



Who is Access Services?

For 45 years, Access Services has been developing innovative ways to provide support services to individuals with special needs. Today, we are a large non-profit organization operating in thirteen counties in Eastern Pennsylvania.

Our mission is to empower and serve people in need of specialized supports by providing innovative services that improve their ability to live fulfilling lives in the community.

Children and Family Newsletter



Every family is
unique.

Every family needs a
village.

Opt out of these mailings or request to receive our digital e-newsletter by emailing ktizzard@accessservices.org or calling (215) 540-2150, x1282.



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Community Access
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Be part of our village!

While prevention and intervention help to keep children out of the system and with their families of origin, there are still between 13,000 to 15,000 children in foster care in Pennsylvania. We have a need for foster families in all 14 of the counties we serve right now. Do you or someone you know want to be a dependable, caring adult in a child's life?

Start the application process at
accessservices.org/explore-fostering

Looking for a village?

Family Supports exists to come alongside families to help navigate systems and services. Our teams in Bucks and Chester Counties would love to help support you.

Search "Family Support" at accessservices.org.
Bucks LIFE - 888-442-1590 BucksLIFE@accessservices.org
Chesco LIFE - 215-429-8383 ChescoLIFE@accessservices.org

Intervention

the action of coming between to alter a result or course of events

For over 63 years, New Life has been providing community-based services to support families in the Chester county area and beyond. In 2021, New Life partnered with Access to become a division of Access Services, Child & Family service line. The services of New Life create interventions for families to reduce out of home placement, improve family stability and help families develop the skills and support they need to create healthy family dynamics.

Here are two stories of some of the successes they have had with families served this year:

The ability to maintain family ties in a healthy manner was possible for a family in the supervised visitation program. While this family had a fractured relationship between the mother and father, visits were able to continue. Through committed work by the New Life worker and both parents, the family was able to transition to unsupervised visitation. Both parents were able to recognize the value of having the other parent involved with the children. They made a commitment to coparent while working on their ended relationship as a separate issue.

A family was referred to New Life for inappropriate discipline, overdue medical appointments, and domestic violence in the home. New Life's Life Skills program worked with the family on educational needs, budgeting, community resources, and medical needs. The parents were able to maintain consistency with getting the children to childcare on time. They improved their interactions in front of the children. The father was able to obtain his ID and complete an online drug and alcohol class. Both parents were able to obtain a mental health evaluation and the mother was able to obtain legal income through PA unemployment services. At time of discharge, the mother was planning to move into a home owned by her mother and she was able to purchase a car to allow her to get around.



How we overcome challenges

Our Children & Family service line has programs that provide safe, nurturing environments for children and families to grow. They come together to help families create a wide "village" of support and connections to resources in the community. Regardless of the uniqueness of each family, our Children & Family programs work to fill in the gaps that arise in their support systems. The programs offer

prevention and intervention

for many obstacles that our families face when trying to reach their goals as a family. Our programs evolve to meet new and growing needs each year. Keep reading to learn more about how two of our unique programs have overcome challenges, grown and adapted to help the families we serve.



Prevention

the action of stopping something from happening or arising

Over the past year, the Rebound Program and its core team of Life Skills & Resiliency Coordinators have overcome several challenges and a great deal of change. One of the biggest hurdles was being significantly understaffed. Through all the change and uncertainty, the team prevailed and provided quality prevention services to the youth of Schuylkill County without missing a beat. Our Rebound program works directly with the Children and Youth system (CYS) to provide diversion and aftercare. Diversion is when a family is referred to Rebound in order to prevent involvement in CYS and potential out of home placement. When there is involvement with CYS, Rebound provides aftercare for four to six months to maintain success and prevent recidivism. Rebound helps the children they serve resolve truancy issues, improve academic performance and more to help support the family. Now that the program is once again fully staffed, the rebuilding process has begun. They are invested in cultivating an environment of self-care and work-life balance for the team. The most important thing is bringing the entire team into the discussion, encouraging them to give their input by asking the important questions: What will work, what won't work, what will

make this better, what can we do to support you, does this make sense and what do YOU think? This is all part of another change within Rebound – a culture change. Our staff are the backbone of our programs; they are the ones on the front lines working with our kids, doing the notes, the reports, coordinating with other agencies, day in and day out. They deserve to have their voices heard and to help shape the program as it grows. And that's exactly what they are doing.

This team is a very close-knit group. They support each other and have each other's back, they share both responsibility and accountability, every one of them has an enormous amount of dedication, compassion and commitment to the children we serve, and they certainly do know how to laugh and have fun! They are more than co-workers; they are a family. They understand the value of community and help each family served to build a "village" of support. The team is also having meaningful discussions around Trauma-Informed Care and serving the whole child – socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually - which means reaching out to other providers who are also serving our youth ensuring even more continuity of care. Creating efficiencies within the program and better communication with other providers allows our coordinators more time to do what they love most and that is mentoring our youth so that they can reach their goals and full potential. The trusting relationships built between our coordinators and the kids they serve are the key to effective prevention.

