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Children who receive autism-appropriate education and support at key developmental stages are more likely to gain essential social skills and react better in society.

3 congregations join efforts for a Goode cause



GORDON FREIREICH
COMMUNITY COLUMNIST

Three York congregations have come together to make life a bit better for the students in kindergarten through eighth grade at the Alexander D. Goode School in the York City School District.

Asbury United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, and Temple Beth Israel — in conjunction with the Northeast Neighborhood Association (NENA) and the nurses at Goode School — are providing personal hygiene and clothing items for the students via a supply room at the school.

And there is a great need for such a closet at Goode. Principal Randy James said more than 92 percent of the 700 students at the school live at — or below — the government established poverty level.

He said that includes students who are classified as “homeless,” those living in shelters or with non-family members. “Any situation where (the students) don’t have their own residence,” he said, classifies a student as “homeless.”

The three congregations working together is an offshoot of Temple Beth Israel’s “Doing Good for Goode” project, helmed by member Nada Seidon, which was providing school supplies for the students at the school.

Talking with the principal, James spoke about the students in need and the desire to provide them with toiletries and school clothing. Nada followed up with the two nurses at Goode School who showed her the room that contains the items provided for the students.

Temple Beth Israel has been sending “gently used clothing” to the Northeast Neighborhood and asked that organization if some of the items could be diverted to Goode School

in NENA’s service area. Barbara Scott of Asbury United Methodist Church, which has a long-standing relationship with the neighborhood, took up the cause and forwarded a list of requested items to Betty Schonauer of First Presbyterian Church’s Mission Committee.

“We jumped on board,” Betty said. Since then, First Presbyterian Church members have donated all of the toiletries on the list and is donating \$500 to buy uniform sweaters for the students who need them.

Asbury UM has collected \$300 to be used as necessary for items at the school.

Individuals from TBI continue to donate other necessities.

In a coordinated effort, Barbara Scott contacted Rep. Kevin Schreiber, who recently conducted a Jeans for Teens drive via the York Rescue Mission. Some of the jeans — in the sizes needed — were donated to the Goode School clothing room by the Rescue Mission.

ITEMS NEEDED: Although numerous personal care and clothing items have been collected to stock the closet for the students at Goode School, additional items are needed, according to Nada Seidon. That list includes:

Boys’ shirts, button or pull over (long sleeve). Color: white or navy/baby blue in sizes 5T extra small (quantity 5); 4 - 6 small (5 to 10); 7 - 9 medium (5 to 10); 10 - 12 large (5); 14 - 16 extra large (3). Pants. Color: khaki or navy in sizes 5T extra small (quantity 5); 4 - 6 small (5 to 10); 7 - 9 medium (5 to 10); 10 - 12 large (5); and 14 - 16 extra large (3).

Girls’ shirts button or pull over (long sleeve). Color: white or navy/baby blue in sizes 5T extra small (quantity 5); 4 - 6/6x small (5 to 10); 7 - 9 medium (5 to 10); 10 - 12 large (5); 14 - 16 extra large (3). Pants. Color: khaki or navy in sizes 5T extra small (quantity



Alexander D. Goode was one of ‘The Four Chaplains.’

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5); 4 - 6/6x small (5 to 10); 7 - 9 medium (5 to 10); 10 - 12 large (5); and 14 - 16 extra large (3).

Shoes: Sneakers or hard sole shoes, black or brown, boys and girls for pre-kindergarten to fifth grade.

Items can be delivered to First Presbyterian Church, Asbury United Methodist Church or Temple Beth Israel. They should not be taken directly to Goode School.

Goode School is very appreciative of the combined effort. The three congregations “have just been amazing,” Principal James said.

About Alexander D. Goode

Alexander D. Goode was born on May 10, 1911. The 105th anniversary of his birth would be this coming Tuesday, one day before the 24th Annual Four Chaplains Prayer Breakfast at the Yorktowne Hotel.

He was the Rabbi at York’s Temple Beth Israel from 1937 until 1942, during which time he was a pioneer in racial integration efforts and ecumenical out-

reach in York. He left the pulpit to enlist in the Army as a chaplain.

On the morning of Feb. 3, 1943, Goode and three other chaplains — two Protestant ministers and a Roman Catholic priest — were aboard the troop ship Dorchester on their way to Europe when the ship was torpedoed by a Nazi submarine in the North Atlantic. The ship began to sink. The Four Chaplains gathered on the deck and gave their life jackets and gloves to the men who did not have them.

Then, in solidarity with one another, the four men of God linked arms and died together as the ship sank into the icy waters. The York City School District’s Alexander D. Goode School, opened in 1955, is a memorial to Goode. A tile mural of the Four Chaplains is in the lobby of the school on North Broad Street.

Gordon Freireich is a former editor of the York Sunday News. Read his blog at yorkblog.com/lawn. E-mail: gordon@newtongroup.com.

Addressing an increased need for autism services

ERIKA OSTERMAN

In 2000, about one in 150 children was identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). In 2010, this number jumped to one in 68, according to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control’s Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network.

One in 68 children. As the prevalence of ASD continues to increase, we see firsthand the resulting strain on services. Pennsylvanians of all ages and their families are struggling to find the services they need. In fact, a lack or shortage of providers is the most frequently reported barrier to accessing services, according to the 2011 Pennsylvania Autism Needs Assessment.

Even in areas where access to services is available, caring for an individual with autism can take a heavy economic toll on families. It is estimated that each person with autism accrues approximately \$3 million in costs over a lifetime. Families often incur large debts related to medical and educational services not covered through public programs or medical and dental insurance — or reduced/lost income when one parent leaves the workforce to care for child/children.

Why do affordable, accessible behavioral health services matter? Because the sooner we can identify ASD, the better we can address the need. Early detection is key in helping a child with autism live a more normal life in society.

Since autism can be seen as early as 18 months of age, children should be watched throughout their development for any warning signs of autism. High-risk groups, such as children with siblings diagnosed with autism, should be watched even more closely by physicians and parents.

Warning signs of autism include:

- » Not engaging in pretend play, not making eye contact, not liking to be held or cuddled, not understanding typical emotions or relating to their own feelings, not handling change well, and not relating to others
- » Repeating actions over and over, and repeating words that are said to them
- » Having unusual reactions to everyday things
- » Rarely responding to their own name

Research has shown that early intervention can improve a child’s overall development. Children who receive autism-appropriate education and support at key developmental stages are more likely

to gain essential social skills and react better in society. Essentially, early detection can provide an autistic child with the potential for a better life. Parents of autistic children can learn early on how to help their child improve mentally, emotionally and physically throughout the developmental stages with assistance from specialists and organizations.

Lastly, identifying autism and working through it early also benefits parental relationships. The strain of caring for an autistic child can be an everyday challenge, but with early preparation and intervention, parents can prepare themselves for the road ahead emotionally and mentally.

Strong care services can support families in caring for their family member with autism in the home, but the Pennsylvania Autism Needs Assessment found that across all age groups, caregivers reported an unmet need for these services, including respite, weekend and after-school care.

Through our work at TrueNorth Wellness Services, we’ve seen each of these challenges first-hand. We are consistently reassessing our ability to best meet the increased need for services, and in a way that supports early intervention, through home and community-based services, school-based therapy and The Amazing Kids Club, a year-round, on-site therapeutic program for children and adolescents 2 to 21 years old.

Having opened its original location in Hanover in 2005 to serve York and Adams counties, The Amazing Kids Club expanded to meet the needs of the underserved populations in Red Lion in 2014. We are currently fundraising for renovations to a facility in Hanover to move and expand our autism services, and are also in conversations with representatives in Perry, Dauphin and Cumberland counties about additional program locations in the future.

As we honor National Autism Awareness Month in April, we encourage our partners and communities to consider how they could support solutions to this increased need for services, and join us to support all individuals living with autism.

Erika Osterman is a clinical coordinator for The Amazing Kids Club in Hanover, an autism-focused program of TrueNorth Wellness Services, a behavioral health and wellness organization serving southcentral Pennsylvania.

York County’s interpretation of economic development



LOREN KROH

The York County Economic Alliance is York County’s chamber of commerce and economic development organization. While “chamber of commerce” is a globally recognized term, “economic development” appears to have a wider and sometimes less consistent interpretation.

Economic Development Week kicks off on May 8, so this is an ideal time to share our interpretation. YCEA’s vision is “to be York County’s recognized resource for leading business growth and economic develop-

ment.”

The Alliance’s approach to economic development is consistent with federal and international economic development organizations. The U.S. Economic Development Administration says that economic development creates “the conditions for economic growth and improved quality of life by expanding the capacity of individuals, firms, and communities to maximize the use of their talents and skills to support innovation, lower transaction costs, and responsibly produce and trade valuable goods and services.” The International Economic Development Council describes economic development in

terms of objectives that most commonly includes the creation of jobs and wealth, and the improvement of quality of life.

The YCEA definition is much simpler. At the most basic level, our definition of economic development is based on strategic objectives that center on creating and retaining jobs while stimulating investment in York County.

You can see the results with the expansions of companies such as Apio, Target, Wyndridge Farm and Legacy — all of which are creating and retaining jobs and investing in York County. You can see the impact that our initiatives such as Creativity Unleashed and Careers in Two Years have on attracting,

retaining and cultivating talent in York County.

The goal of our projects and initiatives is jobs and investment. Simply put, the YCEA leads economic growth, connects companies to resources, fosters networking opportunities and advocates for businesses and community to create a prosperous York County.

For more information about economic development, visit the YCEA website at www.ycea-pa.org. Or better yet, join us at one of our many activities throughout the county and experience economic development first hand.

Loren Kroh is interim president and CEO of the York County Economic Alliance.

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that voters have to ponder as they try to figure out which least detestable human they want to be the leader of the free world.

None of that is true, maybe. The Manson endorsement was satire,

but people believed it because Trump seems like the kind of guy who would get the prized Manson endorsement. The Zodiac Killer thing, well, Cruz’s wife denied it, sort of, but again, when you think about it, wouldn’t that be exactly what you’d expect the wife of a serial killer to do? And as far as Cruz’s father being involved in the conspiracy to kill

Kennedy, it was reported by the National Enquirer, and repeated by Trump, so you can’t beat that for credible sources.

Who knows? Someday, and it can’t happen too soon, someone is going to be charged with having loud sex with a student while driving 70 mph on the interstate in a pickup truck flying a Confederate flag and bearing a “Ted Cruz for

President” bumper sticker.

And that person will turn out to be the Zodiac Killer.

Or maybe Ted Cruz’s dad.

That would be great. Mike Argento’s column appears Mondays and Fridays in Living and Sundays in Viewpoints. Reach him at (717) 771-2046 or at mike@ydr.com.