

LEHIGH COUNTY CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES
2009/2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Building Our Future



*Commit to the LORD whatever you do,
and your plans will succeed.*

Proverbs 16:3

Message from Board of Directors President

The term 'learning experience' is trite and overused, but I can tell you that it applies perfectly to my years on the Board of Directors of the Lehigh County Conference of Churches.

I have learned that 2,500 volunteers give of their time and talent to the mission of the Conference every year. They deserve our deepest thanks.

I have learned that the cash cost of the food on the plates of the 60,000 well-balanced meals that the Conference serves every year to our hungry neighbors is less than 50 cents per meal. That could not be possible without the generous support of our friends in churches, synagogues, mosques, wholesale and retail food purveyors, and Second Harvest Food Bank. We thank them as well.

I have learned that during these difficult economic times, when so many have lost their jobs and are threatened with eviction, the Conference could find ways to double the number of households to which we can provide cash rental assistance to prevent homelessness and provide hope. Congratulations to the Conference staff for seizing opportunities, mobilizing the community's and the Conference's resources in service to those most in need.

Another trite phrase comes to mind: It takes a village. But of course it does take all of us, working together, if we are to be an instrument of God's grace in our Lehigh Valley, leading the faith community in feeding, clothing, healing, housing, and uniting God's children. There are apparently 140 member congregations in the LCCC and about the same number of congregations in Lehigh County who have not yet become members of the LCCC. My hope and prayer is that all congregations in our county will partner with us in this ministry.

Please join us as we build for the future.

Richard Focht, Esq.
President

*Luck is what happens when
preparation meets opportunity.*
Seneca ²

Executive Director's Message

In all aspects of its mission the Lehigh County Conference of Churches provides highly effective interventions that keep intact person's dignity, helping youth and adults obtain basic needs such as food, housing, mental/physical health aids, and mentoring, as they walk toward greater self-sufficiency to reach their God-given potential. We do this in partnership with 144 congregations, 2,500 volunteers and 70 community and government organizations. We do this because we believe God calls us to put faith into action for God and for the common good.

Our organizational achievements this year include:

- Securing American Recovery Act Stimulus Funding from the City and County to fund rental assistance over two years for 300 families affected by the recession. We were the largest recipient and the first to put money "on the street."
- Expanding our Aspires Mentoring program to Allentown students at risk of not graduating to two full time staff which will enable us to impact the lives of 70 students and an equal number of mentors by June 2011
- With the work of our Volunteer Coordinator quantify the value of our volunteers: from July 2009 to April 2010 2,976 volunteers worked 12,643 hours worth \$204,500, the equivalent of 4 full-time staff
- Providing leadership to the Allentown/Lehigh County 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness which received funds for rental assistance to 269 households, added 20 housing units for mental health clients, and secured \$3600 in trash removal in encampments as well as placement of former encampments residents into appropriate housing
- Being awarded the Lehigh County Clearinghouse Grant to implement the County Comprehensive Housing Plan and HealthChoices Reinvestment Plan. Nearly \$3 million over 5 years will enhance our already effective housing and supportive services to special needs populations.

Recognition by the larger community came as Rev. Nelson received the Wallenberg Tribute for courageous leadership and service to the marginalized by the Institute for Jewish Christian Understanding of Muhlenberg College and the United Way Fellowship to Harvard Business School's Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management program.

Most importantly, despite a recession that reduced funding from various sources, your Lehigh County Conference of Churches marched on assisting even more of our neighbors in need.

Thank you for linking arms with us!

The Rev. Dr. Christine L. Nelson



HOW YOUR CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES

The Lehigh County Conference of Churches has embraced Results Based Accountability (RBA). That means in our reporting we no longer simply count services rendered, we quantify how lives have changed. For example, of 22 disabled and chronically homeless men and women receiving HUD-funded Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, 18 remained stable in housing for six months or more. The point is not that 22 persons received rental assistance; rather their lives became better as they experienced stability in housing.

This outcome based methodology is moving us also to refocus the way we talk about our mission and consequently revamp our website (by June 1) to enhance understanding and access. We hope you like the new view as you review our program accomplishments for 2009!

FOOD/NUTRITION (safety net services)

- 280 Lehigh County residents at risk for physical and behavioral illness received 20,206 meals at an average cost of \$.50/meal increasing health and nutrition
- 80% of the sample of citizens that received 36,248 meals at the Soup Kitchen indicated satisfaction with service

We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations.
Charles R. Swindoll

HOUSING

- 183 (108%) of goal of 170 Lehigh County citizens in danger of losing or seeking housing obtained/retained housing from Pathways
- 251 (86.5%) of goal of 290 accepted emergency shelter services/transitional housing support referrals via Linkage and Pathways
- 308 homeless persons accepted safety net services from Linkage
- 22 of 22 (100%) chronically homeless persons received recurring permanent monthly rental subsidy
- 33 of 37 (90%) chronically homeless persons maintained permanent housing for 18 months after housing placement
- 90 of 150 (60%) chronically homeless persons receiving intensive case management since 2004 are in stable housing

YOUTH SUCCEEDING (for 2008-9 school year)

- 79% (50) of 63 Allentown middle and high school students at risk of not staying in school were fully engaged in the Aspires Mentoring program throughout the school year
- 55% increased their GPA from the previous year
- Their average GPA increased by 7%
- 34% reduced their unexcused absences from the previous year
- 14 of the 50 students were seniors; 11 (79%) graduated and 10 of 11 (91%) who graduated went on to higher education

MENTAL/PHYSICAL HEALTH

- 52% (77) of 148 special needs Allentown residents that attend Daybreak have achieved at least one goal of their person-developed plan, removing barriers related to housing, economics, nutrition, life-skills, and health status
- 90% (315) of 350 persons without health insurance&/or prescription plan received health sustaining medication

CHRISTIAN UNITY/VOLUNTEERS

- From July 2009 to April 2010, 2,976 volunteers worked 12,643 hours worth \$204,504, the equivalent of 4 full-time staff
- 2 new churches joined the LCCC: Seibert Evangelical Congregational and Third Day Worship Center, both in Allentown
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service focused on unity with our Hispanic brothers and sisters increased momentum in this facet of Christian unity & leads to planning more focused discussions
- Initiation of “Brews and Believers” outreach model in place of traditional Lenten services resulted in thoughtful discussions among faith and civic leaders on “Where Is God In Tough Economic Times”
- Justice and Advocacy workshops on homelessness and hunger increased the number of congregations in our advocacy network and resulted in a meeting with U.S. Representative Charlie Dent and the creation of a Congregations in Mission workshop
- Justice and Advocacy associate website <http://ja.pjpr.org> managed by volunteer Bob Walden significantly increases our advocacy education to the community
- “Why Serve: Interfaith Dialogue on Service” workshop deepened relationships, effectively wedding dialogue and service.

JOBS

- 19 (76%) of 25 chronically unemployed persons were accessed as ready to enter our job training program YTD
- 18 of 25 chronically unemployed persons fully engaged in 4 weeks of training YTD
- 16 of 25 chronically unemployed persons fully engaged in 8 weeks of training YTD
- 12 of 25 chronically unemployed persons secured community employment YTD

People come to the Lehigh County Conference of Churches because they experience one or more risk factors; they leave with a sense of self-achievement, helping themselves to move through barriers to a more satisfying life, more confident they can care for themselves and contribute to the community.

Volunteers come to the LCCC wanting to give to the community or to experience the satisfaction that comes with reaching out to another human being. Whatever the reason, they leave changed persons.

Our programs make best use of community dollars: \$7,550 average cost of supportive and housing services vs. average institutionalization cost \$30,000 (prison, emergency room/hospitalization, drug and alcohol treatment)

FY2008/2009 FINANCIAL AUDIT

INCOME STATEMENT

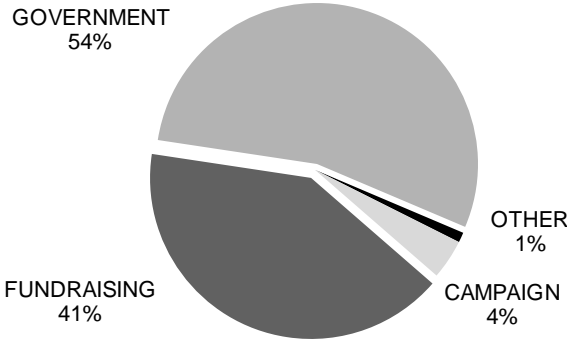
FUNDRAISING REVENUE	
CHURCHES	\$126,452
CONTRIBUTIONS	127,950
GRANTS	232,287
SPECIAL EVENTS	55,974
UNITED WAY	172,570
IN-KIND	<u>179,793</u>
	\$895,026
 GOVERNMENT REVENUE	
LEHIGH COUNTY	\$246,985
STATE SUMMER FEEDING	2,798
CITY OF ALLENTOWN	49,000
FEDERAL	<u>328,706</u>
	\$627,489
 CAMPAIGN FOR OPERATIONS	 \$100,706
 OTHER REVENUES	 \$48,303
 <u>TOTAL REVENUE</u>	 \$1,671,524

EXPENSE STATEMENT

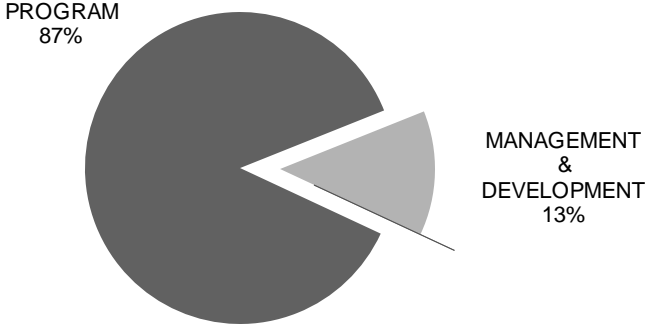
PROGRAM	
PATHWAYS	\$358,565
DAYBREAK	342,546
HOMELESS SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	209,471
SOUP KITCHEN	194,808
LINKAGE	66,107
HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION	60,820
ASPIRES	55,937
PHARMACEUTICAL ASSISTANCE	36,722
ECUMENISM	<u>110,058</u>
	\$1,414,319
 MANAGEMENT & GENERAL	 \$164,447
 FUNDRAISING	 \$91,816
 <u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	 \$1,691,297

PROPOSED REVENUE & EXPENSES FY 2010/2011

REVENUE
\$2,683,671



EXPENSES
\$2,683,593



Proposed revenue for FY 2010/2011 represents an increase of more than \$1 million over the previous year. Two new grants, American Recovery Act stimulus funding and the Lehigh County Clearinghouse, will provide over \$800,000 in funding for rental assistance, housing case management, and supportive services. These grants will assist households affected by the economic downturn and people with serious and persistent mental illness respectively.

Lehigh County Conference of Churches

Our Vision . . . Striving to be the face, feet, hands, and heart of God's grace in the Lehigh Valley, leading the faith community in feeding, clothing, healing, housing, and uniting God's children.

Our Mission . . . Responding to the call of Jesus Christ, the mission of the Lehigh County Conference of Churches is to unite communities of faith as ecumenical partners. Putting our faith into action, we minister to and advocate for those in need and encourage all to reach their full potential.

2009 - 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Margaret Sunny, Housing Case Manager
Nadine Patterson, HUD Housing Case Manager

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Charles Brannon, Coordinator

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