



Hospice of Warren County

Neighbors caring for neighbors since 1979



ANNUAL REPORT
2023



Contents

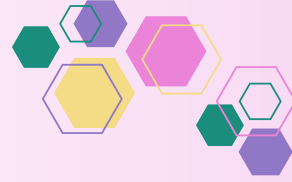
NOTES FROM LEADERSHIP
MISSION | VISION STATEMENTS
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
BY THE NUMBERS
PLANNED GIVING - INVESTING IN HOWC
HOSPICE FOREVER LEGACY SOCIETY
STAFF, COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIPS





A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

DR. LEROY KORB



When I graduated Warren High, those oh-so-short 48 years ago, I left Warren with no intention of returning except for short visits to friends and family. Back then, Warren was a more dynamic community – yet still not meeting the ideals of a jaded teenager.

Time has a funny way of making us eat our words. Twenty-nine years later I returned to my hometown, to live, practice medicine, and raise my family. Life in the “big city” had grown increasingly hectic and stressful. In Warren, the bliss of a short, traffic-free drive to work was just one of many things lowering my blood pressure. In the years since my return, I know with certainty that my children and marriage flourished in this little burg.

Warren now is not the same as it was before I left. Gone are the numerous industries employing our fathers. The downtown too is simpler, with its many department stores and specialty shops long-gone.

Yet, one thing remains the same: the care and compassion of our neighbors. Nowhere is this more evident than the generosity shown to Hospice of Warren County. When we ask our neighbors to help our organization, support its neighbors, our community responds.

“ ONE THING REMAINS THE SAME: THE CARE AND COMPASSION OF OUR NEIGHBORS.”

Our mission is simple, to empower people to make the most of their remaining days when they’ve been diagnosed with a life-limiting illness – whether it be cancer, kidney failure, lung disease, or just frailty, to name a few. And help, we do.

The testimonials we receive (a sampling is included in this publication) are simple but profound reminders of the powerful work we do for our clients.

Be assured your contributions are used wisely. Our leadership has retained critical personnel and hired new talent only as necessary. We pay our staff a fair wage and competitive benefits. Expenditures are reviewed at multiple levels to ensure they are truly necessary. Our volunteers are critical in further stretching our dollars (and your dollars) as far as they will go.

So, thank you Warren, for who you are, what you stand for, and keeping your values intact over these many years. Your heart is true. We are privileged to serve you and hopefully exceed your expectations.

‘SO, THANK YOU WARREN, FOR WHO YOU ARE, WHAT YOU STAND FOR, AND KEEPING YOUR VALUES INTACT OVER THESE MANY YEARS.’



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DARLENE SCHULTZ-JOHN

In the fall of 2021, Hospice of Warren County made the deliberate decision to pause the publication of our annual newsletter, to focus our efforts on implementing an electronic medical record. Reflecting on the past year, our choice to embrace this transition was unequivocally the right thing for the success of our non-profit organization.

We owe the success of this project to the unwavering support and concerted efforts of the following contributors.

1. The Libonati Fund, overseen by the Community Foundation of Warren County, for their generous commitment of financial resources essential to enhance electronic privacy and security protocols necessary for client care.
2. Our staff who demonstrated adaptability, dedication, and unyielding determination throughout this onerous but transformative process.
3. Our Board of Directors, who exhibited profound trust in our capabilities.
4. Our community, whose patience and understanding are an expression of support that we deeply value.

As Hospice of Warren County nears its 45th year of service, our evolution toward electronic records constitutes just one of the many places Hospice of Warren County has demonstrated its adaptability to a changing market and changing population.

Another change is our first ever “Impact Report”. The Impact Report serves to offer our supporters and community a clear understanding of our organizational mandate, guiding mission, and the bedrock principles that inform our actions. It demonstrates the positive impact we have in Warren County and provides an overview of each of our transformative programs.

Hospice care is a vital resource in our community. Hospice of Warren County provides the highest quality, respectful and compassionate end-of-life care, accessible to all, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Our goal is to empower individuals to shape their lives – on their own terms, attaining a sense of fulfillment that extends to the final moments of existence. We believe that our vision, mission, and values will resonate deeply with you, compelling you to join us in nurturing these ideals not only in the present but also in the times ahead.

We hope that you are moved by the strides we have undertaken and the impact we have achieved for your friends, family, and neighbors here in Warren County, perhaps motivating you to consider integrating Hospice of Warren County into your annual charitable endeavors and including us in your estate planning. By doing so, you can play an instrumental role in sustaining this valuable community asset, ensuring its vitality for generations to come!





A MESSAGE FROM OUR MEDICAL DIRECTOR

DR. KEITH PRICE



Wow, how time flies! I was recently reminded that I just passed the 21st year anniversary of serving as medical director for Hospice of Warren County.

Over those years, a number of changes have taken place. Our palliative care service was added a number of years ago, filling a gap for those needing symptom management who were continuing with their chemo or other therapies. Six years ago we added Missy Shene, a nurse practitioner who masterfully handles this outreach of HOWC. The hospice residence, providing a beautiful home-like atmosphere with around the clock care, was opened in 2010. In 2014, our office was moved from within the hospital to 1 Main Avenue, giving much more space and much-needed room to meet with patients and families. Our bereavement services have greatly expanded, offered free of charge to any Warren Countian needing such help. As from our beginning in 1979, our volunteers continue to be an essential part of our overall program.

“OUR BEREAVEMENT SERVICES HAVE GREATLY EXPANDED, OFFERED FREE OF CHARGE TO ANY WARREN COUNTIAN NEEDING SUCH HELP”

As I listen at our weekly team meetings, I often sit in amazement as the nurses, social workers, clergy and other staff members recount their visits with our patients. Frequently, patients and their families are feeling quite vulnerable... unsure if they made the right decision to forego further aggressive therapies...or dealing with very bothersome symptoms... or feeling scared & confused & alone. Hearing how our hospice staff calmly explains options, trying to learn what the patients' treatment wishes are and how best to honor them, coming up with a 'game plan' to help alleviate those stressors and distressors.....all of this makes me feel quite honored to be a part of the team. Knowing there is someone to call with their questions or concerns anytime, day or night, is an immense comfort to many.

Seeing the attempts to make life's closure the best it can be – physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually – makes all this very worthwhile to me.

“ALL OF THIS MAKES ME FEEL QUITE HONORED TO BE A PART OF THE TEAM.”



TIFFANY GOBLE

A Registered Nurse for the past eight years, Tiffany joined Hospice of Warren County two years ago. A dedicated employee with a special way of making patients and families feel at ease, you might recognize Tiffany from our Warren Give's reminder earlier this year.



FEATURED EMPLOYEE

“I love it, and I love it because I’m honored to support families and patients during such an emotional and difficult time. Yes, some days are sad, but most days are very rewarding “

When asked, “What motivated you to become a hospice nurse?”, Tiffany said she heard through nurse friends about the outstanding staff and volunteers at Hospice of Warren County, and she wanted to be a part of the organization. Since her arrival, Tiffany has flourished as a hospice nurse, and in September was Certified as a Hospice & Palliative Care nurse! Hospice work is multi-faceted. One of Tiffany’s favorite aspects of working with hospice patients is “...getting real with them and learning what makes them tick”. Establishing trust is essential. Once the connection is established, patients often share fascinating stories and details about their life. “Really getting to know them, their family, what they love, their trials, how they met their spouse, do they pray...that kind of stuff... I love that!” One of Tiffany’s most cherished “hospice” moments was being included in an impromptu family picnic after making a routine nursing visit. “It was a beautiful day; the scene overlooked a horse farm; the weather was perfect for a picnic. Two young grandsons were present, there was a lot of laughter and sharing. The experience was magical. The fact that I knew each of his days was precious and were going to be his last... they chose to include me... what a blessing.”

Hospice nurses are frequently asked, “How do you work for hospice, isn’t it sad and depressing?” Tiffany states, “I love it, and I love it because I’m honored to support families and patients during such an emotional and difficult time. Yes, some days are sad, but most days are very rewarding.” Newer to the Warren area, Tiffany loves exploring the outdoors, hiking with her two dogs, and all the water-related activities that Warren County has to offer. In her downtime, she keeps busy, creating a quiet sanctuary of flowers and trees around her house that she shares with her husband, Toby. The mother of three grown children, two of whom live in different areas of PA, her youngest recently relocated to the Cleveland, OH area.

Tiffany reminisces about going through her share of difficult times. Prior to meeting her now husband, Tiffany was a single mom, a full-time college student, holding down a 30-hour per week job, while supporting her young daughter & herself. She gives God credit for her strength. “I believe He has always provided a path for me and refined me through a lot of adversity. I am also positive He led me to be a hospice nurse and I am so amazingly blessed because of it.”



VISION

A community that thoughtfully embraces compassionate end-of-life care and the treatment of grief as integral parts of a life well lived.

MISSION

Providing- Compassionate End-of-Life Care
Assuring Dignity for Body, Mind and Spirit.

VALUES

Hospice of Warren County-- **C.A.R.E.S.**

Collaboration
Accountability
Respect
Excellence
Service

Fostering partnerships/advocacy
Managing resources
Honoring others
Exceeding Expectation
Engaging Customers

Fiscal Year July 1- June 30
Fiscal Year ending 2023

9233
Patient
Days

← **Hospice Care**

485

Number of patients
served



756

Patient
Days



Hospice House →

41

Number of patients
served

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT



Volunteers are the heart of Hospice of Warren County. Our organization grew from the endless kindness of Volunteers. Even today, over 40 years later, Hospice of Warren County could not provide the quality end-of-life care that we do without the time and energy given so freely by our Volunteers. This May, Hospice of Warren County held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Night at the Conewango Club in Warren. The evening was a celebration to honor the selflessness of our cherished Volunteers. This year our special Guest Speaker was Kathy Joy Hoffner, author, speaker, and grief expert. Kathy spoke about how our Volunteers witness and carry the grief of our Hospice patients and families all while carrying their own personal grief along the way. We are forever grateful for our Volunteers who give a little bit of themselves to every Hospice family they work with. Our Volunteers teach us what living a life of service truly means!



New Volunteers

Please welcome our newest Volunteers! This fantastic group completed the 20-hour annual volunteer training course this past spring and have embarked on their volunteer journey, enriching lives everywhere they go. Congratulations Tonya Whitney, Ethel Hennessy, Parker Shene, Jim Pierce, Melissa McLean and Tiger, Caprece McDunn, Nancy Deming and Rachael McClellan. Welcome to the Hospice of Warren County family!

402

Number of patients served

← Palliative Care

90%

Converting to Hospice Care



198

Number of patients served



Schorman Center

157

Number of children served



2023-Testimonials



THANK
YOU
😊

"Your kindness, professionalism, support and understanding helped guide us all through her final days".

From the moment you were called, you provided comfort and care that she so needed as well as helping my father with his journey [of loss]".

"We were impressed from the time we pulled into the lot to the time we finished our visit at the end of the day. We got a part of our lives back and my dad had all of his needs met. We wish we had made our decision to choose the (hospice) house - sooner".

"[the care from Hospice of Warren County] ...made a really hard experience so much easier"

Volunteer your time by providing a "Google review."

Hospice House



This past summer the John & Orpha Blair Hospice House received several exterior improvements thanks in part to The Libonati Fund, at the Community Foundation of Warren County, Mary Weiss and Mark Haslett. Recognizing her commitment to honoring the intention of the originating donor, a memorial brick was placed in the residence's memory garden to honor Joan Hamil for her commitment to HOWC

Mark Haslett, lifelong resident and local businessman with a heart for hospice, returned this year to restore the home's exterior appearance with a fresh coat of paint. Now the exterior matches the splendor of the home's magnificent interior.

Mary Weiss, master gardener and long-time Hospice of Warren County Hospice Advisory Committee member, coordinated and funded the removal of numerous diseased trees as part of a multi-year landscape improvement project.

We are deeply grateful for their commitment & for enhancing the beauty and safety of this community gem.

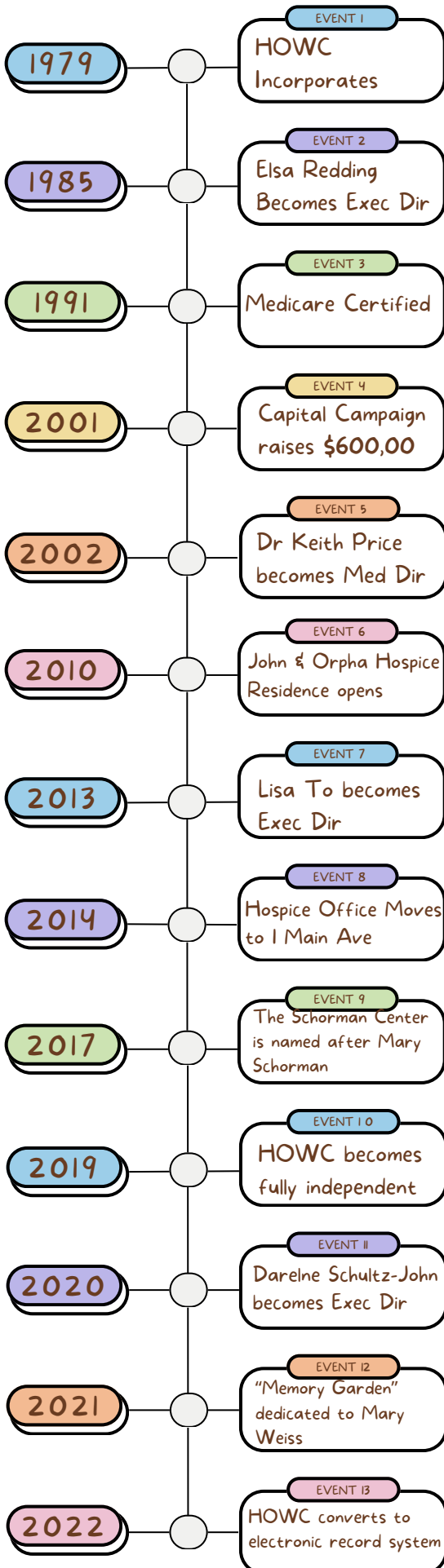


MARK HASLETT

To subscribe to our monthly newsletter, contact us at 814-723-2455 or through our website, "contact us" page.

HOWC


timeline



Thank you

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the upcoming retirement of Linda Chase. Currently Patient Care Coordinator, Linda also served as a Hospice field RN, and Hospice House Supervisor in her 34 years of service. Linda has been instrumental in defining the organization's values, and exemplifying our standards of excellence, all while nurturing a generation (or two) of nurses. Through her time, Linda navigated many organizational changes with vision, persistence, and grace.

"I have been blessed to have worked with so many amazing and talented staff and cared for so many wonderful patients and families over the years. It has been an honor to have been a part of Hospice of Warren County." We are privileged to have experienced her wisdom, skillful guidance, and thoughtful leadership. Linda may be leaving the building, but she is not leaving our hearts.

Find us on 



NAME THAT FROG



In honor of her five + years leading our grief yoga classes, this summer our grief yoga teacher, Marilyn Eberhart was presented with this little frog. The bronze mediterator was presented in the spirit of gratitude, good humor, love, and acceptance recognizes Marilyn's "volun-leading" commitment to the Schorman Center. Since 2018, Marilyn has volunteered her instruction of Yoga for Grief relief, three hours each week; making her total volunteer hours unmatched.

This whimsical frog now resides amongst the flora and fauna of the garden at 1 Main Ave, and we'd like to honor it with a proper name! We ask our Hospice community to come up with a name that fits the spirit of the gift. A name that is as special as our volunteer, teacher and friend, Marilyn.

Email your suggestions to the Bereavement Coordinator at jbevevino@howc.org . We will publish all suggestions on our Facebook page and on the Hospice web page. Thank you, Marilyn and Namaste!



THE SCHORMAN CENTER

A place for healing grief and loss

The Schorman Center Memory Garden officially opened June 21. Hospice Advisory Committee co-chairs Mary Weiss and Judy Champlin planned the lovely event, held in our Memory Garden. This year community members and their families were invited to take part in our annual ribbon tying ceremony. The ribbon ceremony held each spring provides a shared space for those experiencing grief in a place that honors their experience and provides an opportunity to remember their loved one.

Memory Garden

Each year the opening ceremony honors the memory of lost loved ones by writing names, and messages to their loved ones on ribbons. The ribbons are then tied to our spruce tree, until they are recognized at the following year's ceremony.

Hospice of Warren County invites the entire Warren County community to use our Memory Garden to connect with their grief and reconnect with their loved one. A year-round opportunity, grieving community members are welcome to stop by and add a ribbon to the Memory Tree.

“All hospice is palliative care, but not all palliative care is hospice.” Hospice of Warren County (HOWC) formally implemented our Consultative Palliative Care program in 2017. Earlier this year, the program provided care to its 1000th patient. Melissa Shene, CRNP who provides exceptional care, is the only Palliative Care specialist provider in the Warren County Area. Working closely with patients, and their primary care providers, Melissa works with the patient, to define a quality-of-life plan, based on their personal goals as they relate to their life-limiting illness(es). In addition to symptom management, treatment may also include, assistance obtaining medical equipment, grief counseling, social work, clergy, and/or dietitian services.

Palliative Care Program



“All hospice is palliative care, but not all palliative care is hospice.”

While Palliative Care is not hospice care, it does include discussions about the inevitability of death and the planning around it a term called “Advanced Care Planning”. Early discussions about end-of-life planning provide patients and families the opportunity to prepare for the inevitable, while still feeling healthy enough to fully advocate for themselves. On average, 10% of our palliative care patients transition to our Hospice Care program. Ideally an early hospice admission seamlessly continues to provide better quality of life to the end.

Planned Giving



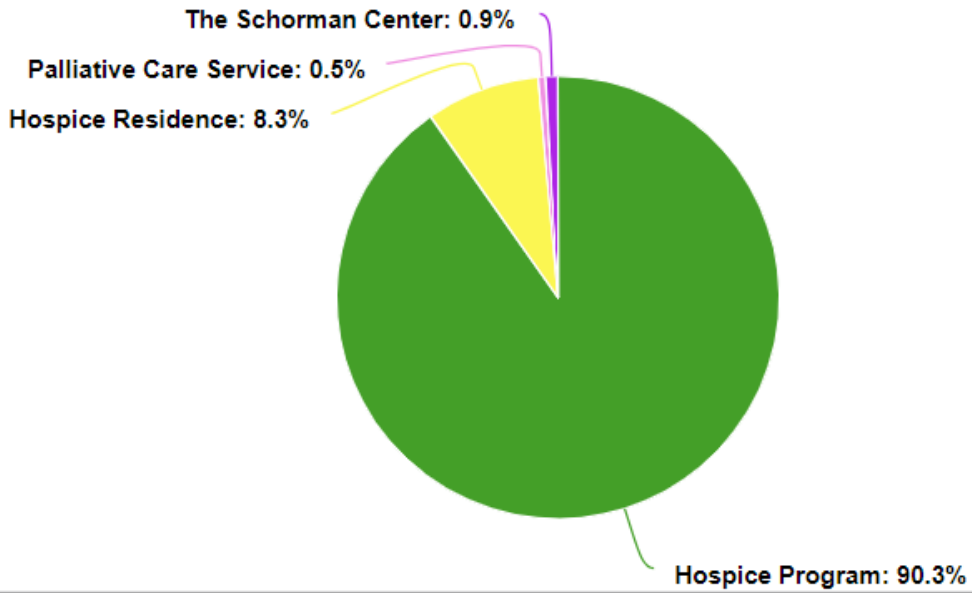
Did you know you can make a recurring donation to HOWC directly through our website?

To continue offering our free or reduced cost programs, Hospice of Warren County relies on annual discretionary contributions like the annual membership (sponsorship) campaign, memorial donations and Warren Gives. In addition to discretionary gifts, Hospice of Warren County also accepts “planned gifts”. **Planned giving (aka- estate planning)** provides those with philanthropic values the opportunity to sustain the positive impact you’ve already had in the community and be an extension of Hospice of Warren County’s values and mission. A planned gift identifies you as a Hospice Legacy Society Donor, and assures your legacy by positively impacting our community “In perpetuity” (aka- forever). Please consider including Hospice of Warren County when planning your estate. Planned gifts are essential to sustaining Hospice of Warren County’s mission.

Please contact the Executive Director at Hospice of Warren County at 814-723-2455 for additional information, or discuss your intentions with your attorney, financial advisor, and/or accountant. Our EIN is 25-1512020.

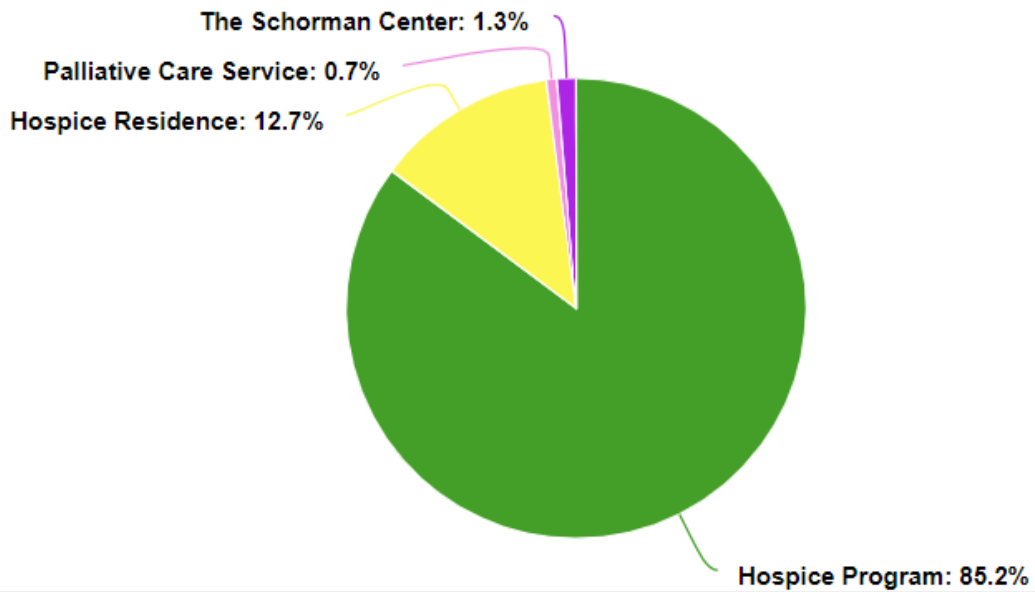


Program Revenue
Hospice of Warren County



■ Hospice Program ■ Hospice Residence ■ Palliative Care Service ■ The Schorman Center

Program Expenses
Hospice of Warren County



■ Hospice Program ■ Hospice Residence ■ Palliative Care Service ■ The Schorman Center



Hospice of
Warren County

Hospice Forever Legacy Society

A special tribute to those who have supported Hospice of Warren County in their estate plan or contributed to the organization's endowed funds by a gift of greater than or equal to \$1000. These special gifts leave a legacy by continuing to support the work of Hospice of Warren County in perpetuity.

Kerry Abbott
Thomas & Gerry Africa
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Romaine Barrett
Elizabeth Bauer
The Berglund-Weiss Fund
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Juliet G Hornburg
The Family of Thomas Huber
Tim & Cheryl Huber
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Warren County
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Warren County School District
Warren County YMCA
WCCBI

