

# the link



Dear Friends,

I'm an optimist, so looking forward is naturally exciting for me. Here at Familylinks, we are all eager to put the past two years behind us and dig into things that make us hopeful – program expansion, building upgrades, and face-to-face team building, just to name a few. Even small wins over the course of the last couple of years are a really big deal – like launching a strategic plan, the start of a major renovation of our Downtown Outreach Center and Shelter (while it was occupied), and the fact that our residential services remained available for youth throughout the pandemic. We are proud of those accomplishments and what lies ahead, because time has made us all more resilient.

**We are in the business of caring for people, and that will never change.** At the same time, maybe we have learned just a bit more about savoring the moment, celebrating success, and caring for ourselves. This will serve us well – both as individuals and as an organization of people who, together, serve others. In this issue, you will learn more about our housing programs, and how Familylinks is looking forward through the eyes of our new leadership team members. There are many opportunities to give back and support the collective work of Familylinks. In doing so, you celebrate all of the reasons you have to be grateful.

**Thank you for your continued support.**



Stacey Vaccaro  
President & CEO

*Stacey Vaccaro*

## Rebuilding Lives at Familylinks

June is National Rebuild Your Life Month. But at Familylinks, we help people rebuild lives all year long. Familylinks supports young adults experiencing homelessness as they rebuild their sense of safety and self-esteem and work towards living on their own. We extend long-term addiction recovery services to women seeking to rebuild a life for themselves and their children. We work with families facing a lack of housing, enabling them to rebuild a stable and secure residential environment. We find options for individuals with intellectual disabilities who seek to find a setting where they can live as independently as possible. We provide a full range of support services and programs for vulnerable individuals, some who have experienced trauma and abuse, to give them the tools they need to rebuild a life full of hope.

**Every day, Familylinks is working to assist thousands of individuals and families to provide the assistance they need to become Strong. For Life.**

For more updates and stories, follow us on social media @FamilylinksInc

## New Leadership Team Members

Familylinks is growing. We are growing in our capability to provide more avenues of support to the community – in some cases with new programs and in others by reinforcing existing programs. To successfully lead the agency through this growth period, we have strengthened our leadership team. **Familylinks is very pleased to introduce five new directors, and the agency is fortunate to have their expertise and knowledge available as we deliver our mission.**

### Jayne Berryman - Director of Talent and Employee Engagement

Jayne joins Familylinks at a time when we have changed the title for this position to reflect the growing role of Human Resources in supporting our existing staff and attracting new candidates to the Familylinks team. Her experience includes serving as HR Director for health-related organizations with a staff size similar to Familylinks. Jayne understands the mission and philosophy of Familylinks, and her ability to convey those elements to prospective employees will enable us to hire staff with a true sense of what it takes to help vulnerable individuals reach their goals. Jayne's background in health care, and her leadership skills, are added benefits to having her in this important position.

### Iscah Perry - Director of Behavioral Health

As the Director of Behavioral Health, Iscah joins us with a wealth of clinical leadership and direct clinical expertise. She has many years of direct counseling experience giving her an advantage in assessing the quality and effectiveness of our many programs for children, youth and adults. Most recently, she served as the Director of Long Term Structural Residential services at Passavant Memorial Homes. Her experience in a variety of settings – outpatient, residential, mobile – and with various age ranges and diagnoses, make her a wonderful fit for Familylinks and the broad array of counseling/therapy programs we offer.

### Chris Rollings - Director of Facilities Operations

Familylinks operates 13 locations in Allegheny County, and Chris' experience lends itself well to our safety, security, and facility maintenance needs. Previously, Chris served as Director of Facilities at Triangle Tech, as well as gaining broad experience in hotel facilities management. Chris is highly skilled in building operations, with a dedicated focus on safety issues. This is especially important at Familylinks where several of our residential facilities provide care for children or individuals with disabilities. His expertise, particularly as an HVACR Certified Technician, will be a valuable asset as Familylinks looks to provide a secure and comfortable environment for our staff and for those who are in our care.

### Heather Sedlacko - Executive Director, Vintage Senior Center and Director of Senior Services, Familylinks

Heather joins Familylinks in a dual role as the new Executive Director of Vintage, and as Director of Senior Services at Familylinks, reflecting our mission and goal to expand services for seniors. She brings over 20 years of experience working in human service programs for older adults in southwestern Pennsylvania. She has spent her career focused on the programs and systems that support the region's older adults to live with independence and dignity in the place they call home. For the last eight years, Heather worked as Director of Programs for Seniors and People with Disabilities and Vice President of Community Impact at the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

### Danielle White - Director of Finance

With a full range of financial experience, Danielle brings an added measure of management and oversight to our broad range of programs and services. Her responsibilities include maintaining accounting and financial records, preparation of financial statements, and supervising the finance department staff. This includes assuring that the many contracts Familylinks has in place with various government agencies are properly tallied and reported. Prior to joining Familylinks, Danielle served as Director of Finance and Business Operations at Sarah Heinz House Association.



Jayne Berryman

Iscah Perry

Chris Rollings

Heather Sedlacko

Danielle White





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## Save the Date for the Lanny Frattare Golf Classic



Familylinks 36th Annual Lanny Frattare Golf Classic will be held at Chartiers Country Club on **September 12, 2022**, and we hope you will join us. The outing includes 18 holes of golf, lunch, dinner, drinks, contests, prizes and more! **Sponsorship opportunities are available.** For more information, contact Lauren Galletta at [LGalletta@familylinks.org](mailto:LGalletta@familylinks.org) or 412-942-0549.

### About Familylinks

**Our Impact in the Community** – We serve more than 8,000 consumers each year by fulfilling our mission through programs for those dealing with addiction, individuals and families who are homeless, older adults and their caregivers, children who have been abused or neglected, and the most vulnerable in our community.

**Access to Our Services** – Our compassionate staff can work with you to identify and access the services you need. Please call 866-583-6003 for assistance.

## Familylinks Emergency Shelter Expanding

Since 1984, Familylinks' Downtown Outreach Center and Shelter (DOCS) has provided the only emergency shelter in Allegheny County for young adults. DOCS has been at capacity for nearly two years now, resulting in a waiting list. With that level of use, the interior at DOCS has become worn and the design has grown outdated. For these reasons, Allegheny County DHS was most supportive when Familylinks began a full blown renovation in March of 2021. Among other improvements, dorm rooms will be converted into bedrooms, the kitchen will be expanded and updated, and a resource center will be added for housing and job searching. **Best of all, the renovation will allow us to expand the capacity at DOCS from 18 to 26 to meet the growing need.** We look forward to completing the project later in the year, and will keep you updated on our progress.

### We're Here to Help!

#### We accept Medicare, Medicaid and Commercial Insurance Plans

Familylinks accepts Medicare and Medicaid insurance for many of our services, in addition to commercial insurance plans. If you don't have insurance, our staff can help you apply for assistance if you are eligible. In some cases, our services are also covered by government programs which we can identify for you. If you need help, don't hesitate. Call us at 866-583-6003. We are here for you.