



The Journey to Restoration

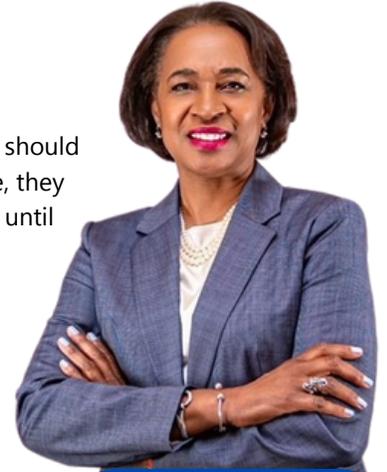
Dear Friends,

In full transparency, I must admit that I dropped my laptop. It was in a padded bag, so theoretically it should have been safe. The screen should not have cracked. But when fragile things are not treated with care, they can and often do break. I spent several weeks punishing myself by trying to use what was not usable, until a very insightful conversation revealed the fallacy in my logic. To work again, what is broken must be repaired, restored. Every day we navigate broken situations, broken relationships, broken trust. At Progressive Life Center, our mission is to help families improve relationships, restore trust, and carve a path forward to healing and wholeness.

In Prince George's County, Maryland, our Kinship Care Program supports family members who have stepped up to repair what has become broken. These "kinship caregivers" are family members who seek to restore a sense of normalcy by raising their relative's child when the parent is unable, or unwilling. For these caregivers – often grandmothers – the support we offer in helping to navigate school, extracurriculars, childcare and healthcare, is a lifeline. Staff's emotional support and counseling provides comfort and direction. Every day, and through our many programs, PLC makes it possible for restoration to take place, for brokenness to be repaired.

To all the staff at PLC, THANK YOU! The work you perform and the service we provide is vital! To our supporters and donors, THANK YOU! Your generous help enables us to carry out our critically important mission. To the individuals and families who provide foster care, kinship care, and mentoring, THANK YOU! The journey to restoration begins with you.

I look forward to connecting soon,



Diana Banks
President & CEO

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Be enlightened by educators, PhDs, executive directors, cultural anthropologists, and more - all of whom are leaders in their fields. Learn how to apply PLC's NTU™ philosophies to improve your clinical approach, leadership skills, and everyday relationships. Register for in-person or virtual access, and gain 30-day access to all keynote and workshop recordings.

Visit our website to read about each of our distinguished presenters



PLC Pennsylvania: Take Me Out to the Ballgame!



Children and youth in the child welfare system often miss out on opportunities that others may take for granted. Summer camps, amusement parks, vacations, and extracurricular activities are often lost on kids in foster care.

That's why we are so grateful to the Philadelphia Phillies for providing 400 tickets for an evening of family fun! PLC foster kids and their foster families sat alongside PLC staff and their families, cheering the home team to a 7-6 win over Cincinnati! Even Diana Banks, our President & CEO, joined in the revelry!

A sweet summer memory that will not soon be forgotten!



PLC Delaware: Partnering to Prepare Kids for School

It truly does take a village! And this couldn't be more true than at PLC Delaware. Our innovative and compassionate staff knows how to optimize their limited time and energy by often reaching into their own pockets to help a child, or by connecting with community partners who can help fulfill some of the many unmet needs of the children and families in our care.

Earlier this year, PLC Delaware partnered with Loving Arms Ministries for a Back-to-School Book Bag Drive. During a fun-filled afternoon at The Main Event, children and teens enjoyed arcade games, bowling and pizza, and collected their brand new backpacks stuffed with age-specific school supplies. It was a treat for the kids, and a rewarding delight for the volunteers. .



Ready To Join the Village?

Please contact us at info@plcntu.org and we will provide you with the tools you need to host a holiday collection drive in your community or at your workplace.

PLC Maryland: Stellar Domestic Violence Education

PLC's own Lisa Streeter was recently recognized by the Prince George's County's Office of the Sheriff for her work as a "critical force against Domestic Violence - providing awareness and resources for victims, and supporting important partnerships between communities, providers and law enforcement." In recognition of her efforts and dedication, Lisa received an award at the September 29th Purple Light Nights Lighting Ceremony. The annual event, presented by the Sheriff's Office, serves to emphasize the importance of stopping the cycles of domestic violence in families and inspire survivors to share their experiences to bring awareness and help other victims.



Lisa Streeter has served as Outreach Coordinator since 2016

Over the past several years, with oversight from Maryland Regional Director Evette Clarke, Lisa has built a far reaching and impactful domestic violence education initiative serving communities in Prince George's County, Maryland. The initiative began with in-person and then virtual Bystander Education Workshops presented to faith communities, faith leaders, service providers, and a range of community organizations. Coordinated by Lisa, and led by Arleen B. Joell, President/CEO and Founder of Community Advocates for Family & Youth (CAFY), these culturally relevant trainings teach individuals to identify signs of abuse and to then provide support to a victim of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. The workshops provide information about resources available to support those experiencing abuse, and offer education and prevention strategies specific to the African American community.

Often referred to as the Shadow Pandemic, violence against women was reported to have increased significantly, corresponding with the isolation stemming from pandemic shutdowns. During this time, Lisa supported program expansion to include Sistahs With Voices, a virtual support circle for survivors of domestic and dating violence, sexual abuse and stalking. During six weekly virtual gatherings, women share their experiences, recognize healing as a natural process, begin to develop habits to support a healthy body, mind and spirit, and learn about safety planning and financial preparation.

Congratulations, Lisa! And thank you for all that you do for women and families.

Visit our website to learn more and to access information about a variety of community resources.

ProgressiveLifeCenter.org/DV

More from PLC Baltimore and PLC DC!



In Baltimore, teens served at our After School Clubhouse, and their siblings, enjoyed a back to school celebration with Program Director, Neville Hodge (white t-shirt).

Coined the "Meet Me Halfway" Clubhouse by the youth it serves, the program follows a proven harm reduction model that is shown to keep kids engaged and on the right track.

For the DC's Office of Gun Violence Prevention, PLC distributed and managed an array of mini-grants to individuals and grass roots organizations focused on making neighborhoods safer while promoting productive and self-sustaining neighborhoods. Funded programming included the DC Youth Theatre Ensemble, Breathe for Change, and Art at Eden.

Every Child Deserves a Champion

Is fostering a child or teen right for me?

So you have room in your heart and your home, but what other questions should you be asking yourself?

PLC has compiled some great resources on our foster care webpage (ProgressiveLifeCenter.org/FC) to help you better understand what foster parenting involves - and if it's right for you! Here are some highlights from the questionnaires and quizzes we've compiled:

- ➡ **Do you feel you have more to give?**
- ➡ **Do you want to share your experiences and good fortune?**
- ➡ **We know you must be kind and loving, but can you be firm?**
- ➡ **Are you patient and do you enjoy a challenge?**
- ➡ **Do you have room in your schedule?**
- ➡ **Do you have a strong support system?**

If you can answer "yes!" to these questions, you just might make a great foster parent! Email us at info@plcntu.org to learn more. Or complete the online interest form for our Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware foster parent programs which can be found at ProgressiveLifeCenter.org/FC. We can work directly with you in many mid-Atlantic locations, or refer you to another provider who serves your community.

PLC HAS CHILDREN & TEENS WAITING FOR FOSTER PARENTS IN:

**Greater Philadelphia
Prince George's County
& Baltimore, MD
Throughout Delaware**

Can you help?



Every Child Deserves a Champion



1704 17th Street, NE | Washington, DC 20002
Serving DC, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware
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