



Be the light in your neighbor's darkest hour

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

On the night of Saturday, December 13, 2009 New Bethany Ministries will be sponsoring the 11th annual Luminaria Night in many neighborhoods in and around Bethlehem. Luminaria Night is a beautiful and enchanted evening when all the homes in a neighborhood line their streets with luminary bags – white bags with votive candles burning inside.

The proceeds from the sale of the luminaries go to New Bethany Ministries on the south side of Bethlehem. Among the many services that New Bethany provides are temporary shelters to homeless families in the Lehigh Valley and breakfast and lunch at the Mollard Hospitality Center Monday through Friday.

We urge you to walk through your neighborhood on Luminaria Night to enjoy the warm glow created by the luminaries and to mingle with your neighbors. Thank you for your participation this year and for your generosity and giving spirits.

Luminaria Kits: Each kit contains 10 white bags, 10 votive candles and sand for the bags. The cost of the first kit is \$10.00. Each additional kit costs \$5.00 per kit. We recommend that the bags be placed about 3 feet apart along the curb, sidewalk or driveway, depending on the topography of the neighborhood. In the city where there is parking on the street, the luminaries should be placed on the edge of the sidewalk away from the curb. Directions for assembly will be included with the kits.

Block Captain:

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Cell Phone _____

Please return the lower portion of this form along with a check (made payable to New Bethany Ministries) or cash to your block captain by November 25th. If you are not going to be home the night of the event or are not physically able to put up your luminaries, contact your block captain and the captain will arrange to have the luminaries lit. In case of inclement weather Luminaria Night will be held on Sunday, December 14th. Updates including cancellation, if necessary, will be available at www.newbethanyministries.org.

Participant:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Email address _____

Number of kits _____

____ I do not need sand because I have saved it from a previous year.

Your extra donation will feed more hungry people _____ Total Enclosed _____



A Brief History of Luminaria Night

Luminaria Night started eleven years ago in the neighborhood west of Linden Street and north of Johnston Drive when three neighbors wanted to recreate the tradition of connecting homes with the light of candles in bags at the holiday season. In order to determine an interest in participating, they sent out an informational letter to about sixty homes, explaining the nature of the event and the cost of luminaria kits. Through the sale of kits, they raised \$300 that first year, all of which was donated to a family in need. In the early years of the event, several different charities benefited from Luminaria Night. Among them was New Bethany Ministries, which provides meals, financial services, and housing to poor, hungry, mentally disabled individuals and homeless families in the Lehigh Valley. Because the founders of the event were so impressed with the outreach of New Bethany, they decided to affiliate themselves permanently in 2003. Since then, Luminaria Night has nearly doubled in size every year, adding new neighborhoods, block captains, and regional captains each year. In 2007, we lit up 2,250 homes with 5,430 kits, raising \$33,700.

From a desire to connect with neighbors and light up a small neighborhood at the holidays, Luminaria Night has grown to a valley-wide collaboration illuminating many neighborhoods in a beautiful evening of light and giving. If you have been with us from the beginning, we thank you for your on-going support. If this is your first year, we welcome you and hope you will help us spread the Luminaria Night event and “be the light in your neighbors’ darkest hour.”

With sincere appreciation,

The Luminaria Night Committee
www.newbethanyministries.org