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Operation Our Town Reporter

a monthly newsletter *by our volunteers to our volunteers about* our fight against drugs and crime in Central PA

Volume 14, Issue 1 - January 2022



OperationOurTown.org

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Our Town Times

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

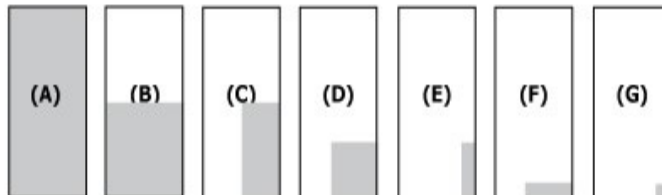


Distributed at the Annual Blair County Chamber Operation Our Town Breakfast and throughout the year to local businesses and community organizations!
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY PRIDE!

The 2022 report will provide an update to the readers from this past calendar year. We will hear from law enforcement, treatment providers, healthcare professionals, business leaders and others in our community about the impact Operation Our Town has made over the past 15 years and the importance of prevention.

Get the inside scoop from Operation Our Town Roundtables on their projects and efforts to help keep our community safe!

Please help us...



Ad sizes	Width	Height	Cost
(A) Full Page	10"	21.33"	\$900
(B) Half Page	10"	10.66"	\$650
(C) 1/4 Page Vertical	5"	10.66"	\$450
(D) 1/3 Page Square	6.633"	6.633"	\$400
(E) 1/6 Page Vertical	1.833"	6.633"	\$200
(F) 1/6 Page Horizontal	6.633"	1.833"	\$200
(G) Block ad	2"	1.667"	\$50

All images or 4 color ads must be submitted as final, high-resolution (300 DPI) CMYK files, preferably in PDF format. High-resolution JPEGs are also acceptable. Please convert all text to outlines. Please do not submit ads generated in word processing applications such as Microsoft Word. Ad design can be provided for a nominal fee of \$115 per ad. Space is limited. All ads are admitted to the publication on a first-come-first-serve basis.

All ads and pre-payment MUST be received by February 1, 2022.

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Please print and return this portion with your payment (checks only—do not send cash).
 Checks to be made out to Operation Our Town and mailed to DiAndrea Media, Inc.
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Name: _____ Company: _____

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Will you be submitting final artwork? Yes No

Use the same artwork from last year? (no charge) Yes No

Mission

To facilitate partnerships between community and business to fight drug abuse and crime through proven law enforcement, treatment, and prevention techniques.



REPORT DRUG ACTIVITY
PUSH OUT THE PUSHER

814-693-3020

2-1-1

Pennsylvania
Get Connected. Get Help.™

PA 2-1-1 is a comprehensive database that includes information about health & human services.

PA 2-1-1 can be accessed by phone 24/7 or the web at:

www.pa211.org



814-381-0921

Month of January - Meetings

1/3	Booker T. Washington meeting	4:00pm	Central Blair Rec & Park Commission
1/6	Early Childhood Education Roundtable meeting	10:00am	Blair County Chamber & Zoom
1/11	Northern Blair Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Bull Pen Restaurant
1/19	Marketing Roundtable meeting	4:00pm	OOT office
1/20	Criminal Justice Advisory Board Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Blair County Courthouse
1/20	Faith-based Roundtable meeting	2:00pm	Family Services & Zoom
1/21	Pharmacy Roundtable meeting	7:15am	Zoom
1/27	Housing Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Al's Tavern



Pictured left to right:

Barb Harpster (Media Consultant, Altoona Mirror), Joe Meadows (Partner, The Meadows Original Frozen Custard of Hollidaysburg), Deidre "Charles" Dantos (Essay Contest Winner), Fred Imler Jr. (President, Imler's Poultry)

Congratulations to **Deidre "Charles" Dantos**, an 8th grader at Altoona Area Junior High School, whose essay was chosen out of 69 entries as the winner of the Altoona Mirror and Operation Our Town Essay Contest!

The winner received \$250 in gift cards to The Meadows Original Frozen Custard in Hollidaysburg. Co-sponsors of the Essay Contest were the Altoona Mirror, Imler's Poultry, and The Meadows Original Frozen Custard in Hollidaysburg.

To view the winning essay on why people give in to peer pressure from those who use drugs and some of the best ways to avoid giving in to peer pressure, click on the link below:

<https://operationourtown.org/uncategorized/2021-essay-contest-winner/>

Grant Recipient Highlight: Evolution Expressions Arts for Healing Groups

By: Nick Gordon, PMSC AmeriCorps Member
with Operation Our Town



Through their Kids Arts for Healing and Teens Arts for Healing groups, Evolution Expressions works with school-aged youth between the ages of 5 and 19 years old, who have experienced trauma. The groups meet 1-2 times per week during after-school hours, and a monthly schedule is distributed so participants know when these meeting times are.

Typically, these groups are held at their office in Downtown Altoona, though some groups are held within the community at local event venues and parks. Groups are free to attend for all participants. The Arts for Healing groups aim to provide a safe place in the community to learn positive coping skills, connect with peers and community supports, and gain opportunities to participate in healthy arts related activities with trauma-informed staff.

In addition to the Kids/Teens Arts for Healing Group, Evolution Expressions also offers a Mom's Support Group, Yoga Group, Zumba/Pound Fitness, LGBTQI Support Group (ALLIES), JAM (Juvenile's Appreciating Music) & Summer Fit Club. Each group is offered to all appropriate clients of Evolution Counseling Services, LLC and children identified by Children and Youth Services who are in need of trauma-informed care.

When asked what distinguishes their program from others, Taylor Clark, MA stated, "Our program has a holistic focus and provides trauma-focused counseling staff who work to help children combat the effects of trauma through the incorporation of the arts, music, dance, yoga, and a variety of special events and activities to help children and families build positive relationships and emotional coping skills."

Some of these special events include a yearly Easter egg hunt, pumpkin patch event, trip to the zoo, trip to baseball games, movie night, back to school swimming party, and a Holiday Party. The Holiday Party included a hot meal, the opportunity to take pictures with Santa, receive gifts and family care packages, and participate in family-oriented activities and games. For more information or to learn more, please reach out at the contact info below.



1331 12th Avenue, Suite 300 Altoona, PA 16601
Website: evolutionexpressions.com
Contact: Taylor Clark, MA Phone: 814-201-2751
Email: evolution.taylor@gmail.com
Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm

