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# Operation Our Town Reporter

A monthly newsletter about our efforts to help prevent  
and reduce drug abuse and crime in Blair County

Volume 18, Issue 4 - April 2026



[OperationOurTown.org](http://OperationOurTown.org)

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Joe Sheetz  
Phil Devorris  
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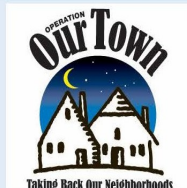
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Coordinator  
Nick Gordon, Community Outreach  
Coordinator

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Curry Supply Company  
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Electric  
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UPMC Altoona  
Value Drug Company  
Ward Transport & Logistics Corp.  
Wieland Small Tube Products



## Operation Our Town - Annual Funding Opportunity

**Grant Cycle Opens: May 1, 2026**

**Grant Application Deadline: June 5, 2026**

**Funding Announcement: 2026 Prevention Grant Cycle**

**Funding Available:** A total of \$75,000 is available to fund programs aimed at preventing and/or reducing drug abuse and/or crime in Blair County.

**Eligible Applicants:** 501(c)(3) Non-profit organizations, schools, and government agencies in Blair County. Previous grant recipients are also eligible to apply.

**There are two grant applications to choose from:**

- Funding requests under \$3,000 or
- Funding requests over \$3,000

**Grant Application:** Visit [www.OperationOurTown.org](http://www.OperationOurTown.org) go to the "Grants" tab on the homepage, click on "Apply Now" in the drop-down menu to download the grant application.

**\*\*\* The updated versions of both grant applications  
(with the revised date of 4/27/2021 in the bottom right corner)  
must be used to apply for funding \*\*\***

**Due Date:** One (1) original and ten (10) copies of applications must be delivered or mailed to Operation Our Town (5508 6th Avenue, rear Altoona, PA 16602) by **June 5, 2026**. Any applications that are mailed must be postmarked by this date.

**Grant Application Notification:** Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by the middle of August.

For questions, please contact:  
(814) 296-8730 or  
[shawna@operationourtown.org](mailto:shawna@operationourtown.org)



**Video Entry Deadline - April 6, 2026**  
**Click here to view - Video Entry form**

**"I Don't Do Drugs,  
 I..."**  
**YOU SHOW US!**



Operation Our Town  
**Video Contest**

**Middle & High School Students —  
 Show Us How YOU Stay Drug-Free!**

**Video Topic:**  
**"I don't do drugs, I..."**  
 Tell us what you do to stay active, positive,  
 and away from drugs—and inspire others to do  
 the same!

**Entry Deadline: April 6, 2026**  
 Video Length: 30–90 seconds  
 Who Can Enter: Students in grades 6–12 (ages 11+) in  
 Blair & surrounding counties

**Awesome Prizes:**  
**Winner: DelGrosso's Park Basket & \$100 Sheetz gift card**  
 (\$186 value)  
**Runner-Up: Altoona Curve Fan Pack & \$50 Sheetz gift card**  
 (\$125 value)

Email your mp4 video (720p+) to:  
[oot@operationourtown.org](mailto:oot@operationourtown.org)  
 Include your name, age, grade, school + a signed parent consent form.

\*No public posting before May 18, 2026  
 \*Must be your own original work

Let your voice be heard—and your message be seen.



**Lights. Camera. Positive Action!**



**ENTRY FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 AGE \_\_\_\_\_  
 GRADE \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 HOME PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_  
 PARENT OR GUARDIAN NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_  
 SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**Video Contest Promotion Rules**

**GENERAL:** No purchase is necessary. The act of entering constitutes acceptance of the rules and decisions of Operation Our Town.

**ELIGIBILITY:** The contest is open to 6th through 12th grade students in Blair & surrounding counties who are 11 or older.

**CONTEST:** The contest begins on January 5, 2026 and ends at midnight on April 6, 2026.

**VIDEO TOPIC:** The submitted video topics:

- "I don't do drugs, I..."
- Communicate what you do to occupy your time and/or to avoid situations where there is drug use.
- The subject of the video is to inspire others to do like activities to be productive and remain drug-free.

Video entries will be judged on:

- Creativity and originality
- Relevancy of response to topic
- Video entries must be between 30-90 seconds in length
- All video entries must be original work of the applicant and have not been previously entered in another competition not previously posted online or viewed in any public forum.

**PRIZE:**

- Winner: DelGrosso's Park basket - Valued at \$86.00 (Box of 4 raucers & 2 All Day Fun Passes; \$100 Sheetz Giftcard)
- Runner-up: Altoona Curve basket - Valued at \$75.00 (Curve drawing bag with 4-Grandstand Level Ticket vouchers and 4-5 promotional items (bobbleheads, t-shirts, cups, etc), \$50 Sheetz Giftcard)

**HOW TO ENTER:**

- Video entry mp4 files are to be a definition of 720p or higher and emailed directly to [oot@operationourtown.org](mailto:oot@operationourtown.org) no later than April 6, 2026.
- All entries must include the applicant's name, age, grade, and school.
- Completed parental consent form below is required to participate in the contest.

**CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION:**

- OOT reserves the right to accept or reject any video submission.
- Video entry cannot be broadcast or displayed on any social media or any other public forum until winners are announced on May 18, 2026, otherwise it will be disqualified for contest consideration.
- All submitted video entries become the exclusive intellectual property of OOT. OOT obtains all rights to use and republish all or any part of such video entry upon submission. OOT and its members may use prizewinner's names, likeness, and other identifying information (such as hometown, school, or grade) in promotional materials relating to this competition.
- By submitting a video entry to OOT, the applicant agrees to all of the terms and conditions set forth in these official rules.

**MORALS & STANDARDS:**

- Video entry should be positive in nature.
- No vulgar language, profanity, or lewd images will be accepted.
- Video entry should not reference any real third party person by name (living or deceased).

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

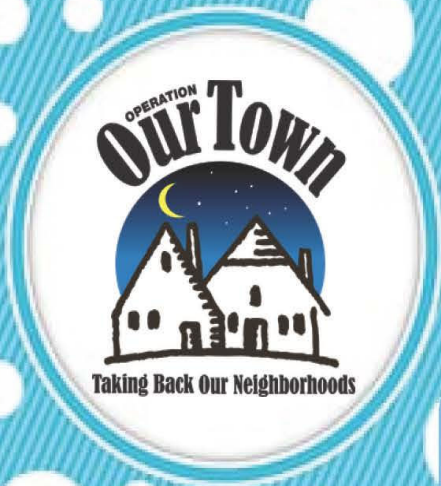
- No video submissions entered after the deadline date will be accepted. No notice will be given to the applicants with non-winning or non-conforming video entries. No video entry will be given preference over any other video on the basis of an applicant's name, school, grade, gender, race, ethnicity, geographic origin, or any legally protected status. No video entry will be returned to applicants.

**\*\*Parental Consent\*\***

I, the undersigned, authorize Operation Our Town, Inc. to use my name, image, likeness, photograph and/or video OR the name, image, likeness, photograph and/or video of my child, as designated below, in conjunction with the publication or advertisement of activities, which Operation Our Town, Inc. sponsors and/or participates.

By signing this form on behalf of a minor child, I further certify that I am the parent or guardian of said child with the proper authority to grant this written permission.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sign Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Print Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 (If a child, print name of child)



## Poverty & the Impact on Blair County

**Friday, May 8, 2026**

**11:00am - 1:00pm**

**First Church of Christ**

113 Good Shepherd Rd, Altoona  
(please use upper lot café entrance)

### Topics Covered:

- 11 - 11:30am - What does poverty look like?
- 11:30 - 12pm - Housing: Needs, What is available?
- 12 - 12:30pm - Lunch Break
- 12:30 - 1pm - Poverty as a Risk Factor for Domestic Violence

**Pre-register by May 1st to:**  
**(814) 296-8730 or**  
**[oot@operationourtown.org](mailto:oot@operationourtown.org)**

\*A free lunch will be provided by Olive Garden\*  
Open to all clergy, church staff & volunteers, and  
human service organizations

**Sponsored by the Faith-based  
Roundtable of Operation Our Town**

# Grant Recipient Highlight: Family Services, Inc. - Victim Services Program FSI Justice Project

By: Nick Gordon, Operation Our Town  
Community Outreach Coordinator



The FSI Justice Project, operated by the Victim Services Program of Family Services, Inc., delivers free civil legal representation to survivors of domestic abuse. This program helps them overcome legal barriers and safely separate from abusive relationships.

A key focus, supported by one of OOT's prevention grants, involves protecting children. Violence often escalates when victims try to leave an abusive relationship. According to the Department of Justice, 75% of homicide victims and 85% of women who experienced severe but nonfatal violence had left or attempted to leave their abuser in the prior year. There is also a 75% increase in violence for at least two years following separation.

Abusers frequently use children as weapons against the victim, sometimes resulting in harm or even taking the life of the children. The grant enables the FSI Justice Project to request and fund supervised visits when court-ordered visitation with a parent raises safety concerns due to a history of domestic violence.

The mission of the FSI Justice Project is to ensure victims and survivors of abuse receive full and equal representation in court while advocating for them within the justice system. Services include free civil legal representation in cases such as divorce, custody, support, and housing; removal of legal obstacles that prevent survivors from leaving abusive situations; and broader advocacy and education on domestic abuse for court system partners. Survivors who have participated often describe the program as life-changing, noting that it keeps both survivors and their children safe from ongoing violence and abuse in their homes.

Family Services, Inc. is currently hiring a Civil Legal Representation (CLR) attorney to fill a role for the FSI Justice Project, one of only 18 CLR programs in PA solely dedicated to providing legal representation for survivors of domestic abuse. For more information about any of the services that the FSI Justice Project offers or to learn more, please reach out at the contact info below.



Family Services, Inc. - Victim Services Program  
2022 Broad Ave Altoona, PA 16601  
Contact: Ashley Gay Vocco  
Phone: 814-944-3583  
Website: [www.familyservicesinc.net](http://www.familyservicesinc.net)  
Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm

