



Samaritan Counseling Center's E-CONNECTION

**For our Partners in Ministry
SCC is "Here for Hope and Healing"**

June 2011

**Samaritan Counseling Center -- 1803 Oregon Pike -- Lancaster, PA 17601
(717) 560-9969 www.scclanc.org**

In this issue: "Brain Health" theme

- \$20,000 grant awarded to SCC
- "Failure to Protect, Failure to Report: Child Abuse Teen Violence and Family Violence & Gender Issues" workshop
- "How Exposure to Violence Can Impact a Child's Developing Brain" – NEW Program for your church
- **"Football Player Had Brain Trauma He Suspected"**
- "Patrick Kennedy to Launch Brain Research Campaign"
- What is a "neuropsychological examination"?
- June 25th -- go to the Barnstormers with SCC!
- Welcome to our newest Partner congregation!
- Are you planning a mission fair?
- Don't forget to use your vouchers!



\$20,000 Grant Awarded to SCC

The Ms. Foundation has awarded a grant of \$20,000 to the Samaritan Counseling Center to support our "Safe Church" program. We were one of 15 out of about 250 applicants to be selected to participate in this new national initiative, which focuses on preventing child sexual abuse and responding to survivors.

Our project begins in June and will involve about 8 congregations sending a task force of 4-6 people to seven "cluster" meetings over a one-year period. The clusters will form a rich ecumenical learning environment in which each church is assisted in development of a comprehensive child protection policy that includes PA mandated reporting requirements, best practices, a theological framework according to its tradition, and guidelines for participation by a known sexual offender in the congregation. On-site congregational education on child sexual abuse prevention will be provided to each participating church; volunteers and staff will be trained; child empowerment curriculums will be implemented; and adult survivors of childhood

sexual abuse in the congregations will be invited to a retreat to create worship resources out of their experiences of abuse and healing.

Special thanks to pastor **Deb Helt (Hosanna! A Fellowship of Christians)** who has taken a lead role in her ministerium to encourage churches to join together in a cluster to create a safe church environment for children and youth. The **Rev. Randy Riggs (First Presbyterian Church)**; **Rev. Jane Hooper Peifer (Blossom Hill Mennonite)** and Deb Helt all wrote wonderful letters of support to the Ms. Foundation based on their previous experiences with our "Safe Church" program. **This support from our partner pastors surely helped us to be awarded this grant, and will enable us to enhance the safety of countless children in our community.**

Linda Crockett, Director of Education and Consultation, will oversee the project and provide most of the training. She can be reached at LCrockett@scclanc.org

"Failure to Protect, Failure to Report: Child Abuse Teen Violence and Family Violence & Gender Issues"

Wednesday, June 6, 2011 6-10 PM Workshop

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR NURSES -- CLERGY WELCOMED

CONTACT HOURS FOR NURSES

Sponsored by EMU at Lancaster & Ephrata Community Hospital

Speakers: Linda Crockett
Director of Education and Consultation
Samaritan Counseling Center

Elizabeth Soto, M.Div.
Chaplain, Lancaster General Health
Faculty, Lancaster Theological Seminary

Location: **Eastern Mennonite University at Lancaster**
1846 Charter Lane, P.O. Box 10936
Lancaster, PA 17605-10936

Contact Hours: 4 hours

Cost: \$20

For registration or to be on the mailing list, email sheryn.jerchau@emu.edu or call **717-397-5190**. Payment can be made by check, cash or money order to "EMU at Lancaster." No credit cards accepted. Free parking.

How Exposure to Violence Can Impact a Child's Developing Brain



This is a [new SCC program for you to schedule for your church or organization](#). Contact Linda Crockett, Director, Consultation and Education at lcrockett@scclanc.org or call 717 625 1722.

This workshop is for parents, teachers, medical professionals and others who work with, or are concerned about, the influence of violent images our children are exposed to through media, or experiences of violence in our communities, schools and homes.

Brain research now shows us how continued doses of exposure to direct and indirect violence can impact a child's developing brain. This session will help participants understand how persisting fear and the neurophysiologic adaption to this fear can alter the development of a child's brain and future behaviors.

At the completion of this session, learners will be able to:

1. Describe the two response patterns typically employed by children when exposed to violence and how these states become traits
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the main source of violence in children's lives and identify the ages at which brain development is most impacted
3. Understand the sequence in which the child's brain develops and how early exposure to violence can impact the cortical area

“Football Player Had Brain Trauma He Suspected”

Scientists announced last week that the brain of former football player Dave Duerson had a "moderately advanced" case of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a degenerative brain disease associated with repeated blows to the head. Before shooting himself in the heart in February, Duerson expressed the wish that his brain be studied for signs of the disease. The findings add to questions about the impact of playing football and whether the National Football League should do more to protect its players. Scientists say further study is needed on players of all ages to gauge the full impact of CTE. ([The New York Times](#), 5/7/11)



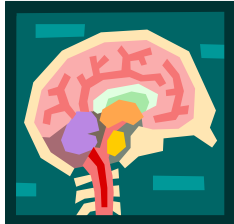
“Patrick Kennedy to Launch Brain Research Campaign”

Mental health advocate and former Congressman Patrick Kennedy will formally launch a campaign this month to support the development of effective new treatments for neurological and mental disorders. A conference, called “The Next Frontier: One Mind for the Brain”, will be held from May 23 to 25. On the last day, a gala event at the John F. Kennedy Library will mark the 50th anniversary of President Kennedy's speech rallying the nation to land a man on the moon by the end of the 1960s. Kennedy calls the Next Frontier campaign a “moon-shot to the mind,” and its goal is to map what Kennedy calls the “inner space of the mind” within the next decade. The first step is getting scientists to coordinate their research efforts. The second is to educate the public about veterans who are returning home with traumatic brain injuries and posttraumatic stress disorder. A number of organizations have joined the effort, including Mental Health America. ([Psychiatric News](#), 5/6/11)

****Note: The above two articles are among many from May's "Mental Health America", *Mental Health in the Headlines*. To subscribe to *Mental Health in the Headlines*, visit <http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/go/action/subscribe>.

What is a "Neuropsychological Evaluation"?

By Beth A. Mull, Psy.D., Licensed Psychologist at SCC



The short answer is a measure of a person's brain functioning. To better understand what this means, however, the why, how, when and where of a neuropsychological evaluation also needs some explaining.

Some reasons why a person might need a neuropsychological evaluation include developmental delays (i.e., in walking, talking, reading or writing), head injuries (e.g., from automobile accidents, sports or abuse), medical events (such as a stroke, tumor or seizures), exposure to poisons (e.g., carbon monoxide, lead, mercury), oxygen deprivation (e.g., as a result of cardiac arrest), noticeable behavior problems (e.g., a child's difficulty remaining on task at school or an adult's increasing difficulty recalling names of objects and people, confusion, or getting lost while driving).

A neuropsychological evaluation is performed in a psychologist's office. A psychologist with special training in neuropsychology will choose a series of tests based on the person's presenting concern and history. He or she may ask the person many questions, have them copy drawings, remember words, or time them performing other tasks. The amount of time spent testing a person will depend on the number of tests chosen, but usually ranges between six and eight hours of face-to-face interaction which can be completed over several testing sessions.

Physicians, therapists or school professionals recommend this type of testing when medical tests, therapy or school interventions do not fully explain a person's behavior or there is concern about brain functioning. A full medical exam prior to neuropsychological testing is very helpful as many contributing causes to a person's difficulties can be readily identified by their physician (e.g., vitamin and metabolite deficiencies, medication side-effects, hearing impairment). The results of a neuropsychological evaluation can be very helpful to better understand the difficulties a child or adult is experiencing. Based on that understanding, recommendations are given to help the individual improve their abilities and/or to find ways to compensate for their difficulties.

**** **The Samaritan Counseling Center's Beth A. Mull, Psy.D., a licensed psychologist**, conducts comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations. In addition to her doctoral degree in clinical psychology, she completed a fellowship in neuropsychology through the Samaritan Counseling Center and Hershey Medical Center. She works with children and adults and welcomes any questions at 717-560-9969, ext. 243.



June 25th – Go to the Barnstormers with SCC!

We are planning an SCC Night at the Barnstormers for **Saturday, June 25!** It is a fireworks night and the Barnstormers are having a great season so far!

To order tickets, go to www.lancasterbarnstormers.com and click on the fundraising login on the right hand side. That will take you to a list of organizations in alphabetical order. Find the SCC logo and click on it. It should come up with the password already typed in but if

not...just type in "SCC". We have great seats reserved in Field Boxes 23 and 24 – third base side, so no sun in our eyes this year!

Tickets are \$10 a piece, and \$4 of that comes directly to the Center.
Thank you for considering joining us and invite some friends! We had a lot of fun last year.

Welcome to our newest Partner in Ministry Congregation, Zion Evangelical Lutheran, Landisville!

The Rev. Janice M. Lowden, pastor of Zion since December 2010, shepherds Zion's membership of over 500. Previously, she and her husband -- a Lutheran minister serving a church in York -- served the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Tanzania for two years. Zion hosts a Nursery School and serves as the Hempfield Area Food Pantry. This is a busy and dynamic congregation and pastor involved in helping with immediate community needs and distant missions. Welcome to Zion and Pastor "Jamie" as our newest Partner!

Are you planning a mission fair?

If your congregation is planning a "Missions Fair" for this fall or for 2012, please invite us to participate. We would be pleased to have a display table and representative from the Center to be present and attend your service. We also are available to present "Minute for Mission". You designate the time and date and we'll be there. Call Barbara Tolbert at (717) 560-9969 Ext. 256 or email btolbert@scclanc.org

Don't forget to use your vouchers!

We are halfway through 2011. Please remember the value in your Partnership vouchers which can be used for referrals for counseling; educational programs in your setting by our professional staff; educational programs and series in our Clergy and Congregation Care for you; and towards clergy coaching and consultation meetings.

Abundant blessings for a refreshing summer,

**Barbara Tolbert, SCC's E-Connection Editor and Partner Church Administrator
(717) 560-9969 Ext. 256 or btolbert@scclanc.org**