



New Bethany News

Celebrating 29 years of service to the community

Volume 16

Issue #4



Happy Holidays

Holiday Greetings-

Hard to believe that another year has passed or that fall seemed to pass as by as the temperatures dropped so quickly. Let's hope the weather channel is wrong and that this is not a harbinger of another difficult winter. Last year's snow was hard on all of us, but for New Bethany it meant increased expenses and long hours as many of us on the staff worked early mornings, late evenings and weekends to make sure that our services continued uninterrupted. We were open every weekday beginning at 8 am and often stayed open late so our guests would not have to be exposed to the harsh elements before transitioning to the emergency overnight housing available through many of the Bethlehem churches. Protecting the homeless and those without heat during the cold winter months is a critical part of what we do, so it is particularly important for us to be open when the weather is the most challenging.

We also recently learned that 80,000 people in the Lehigh Valley are food insecure and that there are eight food deserts in the Lehigh Valley, four in Bethlehem - three in or around the south side. For these individuals nutritious food is neither easily accessible nor affordable. We are proud to share that New Bethany Ministries reached more than 9,000 of these folks either directly at



the Mollard Hospitality Center or indirectly through food that was sent home.

In the past year, we have been able to assist our most transient population in securing employment by monitoring and sharing opportunities that arise. Just as important, however, has been the ability to provide a place to shower, shave, brush teeth and clean up. It is these simple things that we all take for granted that make it possible for our clients to be presentable at job interviews and obtain employment.

Our guests are as diverse as any other population. They come from varied ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. They include the working poor and those who were formerly middle class and have fallen below the poverty line. More and more, particularly for the elderly and the working poor, we provide a financial buffer that allows them to allocate what income they have to housing, clothing, child care, transportation and medication. With you as our partners, we take care of people's basic needs; we are a safety net. There is no place to go after us. We keep people alive and help them to remain healthy and safe from the storm.

We give them hope and the tools to reach their highest potential. Ultimately, we hope that we will be able to help improve the quality of life for each of our guests and residents. AND we can, if we all work together.

think about what a female American officer and pilot reportedly said, "If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito." As individuals we can accomplish more than we think, but as a swarm - well, the possibilities are endless.

So at this time of year when we reflect upon the year past and our plans for the future, I think about how much more difficult 2014 would have been without all of your smiles and your laughter. It is these things that have made the lives of the people we serve richer.

THANK YOU for all you do for New Bethany Ministries and for our community.

With the deepest gratitude and respect, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with joy, peace and good health.

Deane

United Way of the
Greater Lehigh Valley
UnitedWayGLV.org



More than 600 employees from 42 area businesses volunteered their time on Thursday, September 11 for Day of Caring. Coordinated by the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley, this annual event celebrates the spirit of volunteerism and launches the fall campaign for United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley.

Our friends from Air Products, Northampton County Bar Association, Aetna, and Lehigh University

spent the day at New Bethany Ministries sharing their time and talents to help us provide more effective services to people in need. From painting rooms at our transitional housing program to cleaning at Restoration House to planting flowers, our volunteers were on hand to pitch in where needed. We look forward to welcoming our volunteers back for the Day of Caring in 2015. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, call 610-691-5602 X21.



New Bethany's 23rd Annual Souper Day



Crystal, a resident of Restoration House, shares her story.

On October 21, we celebrated the 23rd annual Souper Day luncheon at the Event Center at Blue. More than 200 guests joined us to show support for New Bethany's programs, which help people affected by hunger, homelessness, poverty and mental illness in the Lehigh Valley.

In addition to a delicious lunch, we enjoyed a great program, which included remarks from keynote speaker John F. Malloy, Chairman, President and CEO of Victaulic, a mother and her son who reside at New Bethany's Restoration House program and a graduate of the program, who is working several jobs and living in a beautiful apartment with her two children.

The women shared their stories and explained how the

Restoration House program has helped them to further their education, increase their income and gain access to permanent affordable housing.

We thank everyone who joined us for Souper Day and for our generous sponsors who help make the event a success each year.

The Gate Church Sparks School Spirit for Kids at New Bethany

August 25th marked the end of summer fun for kids in New Bethany Ministries Transitional Housing Program (THP), a six-month shelter for families in need. Guests at THP receive case management and guidance to help them move toward self-sufficiency. Thanks to Pastor Eric Schwartz and members of The Gate Community Church in South Bethlehem, 17 children, aged 5—15 received back packs filled with grade specific school supplies to get their school year off to a great start.

"The Bible tells us that as leaders and Pastors, we are called to make disciples and equip God's people," said Pastor Eric. "What better place to bless than New Bethany Ministries who clearly shares the same passion for equipping as we do at the Gate," he continued.

"We wanted to share the love of God as the children of the New Bethany families begin a new school year by providing them with school supplies and backpacks this year. We hope it helps to start them off feeling loved and ready to learn!"

New Bethany is very grateful to The Gate Community Church. To learn how you can support New Bethany's programs, contact Dianne Moody at 610-691-5602 X27.



New Bethany offers New Beginnings

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Each day, thousands of Lehigh Valley citizens are affected by poverty, hunger and homelessness. They come from all walks of life. Some of them are your neighbors, struggling from paycheck to paycheck. They are food insecure, and unable to make ends meet.

Others live on the streets, unsure of where to find their next meal. Some struggle with mental health issues that make it difficult to maintain a stable residence.

For 29 years, New Bethany Ministries has offered food, shelter, kindness, and dignity to the most vulnerable in our community.

Guests at the Mollard Hospitality Center, have access to a hot shower, a meal and a place to escape the pain and isolation of life on the streets. We could not offer these services without support from our friends in the community. People just like you.

Did you know that for as little as \$12, a homeless person can receive a nutritious breakfast and lunch, a fresh change of clothing and referrals to other needed services for *an entire week*? We invite you to join New Bethany Ministries' New Beginnings Society. Members commit to a monthly or quarterly gift to help underwrite

the supportive services New Bethany offers to those suffering from poverty, homelessness and mental illness. You can make a difference in someone's life. Your contribution will help meet basic yet vital needs. For more information, call 610-691-5602, extension 27.

We need your hands your heart, and your financial support to meet the greater demands. We are asking for you to give what you can, in any way that you can. Our partnership with you is what makes us successful.

Meet George

George first came to New Bethany Ministries more than two decades ago. "A friend brought me here for lunch," he explained. In the early days, George was a valued volunteer at New Bethany's food pantry. About a year later, George became disabled due to complications from diabetes. He was hospitalized for six months and his wife of 31 years was laid off from her job. Unfortunately, they lost

their home. George and his wife eventually found a new residence and he continues to visit New Bethany's hospitality center each day for breakfast and lunch. "I've made a lot of good friends here," he said.



We Need Soup!

Did you know that in 2013, New Bethany Ministries offered services to more than 9,000 people? Many of them needed to visit New Bethany's emergency food pantry, the only food pantry in the region that is open five days per week. We have seen a significant increase over the past year in the number of individuals and families who are food insecure. We saw a 149% increase in the number of children and a 336% increase in the number of elderly people in need of emergency food.

We are very fortunate to have support from our "Pantry Partners," like Second Harvest, US Foods, and Trader Joe's, Weis, Giant & Wegmans. However, this generosity does not meet the growing demand in our community. We need soup! Will you consider hosting a soup drive at your job, church or community organization?

It's easy and you'll be glad you did. For more information, please call 610-691-5602 X27.



GRATITUDE

"SMALL CHEER AND GREAT WELCOME MAKES A MERRY FEAST."
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

"GRATITUDE IS THE SIGN OF NOBLE SOULS."
AESOP

"AS WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE, WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT THE HIGHEST APPRECIATION IS NOT TO UTTER WORDS BUT TO LIVE BY THEM."
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

"A THANKFUL HEART IS NOT ONLY THE GREATEST VIRTUE BUT THE PARENT OF ALL THE OTHER VIRTUES."
CICERO

"WE CAN ALWAYS FIND SOMETHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR, AND THERE MAY BE REASONS WHY WE OUGHT TO BE THANKFUL FOR EVEN THOSE DISPENSATIONS WHICH APPEAR DARK AND FROWNING."
ALBERT BARNES

"IF THE ONLY PRAYER YOU SAID IN YOUR WHOLE LIFE WAS, 'THANK YOU,' THAT WOULD SUFFICE."
MEISTER ECKHART



At this time of year, we consider the many things for which we are thankful. We asked some of the people we serve at New Bethany, as well as some members of our staff and board of directors, to share those things for which they are thankful.

Their answers illustrate the importance of what we do at New Bethany Ministries.

Whether it is preparing meals at the hospitality center, preparing food baskets for hungry families or providing shelter and guidance to those in need, we remain committed

to our mission of securing opportunities for people affected by poverty, hunger, homelessness and mental illness in the Lehigh Valley.

Here at New Bethany, we give thanks for our friends, donors and supporters in the community who make our work possible.

We could not provide our neighbors with critical services and programs without help from people like you.



Each Thanksgiving, scores of volunteers come to New Bethany Ministries to help us prepare and serve dinner.

An Attitude of Gratitude

“I am thankful for having New Bethany accept me and my daughter into the transitional housing program.”

-Jahlia

“I am thankful for my apartment, my neighbors and most of all, New Bethany Ministries for what they have done and still do for me.”

-Tommy

“I am thankful for God, my family and friends and for a second chance.”

-Kemisha

“I am thankful for being cancer free for the past two years.”

-Brian

“I am thankful for my family and New Bethany Ministries for allowing me to help others in need.”

-Cathie

“I am thankful for having a comfortable place for my children and me and for the people around me who are guiding me during this rough time in my life.”

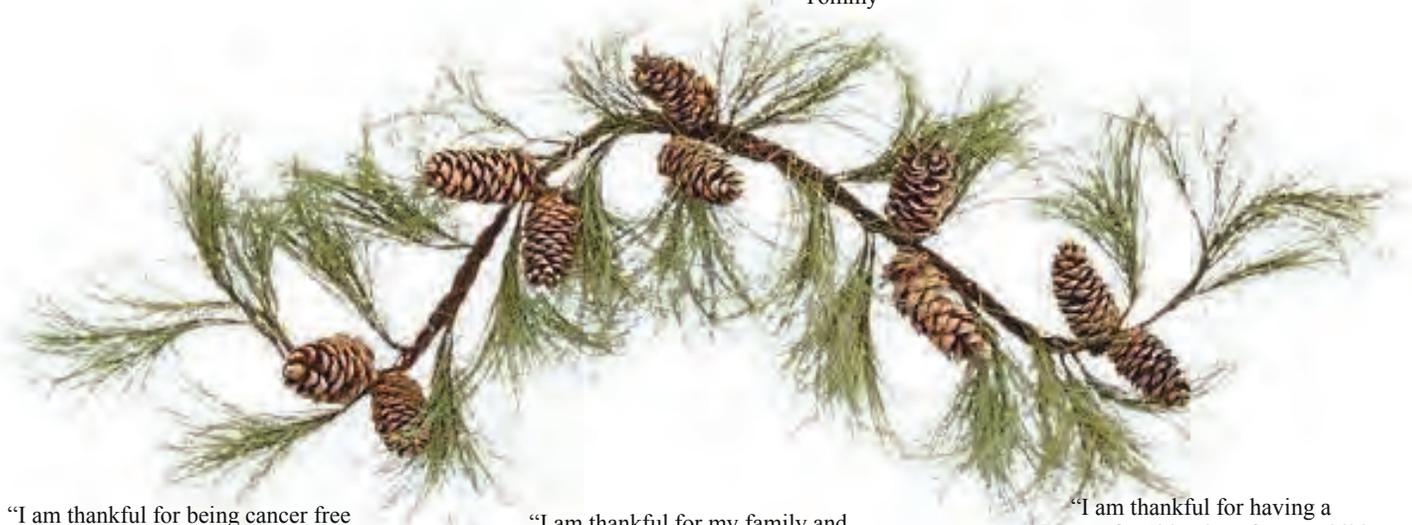
-Alexcia

“I am thankful for the work New Bethany has done for nearly 30 years in our community. We have never forgotten our mission, nor the importance of seeing the value of every person.”

-Anne

“I am thankful for being a mother, having an attitude of gratitude and helping residents at Restoration House achieve their goals.”

-Pam



Meet Samantha and Her Family

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Five years ago, Samantha Ortiz and her family left New York and moved to the Lehigh Valley for a fresh start. Samantha had lived with her extended family until early 2014, when Samantha's plans to move into an apartment near her cousins fell through.

"I was having some problems and the landlord was unwilling to work with me," she explained. Samantha had already given notice at her prior residence and found herself in a predicament. Unfortunately, things became worse before getting better.

"A friend invited us to live with her for two months," she continued. "I paid for the two months up front, but after a few days, I was told we had to leave. I didn't get a refund. I called the county to see if I could get help

finding shelter, but I was told I should go back to New York and ask for services there."

Samantha returned to New York for a while and lived with friends. A few weeks later, she had a conversation with her former caseworker in the Lehigh Valley. "She told me about New Bethany Ministries," said Samantha. Samantha, her partner Angel and their son Zavian moved into New Bethany's six-month transitional housing program in May.

When asked how the program has helped her, Samantha smiled. "Well, having food and a place to stay really helped us. I feel stronger since coming here. Cathie (program director) pushes me to do my best and she is very supportive. I can say that about all of the staff. They are supportive. They don't put you

down." Samantha recently secured a job with a clothing manufacturer. Angel is employed as a forklift operator and three-year old Zavian is enjoying daycare. We look forward to helping them take their next steps towards self-sufficiency.



Samantha, Angel and three year-old Zavian

Walk with us in 2015



HIGHMARK®

SAVE THE DATE!

New Bethany Ministries is one of 29 organizations participating in the 2015 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community. Highmark Blue Shield underwrites 100 percent of the cost of the event and funds raised directly benefit the people served by New Bethany Ministries.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 16, 2015, find those walking shoes and look for more information to come soon.

Registration opens Monday, February 2, 2015.

The 17th annual Luminaria Night will take place this year on December 13, 2014. Luminaria Night is a beautiful and enchanted evening when homes in a neighborhood line their streets with luminarias – white bags with votive candles burning inside. The proceeds from the sale of the luminarias go to New Bethany Ministries to help provide food and shelter to poor, hungry and mentally disabled individuals and homeless families in the Lehigh Valley. Would you like to participate? Contact Lili at 610-691-5602, ext. 21, or send an email to luminarianight@gmail.com



THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTING
CORPORATE SPONSORS



Annual Events

Our annual events provide much-needed support to New Bethany Ministries. If you were unable to be with us for these very special events in 2014 we hope that you will join us this year as a volunteer, participant and/or donor.

HIGHMARK WALK FOR A HEALTH COMMUNITY Saturday, May 30, 2015

30th ANNIVERSARY GALA Friday, June 12, 2015

24th ANNUAL SOUPER DAY LUNCHEON Tuesday, October 20, 2015

LUMINARIA NIGHT Saturday, December 13, 2014

Additional events will be announced throughout the year and will be posted on our website and Facebook. If you wish to volunteer to help plan an event or have an idea for a new one please contact Dianne at 610-691-5602, extension 27.

Please help us reduce our expenses by providing us with your email. Contact Lili at 610-691-5602 X21 or lkelhart@newbethanyministries.org. Your privacy is important. We do not share our list.

New Bethany Ministries
333 W. Fourth Street
Bethlehem, PA 18015
Phone: 610-691-5602
www.newbethanyministries.org