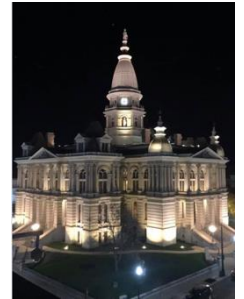


THE DAYBREAKER

September 9, 2021



Today we had 11 in-person and 5 ZOOM attendees

- This quarter all Happy Bucks will benefit the YMCA. Please be very happy to benefit this great organization.
- Daybreak Rotary is a partner club in a fundraiser involving selling Copper Moon Rotary coffee in both K-Cups and bags. Sales would be contactless on the internet. The club will make \$3 for each bag and \$5 for a box of 24 K-cups. Orders will be taken at <https://founders1905.com>
- Please keep Bob Feuer and David Strand in your prayers as they deal with health issues and surgical recovery.
- We need someone to step forward and function as the sponsor for the Interact Club at Central Catholic HS. If you are at all interested contact President Linc or Secretary John



INVOCATION: Vince Guido

VISITORS: Harley Comegys

PROGRAM: Our program today was given by Tristen Comegys from Bauer Family Resources. Tristen has been the CEO of BFR since February, previously working for the YMCA in Frankfort. She had also been active in Rotary there, earning the Rotarian of the Year award! Her background is in not-for-profit marketing and fund raising, but she also has recently adopted her daughter, Harley, who was in the foster care system for several years. This was a large part of her transition to BFR.



Tristen Comegys and her daughter Harley join President Linc

She described BFR's mission as "Creating better tomorrows by serving individuals and families" and summed up their efforts by their unofficial motto – "we do a lot!" BFR has been a part of the community since 1929 and serves over 7,000 individuals in 6 counties. This is done through several core programs.

The first of these is their Head Start and Early Head Start initiative, serving clients in 4 of their counties. EHS serves children 0-3 who meet family income and/or disability criteria or several other criteria, while HS serves 3–5-year old's, preparing them for kindergarten. BFR was one of the first nationally to pilot these programs and presently has a large waiting list of people who want to access the program. They are presently having trouble hiring staff for this program and are working with Ivy Tech and other organizations to train and certify workers for this program.

They also work with the Department of Child Services, partnering with them to serve families and organizations to meet the needs of these families. They provide case management services and provide a supportive community network. They also work with DCS to help to keep

children safely in their home environment. This is done in all 6 counties and has a 90% success rate of keeping children safely in their homes.

BFR also supports other not-for-profit agencies, providing over \$150K in grants to agencies to establish programs to prevent child abuse and neglect.

BFR also provides Home Based Services to work to reunify families and in particular has Grace's Home, a home like environment for children and parents to work at coming back together.

They have after school and summer camp programs, serving over 100 children ages K-12. They also have a School Court program at Sunnyside School and Oakland HS where they attempt to work with children through their peers to solve minor infractions of the law without having to establish those children in the Juvenile Court System. This had an over 95% success rate in the last year and notably, many of the children who benefit from this come back to serve as volunteers in the system.

One of their recent successes was a program to prevent learning losses with COVID and they have found that 86% of the participants left their grade level adequately prepared for the next.

Tristen explained that their funding comes from multiple sources, with Federal support of HS and EHS being a large chunk. They also get a state 21st Century Community learning grant and receive funding from United Way. They also are supported by donations and volunteer hours, and these are needed to provide the 20% local match they must have to receive federal monies. All their services are free to the recipients, and their attendance is excellent.

In the upcoming months they will be looking at what to do with the Bauer Community Center downtown, how it will be best used and supported as well as their Triangle Park facility.

They have several needs, primarily for staff to provide services for HS and EHS, but they also are looking for people to be on their expanded Board of Directors and their Policy Council for Head Start programs, which is 49% filled with people from the community. They are also planning their Celebrate Youth fund raiser for next April and are always welcoming financial gifts and volunteering.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

September 16th ~ Dave Bangert – Substack and his newsletter

September 23rd ~ Les Huddle – Lafayette School Corporation update

September 30th ~ Jennifer Million – United Way Agency Evaluation Process

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