



A Message from Our Board

Dear Friend,

If you are reading this, you have in some way connected with PLC. You are a contributor, a sponsor, a volunteer, a student, an advocate, a client, a colleague, a friend; you are a partner. I would venture to guess that you likely recognize ubuntu; if not the word, then the concept.

ubuntu: An African philosophical concept, translating in the simplest of terms to "I am because we are."

We truly are all in this together. At PLC, we believe that the most vulnerable members of our community are our collective responsibility. Our qualified and compassionate staff make genuine connections with the children, teens, parents, grandparents and foster parents we serve. The PLC team gives it their all, putting in extra hours and often reaching into their own pockets to make sure a child has what they need, or sometimes what they want. In 2021, we formalized staff donations with PLC Gives, our first ever employee giving campaign. Nearly half of all staff participated. Their average donation being \$137!

There is a word in South Africa – Ubuntu – a word that captures Mandela’s greatest gift: his recognition that we are all bound together in ways that are invisible to the eye; that there is a oneness to humanity; that we achieve ourselves by sharing ourselves with others, and caring for those around us.

-From Remarks by President Barack Obama at the Memorial Service for Former South African President Nelson Mandela

Through the collective generosity of employees, PLC is making an even bigger impact in lives of those we serve:

- ➡ Staff funded a foster mom’s purchase of educational toys and books for her twin three-year-old foster girls.
- ➡ Staff presented a cash award to a youth who overcame adversity and against the odds, graduated from high school.
- ➡ Staff hand-selected holiday gifts for ten foster teens who are living in a facility setting due to medical or behavioral issues, and who often feel forgotten.
- ➡ Staff distributed new oversized duffle bags to 103 foster children, so that they will never again need to call a garbage bag, a suitcase.
- ➡ Staff presented a high-tech music studio to youth at our after school program, to promote creativity and team work.

We are proud of our staff for their generosity and commitment. But there are many more unmet needs. Can we count on your donation so that PLC can provide additional important support to the most vulnerable members of your community? Ubuntu: I am because we are.

Sincerely,

Adam Ostrach, Atlantic Union Bank
PLC Board of Directors, Development Committee Chair



Adam Ostrach (L) also serves as our Golf Classic for Kids Committee Chair. Pictured here at the 2021 event with PLC President and CEO, Dr. Laurence Jackson.

We are grateful to Adam for his enduring advocacy, and to Atlantic Union Bank, our 2021 tournament’s lead sponsor.

Zero Out Your Tax Bill?

Check with your tax professional to learn more about the CARES Act tax incentives designed to encourage charitable donations. They are set to expire at the end of 2021. Here’s an overview of incentives for individuals:

- If you don’t itemize your tax returns, you should be able to claim a deduction of up to \$300 for cash donations to qualified charities (including PLC!). Married couples filing jointly can claim up to \$600.
- Donors who itemize their taxes may be able to zero out their tax bill for the year! This incentive allows individual taxpayers to deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income!

It’s never been a better time to give. Happy Filing!

Please note that this information does not constitute tax advice. Please consult a tax professional to evaluate your personal situation.

What is Kinship Care?

Across the nation, 4% of all kids - more than 2.65 million children - are in kinship care. Throughout history, families have cared for relative children during times of illness, poverty, incarceration, death, violence or other family crises. Many cultures continue this practice to this day, often outside of the social service or court systems. Today, most child welfare professionals agree that placing children with appropriate kin is the best living situation for children whose parents aren't able to care for them safely at home.

- The Annie E. Casey Foundation

I was lost, but a family member introduced me to someone that referred the kinship program to me and since then things are going smoothly. They gave me all the resources that I needed to get help for my great granddaughter.

-Comments from a grateful PLC Kinship Care Program client

Kinship care keeps a child out of foster care, in a familiar environment, and with someone whom they love and who loves them back. In our experience, the kinship caregiver is more often than not, a grandmother, and her sudden new role leave so much to figure out. PLC's Prince George's County, Maryland Kinship Care Program is a virtual and in-home visiting program, through which we help these selfless caregivers navigate school, childcare, extra-curricular activities, medical care, housing, the guardianship process, accessing public funds, and more. We provide welcomed emotional support, counseling and financial assistance, helping to set kinship caregivers up for success. Kinship caregiver programs such as ours, are very rare. This is why we are working with a variety of partners, including Catholic University, to pursue the development of a best practices program that can help families throughout the U.S.

Visit ProgressiveLifeCenter.org/kinship-care to learn more or make a referral.



Families enjoyed an afternoon of activities and great food during our annual Back to School Celebration and Back Pack Giveaway. Thank you to our 2021 Lead Backpack Sponsor, Prince George's County Council Member Jolene Ivey!

Face-to-Face is Best

meet me halfway
ADOLESCENT CLUBHOUSE

We're back - three days each week, for in-person work and play. At our dynamic after school program, Baltimore teens receive educational support, recovery planning and vocational guidance. We provide bus tokens or rides to ensure attendance.

Youth are working even when they're playing. By incorporating lessons throughout an array of activities, our teens learn important practical and emotional strategies and skills, whether on the computer, preparing the Clubhouse's evening meal, or blowing off steam with a game of hoops. And soon, youth will be enjoying the soon-to-be installed, employee-funded music studio. Keep an eye on our social media for updates and music clips!

Staff takes youth through the Seven Challenges program, which is based in the belief that people deserve comprehensive counseling to help them identify and work on problems in their lives. Clubhouse life skills training follows the evidence-based Botvin model and its core curriculum: self-management, social competence and resisting peer pressure.

Youth work really hard to identify and reach their goals. During recreation and free time, staff supports youth as they discover and practice new social and life skills.



The Tradition Continues: Baltimore Clubhouse teens earned a fishing trip to Solomon's Island, Maryland!

The teens, most of whom rarely leave the city, and program director Neville Hodge (center/mask) welcomed Clubhouse alumni success Jessie (back row/beard) to reminisce.

You are PLC

Partners Help Us Fulfill Families' Unmet Needs

Who are our partners? To answer that question, we return to the word ubuntu from Adam's opening letter. Our partners are comprised of families and community members. Our partners include foundations; corporations and small businesses; fraternities and sororities; churches, civic organizations and other nonprofits; and government funders and stakeholders. But let us recognize, that each partner entity is comprised of community-minded individuals who embrace a shared humanity, a "recognition that we are all bound together in ways that are invisible to the eye." With so many unmet needs, so many families in crisis, children experiencing neglect or abuse, it is only through the spirit of ubuntu that all will achieve.

★ Let their FULFILLMENT, not their FAILURE, determine our collective FUTURE. ★



Children's Charities FOUNDATION

We are so grateful to CCF, who is a generous supporter of our Kinship Care Program, and who for the 3rd year has included our kids among the recipients of their highly successful Coats for Kids campaign. Learn more or donate to their fund at ccfdc.org

Thank you CCF for 50 brand-new winter coats for our Washington, DC families!

PLC Philly knows how to make friends! Through engagement and membership in a variety of civic and business organizations, staff shares PLC's story and people want to get involved. PLC Philly is a regular coat drive recipient, and over the years, the Philadelphia Philly's have donated more than a thousand game tickets. Philadelphia is truly the city of brotherly (and sisterly) love!



PLC strengthens Philadelphia communities by offering a variety of parenting supports, adoption services, and foster care.

YAC + ILP = Empowerment

Delaware's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is comprised of current and former foster care youth. YAC teaches leadership and advocacy skills, providing an avenue for influencing Delaware's child welfare legislation.

In PLC's independent living program (ILP), we provide practical and emotional support to youth as they age out of foster care. Guided by our remarkable staff, our Delaware ILP youth are developing a support system, learning skills, and accessing resources to gain self-sufficiency.

Our ILP staff encourage and facilitate youth membership and engagement with YAC. PLC youth regularly and actively participate in meetings, take leadership roles, and with the support of staff, have been a major force in developing a successful annual YAC conference. PLC youth have been presenters and speakers, appealing to Delaware senators and congresspeople toward a measure that expanded auto insurance options for youth in foster care, and most recently to the passing of House Bill 123.

Signed by Governor Carney in October, House Bill 123 creates the Delaware Fostering Independence Through Education Tuition Waiver Program. The life changing program requires Delaware State University, Delaware Tech Community College and the University of Delaware to waive all tuition and fees, including room and board, for any youth who has aged out or spent at least one year in foster care as a teenager. Not from Delaware? How is your state supporting higher education for foster youth?

In the U.S., only 3% of former foster youth have a college degree by the age of 25. Delaware foster kids have taken action to correct this.



PLC Delaware - Represents!

L-R: Lead case manager Jamie Jones, social work consultant Antonisha Busby, and social work intern Jessica Warman, attended the signing of this landmark legislation.

Visit facebook.com/YACDelaware to witness the incredible work of empowered foster youth.

✓ Count me in! I am with PLC in helping vulnerable children and families.

ProgressiveLifeCenter.org

Please accept my gift of: \$200 \$100 \$50 Other _____

Make check payable to Progressive Life Center. Thank you for helping us help others!

YOUR NAME(S)

EMAIL ADDRESS

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

EXP DATE

CSC (# ON BACK)

CARD HOLDER'S SIGNATURE

Please mail completed form to PLC Development, 1704 17th St NE, Washington, DC 20002.

Because Every Child Deserves a Champion

Provide Consistency and Support, Then Watch Them Thrive!

Ready to explore the idea of becoming a foster parent? Visit ProgressiveLifeCenter.org/FC to find links to articles and a quiz that will support a conversation between you and your family or other support circle.

Why not take a moment to just learn more about foster parenting?

- ➡ Do you see yourself as an advocate or mentor?
- ➡ Do you want to share your experiences and good fortune?
- ➡ We know you must be kind and loving; can you be firm?
- ➡ Are you patient and do you embrace challenge?
- ➡ Do you have room, not just in your home, but in your schedule?
- ➡ Do you have a strong support system?

Email us at info@plcntu.org to learn more about foster parenting, or complete the interest form at ProgressiveLifeCenter.org/FC. If we don't serve your community, we'll connect you with a provider who can help. Because...

PLC HAS CHILDREN & TEENS WAITING FOR FOSTER PARENTS IN:

Philadelphia, PA

Prince George's County & Baltimore, MD

Throughout Delaware

Can you help?



Every Child Deserves a Champion



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