Our Report to the Community

Serving Our Community for Over 115 Years

2017
**OUR MISSION**

Our Mission is to provide quality recreational, social, fitness & 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.

**OUR LEADERSHIP**

Board of Directors

- Doug Pyle, Chair
- Laura Miklos, Vice Chair
- Dr. Brian Crow
- Frank Evans
- Robert Fiscus
- Dr. George Garrow
- Joe George
- Greer Hayden
- John Hudson
- Lew Kachulis
- Jen Krezeczowski
- Georgiana Luce
- Georgia Macris
- Dr. Barry Marchetto
- Jack Monaco
- Julianne Stefanick
- John Thiel
- Butch Thiel
- Samantha Thompson

The Buhl Community Recreation Center

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(724) 981-3700
www.buhlcommunityreccenter.com

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**Keeping Promises For More Than 115 Years**

**A Letter from our 2017 Board President**

Picture children — lots of them — everywhere in the building. In gymnastics and dance classes. In the pool for lessons or open swim. Playing or in classes in the new Child Care Center. Nothing is more rewarding to my fellow board members and me than seeing these signs that the renaissance that started a few years ago at the Buhl Club is succeeding.

Frank and Julia Buhl’s incredible vision that created this organization 115 years ago is rapidly returning to its former status as that essential home away from home for so many in our community. Here are a few ways the community has responded to the new Buhl Community Recreation Center (formerly known as The Buhl Club)

- Membership has increased 25% in the last two years
- Program participation has increased by 15%
- Over 200 donors made financial contributions in 2017 – raising $104,000 on a goal of $100,000
- Immediate response to the opening of the Preschool and Child Care Center with rapid growth toward full enrollment

While the center’s programs benefit youth from preschoolers to youth, adults, seniors and families enjoy the state of the art fitness center, adult swim programs, handball and racquetball, Silver Sneakers and much more. This is possible through the efforts of our new executive director, Jason Kmick, an entirely revamped supervisory staff and a board that includes ten members recruited in the last two years. Partnerships with major community organizations, ranging from Penn State Shenango to Primary Health Network, also enable more and better services and the resulting growth.

If you have not seen the center recently stop in and give us a look. You will be impressed!

Frank C. Evans
President of the Board
A Few Promises Kept Makes A Big Difference
Here's how we helped our community in 2017

MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE

Youth, Adult, and Family Memberships - $86,180
Mercer County Schools Youth Memberships - $3,600
Memberships to Community Organizations - $2,536
Silver Sneakers Membership - $2,100
Child Care Family Memberships - $13,800

PROGRAM ASSISTANCE

Childcare - $4,555
Swim Lessons - $3,250
Silver Sneakers - $2,705
Youth Programs - $18,400
Summer Camp - $1,600

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTED SUPPORT

The Community Foundation of Western PA
EJ Kavanagh Foundation
Gilberts Risk Solutions
Henry and Catherine Evans
Joy Cone Company
Kimberly Boys Club Trust
Margaret Walker Foundation
Primary Health Network
Rosemary and Dave Bestwick
Shih-Nana George Foundation
TJ Kavanagh Foundation
United Way of Mercer County

PHN supports the mission of the BCRC

PHN supports the mission of the BCRC and the programs that it offers for a variety of reasons including the great work that it does with its members and the Community and the focus it has on the same people that we direct our mission towards.
We look at the BCRC as a key component of the Greater Sharon Community and without it the Community would suffer. Having the opportunity to partner with an Organization with that much diversity has allowed us the ability to create cooperative and integrated programs that have had many widespread benefits. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the BCRC and are very excited at what our future relationship could produce.

Drew C. Pierce,
CPA, NHA, CPC
Chief Executive Officer
Primary Health Network
THE MISSION OF THE BUHL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The BCRC Child Development Center is to provide exemplary early education and childcare for families, by offering a safe, secure program that promotes the social, physical, cognitive and language development for ALL children.

THANK YOU

to those who contributed generously to make the center a reality...

- Buhl Regional Health Foundation
- Frank and Linda Evans
- Joe George
- John & Mariangela Hudson and Family
- Mark & Pam Hudson and Family
- Joy Cone Company
- Lew Kachulis
- Jen Krezeczowski & Jim Landino
- Shih-Nana George Foundation
- Pearl Knott & Mark Longietti

In Memory of Tony Knott

The Buhl Child Development Center is Part of Our Family

Choosing Buhl Childcare for my daughter has been an excellent choice. My daughter has learned so much in the last few months. She has made some drastic changes in her speech and expression, is learning her colors, numbers, and ABC’s and is much more verbal. The hours extend from early morning throughout the day, which very conducive to my work schedule.

I love that the Childcare Center offers free family memberships which gives the opportunity to see what the Center has to offer, including swimming and tumbling. Hailey loves going to school there, loves the staff and has made several new friends. I cannot wait to see what's next. Hoping the Buhl Club Childcare grows, and we get to experience more great opportunities.

- Carmella Clark

Mom Loves Experience at the New Center

Our experience with Center has been amazing. Our family had the opportunity to take advantage of the Summer Program last year and our son Logan loved everything. Our family also got to be a part of the beginning of the Child Development Center. My daughter Leah was one of the first children enrolled.

She loves her teacher and the staff, she brings her artwork home and has learned so much. She also looks forward to going to school every day. She benefits tremendously from the swimming program and the gymnastics. We are very happy that The BCRC offers a daycare program now and we love everyone that cares for the center. The BCRC is doing an amazing job and definitely has made a difference in my children’s lives and in our family.

-Ericka Milliren
The Return of College Athletics to the Shenango Valley

The Buhl Community Recreation Center (BCRC) partners with Penn State Shenango to bring college varsity sports back to our area.

“It should be a win-win situation for both of us,” said Penn State Shenango Business and Finance Director Bill Dungee nearly one year ago. Dungee was referring to the campus’ newly reinstated athletic program and its collaboration with the Buhl Community Recreation Center (BCRC) in Sharon, PA. Dungee and BCRC Director Jason Kmick have been working closely over the past two years to re-establish the partnership that spanned over three decades from the mid-sixties to the mid-nineties.

Recently, the campus signed a three-year formal contract with the BCRC which outlines Penn State’s usage of the facility to host its athletic practices and competitions, specifically its upcoming men’s basketball program and future women’s volleyball program. We couldn't be more pleased with the contract that we’ve worked out with the center,” said Dungee. “We have had a great collaboration with them for many years. This current contract is exclusively for our reinstated athletic program.” As part of the contractual agreement, the Shenango campus will collaborate with the center on upgrades and renovations to its gymnasium, which will enhance and improve the facilities aesthetics, including painting and new wall padding, scoreboards, and backboards. Most notably will be the restoration of the gymnasium floor, which will be trademarked with the Penn State athletic logo.

This work has been approved by the BCRC board of directors to begin May 19 with a completion date of June 8. The campus will host its first men’s basketball game in the newly renovated gymnasium on November 10. “Anytime you have the opportunity to build an athletic program and partner with such a well-rounded, well-respected organization as the BCRC, it’s a great building block,” said Penn State Shenango Athletic Director and Men’s Basketball Coach Andre Smith. “This unique partnership will have a positive impact on both Penn State Shenango and the community. There are several new ideas that we can collaborate on to enrich this community. This agreement will also allow local businesses to take part in sponsorships in the gymnasium area. I know all parties are extremely excited about the future as we move forward.” us and Penn State.

The Shenango campus is also currently working on a separate agreement with the center where its students will have more access to the facility as a whole. “We are very excited about this partnership and playing our part to bring back college athletics to our town,” said Kmick. “Bill and his team at Penn State have been great to work with leading up to where we are today…just a few months away from the start of it all.

As a part of this partnership, we will be making improvements to our gymnasium that will not only serve Penn State athletics but will also be accessible to our members and program participants. We believe that this is just the start of what promises to be a great partnership between these two historic local organizations.
When I discovered the Buhl Community Recreation Center I was an exhausted, overwhelmed, working mother of three children. My daughter, her friend and my two sons expressed an interested in dance and other activities, however financially, I was unable to accommodate these requests. Once morning I heard a radio ad for the BCRC gymnastics open house. We went to the BCRC to check things out and haven’t left since.

After we got our family membership I was able to work out in the fitness center, my boys played in the babysitting room, and the two older girls enjoyed the dance program. My children have made progress in gymnastics, swimming and other sports, and the science and art programs have filled gaps in our homeschooled curriculum. Thank you, Buhl Community Recreation Center!

-Jennie Bechtel

James E. Feeney was honored at the Henry & Catherine Evans Community Service Award Dinner on September 20th, 2017. James E. Feeney retired as chief operating officer in 2001 from Wheatland Tube Corp., Wheatland, PA. He was with the company for 41 years. Mr. Feeney’s extensive community leadership and involvement includes 40 years on the board of Sharon Regional Health System, F.H. Buhl Trustees; Shenango Valley Foundation; United Way of Mercer County; PA Economy League; Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce; and being a co-founder of Penn Northwest Development Corp.

Mr. Feeney earned a BS in Business Administration from Youngstown State University and served three years in a U.S. Army Artillery Nike Guided Missile Program. He is married to the former Joan Kavanagh for 57 years and has three sons, Kevin, Tim, and Ned, nine grandchildren, and one great-grand child.

Jim continues to serve on several boards in the community, but more importantly he continues to serve the community.

-James E. Feeney

When we think about where we were a year ago and where we are now, it makes us smile. We made the decision in June/July 2017 to join the Buhl Community Center for several reasons: To get healthier, feel better, and to do something together as a couple a few times a week. Our lives are busy but now being in our 50s with the kids grown and on their own, there had to be more to life than going to work, right? It took us too long to realize that. We had moved to Hermitage two years prior and I used to be a synchronized swimmer.

Buhl’s pool and its aquatics classes were calling to me and my husband was game, so here we are. Chuck Dunkerley was good for us. He gives good advice and integrates the perfect mix of cardio, joint/muscle movement, and yoga – we love the deep water classes. When we can, we participate in other aquatic classes and events at Buhl, as well. In the process, we’ve both lowered our blood pressure, lost weight and improved our eating habits. We’ve thoroughly enjoyed our membership at FHBC. Our best advice to anyone is “What are you waiting for? Do this!” Thank you, Chuck and FHBC, for making our lives happier and healthier. We literally weren’t doing it without you!

- Shaum and Beckie Erwin, Hermitage
COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS
The ARC of Mercer County
Alliance for Behavior & Developmental Disabled Associates in Counseling Childs Guidance
Boy Scouts
Buhl Park
Capable Kids
Community Counseling Center Comprehensive Children and Family Services Covenant
Presbyterian Church
Diversified Family Services
Keystone Adolescence Center
Saint Michaels School
Saint Anthony's Point
Salvation Army (Mercer County)
Sharon Fire Department
Sharon School District
Shenango Valley Library
Whole Life Services
Youth Advocate Program

OVER 5,000 HOURS VOLUNTEERED

For over 100 years the BCRC has used volunteers in a variety of ways such as greeting members, instructing youth programs, teaching swim lessons, and organizing events to name a few.

In 2017, a total of 57 individual volunteers contributed just over 5200 hours of their time. Some of these volunteers give their time to help supervise youth in the building, interact in the wellness center and even help our custodial staff to keep the facility clean. Our organization has been very lucky to find, engage, and retain great volunteers.

Pictured Above: Nancy and Jim Bestwick have volunteered for a combined 30 years.

Our Friends from the Salvation Army

The Salvation Army and the Buhl Community Recreation Center teamed up in 2016 to teach toddlers and young children how to swim. Under the direction of centers Aquatics Director, Charles Dunkerly, the youth group from The Salvation Army Sharon Corps, under the leadership of Christian & Kiara Blaire, have joined the children’s classes to be assistants in the program.

According to Major Amanda Jung from the Salvation Army, “the center has been a generous and community-driven site in the City of Sharon and has provided the local Salvation Army with recreation opportunities in donating pool hours to a variety of different Army programs. This has benefitted hundreds of children in the community over the past two years.

As a way to give back to the Buhl Rec Center, The Army joined up with Mr. Dunkerly to help aid in the classes. Major Jung goes on to say, “the one on- one attention from the teens to the children have benefitted everyone involved in the program. The children are gaining confidence in their swimming while the teens are learning nurturing and leadership skills.” This kind of community partnership is a reflection of the positive happenings going on in Sharon.”

Majors Michael & Amanda Jung, Corps Officers of The Salvation Army Corps would like to thank the Buhl Community Recreation Center staff, for their community-minded vision in bringing these two services together to create a strong program.

Pictured Above: Hannah Wilhelm, one of our newest volunteers who just started this year.

Pictured Above: Nancy and Jim Bestwick have volunteered for a combined 30 years.
Strengthening Our Community Through The Generosity Of Our Donors

BRAVO! We are grateful to our 250 donors who generously to our Annual Campaign raising $104,728 on a goal of $100,000!

Executive Director Jason Kmick • jkmick@fhbuhlclub.org • 724-981-3700 x104
Program Director Michelle Bower • mbower@fhbuhlclub.org • 724-981-3700 x108
Child Development Director Kelly • Caruso kcaruso@fgbuhlclub.org • 724-981-3700 x110
Aquatics Director Chuck Dunkerley • cdunkerley@fhbuhlclub.org • 724-981-3700 x107
Group/Senior Fitness Director Vicki Vargo • vvargo@fhbuhlclub.org • 724-981-3700 x106

Thank you for helping the Buhl Club keep our promise.