Six members of the Behavioral Health Network family will show their commitment to the fight against adolescent substance abuse next week by boldly stepping off the edge of a 22-story building in downtown Hartford.

The BHN team members, who call themselves The Network, are taking part in a July 29 fundraiser on behalf of Shatterproof, a nationally emerging leader in the effort to call attention to adolescent substance abuse and overcome the misperceptions that often surround it. The Network will be one of several individual and corporate teams that have signed up to rappel down the side of the Hartford Hilton as a show of support for Shatterproof and its goals.

The six team members on The Network are: J. Craig Allen, MD, Rushford Medical Director; Deborah Weidner, MD, MBA, Natchaug Medical Director and BHN Vice President of Safety and Quality; April Lange, LCSW, Adolescent Ambulatory Clinician at Rushford; Christopher Ferrante, CAC, Program Manager for Child and Adolescent Services at Rushford; Russell Starankewicz at the Institute of Living; and Carol Vassar, Social Media Manager for Hartford HealthCare and former Marketing and Communications Manager at Rushford.

The team members, using ropes and harnesses, will safely descend...
Six from the BHN to rappel down Hartford Hilton

continued from page 1

down the side of the building after raising $1,000 each in contributions to support Shatterproof. Team members are continuing to work toward their individual goals. Anyone who wishes to contribute to support an individual team member or the team as a whole can go to the Shatterproof website at www.shatterproof.org and click on the Donate link and then enter the name of the team or the individual team member.

The Shatterproof event comes at a time when the national spotlight is heavily focused on the issue of substance abuse, particularly the abuse of heroin among young people. Patricia Rehmer, Senior Vice President of Behavioral Health for Hartford Healthcare, along with Dr. Allen and other BHN representatives, have commented extensively on the issue in the media and across other forums in recent weeks, as the public becomes increasingly aware of the medical realities underlying adolescent substance abuse and addiction.

Shatterproof was established in 2013 by Connecticut’s Gary Mendell after his 25-year-old son, Brian, died as a result of addiction. In just 18 months, Shatterproof has raised the national profile of the scour of addiction by lobbying for mental health parity, Good Samaritan acts and Naloxone laws across the country. The organization also launched its national rappel series, including the event next week in Hartford and others in Fairfield County and nearby states.

How you can help

- Anyone who wishes to contribute to support an individual team member or the team as a whole can go to the Shatterproof website at www.shatterproof.org and click on the Donate link and then enter the name of the team or the individual team member.

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HHC exploring affiliation with Day Kimball

On Thursday, July 16, Hartford HealthCare and Day Kimball Healthcare (DKH) announced that the two organizations are beginning to explore a strategic partnership that could lead to a formal affiliation.

The Day Kimball Healthcare Board of Directors voted to begin the process by authorizing a non-binding Letter of Intent with Hartford HealthCare, which allows the two organizations to work together to outline the terms of the proposed affiliation.

The process is expected to take several months.

Initially, the two systems will enter into a series of management services agreements that will allow HHC to provide management support for select operations determined by DKH. These agreements will offer economies of scale to help DKH reduce its cost structure.

“At Day Kimball Healthcare, our mission has always been, and continues to be, to keep the people of Northeast Connecticut healthy,” said Robert Smanik, FACHE, DKH president and chief executive officer. “To fulfill that mission, we have been proactive and innovative in meeting the challenges of a rapidly changing healthcare environment, integrating services across our network to provide efficient and coordinated patient-centered care.”

Smanik explained that as DKH and HHC engage in the affiliation review process, there was an immediate opportunity to partner with HHC to work together on continued operational improvements at DKH, with a focus on quality and safety, physician recruitment efforts and the creation of more efficient services for the Northeast Connecticut region.

“This would be a significant partnership and we look forward to working with Day Kimball Healthcare as we go through the review process,” Joseph added. “Meanwhile, our immediate collaboration is important for patients in Connecticut’s Quiet Corner, because it means they will have access to a more comprehensive system to meet their healthcare needs close to home.”

Capital ideas

On Tuesday, July 14, Hartford HealthCare’s Carol Vassar and Reem Nouh from the ad agency Adams & Knight presented at The American Marketing Association Nonprofit Marketing National Conference in Washington, D.C. Their breakout session, “Shredding the Stigma of Mental Illness Statewide,” outlined the success of the BHN’s 2014 “Stop the Stigma” campaign.
The Governor’s Liaison Office for Non-Profit Organizations has announced that they have tickets to the CT Open tennis tournament in August that they will donate to nonprofits, including facilities within the Behavioral Health Network. They have offered tickets for four of the dates the tournament will be taking place, and BHN sites may request up to 100 tickets for each date.

The dates are: Monday, Aug. 24; Tuesday, Aug. 25; Wednesday, Aug. 26; and Thursday, Aug. 27. The matches are all being held at the Connecticut Tennis Center at Yale in New Haven during the daytime hours.

Please note that staff who normally work during those hours will need to take time off to attend.

Any staff members interested in obtaining tickets should contact Kate McNulty, director of philanthropy and development at Rushford, at Katherine.McNulty@hhchealth.org. The link for the activities/matches is: http://www.ctopen.org/SpecialEvents/Daily-and-Weeklong-Hot-Happenings/

Ernie Voelkl recalls sitting outside the Rushford building in Meriden, at the age of 38, and realizing he did not want to continue living as an addict anymore.

“I had been using drugs and alcohol since I was 14,” said Voelkl, now 47. “I was always getting into trouble, and I realized at that moment that if I died, really the only one on the planet who would care would be my mother.”

The last nine years have been nothing short of a miracle for Voelkl, who is now doing all the things he never dreamed he could do. He is holding down a well-paying job as a truck driver. He is happily married to a spouse he adores. He has three children he also adores. And he is highly respected and well-loved in the Rushford community for the mentoring work he does with adolescent boys who are struggling with the same issues that he struggled with many years.

“I know how to connect with these kids in ways that a lot of people can’t, because I’ve lived what they’re going through,” said Voelkl, who credits his happiness to the New Life Church in Meriden, which paved the way for his sobriety and opened his eyes to the possibilities that life has to offer. The best part about discovering a meaningful spiritual connection, he said, is the way it compels him to give back to others in order to stay happy.

“I know that I have been blessed a thousand times over, so it makes me want to do something that will have the same impact for others,” he said. “That’s a message I share with the kids every time I see them: no matter what you’ve done, no matter how bad you think you are, you can be forgiven.”

Christopher Ferrante, who supervises Voelkl as program manager for Child and Adolescent Services at Rushford, said Voelkl regularly goes far beyond his job description as a residential treatment assistant.

“What Ernie does is truly remarkable,” Ferrante said. “It seems like every time I see Ernie, he is telling me a story of a former client who has just enrolled in college, found a good job or just received a coin for a sober milestone in the room. Ernie is the proof that recovery never stops, and neither do we.”

Voelkl’s work with teenage boys ages 13 to 17 is something he commits to 24 hours a day, seven days a week. He routinely takes them on trips to car shows and other events to show them the rewards of living sober. In the process, he helps guide and coordinate their progress in the 12-Step program.

“They look at me like I’m a big success story sometimes and I tell them, hey, you guys are the real heroes. You’re here, staying sober! At their age, I was nowhere close to being as strong as they are,” he said.

Ernie Voelkl, a youth counselor and mentor at Rushford, helps young people who are struggling with substance abuse issues.
By Chris Erskine
BHN Staff Educator

Staff that have fallen victim to human bites in the healthcare setting know all too well how quickly they can occur and how physically and emotionally painful and damaging they can be.

The fact is that over 90 percent of reported human bites at Natchaug Hospital over the past three years have occurred as the result of a physical hold. Our work minimizing physical holds and escorted by improving our verbal de-escalation skills is key in reducing the potential for human bites.

Aside from that, there are some other steps to take to prevent bites and/or minimize risk of injury:

Preventing the bite

- Do not intervene alone in a crisis situation — employ a team approach and communicate clearly.
- Ensure that staff is aware of the location of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Make a conscious effort during physical holds to keep your body away from the client’s face.
- Wear long sleeves as this can provide an additional protective barrier.
- Stay current with your tetanus booster.

During the bite

- Always “feed” or press into the bite — resist the instinctive urge to pull away.
- Call for help and/or communicate to co-workers that you are being bitten (as they may not notice in the heat of the event).
- As you continue to “feed” the bite, you or a co-worker can employ the NCI parasympathetic response by applying gentle back-and-forth rubbing pressure to the client’s upper lip (just under the nose) as this creates slight discomfort that often causes the bite to release.

After the bite

- If skin is broken/bleeding, stop bleeding by applying direct pressure with clean gauze dressing.
- Clean the wound to prevent bacterial and/or viral infections (antibiotics may be necessary if skin was broken).
- Determine if external treatment by a doctor/specialist is needed. If so, make sure they are an approved Worker’s Compensation provider.
- Once bleeding has stopped, apply ice or cold compress as needed to reduce swelling.
- Enter the injury in the appropriate Incident/Injury Reporting Software (e.g. Quantros).
- Perform necessary NCI “post-ven- tion” or “debriefing” discussions with staff and client(s).

Do you have an article, study, or case study you’d like to share with the Behavioral Health Network? Send your submissions to amanda.nappi@hhchealth.org or matt.burgard@hhchealth.org for consideration.
‘Stop The Stigma’ campaign wins social media award

The Behavioral Health Network, together with social media specialist Julia Balfour, won the Graphic Design USA American Web Design Award for Social Media and Networking for their work on the Stop the Stigma social media campaign.

The campaign was built around an effort to create social media communities and become the voice of hope, understanding, compassion, and education for a previously untapped community on social media: those with a passion and interest in topics associated with mental health and addiction. Balfour and her team worked closely with the BHN marketing team to collaborate on the social media messaging and getting those in need proper help.

Over three months of running, monitoring and optimizing campaigns, 16,500 likes were generated on the Stop the Stigma CT Facebook page. In just two weeks of running targeted Twitter advertising, the Stop the Stigma page gained 2,000 followers and generated 692,000 impressions. Besides the Graphic Design award, the campaign was also recognized with the NESHCo Lamplighter Gold Award for Social / New Media and the Connecticut Art Director’s Cub (CADC) Gold Award for Social Media. For more information, please go to http://www.cadc.org/awards/2015/gold.html#piece-26.

BHN leader comments on heroin-related deaths

Patricia Rehmer, Hartford HealthCare Senior Vice President for Behavioral Health, commented on the increase in heroin-related deaths in Connecticut over the past three years in a story that appeared in the Hartford Courant earlier this month.

“It’s in Glastonbury; it’s in Avon; it’s in Farmington; it’s down in Fairfield County,” said Rehmer, who also credited the increasing use of Narcan among law enforcement and first responders in keeping the number of heroin-related deaths from going even higher. Since 2012, the paper reported, heroin was a “key factor” in over 600 deaths across the state, including 306 last year alone.

To read the full story, go to http://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-connecticut-heroin-numbers-20150712-story.html#page=1

in the news

BHN leader comments on heroin-related deaths

What is your favorite movie?

‘Enough’ with Jennifer Lopez. It’s about a woman who is a victim of domestic violence but goes on to overcome her ordeal and become an empowered human being.

— Rossana Barnaby, LCSW, Rushford

My favorite movie is ‘Tombstone,’ the western with Val Kilmer. I like westerns. For comedies, I like ‘Mrs. Doubtfire’ with Robin Williams.

— Raquel Maldonado, Rushford

Jaws, followed closely by The Goonies. I’m a child of the ‘80s.

— Kate McNulty, Natchaug and Rushford

Director of Philanthropy
IOL rated as ‘High Performing’ by U.S. News & World Report

Psychiatry services offered at the Institute of Living and Hartford Hospital have been ranked No. 1 in the Hartford region and among the best in Connecticut for 2015-2016 by U.S. News & World Report. The annual U.S. News Best Hospitals rankings, now in its 26th year, recognize hospitals that excel in treating the most challenging patients. Psychiatry was one of four specialties at Hartford Hospital to be recognized this year.

“It is an honor to be recognized as the best in the region again,” said Stuart Markowitz, M.D., president, Hartford Hospital; senior vice president, Hartford HealthCare. “Our commitment and reputation for excellence is cemented in the region thanks to the dedication of each Hartford Hospital staff member. Every day they deliver the best possible care in the right, safest, and most compassionate way. Our journey to excellence is a team effort, and we continue to succeed.”

This year, U.S. News & World Report changed its methodology making it much more difficult to achieve a rank in “High Performing” banners. The new methodology recognizes the best of the best — the top 10 percent.

“We are pleased and proud to be recognized by US News & World Report for the excellent care that we strive to provide every day. This recognition is the result of the compassion, dedication and commitment to continual improvement of the entire IOL staff,” said Harold I. Schwartz, MD, psychiatrist-in-chief at the Institute of Living.

Seeking donations for the upcoming back-to-school resource fair

### IOL Backpack & School Supply Drive

The Institute of Living’s Back-to-School Resource Fair is set for Wednesday, August 12, and we’re seeking donations of **backpacks** and **school supplies** to give away to needy children from greater Hartford.

**Donation ideas include:**

- Backpacks
- Pens & pencils
- Erasers
- Highlighters
- Notebooks
- Crayons
- Markers
- Glue sticks
- Index cards
- Rulers
- Calculators
- Pocket folders
- Spiral bound notebooks
- Paper-lined & unlined
- Kid-friendly scissors (left & right handed)

Donated items may be dropped off in the IOL Assessment Center, located in the lower level of the Donnelly Building.

**Donation deadline: Monday, August 10 by 4:30 PM**

For more information, contact Anne Marie Gorman in the Assessment Center at AnneMarie.Gorman@hhchealth.org or call 860-545-7200.

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About BHNews

BHNews is published every other Friday, except for the weeks of Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s. Articles for submission are due by noon on the Tuesday of the publication week.

Story ideas or submissions may be sent to matt.burgard@hhchealth.org or amanda.nappi@hhchealth.org. Articles must be submitted as a Microsoft Word document. Every effort will be made to run the article in its entirety, but due to space constraints and style requirements, editing may be necessary. Thank you.

**Deadline for the next edition of BHNews is Tuesday, Aug. 4, at noon.**
Family Resource Center Support Groups

The IOL Family Resource Center (FRC) holds regular support groups. All programs are free of charge and, unless otherwise noted, are held in the Massachusetts Cottage, First Floor Group Room at the IOL Campus, 200 Retreat Ave., Hartford. For additional information on these support groups, please contact the FRC at 860-545-7665 or 860-545-1888. The upcoming IOL FRC Support Group schedule is as follows:

- **Alcoholics Anonymous.** July 28; Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25 (Every Tuesday), 2-3 p.m. Join us for coffee and a one-hour topic discussion. To learn more, contact the AA General Service Office at 212-870-3400 or P.O. Box 459, New York, NY 10163

- **Support Group For Families Dealing With Major Mental Illness.** Aug. 6, Aug. 20, Sept. 3, Sept. 17 (First and third Thursday of each month), 5:15 - 6:30 p.m. in the Center Building, First Floor Conference Room. For family and friends of individuals who have schizophrenia, bipolar or other related disorders. Share your success and struggles. Learn to care for yourself while you are caring for others.

- **Sibling Support Group.** Aug. 6, Aug. 20, Sept. 3, Sept. 17 (First and third Thursday of each month), 5:15 - 6:30 p.m. in the Center Building, First Floor Conference Room. This group will provide support for siblings of those struggling with mental illness, create a safe place to discuss and process feelings, and connect with others who have similar circumstances.

- **Youth Psychosis Family Support Group.** Aug. 7, Aug. 21, Sept. 4, Sept. 18 (First and third Friday of each month), 4:15 – 5:15 p.m. For parents with youth up to age 18 who have psychotic symptoms such as: hallucinations, delusions, paranoia, disorganized thoughts and behavior or are diagnosed with Schizophrenia and other related disorders. Join us to receive support, guidance and education on how to cope with and help your young person.

- **Dementia Support/Educational Group Meeting.** Aug. 4, Sept. 1 (First Tuesday of each month), 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Donnelly Conference Room, First Floor. Please join us as we bring together experts and those who want guidance, direction, and support through this journey. Let’s work together, help each other and exchange ideas. Space is limited — reservations are required by calling 860-545-7665.

- **Social Support Group — LGBTQ Issues (Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Questioning).** Aug. 12, Aug. 26, Sept. 9, Sept. 23 (Second and fourth Wednesday of each month), 5 – 6:15 p.m. in the Center Building, Young Adult Service Group Room. Support group for 16- to 23-year-olds who identify LGBTQ issues as being prominent in their lives. The goal is to discuss support strategies to manage life challenges.

Mental Health First Aid classes set through September

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) and Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) classes will be offered by the BHN through the month of September. Classes are open to the general public at a cost of $50 per person and to HHC employees at a discounted rate of $20 per person.

MHFA and YMHFA are interactive training courses designed to give members of the public the key skills required to help an individual who may be experiencing signs of crisis that are related to a mental health disorder such as depression, panic-anxiety disorder or post-traumatic stress disorder. All classes will be held at the Institute of Living, Hartford Room, Second Floor Commons Building, 200 Retreat Avenue, Hartford, and are scheduled as shown above. For more information or to register, please contact patriciac.graham@hhchealth.org.
The Natchaug Hospital adolescent inpatient unit embraced the dog days of summer and celebrated Beach Day 2015 on Monday, July 20. Clients and staff participated in a variety of events aimed at improving the patient experience and having fun, including a sand castle contest, “Minute to Win It” challenges with prizes, beach volleyball, hula hooping, a slip ‘n’ slide, and a kiddie pool. Kids and staff alike rated it the, “best day ever” and gauging by their smiles, they were right!

Fannie McGowan, MSW, and Jocelyn Nadeau, LPC, show off the Water Garden system that Joshua Center Northeast recently received from Back to the Roots. The Water Garden is a closed-loop ecosystem where fish feed the plants, and plants clean the water. The Water Garden will be a community project at the JCNE to connect all PHP/IOP/EDT age groups and as a resource to introduce the young people to sustainable farming practices and possibilities.

Calling for Clinical Corner submissions

Are you interested in sharing your clinical experience or knowledge with your co-workers throughout the HHC Behavioral Health Network? Consider submitting an article to the Clinical Corner. For more information, e-mail amanda.nappi@hhchealth.org or matt.burgard@hhchealth.org.

HHC&Me MyFuture Retirement Meeting Schedule

Please make every effort to attend one meeting. Attendance will be taken. Register now at My Future Online, hhcandme.ehr.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Start Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri., July 24</td>
<td>Community Rm</td>
<td>7:30am, 9am, 11am, 1pm 3:30pm</td>
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*Meetings will generally last 45 minutes.
Rushford’s garden yields crops, sense of purpose

The vegetable garden outside the Rushford Center in Meriden, which was created last year as a way to help clients develop a sense of independence and accomplishment, is in full season as rows of plants are yielding fresh bounties of various types of vegetables including squash and tomatoes.

James Pitel, the social rehab coordinator who helps oversee the garden, said the horticultural therapy program has proven to be enormously beneficial for many clients who have spent months seeding and tending to the garden and now are reaping the rewards. For many years, Pitel said, clinicians and case managers alike have recognized the therapeutic value of horticulture therapy and what it gives to clients.

Among other things, he said, clients have planted seeds in cups in winter and spring before carefully digging and planting in the garden. Once the vegetables are ready to pick, the clients who took part in the planting and tending get to pick and take them home, or give to others, further fostering a sense of independence (clients also provided decorated planting cups to residents at a nearby nursing facility earlier this year).

Horticultural therapy also is highly effective in reducing anxieties and stress, Pitel said. The garden crew at Rushford includes Natalie Marynczak, Jahnel Mills, Danielle Fowler, Gary Demchak, Tracy Wilber, Tim Washington and Deanna Bencivengo.

Forty years of Rushford

The Rushford Center will celebrate its 40th anniversary at a special ceremony and recognition of all board members, past and present, on Thursday, Oct. 8 at the Wadsworth Mansion in Middletown.

Details of the celebration will be forthcoming, but the event will feature comments from leaders who helped guide Rushford’s creation and evolution as a leading national resource for substance abuse and addiction services over the past four decades. It will also feature a special video looking at the institution’s history and interviews with those who made lasting contributions to its mission.
**FOR SALE**

**BOYS CLOTHES** — Good condition, 12 pairs of shorts size 5-6, 20 short sleeve shirts size 6-7, two sets of long pajamas size 8, 16 long sleeve shirts size 5-8, swim shorts size 5, swim shirt size 7, tank tops size 5-6. Entire box for sale as is $30. Call or text 860-917-7713.

**MISC. ITEMS** — Full size antique metal bed with rails, $100. Queen size sleigh bed with rails, $200. Camping cot, $5. Seat from a horsedrawn buggy, $100. Vanity. Call 860-908-0161 and please leave a message.


**FREE**

**TWO-YEAR-OLD AUSSIE MIX** — Zoey is looking for a family of her own. Zoey is an absolute love bug who gets along well with other dogs, cats, people, and children. Zoey is house-trained and very well-mannered in the house. Zoey enjoys playing with her toys, going for walks, and most of all spending time with her people. If you’d like to hear more about Zoey, please contact Erin at erin.joudrey@hhchealth.org, who is currently fostering her.

**RUBBERMAID STORAGE CONTAINER** — Five foot by four foot by 40 inches, excellent condition. Call 860-887-9463.

**WANTED**

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND CLOTHES** — Family needs donations of school supplies and boy’s size five to six clothes, shoe size 12, large teen shirts, size 36 pants, size 10 sneakers. Call 860-889-7243.

**THE LEBANON LIONS CLUB** — Looking for Crafters and Artisans for this year’s Lebanon Country Fair Aug. 7 through Aug. 9. Call Joyce at 860-642-9988 for more information.

**STS. PETER & PAUL CHURCH** — Vendors wanted for the Kris Kringle Fair, Saturday, Nov. 14. $25 per table. Call 860-887-9857.

**FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED** — Waterford Country School Foster Care is seeking full-time and part-time foster families. Find out how you can make an impact on the life of a child in the community. WCS Foster Care provides free training and licensing, 24-hour staff support and a substantial monthly reimbursement. Call 860-886-7500, ext. 170.

**ARTISTS** — Faces at FAHS (Fine Art and Craft Exhibit and Sale at the Finnish American Heritage Society) is seeking artists and crafters for a Saturday, Oct. 3 event at the Finnish Hall, 76 North Canterbury Rd., Canterbury. Indoor/outdoor spaces, $30 (post-marked on or before Friday, July 31), free admission, handicapped accessible. Call 860-974-2760 or email FACESatFAHS@gmail.com.

**EVENTS**

**YOGA IN THE PARK SUNSET CLASSES** — Tuesday and/or Thursday, July 28 and 30, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Mohegan Park pavilion in Norwich. Cheryl Hughes will guide the evening practice. Four days is $35 for residents, $45 for non-residents. Walk-ins are $10.

**CAROLINE’S MIRACLE FOUNDATION 5K & FUN RUN** — Saturday, July 25 starting at 8 a.m. at 59 Lyme St., Old Lyme. Event is free, pre-register online at active.com, donations accepted at the event. View carolinesmiraclefoundation.org for more information.

**ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE** — Friday, July 31, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 1, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at St. Mary’s Church/St. Joseph School, 70 West Main St., Baltic. Seeking donations of furniture, household items, clothing, sporting goods, outdoor, toys, linens, etc. Call 860-822-6378.

**NORWICH GRANGE FAIR** — Saturday, Aug. 1, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 174 W. Town St., Norwich. Exhibitors, tag sale, vendors, children’s games, silent auction, live country music, country store, win ribbons and cash prizes.

**CLASSIC CAR & TRUCK SHOW** — Saturday, Aug. 8, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Holy New Martyrs Church, 364 Canterbury Tpke., Norwich. Trophies awarded, admission is one perishable food item to benefit the St. Vincent DePaul soup kitchen, DJ music, vendors, tag sale.

**FUNDRAISING NIGHT AT CASSIDY HILL** — Saturday, Aug. 29, 6 p.m. at 454 Cassidy Hill Road, Coventry, CT. Benefiting Relay for Life of greater Windham. $25 per person, $30 at the door, $40 per couple. Call for tickets 860-456-6797.

**FALL FESTIVAL** — Thursday, Sept. 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., yard sale and family closet. Friday, Sept. 11, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., yard sale, family closet, needlework, baked goods, general store, games food, silent auction, books, CD’s, DVD’s, major raffle begins at 7 p.m. on Saturday. All will be held at Saint Joseph Church, 11 Baltic Road, Versailles-Occum.

**LEE MEMORIAL CHURCH FUNDRAISERS** — One pound pecans from Georgia, $12. Streek-less clothes, $3, no chemicals, just water, reusable, polishes. Proceeds benefit the church. Call 860-822-6595 or 860-908-5797.

**PRESCHOOL/CHILD CARE** — First Leaps Together, Ledyard is a small family-oriented center proudly providing outstanding early education in Ledyard Center. Now Enrolling for openings in our Fall programs, beginning Monday, Aug. 31. Full day and shortened day preschool program options, after school programs, specialized services. Visit firstleapstogether.com and mention this ad and we will apply a $100 discount to your second month’s tuition payment for all new full time September enrollment. Call 860-381-5537 for a tour.

**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL** — Accepting registrations for the 2015-2016 school year. 10 School Hill Road, Baltic, full day pre-kindergarten for children who will be 3 and 4 years of age by December, grades K-8 available. Call 860-822-6141 or email sistermaryapattick@gmail.com.