



Family Services of Warren County

We're here for you and your family

“WHAT’S HAPPENING” NEWSLETTER

Special points of interest:

- Agency Signs
- New Hire
- New Program (RSS) update
- International Overdose Awareness Event
- Red Sand Project

New Agency Signage

Out with the old and in with the new. Last year an extreme weather event knocked one piece of the sign completely off and bent it to the point it needed replaced. During the summer months this year, FSWC experienced a windstorm that flattened our sign out front right to the ground. Years of weathering had rotted the posts. Fast forward to today, we were able to invest in new signs, while still keeping our logo and agency representative colors. The colors and size are quite impressive in person, and the solar lights at night create a safer environment for our clients with evening appointments.



Any donations made to FSWC are Tax-Deductible

Welcome our Newest FSWC Employee

Danny Potter likes to say he's not "from" anywhere specific, since he was born into a military family, spending time in 6 different states in the USA, and a couple years in Italy, but he deliberately chose to call Warren home, after seeing it in 2014 and falling in love with it. After finishing his bachelor's degree in psychology in Utah, he moved here with his wife and 4 kids in a tiny house they built themselves. He's proud to finally feel that he has a home town.



Danny embraces the belief that work in human services is more a calling than an occupation, and finds deep fulfillment in helping others realize their potential. He has nearly 10 years of human services, working as a mental health technician in mental hospitals and youth residential facilities, then as a case manager. After finishing his Master's degree in Mental Health Counseling from Capella University, with help from an internship at Family Services of Warren County, he went on to work as a Drug and Alcohol Counselor in Bradford, and is glad to renew his relationship with Family Services of Warren County, and return to work in the town he now calls his home. He will be eligible for licensure in the Summer of 2023 and is currently working through a contracted position here at FSWC as a school social worker at the Warren County Career Center.

UPDATE: Recovery Support Services

"We are helping to build people from the ground up," says Noah Sharp, Recovery Support Specialist. Noah is the lead staff for FSWC's Recovery Support Services Program (RSS). The RSS program is a model that is not rooted in specific programming, but provides a holistic approach to recovery through peer support. Although there is not an "average" day in his work, there are some commonalities in the needs of individuals that the RSS program serves, the most basic being the need to find support and mentorship with an individual who has had similar struggles with learning how to live a life free of substances. "We work with people on basic life skills such as applying for jobs, scheduling/time management, assisting to find medical care, and even just assisting in role playing how to make a phone call," says Noah.

There have been notable successes in the short time that the program has been available in Warren at Family Services, demonstrating the need for peer-based programming in addition to office-based care for those struggling with substance use in the community. Noah shares that while successes in a peer-based program might look different, they are still note-worthy. Noah went on to share "I have witnessed people building a positive support network, managing difficult situations without resorting to using drugs, starting on medically-assisted treatment that reduces cravings to use, and even breaking down barriers so that a client admitted themselves to inpatient care."

International Overdose Awareness Event

On August 31st, 10 agencies from the Warren County area came together to end overdose, remember without stigma those who have died, and acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind. It was an opportunity for the agency staff to build relationships and learn more about what is available in our area for the Substance Abuse Population and their families. There was a fabric wall that was available for people to sign in remembrance of those we have lost to addiction as well as a balloon release. We were fortunate to have many community members attend and share their stories, speak in support, or just be present with people who understand. Here are just a few pictures to give you an understanding of just how special this event was to our community. We invite you to mark your calendars for next years event, same date as it is an international event.



Raising Awareness of Human Trafficking

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Molly Gochman first launched **Red Sand Project** in 2014, after realizing the depths to which slavery continues to be a contemporary reality. Globally, an estimated 40.3 million individuals live in slavery, whether in forced marriages, forced labor, or for sexual exploitation. Molly recognized that to begin finding a solution to such a widespread challenge, increased public awareness and engagement would be essential. She initiated the first Red Sand Project action in Miami, where she filled the cracks of sidewalks in and around the Art Basel Miami Beach pavilion with red sand. The approach was symbolic, with the grains of sand representing those individuals who fall through the cracks—whether the cracks of our social, economic, and political systems or those of our personal

consciousness. For more information about this worth cause, please visit redsandproject.org.



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