



Beaver County

Children's Mental Health Awareness Day

Beaver County recognized National Children's Mental Health Day on May 1, 2013 around the fountain at the Beaver Valley Mall. The goal of this event is always to raise awareness for families and youth of all ages, with a special focus on older youth and young adults. The planning committee is driven by the need to increase awareness, education, and wellness. With over 33 different community providers, supports, educational vendors, and local Beaver County politicians present, we were able to do just that.

Along with important information about services and supports in the community, free activities were also available to the children and their families. Local youth were recruited to provide face painting and make balloon art (a favorite request was for penguins since the Pittsburgh Penguins were having a game that same evening), and also help with the facilitation of the three hour event. Talented adults were recruited to offer more activities such as games, temporary tattoos, painting, music, juggling, yo yo'ing, and many different crafts. It was nice to see children walking around with plants they had planted, artwork they had created, and stones they had painted. The staff of Beaver County's unique Old Economy Village joined us and helped children write their names on certificates with ink and quills. Again this year, we were able to raffle off 30 baskets, gifts cards, and other merchandise at no cost to the participants. The support of all the community vendors made this possible.

Over 113 people signed in as participants in this event. While they enjoyed the fun, free activities of the day, they also walked away with valuable information, literature, contacts and connections from the community services and supports listed below. The positive comments and obvious networking made this event a huge success. We look forward to planning the 2014 Children's Mental Health Awareness Day event in Beaver County.

A special thank you to all of you who made this event so successful:

The Planning Committee Members: Karen Edwards, Sharon Kovach, Bonnie Palmieri, Kerry Popowich and Teresa Popp

Thank You to all the Providers and Stakeholders who made this day a huge success.

1. AARP
2. Aliquippa Council of Men of Fathers/Fatherhood Initiative
3. Allegheny HealthChoices, Inc.

4. Amber's Amazing Balloons
5. Beaver County Rehabilitation Center (BCRC)
6. Beaver County Behavioral Health DSU
7. Chick-Fil-A
8. Compassionate Friends
9. Consumer/Family Satisfaction Team of Beaver County
10. Contact Beaver County
11. Discovery House
12. Education & Training Consultants
13. Faces of Madison
14. Family Behavioral Resources
15. Family Support Network
16. Gateway Rehabilitation Center
17. Geneva College
18. Glade Run
19. Health South
20. Highmark-Caring Place
21. Hostess Gift Shoppe of Beaver
22. Mental Health Association of Beaver County
23. Mindful Schools
24. NAMI of Beaver County
25. Nar anon
26. Office of Representative Jim Christiana
27. Office of Senator Elder Vogel
28. Old Economy Village
29. Peer to Peer of Beaver County
30. Penn State Extension
31. Pressley Ridge
32. Southwood Hospital
33. Value Behavioral Health – PA
34. Volunteer students from Hopewell High School
35. Western Pennsylvania Psychiatric Care
36. Yo Yo Man