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# Operation Our Town Reporter

a monthly newsletter *by our volunteers to our volunteers about*  
our fight against drugs and crime in Central PA

Volume 10, Issue 5 - May 2018



[OperationOurTown.org](http://OperationOurTown.org)

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**Founding Members:**

Blair Candy Company  
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Delta Health Technologies  
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New Pig  
NPC, Inc.  
Reliance Bank  
Sheetz, Inc.  
Thompson Pharmacy  
United Way of Blair County  
UPMC Altoona  
Ward Trucking  
Wolf Furniture

**Committed Businesses:**

American Eagle Paper Mills  
Grainger Industrial Supply  
Norfolk-Southern Foundation  
Small Tube Products  
Stuckey Ford & Subaru  
Value Drug Company

## What you need to know about Children of Incarcerated Parents

Understand community initiatives, programs,  
and resources for affected youth and families

**Thursday, May 10, 2018**

**11:00am - 1:00pm**

**First United Methodist Church**  
801 Allegheny Street, Hollidaysburg

**Speakers and Topics:**

- Kids First - Initiatives & Programs for Incarcerated Parents
- Evolution Counseling - Available Services for Children
- Family Services, Inc. - Trauma Informed Care for Kids

**Please pre-register by May 3rd to:**

**[oot@operationourtown.org](mailto:oot@operationourtown.org)**

**~ A free lunch will be provided by Olive Garden ~**

Open to all clergy, church staff & volunteers, and human  
service organizations



Sponsored by the Faith-based  
Roundtable of Operation Our Town

## Mission

To facilitate partnerships between community and business to fight drug abuse and crime through proven law enforcement, treatment, and prevention techniques.



814-693-3020



PA 2-1-1 is a comprehensive database that includes information about health & human services.

PA 2-1-1 can be accessed by phone 24/7 or the web at:

<https://pa211central.info>



To register as an Operation Our Town volunteer go to our website at: [www.operationourtown.org](http://www.operationourtown.org) Click on the volunteer tab on the homepage and follow directions to fill out a volunteer application.



## Upcoming Operation Our Town & Partner Meetings and Events

### Weekly

Wednesday's	HOPE Support Group Meeting	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blair Drug & Alcohol Partnerships
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### Monthly

2nd Saturday of every month	Breaking the Chains Recovery Service	7:00pm	Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church
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### Month of May

5/1	Early Childhood Roundtable meeting	10:00am	Blair Co. Chamber
5/3	Housing Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Al's Tavern
5/7	Booker T. Washington meeting	4:00pm	Blair Co. Community Action Agency
5/8	Northern Blair Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Bull Pen Restaurant
5/16	Blair Co. Crime Solvers meeting	8:00am	WTAJ
5/16	Marketing Roundtable meeting	4:00pm	OOT office
5/17	Criminal Justice Advisory Board meeting	12:00pm	Blair Co. Courthouse

## Operation Our Town 2018 Grant Cycle

Grant Cycle Opens: **May 1**

Deadline for Applications: **June 8**

Funding available: \$50,000 for prevention programs aimed at reducing drugs and/or crime.

Please note, you will have two grant applications to choose from:

- Funding requests under \$3,000 or
- Funding requests over \$3,000

To access the grant applications, go to:

**[www.operationourtown.org](http://www.operationourtown.org)**

and click on the "Grants" tab

# Community Events

Rise for Recovery presents  
Arts in Recovery

Friday,  
May 18, 2018  
7:00 - 9:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church,  
Hollidaysburg

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for newly renovated Hamilton Park

Wednesday,  
May 23, 2018  
2:00pm

Hamilton Park  
301-307 E. Cherry Avenue, Altoona

Emergency Services Appreciation Day

Sunday,  
June 10, 2018  
DelGrosso's Park

All firefighters, police, EMT, & EMS get an All-day Fun Pass free with valid ID!

Booker T. Washington Revitalization Corporation in cooperation with the Central Blair Recreation & Park Commission presents...

# 10th Annual BTW 3 on 3 Basketball Competition

Saturday, June 9th, 2018

**LOCATION**  
The Booker T. Washington Basketball Court located at the corner of 13th Ave and 19th Street in Altoona.

**COMPETITION SCHEDULE**  
9:00 am Divisions I & II: Check-In  
9:30 am Divisions I & II: Competition Begins  
12:00 pm Divisions III & IV: Check-In  
12:30 pm (Approximate) Divisions III & IV: Competition Begins



**Help by Sponsoring a Team:**

There are many local youths that would like to participate in the 3x3 competition but need help with the entry fee. Call the Central Blair Recreation and Park Commission at 814-949-2231 to sponsor a team.

**DOUBLE ELIMINATION FORMAT**  
All teams guaranteed minimum of 2 games

- Maximum of 4 players per team
- Division grade levels based on 2018-2019 school year

**Divisions**  
Division I: 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades  
Division II: 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Grades  
Division III: 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grades  
Division IV: 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Grades

**SPECTATORS INVITED!**  
FOOD AND BEVERAGES AVAILABLE  
The event is free & open to the public.

All participants must pre-register! **2018 3x3 Basketball Registration** Division are based on 2018-2019 grade levels

Division (circle one):

Div. I: 4th & 5th grade    Div. II: 6th & 7th grade    Div. III: 8th & 9th grade    Div. IV: 10th, 11th, & 12th grade

Team Type (circle one): Male    Female    Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Sizes (each team can have up to 4) Child : Med \_\_\_\_\_ Adult : Sm \_\_\_\_\_ Med \_\_\_\_\_  
Lg \_\_\_\_\_ Lg \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Player's Name	Parent/Guardian Signature
Player 1: _____	_____
Player 2: _____	_____
Player 3: _____	_____
Player 4: _____	_____

Entry fee is \$40/team. Please make checks payable to BTW Corp. Entries can be mailed to BTW 3 on 3 B-Ball 2101 5th Ave Altoona PA 16602. Deadline for registrations is Monday June 4, 2018.

\* In the event of rain the tournament will be held at the 6th Ward Community Center, 2101 Fifth Avenue\*

# 2017-2018 Grant Recipient Highlight: Blair County Juvenile Probation Office's Juvenile Drug Court

By Clark Shehe, Blair County Juvenile Drug Court Officer



The Blair County Juvenile Drug Court has been in operation under The Honorable Elizabeth A. Doyle since 2009; in which it began to target moderate to high risk youth (ages 12 to 18) with substance abuse issues. To date, the drug court has served 188 children, 264 parental figures, and hundreds of other family members or loved ones who were impacted by juvenile drug addiction. Out of the current 188 total participants, 76 have graduated from the program successfully.

Two full time probation officers persistently and intensely supervise each participant by attending multiple home visits or school visits per week, in which drug tests are administered. However, there is much more happening behind the scenes other than just intensive supervision and drug testing. The probation officer forms a professional alliance with the youth and family in order to develop a meaningful relationship with them. Evidence-Based cognitive techniques and tools are used to directly be a part of the juvenile's treatment.

Of course, probation officers are not alone in this effort to help these high risk youths. The juvenile drug court program contains an entire team of participants who are stakeholders in each juvenile. This team, known as "The Treatment Team" meets every other week an hour before the Juvenile Drug Court proceeding begins. Other members of the Treatment Team include a judge, an assistant district attorney, a public defender, family counseling service providers, and drug and alcohol counseling service providers. Each child and family is discussed at length in the Treatment Team, where a plan is developed for the next two weeks to best meet their needs.

Immediately following the Treatment Team meeting, the juvenile drug court proceedings begin. As a requirement to be accepted into the program, each participant needs to have one strong family support who is willing to transport them to the hearings every other week. The youth and their support are called up before the judge together to discuss their progress or lack thereof over the past two weeks. It is at this time where either an incentive or sanction is issued. Incentives can be monetary, praise, or a unique experience; while sanctions can be intense reflections, loss of privileges, or increase in responsibilities.



Overall, the goal of the Blair County Juvenile Drug Court is to make a meaningful change in the community by reducing harm caused by addiction with a treatment based approach. There is no cure for addiction or for other high risk behaviors associated with it, but our program is structured to inspire behavioral change. The support is always present for participants, but in the end, it is their choices which guide them forward or backward. Providing unconditional support and access to treatment provides the participants with the ability to make changes on their own. No change can be forced, but it can be assisted within the juvenile drug court approach.

