

Our Report to the Community



When I look back at 2018, I feel great pride at the Buhl Club's continued progress as our community's recreation, health, and fitness leader. Three years ago, the Buhl Club instituted new board leadership, reformed governance, and hired Jason Kmick as our executive director.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

of our board and almost our entire staff is new, with our focus on service and accountability. We now offer more programs, have improved facilities and are better able to serve our members. The community's response has been a 30% increase in membership.

Operating in a 116-year-old building, which was expanded 50 years ago brings its challenges, but members love the updates such as our newly renovated swimming pool. In 2018 alone, we taught nearly 500 kids to swim and have offered many new aqua programs. In partnering with Penn State Shenango, we are able to offer a newly renovated, and NCAA compliant gymnasium, that is fully equipped for traditional purposes as well as popular new sports like volleyball and pickleball. If you noticed our beautifully restored eight-foot mahogany doors on State Street (which

had been closed for 40 years), they are now the entrance to our new Preschool and Child Care Center. In less than one year, the Preschool outgrew our expected enrollment. This Center is near and dear to me as I have two grandkids

It was the turning point in our history. Over half who benefit from the care and guidance of the staff. We look to expand our programming to better serve the preschoolers, as well as youth, teens, seniors, persons with disabilities, and families.

> We are blessed to be engaged in the mission of the Buhl Club where we practice the motto "service above self." I know I speak for our board, Jason, our staff, and volunteers in expressing what a great privilege it has been to help to resurrect the vision of Frank and Julia Buhl who created this magnificent organization 116 years ago. But our work has just begun and 2019 brings plans for major innovations. With our Preschool complete, we now are aiming for developing youth, teens and families, as well as better facilities to serve seniors and members with disabilities. We are always looking for volunteers and support, so if you would like to join a winning team and a great cause, please come see the Buhl Club!

Doug Pyle Doug Pyle

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

OUR MISSION

Our Mission is to provide quality recreational, social, wellness & educational programs for people of all ages in our communities.

OUR VISION

Our Vision is to provide individuals & families a positive, accepting environment, enabling them to achieve excellence in their leisure, education, physical fitness & life.



THE BUHL COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

28 Pine St., Sharon, PA 16146 (724) 981-3700 www.buhlcommunityreccenter.com

OUR LEADERSHIP

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Samantha Thompson

Jason Kmick, Executive Director







FROM THE DESK OF OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Buhl Club means so much to so many people and I am truly honored to be a part of this historic organization.

My third year as Executive Director concluded in 2018 and I have to say I

am very proud of the progress we, as a team, have made. That team consists of our dedicated leadership team, our mission-driven staff, our committed board of directors, and our compassionate donors. Together we can accomplish more, and we continue we do just that – work together!

We certainly face challenges every year but there is nothing more rewarding than overcoming those challenges. We strive for positive, impactful results, which usually do not happen without hard work, commitment, and accountability to each other. I am happy to say that 2018 was another year of overcoming

obstacles on our way to re-establishing the Buhl Club as one of our communities leading providers of programs that promote health & wellness and youth development.

With a large facility like the Buhl Club, there will always be challenges, but we remain committed to improvement. We will continue to work hard to provide a safe, welcoming and comfortable place for ALL people in our community, regardless of their ability to pay. We will also continue to create and innovate to provide a larger menu of programming that meet our members needs for a healthier lifestyle, socialization, education, and recreation.

Thank you to all of those who have stayed committed to the Buhl Club and to the spirit of Frank and Julia Buhl without whom we would not have this great facility to enjoy for now over 115 years!

Jason Kmick

Jason Kmick
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SHARON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

SUPPORTS THE MISSION



As the largest employer in Mercer County, Sharon Regional Medical Center is proud to be a monthly donor and corporate sponsor for the Buhl

Community Recreation Center. This Center is an absolute jewel for the community and is a vital resource to fuel individual, family and community heart mind and spirit. If you have not visited the Center lately, I encourage you to do so. I am proud of how the BCRC has helped to shape and influence so many children and adults throughout this great community.

Joe Hugar, President and CEO, Sharon Regional Medical Center Buhl Club Boad Member

www.sharonregionalmedical.com

A FEW PROMISES KEPT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE.

HERE'S HOW WE HELPED OUR COMMUNITY IN 2018

MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE

Youth, Adult, and Family Memberships	\$81,306
Mercer County Schools Youth Memberships	\$3,000
Memberships to Community Organizations	\$3,240
Insurance Pay Programs (i.e. Silver Sneakers)	\$55,800
Child Care Family Memberships	\$19,200

PROGRAM ASSISTANCE

Childcare	\$59,055
Swim Lessons	\$10,810
Youth Programs	\$11,600
Summer Camp	\$4,500

THANK YOU...

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTED SUPPORT

Community Foundation of Western PA & Eastern OH
EJ Kavanagh Foundation
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NEWS FROM THE BUHL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

It was a busy first full year in operation at the Buhl Child Development Center. In 2018, our center expanded with the help and support of the Buhl Regional Health Foundation (BRHF). The BRHF provided funding to expand the center to include a second preschool classroom. This new room, in addition to the original preschool room, now allow our staff to serve over 40 children per day, ages 3-5. Our toddler rooms have also grown over the last year and we are now serving 18 one and two year-olds.

are working with a technical assistant from the state of PA to prepare for our move to a Star 3, later this year. The commitment to the center from all of our families and staff have made our first year, a successful one. It has truly been amazing the response we have received from the community in such a short amount of time.

BUHL SUMMER CAMP

One of the fastest growing youth programs offered at the Buhl Club is the Buhl Summer Day

Camp. The Summer Camp Program first began in 2016 and is designed for schoolaged youth ages 6-12 years old. Often this age group needs a safe, supportive and educational

environment over the summer months when school is out. The campers are able to take part in S.T.E.A.M. programs, music, art and physical activities, swimming and field trips. With the opening of the Buhl Child
Development Center, we were able to expand
our school-aged summer program from 30
campers in 2017 to 104 enrolled in 2018. Our
partnership with the Shenango Valley Transit
Authority and the United Way has also played
a part in helping our summer program grow as
we take our campers around our community.







United Way of Mercer County supports the Buhl Child
Development Center by providing

Development Center by providing funds to help cover the cost of transportation for our after school program and for summer camp.



We continue to work to improve the education and experience our center provides to our children, our families, and our staff. Our center currently holds a Keystone Star 2 rating and we

Please visit our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/buhlchildcare.

PATHSTONE SUPPORTS THE MISSION



The Buhl Club aligned with the Pathstone in late 2017 soon after the opening of our Child Development Center. PathStone is a private, not-for-profit community development and human service organization. In particular, the Buhl Club has taken advantage of the Workforce Development component of Pathstone's services by offering opportunities to willing and able seniors seeking job training and/or employment.

"It has been a year since I met Kelly Caruso at the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce building. Since then, we have had a very dynamic professional relationship. The reciprocity between us has been active, serving the needs not only of her newly established Child Development Center at the Buhl Club, but also accepting our seniors to train and work under her guidance and supervision. Through Kelly, we were given the opportunity to extend the training of our seniors to other departments such as the housekeeping, with the supervision of Juanita Maykowski and the maintenance department working with Walter Hanek.

We at the Senior Employment Program of Pathstone, appreciate the partnership with the Buhl Club. We hope that the relationship will flourish further with time and experience. We appreciate their role in helping us achieve our goal of training our seniors and transitioning them to regular employment. It is our hope that organizations, like the Buhl Club, recognize the value of our seniors and join us in helping them find their place in our community."

Gladys Corpuz, PathStone Coordinator

For more information on Pathstone, please visit: www.pathstone.org

THE BUHL CLUB CHILDCARE HAS BEEN A BLESSING...



"The Buhl Club Childcare has been a blessing for me and my family. We got more than we bargained for including a great location, a great education for my children, a safe place, and a place where they can make friends. There is always a smile on my kids face when they are coming from or going to the center."

- **Nykisha Townsend,** Child Care Mother

MAPLE TREE CANCER ALLIANCE COMES TO PENNSYLVANIA

In 2018, the Buhl Club officially partnered with the Maple Tree Cancer Alliance to serve as a host site for the delivery of their Exercise Oncology program. This partnership truly fits the mission of the Buhl Club, as Maple Tree provides health and wellness programming to anyone dealing with or recovering from cancer. Maple Tree is a non-profit organization that provides services at NO COST to the patient.

Maple Tree provides services to individuals struggling with or recovering from cancer. They offer free individualized exercise programs including time with a certified personal trainer. In 2018 we worked with 15 patients, standing next to them in support during their journey to better health. Exercise oncology is a relatively new field, but research has shown that exercise can significantly increase quality of life. Data collected from patients in the program have also shown decreases in the risk of cancer

recurrence and even slower progression.

"We are so very proud to be aligned with the Maple Tree Cancer Alliance. Their model for care is proven and they are experiencing amazing results with their other centers around the Dayton, OH area. We are very excited to be the first location in Pennsylvania and look forward to the evolution of this great partnership. It is evident that Maple Tree is committed to setting the national standard of care in the exercise oncology field and we are on board to support that effort by taking care of those in our community." – Jason Kmick, Buhl Club ED

"I am so glad I joined the program with Maple Tree Cancer Alliance. I finished chemo and radiation in December of 2018, lost quite a bit of strength during treatment, and was battling some stress and anxiety. I have seen a huge improvement with the strength in my muscles



and the back pain I was experiencing is now gone. I feel the exercises and strength training have also helped my anxiety and stress. I am thankful for everything my trainers do for me and for Maple Tree for providing this program."

– R.S., MTCA Patient

For more information, please call 724-981-3700, ext. 108 or visit: www.mapletreecanceralliance.org

PENN STATE SHENANGO

Our community got its first taste of local collegiate athletics in more than 20 years when members of the Penn State Shenango Men's Basketball program took the court at the Buhl Community Recreation Center on November 10th, 2018. Renovations of the gymnasium were completed in the summer of 2018 and included new paint, wall padding, scoreboards, backboards and the restoration of the gymnasium floor, trademarked with the Penn State logo.

Penn State Shenango had a successful first season, qualifying for the PSU Athletic Conference tournament. They finished with a record of 15-12 after falling to Penn State Wilkes-Barre in the PSUAC semifinals.

"With the reinstatement of Athletics to the Penn State Shenango Campus, it has



been a pleasure to collaborate with the Buhl Club to make the inaugural Men's Basketball season a success. The unbelievable home game atmosphere was the greatest in the conference and the community response to the improvements at the Buhl Club have been overwhelming. I look forward to bringing Women's Volleyball this fall and another competitive season of Men's Basketball. We are... " – Andre Smith, Athletic Director www.shenango.psu.edu

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ARC of Mercer County
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Buhl Farm Park

Community Action Partnership of Mercer County
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Comprehensive Child and Family Services
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Pathstone

Penn State Shenango

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West Central Job Partnership
Youth Advocacy Program

WEST CENTRAL JOB PARTNERSHIP

West Central Job Partnership provides opportunities to serve the youth in our community by helping them prepare for their future careers. Many of the youth we serve have obstacles to employment, most notably a lack of experience. Our Paid Work Experience Program places eager youth at actual sites like the Buhl Child Development Center to learn work skills.

"It has been a welcoming opportunity having

employers like the Buhl Club who are willing to take on and mentor these young applicants. We are happy to report that in 2018, the Buhl Child Development Center provided a Paid Work Experience for four of our youth and ALL four were hired to stay and work at the center. We are very much looking forward to continuing our partnership!"

- Dawn McFall, Employment & TrainingSpecialist • www.wcjp.org



THE BUHL CLUB HELPS BATTLE DISEASE



The Buhl Club has set a strategic goal to become a leading provider of health and wellness programming in our community. In 2018, our program committee and staff made a commitment to serving our seniors and adults through specialized programming that combats or lessens the effects of disease. Last spring, our group fitness coordinator, Vicki

Vargo, received her instructor certification for working with patients with Parkinson's. In addition to medical treatments, exercise has been shown to relieve a multitude of Parkinson's symptoms. Since our program has started, many of the participants have come back from their doctors stating how much of an improvement they have had with their balance, bone density, and many of the other symptoms.

"I attribute all of the success in managing my Parkinson's to the wellness classes at the Buhl Club. It is has been a tremendous help with increasing my strength, endurance, and my overall wellness. Prior to these classes with my disease I was walking with a cane and I am now cane free. My Parkinson's doctor said I don't have to see him for a full year because of my progress."

- Lulu Hardin, Buhl Club Member

YOUTH GIVING BACK

Youth Advocate Programs (YAP) was founded in 1975 as an alternative to placement for



juvenile offenders. YAP utilizes a strength-based approach to strengthen communities, one biography at a time. Our program has collaborated with the Buhl Club for youth to learn independence and organizational skills. The youth are always very cooperative, respectful, hardworking, and kind. It has been rewarding to supervise the youth while they give back to the community. The employees and patrons of the Buhl Club have been very welcoming and accommodating, and the overall experience has been positive. We look forward to continuing to improve our community through this collaborative effort!

– Erica Powell, YAP Program Coordinator www.yapinc.org

CANDY IS FAMILY

EVANS DINNER HONORS DAFFIN'S CANDIES

The Buhl Community Recreation Center honored Pete, Jean and Diane Daffin as recipients of the 2018 Henry and Catherine Evans Community Service Award. Every year the center honors an individual or business that goes above and beyond to make a positive impact on the people that live and work in our community. The Daffin family sets the model for caring for others with their many years of generosity.

When Daffin's Candies moved to Sharon from Ohio in 1950, Pete Daffin built his own candy store as an extension of his mother's home at the corner of Washington and South Main streets. The modest location later moved to the 20,000-square-foot site where it remains today. Although the store moved away physically from the family home, the connection between store and family remains as close as ever.

Connie Leon was hired as a retail associate in 1966 while she was still in high school. She is now the retail manager and in her 53rd year with the company. "I loved it from day one," she said. "I have enjoyed every single day." Connie described Pete Daffin as the visionary and Jean

Daffin as the force behind the business in its early days. In the years after, Diane was able to carry on their tradition.

"They instilled so much in all of us," she said of Pete, Jean and Diane. "We still think about them every day, and the love they had for their customers

and community." One of the many ways Daffin's Candies gives back is by helping non-profit organizations with their fundraisers through the Daffin's Candy Bar Division. Every candy bar an organization sells, half goes to the non-profit.

Other Daffin family community contributions ranged from donating money to Penn State Shenango — which has a scholarship funded by the Daffin family — and local schools, to taking the time to help a frantic shopper pick out the perfect last-minute gift on Valentine's Day. "The holidays were our favorite," Connie laughed, as she reminisced about helping Diane with sales during the holiday seasons. "We loved helping



people out on the floor."

With a strong family in place – related by blood, or otherwise – all parties agreed Daffin's Candies will have no problem continuing the legacy instilled by Pete, Jean and Diane Daffin. "Candy is happiness," Connie said, recalling one of Pete Daffin's favorite mottos. "He wanted everyone to feel happy there."



www.daffins.com

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF OUR DONORS

BRAVO! We are grateful to our 233 donors who gave generously to our Annual Campaign, raising \$121,450 on a goal of \$115,000!

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Thank you for helping the Buhl Club keep our promise.



Preserving the Buhl Legacy and Supporting our Community.





We are proud supporters of the Buhl Club and the Shenango Valley Community



Doug & Lynn Pyle

Sharing with the community to help preserve the Buhl Legacy by supporting the Buhl Community Recreation Center.



Daffin's Candies

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