? Contact us today!



YOUNG LAWYERS
CARING CIRCLE!

Brittany Bakshi
Hon. John F. Cherry
Fawn E. Kehler
David Murren
Jessica E. Smith
Jessie L. Smith
Max Smith
David K. Trevaskis



YOUR
GIFT IS ALWAYS
TAX-DEDUCTIBLE!



DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN
MAKE YOUR GIFT THROUGH
THE UNITED WAY?

Just write in Dauphin County Bar Foundation on your form!



Volunteers Making an Impact!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 DCBF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

Nicole R. Antos, Esq. (Director)

Charles O. Beckley II, Esq. (Vice President)

Joseph A. Curcillo III, Esq. (Director)

James P. DeAngelo, Esq. (Secretary/Treasurer)

Devon DiBiase (Director)

Fawn Kehler, Esq. (Director)

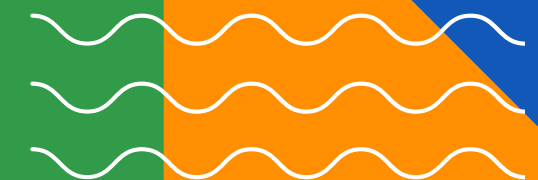
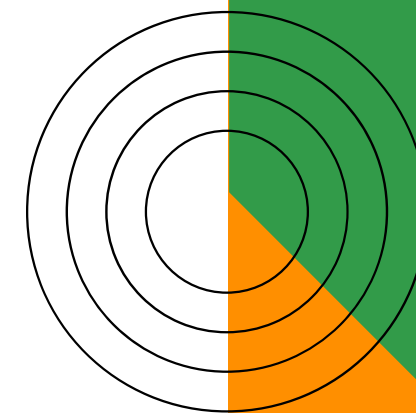
Patrice Merzanis (Director, DCBA Executive Director)

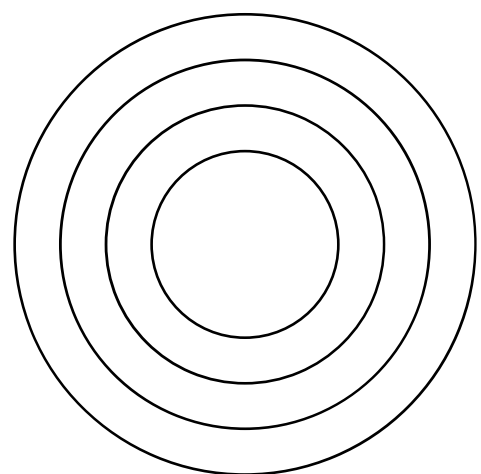
Pamela C. Polacek, Esq. (President)

Gerald S. Robinson, Esq. (Director)

Elizabeth Simcox, Esq. (Director)

Laura Williams, Esq. (Director)

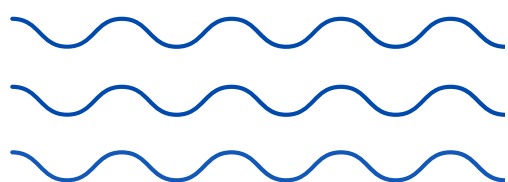




Board of Directors Updates

CONGRATULATIONS TO PAM POLACEK!

After 24 years of practice with McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC, DCBF President Pam Polacek has accepted an in-house position with one of her long-time clients and will be returning home to Pittsburgh. Pam will be greatly missed. We thank Pam for her service and leadership on the Foundation Board of Directors and wish her luck in her new endeavor!



WELCOME TO NEW
DIRECTORS WHO JOINED
IN 2020!

Devon DiBiase (Director)
Jessie Smith (Director)

THANK YOU TO OUR
RETIRING DIRECTORS!

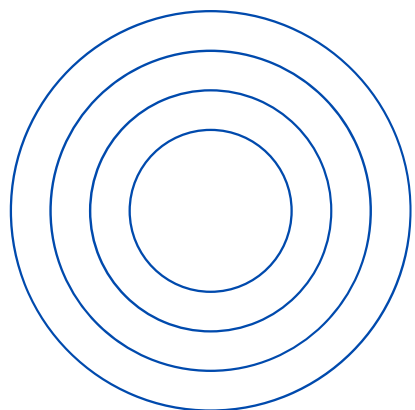
Fawn Kehler (Director)
Pamela Polacek (President)
Laura Williams (Director)



The Power of Giving: How you Can Help!

YOUR IMPACT!

Your gift has the power to support families who have nowhere else to turn and ensure efficient court processes in our local community.



1. YOUR GIFT AT WORK!

Your gift will directly impact WCAC! Sponsor 1 month (\$7,000), 2 weeks (\$3,500), 1 week (\$1,750), 1 day (\$250), or another amount at your comfort level. Your gift is always tax-deductible.

2. CONNECT TODAY!

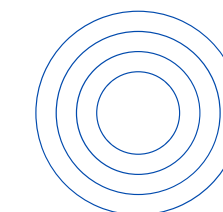
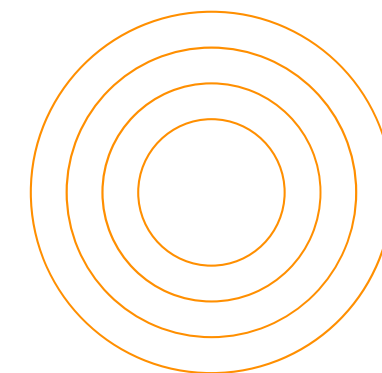
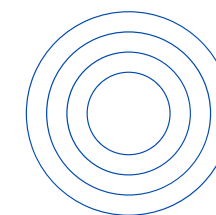
- Open your doors to allow a DCBF member to share the benefits of supporting this cause with your group or office.
- Request a sit-down with a DCBF member to learn more.
- Connect us with other community members who you think will be inspired by this cause.
- Initiate an internal campaign at your office to encourage others to support.

3. CONTACT US TODAY!

For questions about WCAC and sponsorships, please contact Kristin Schab, Campaign Consultant of Helix Strategies, at kristin@helixllc.org or 717-857-7425.

DID YOU PUT US IN YOUR PLANNED GIVING PAPERWORK?

Contact us so we can thank you in our next newsletter!





Our work continues

Your ongoing support will help to enhance the safety and comfort for the families and children we support.

CONTACT US TODAY!

Contact Kristin Schab, Campaign Consultant, Helix Strategies for more information about sponsorships!

kristin@helixllc.org or 717-857-7425



www.dauphinbarfoundation.org