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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 3, Issue 9

September 2011

PUSH OUT THE PUSHER 814-693-3020



OperationOurTown.org

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Committed Businesses:

American Eagle Paper Mills
Folcarelli Supply
Grainger Industrial Supply
Norfolk-Southern Foundation
Small Tube Products



HOPE FOR BLAIR COUNTY RECOVERY MONTH EVENT

Saturday, September 17th 2011

2:00pm - 9:00pm

Legion Park Pavilion #1, Hollidaysburg, Pa.

Dabbie Moore | Moore Counseling Service | 1512 12th Ave. Altoona, PA | 814-942-5598

Hope for Blair County would like you to join in a "Recovery Month" event to honor family, friends and neighbors who are in recovery and to remember those loved ones who were lost to addiction. At the event there will be Music, Guest Speakers, Educational Materials & Treatment Options, Fun & Games for Kids, Drug & Alcohol Awareness, and People that understand what you are going through. The following is an article from a local man in recovery.

Why should the Blair County community care about recovery from addiction and alcoholism? First of all, addiction/alcoholism does not discriminate against anyone. It carves its insidious and destructive path of suffering through every social class, family type, race, ethnicity, gender and age group. Addiction is so prevalent that if you have not been directly or indirectly affected by it, consider yourself fortunate.

Despite the familiar nature of this problem, it is quite typical of people to point their fingers in judgment at individuals and families struggling with drugs and alcohol. People use demoralizing opinions and remarks about addicts and alcoholics until it is their own son, daughter, family member or friend who needs help. Once this disease hits their own backyard, the importance of recovery has no boundaries.

Recovery equals health and wellness with the freedom from addiction. It brings serenity and peace but comes with a necessary price: responsibility. Recovery takes guts, hard work and involves no shortcuts. Without the collective support and guidance of the recovery community, I would have perished in the grip of active addiction.

I was raised in Altoona by the most loving family with every possible dream and aspiration available. My experimentation with drugs and alcohol led me to a terrifying abyss of full blown active addiction. The consequences continue to affect my daily existence. I receive dialysis treatments three times a week and await a kidney transplant. Yet, recovery has given me the opportunity to be productive in all areas of my life. I am a grateful recipient of a gift passed down from so many wonderful people in this community who strive to reach out to those still suffering from addiction. Without their service, I would be locked up in prison or dead at a very young age.

In my active addiction, my mother would often state, "If my son is still breathing, there is still a chance for his recovery." This statement summarizes a compassion that our community must embrace in approaching addiction and alcoholism. We must challenge ourselves as a community to live by our highest values and principles in dealing with such a powerful affliction. Just as no person is an island, alcoholics and addicts need the interconnecting resources of the recovery community to survive.

Hope these words find you and your family well. God Bless.

- Matt W.

Mission

Facilitating partnerships between community and business to fight drug use and crime through proven law enforcement, treatment, and prevention techniques.

Our Partners & Friends

[Blair Countians for Drug Free Communities](#)

[Crime Solvers of Blair County](#)

[Pennsylvania Gang Investigators Association](#)

[United Way of Blair County](#)

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

-John F. Kennedy

[CLICK HERE to register as an Operation Our Town Volunteer](#)



To serve on an Operation Our Town Roundtable, to become a Committed Business or to make a tax-deductible donation, contact Shawna Hoover by [email](#) or call 814-296-8730.

Upcoming Operation Our Town & Partner Meetings and Events

Weekly

Wednesday's	HOPE Support Group Meeting	7:00 pm	Crossroads in Altoona
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Month of September

9/17	HOPE for Blair County Event	2:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Legion Park
9/19	OOT Steering Committee	6:00 pm	OOT Office
9/21	Crime Solvers	8:00 am	WTAJ
9/21	Marketing RT	4:00 pm	OOT Office
Friday's	OOT Access Ch. Show After School Programs	6:00 pm	Local Access Channel
Saturday's	OOT Access Ch. Show After School Programs	11:00 am	Local Access Channel
Friday's	"Recovering Hope" Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	10:00 am & 5:00 pm	Local Access Channel

Month of October

10/8	Fall Festival	3:00 pm to 6:00 pm	Evergreen Manors
10/11	Booker T. Washington Meeting	4:00 pm	Blair Co. Community Action Center
10/12	Northern Blair RT	7:00 am	Bull Pen Restaurant
10/13	Pharmacy RT	7:15 am	OOT Office
10/15	6th Annual Pumpkin Festival	10:00 am to 4:00 pm	Allegheny Street Hollidaysburg
Friday's	OOT Access Ch. Show OOT Board	6:00 pm	Local Access Channel
Saturday's	OOT Access Ch. Show OOT Board	11:00 am	Local Access Channel

*OOT Meetings: For more information about Operation Our Town meetings, contact Shawna Hoover at oot@lsfiore.com or call 296-8730.

FALL 2011 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Operation Our Town has established a funding opportunity to support prevention programs proven to prevent drug use and treatment programs proven to reduce relapse within Blair County communities. This funding opportunity is available on a bi-annual cycle.

Funding Application Available: October 1, 2011

Funding Available: Approximately \$75,000 for prevention and treatment programs proven to reduce drugs and/or crime.

Grant Cycle: The grant fiscal period will be from January 2012 through December 31, 2012. All funds are required to be expended during this time period.

Eligible Applicants: Non-profit organizations, schools, and government agencies. Previous grant recipients are also eligible to apply.

Due Date: One (1) original and ten (10) copies of applications must be mailed to Operation Our Town by **November 15, 2011**. All applications mailed must be postmarked by this date.

To fill out an application, visit www.OperationOurTown.org and click on the Funding/Partnership Request on the left-hand column of the homepage.

Upcoming Events

Operation Our Town
Volunteers Needed!
Email OOT2@lsfiore.com

Saturday September 17th

HOPE for Blair County

Recovery Day Event

2:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Legion Park -
Hollidaysburg

Operation
Our Town
Volunteers
Needed!
Call 296-8730

Saturday October 8th

Fall Festival

3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Evergreen Manors

Operation
Our Town
Volunteers
Needed!
Call 296-8730

Saturday October 15th

6th Annual Pumpkin
Festival

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Alleghany Street
Between Montgomery
& Union Streets
Hollidaysburg

Operation Our Town
Volunteers Needed!
Email OOT2@lsfiore.com

Family Day

Monday, September 26th 2011

Dinner Makes a Difference

Research indicates that children & teens that have frequent dinners are:

- At 70% lower risk for substance abuse
- Half as likely to try cigarettes or marijuana
- A third less likely to try alcohol
- Half as likely to get drunk monthly
- Likelier to get better grades in school
- 40% likelier to say future drug use will NEVER Happen

Join us and your family for family day 2011!

This activity is for anyone, anywhere of any age, gender, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status can participate in; **to have dinner with your FAMILY!**

For more family day information please visit <http://casafamilyday.org> or contact Blair County Drug & Alcohol Program at 693-9663 ext. 306.



Faith-Based Roundtable Update

The Faith-based Roundtable meets on the third Thursday of the month at 2 PM, September - June. The next meeting will be October 20th at 2 pm with the location TBA. This past meeting was held Thursday September 15th at the Promise House.

- Ruth Donahue, Interfaith Human Services of Centre County, spoke to the roundtable about the services they provide to the local community. She gave a brief history of their organization and framework, which will be giving us guidance to offer some of the same services in our region.
- The Promise House is part of the Nehemiah Project which will offer services to families of Autistic children. It will be offering a resource room for parents, a sibling room, and a interactive play and learning area for children with Autism. They hope to expand this cause to offer more educational information to families about diet and nutrition as well. The opening day is October 23rd from 1 to 6 pm.

Our mission is to provide education for clergy and laity concerning issues related to drug addiction. These events have included information on how to access treatment, recognizing mental health problems and accessing treatment, and general information on the resources available in our community. Representatives of any faith community are welcome to join our roundtable. Simply contact the OOT office to learn where the next meeting will be held.

OOT On Facebook!



Operation Our Town is now on Facebook!
Please like our page to stay updated on news, events, and
volunteer opportunities. You can find us at
www.facebook.com/operation-our-town. Thank you!