



Success Stories

Meet Mark, Richie, Betsy, and Dusty

Little Brother Richie and Big Brother Mark are matched through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Family Services of NW PA. They have been matched for four years and have developed a close bond thanks, in part, to their shared interest in sports.

Richie's sister, Dustiny, is also matched through Big Brothers Big Sisters at Family Services of NW PA. Betsy and Dustiny have been matched for more than two years.



Meet Kait and Eli

Kait became a foster parent through Family Services of NW PA. She recently adopted six-year-old Eli, who was also receiving therapy through the Center for Counseling and Wellness.

Kait credits Eli's caseworker and therapist with helping to make the process smooth and easy. Eli has now traveled to seven new states and visited the Titanic Museum in Las Vegas. He is quick to say that his mom makes his dreams come true.



Meet Larry and Samantha

Larry and Samantha first got involved with the kinship program at Family Services of NW PA to help a friend who was fostering. When the opportunity fell through, they decided to become foster parents themselves.

Larry grew up in poverty and always wanted to give back. Before getting married, Samantha never imagined being a foster parent. She now encourages others to get involved.



「2025 Annual Meeting」

FOCUS
ON FAMILY



Family Services_{of NWPA}



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Award Winners



Legacy Award
Elizabeth McCormick

Elizabeth (Liz) McCormick served on the FSNWPA Executive Board for more than 20 years. Liz also provided considerable and consistent financial support to both Family Services of NW PA and Big Brothers Big Sisters for many years. Liz retired from the board in June 2025 and remains committed to the agency's mission.

"What began as support for myself and my family opened the door to a mission I've carried with me ever since," said Liz. "Over the years, I've been inspired by the dedication of our staff, the vision of our board, and most of all, the resilience of the people we serve."



Philanthropy Award
Toyota of Erie

Since 2019, Toyota of Erie (formerly Superior Toyota), has donated more than \$65,000 to support both Family Services of NW PA and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

In addition to awarding Family Services of NW PA with \$25,000 as part of the Community Support Program, Toyota of Erie served as a Platinum Sponsor for Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl For Kids' Sake. Most recently, Toyota of Erie donated funds to purchase holiday gifts for kinship children in Erie and Crawford Counties through Family Services of NW PA.



Agency Champion Award
Community Access Media

Community Access Media (CAM) has been a strong partner to the Independent Living Program (ILP) at Family Services of NW PA, working closely with the Youth Media Development Group (YMD) of ILP.

CAM helps provide opportunities for youth and young adults in the ILP program to develop the skills essential for career development in the digital world. Together with CAM, members of YMD created a podcast called Mental Matters, which unravels the complexity of mental health among youth and young adults ages 14 to 23.



Outstanding Volunteer Award
Joanna Gindlesperger

Joanna served as a member of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Advisory Board for nearly 10 years. During that time, Joanna dedicated tremendous talent and substantial time to help plan Bowl For Kids' Sake, the programs signature fundraising event, and other fundraising efforts to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Family Services of NW PA.

As an employee of Erie Insurance, Joanna played an important role in connecting employees with Big Brothers Big Sisters as bowlers, donors, and volunteer mentors.

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2024-2025 Annual Report

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