



Lehigh County Conference of Churches

Ecumenical Encounters

Volume 24 Number 4

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 2010

VOLUNTEERS MAKE OUR WORLD GO ROUND

Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Romans 12:13

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Volunteers make our world go round! In celebration of National Volunteer Week, the Lehigh County Conference of Churches wishes to extend our deepest thanks to all our volunteers who give so generously of themselves. Without your thoughtfulness, energy and commitment the mission of the Conference would be impossible to accomplish. And that is no exaggeration!

Your sheer numbers enable us to do so much more than otherwise could be done. In the first eight months of this fiscal year: 2,467 volunteers contributed 10,246 hours at a dollar value of \$156,143! WOW! That is equivalent to four full time staff!

The variety of gifts brought cannot be matched. Board members contribute their business acumen which keeps us focused, solvent, and always moving forward. Program support committees share their compassion with our clients, people who are struggling. They bring particular talents that supplement and support our staff, making our efforts stronger and more relevant to today's needs.

Our kitchen crews at Daybreak and the Soup Kitchen multi-task. They get their congregations involved in donating food and paper products; they scour cookbooks for nutritious, large volume recipes; they cook, bake, clean, and most importantly extend God's hospitality to strangers who soon become friends. Our Aspires Mentors befriend kids, using their great listening skills and simply who they are to open up new worlds of opportunity.

Then there are the party animals...you know who you are! If there is a holiday to celebrate,

a special meal to prepare, gifts to make another's life brighter, you are there. If someone has a special need, such as moving from homelessness to an apartment, somehow you bring the needed furniture and "stuff" at just the right time. And then there is the never ending disarray of the clothing room. God's special blessing to those who willingly wade through all these precious donations, organizing them to bring delight to people who have so little.

We salute those who "stand in the breach," our ecumenical and justice and advocacy partners who sometimes need to say hard things, who help us understand we must search out the systemic reasons for so many people in need. Thank you for being our standard bears, for not letting us or our community off the hook, for working for unity and a world where everyone has access to the basic needs of life.

We give thanks for the "one-timers" and service day participants. Your painting, moving furniture, cooking, donating and connecting computers, sorting, collating newsletters and brochures, etc., etc., brings new life where there was dreariness and hope where there was despair.

Most importantly, each of these acts of service helps us live our mission statement: "putting our faith into action, we minister to and advocate for those in need and encourage all to reach their full potential." Thanks for being God's hands, ears, mouth, and feet in our community!

Rev. Chris Nelson

Make a Commitment to Serve

Established in 1974, National Volunteer Week has grown exponentially in scope each year since, drawing the support and endorsement of all subsequent U.S. presidents, governors, mayors and other respected elected officials.

National Volunteer Week is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek out imaginative ways to engage in their communities. It's



about demonstrating to the nation that by working together, in unison, we have the fortitude to meet our challenges and accomplish our goals. National Volunteer Week is about

taking action, encouraging individuals and their respective communities to be at the center of social change—discovering and actively demonstrating their collective power to foster positive transformation.

National Volunteer Week is not only our moment in time to celebrate our volunteers, but to enable a nation to share ideas, practices, and stories, wherever they happen, and shaping a movement to re-imagine the notion of citizenship for the 21st century.

Visit info@lehighchurches.org
or call 610-433-6421
and make a commitment to serve.

THANK YOU FROM PATHWAYS

Pathways thanks all of our volunteers for their hard work. Pathways has changed quite a bit since we started receiving American Recovery Act stimulus funding for rental assistance, commonly known as HPRP. Not only do our volunteers have to do more intense work with the clients but we're all also still getting use to our new location at 544 Hamilton Street in Allentown. If it wasn't for our volunteers, we wouldn't be able to help as many clients as we do. Thank you!

Nathan came to Pathways homeless and moving place to place. Our volunteers did the intake and we realized that Nathan qualified for HPRP rental assistance. He'd lost his job and was evicted from his apartment. Nathan is a veteran, a medic in the Army. He is currently going to community college for medical coding and he's almost done.

Nathan's environment was not healthy, jeopardizing his schooling. He collected unemployment but was having trouble saving a security deposit and first month's rent. But he found a place he could afford, it passed the habitability inspection and the landlord agreed to work with us. Nathan was able to sign his lease in March and we are helping him with household items. Nathan, who came to us nervous and depressed, can now concentrate on his schooling and his future with confidence.

Mentors Make a Difference: Mentors Needed!

What is a mentor? A mentor is a caring adult who fills a combination of many different roles – part cheerleader, part coach, part teacher, part student, part guide, and part listener. A mentor guides, inspires, encourages, counsels, advises, questions, and answers. When you become a mentor, you are helping to change and shape the lives of at-risk youth in the community. In addition, you not only learn more about the community but you also learn more about yourself.

How can you help? Become a mentor! The Lehigh County Conference of Churches needs mentors for our ASPIRES Program. ASPIRES is for at-risk youth in the Allentown School District and is comprised of three different programs:

- school-based Partners in Progress (PIP), an after school tutoring/mentoring program at Dieruff High School that meets on Tuesday afternoons.
- school-based Partners in Progress (PIP), beginning on April 8, 2010, this program will also be offered to students at William Allen High school on Thursdays after school.
- site-based Very Important Parents (VIP), VIP is a program for pregnant and parenting teens and is held on Wednesday evenings from 5 to 8 PM for three 7 week sessions during the school year at Pinebrook Family Services. Students are provided a free hot meal for dinner, child care, and a life-skills presentation at every session.
- Community-based ASPIRES Year-Round, is a one-on-one mentoring match with a student in the community. In this program mentors meet at a time that is convenient for both the mentor and the student. We require a commitment of a couple of hours a week throughout the year.

Studies have shown that mentoring works! At-risk youth mentored through such programs as ASPIRES do better in school, have improved social skills, and are less likely to become involved in drug use or gang activities. Mentors already involved in these programs find this volunteer opportunity to be very rewarding and fulfilling as do the students. The program is growing and the demand for caring adult mentors is great. Take a moment and think about what **YOU** can do to make a difference in a young person's life.

~A lot of people have gone further than they thought they could because someone else thought they could... Have you mentored a child today?

Contact Gema Carvalho at 610-439-8653 or email her at gcarvalho@lehighchurches.org to inquire about becoming a mentor.

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE
VOLUNTEERS THAT HELP THE
LEHIGH COUNTY CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES ON A
DAILY BASIS. WITHOUT YOU MUCH OF OUR WORK
WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE!!!**



**Celebrating Christian Unity and
Ministry to People in Need**

**NOMINATIONS
for
THE LEHIGH COUNTY CONFERENCE OF
CHURCHES
2010 ECUMENICAL SERVICE AWARD**

**Nominations
Due
APRIL 15, 2010!!**

Since 1981, the Lehigh County Conference of Churches has recognized individuals within this community who have made outstanding contributions to Christian unity. We recognize and give awards in three categories:

- Youth – age 21 and under
- A group within a faith-based organization or church
- Adult

Qualifications include:

- *For individuals*, be an active member of a congregation in Lehigh County.
- *For groups* within organizations and churches, have a mission or activity that exemplifies Christian unity and outreach to people in need.
- Demonstrate an act of ministry extending beyond one's own denomination in cooperation with other Christian traditions and give witness to the important work of affirming and strengthening Christian unity.
- NOT be a previous recipient of the award.

Previous Recipients of the Ecumenical Service Award

2009	Millie Scrak J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home, Inc.	2002 -	Rev. William Horn	1991 -	Robert Moser
2008	Jessie Highet George Yoder Peace & Justice Team of Hope UCC	2001 -	William Diehl	1990 -	Ruth & Henry Messinger
2006 -	Henry Acres, SWiM Ministries	2000 -	Rev. Gary Piatt; Betty Minor	1989 -	Elizabeth Preston
2005-	Monsignor John Murphy; St. James AME Zion Church	1999 -	Rev. Richard Guhl	1988 -	Margaret Koether
2004-	Father Daniel Gambet; Luther Crest	1998 -	Leone Schuler	1985 -	James Hottenstein
2003 -	Alan Jennings	1997 -	Patricia Gaukler, Elizabeth Benke	1984 -	Rev. Tom Harris
		1996 -	Carol Closson	1983 -	Ruth Holben
		1995 -	Lois & Jim Hunter	1982 -	Rev. A. Malcolm MacMillan
		1994 -	Rev. Timothy Downs; Rev. Melvin Tatem	1981 -	Anne Shire
		1993 -	Geri Bodnar		
		1992 -	Herbert Stahl		

Enclosed is a nomination form for you to fill out. It is suggested that those submitting nominations should indicate specific ecumenical activities of the nominee and provide a brief personal narrative about the nominee.

PLEASE RETURN BY APRIL 15, 2010 TO:

Lehigh County Conference of Churches
ECUMENICAL SERVICE AWARD
534 Chew Street
Allentown, PA 18102

For further information, please contact the Rev. Dr. Christine L. Nelson at 610-433-6421 or by e-mail at events@lehighchurches.org. Visit our website: www.lehighchurches.org.

**NOMINATION FORM
Lehigh County Conference of Churches
2010 Ecumenical Service Award**

NOMINEE'S NAME: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Church: _____

MAKING NOMINATION: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Church: _____

Service of the nominee in cooperation with people/organizations from other traditions.

Past:

Present:

Activities of the nominee within her/his congregation.

Past:

Present:

Please check appropriate box

Youth

Adult

Group

In narrative form on a separate sheet of paper, please indicate why you are making this nomination and return your nomination by April 15, 2010 to:

Lehigh County Conference of Churches
ECUMENICAL SERVICE AWARD
534 Chew Street
Allentown, PA 18102

For further information, please contact:

Rev. Dr. Christine L. Nelson, Executive Director
Telephone: 610-433-6421
E-mail: events@lehighchurches.org

2 WHEELS 4 MEALS



**SCOOTER/MOTORCYCLE RIDERS
FEEDING OUR HUNGRY NEIGHBORS**



SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 2010

**Registration: KEYSTONE PARK,
RT. 329 & GREEN STREET
BATH, PA
Check-in time 9-11 AM**

**RIDER & PASSENGER FEE
\$20 PRE-REGISTRATION BY JUNE 1
2 WHEELS 4 MEALS Tee Shirt, BBQ, Prize Ticket
\$15 BBQ & TICKET ONLY
Day of Ride Registration – BBQ & Ticket Only: \$20**

RIDE STARTS AND ENDS AT KEYSTONE PARK

**50+ MILE LOOP WITH REST STOPS
Separate routes for big and small dogs**

BBQ STARTS AT 1 PM

LIVE MUSIC

MILLER BLOOD CENTER VAN ON SITE

**TO THE BENEFIT OF
EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAMS IN ALLENTOWN AND BATH**

**Make checks payable to: LEHIGH COUNTY CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES
Send to: 534 Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18102**

**Questions? Call SCOOTDUDE at 610-433-6421
E-mail: scootdude@rcn.com**

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

From Daybreak

As you may already know April is Volunteer Month. Here at Daybreak we have some generous people who lend a very appreciated and needed hand.

At Daybreak we have students from Lehigh Carbon County Community, Cedar Crest, and Muhlenberg College. The students perform a variety of services from taking blood pressure screenings, to doing art projects, helping in the kitchen or just socializing with our clients.

Our program has over thirteen churches who prepare delicious and nutritious meals for us. The Pennsylvania Business School comes in once a month and cooks dinner for Daybreak. The students are always a joy to have. They are friendly and outgoing they are often seen interacting with our clients creating smiles on faces.

Daybreak does have some openings for either churches or businesses to come and help prepare a meal. If you have any questions please call us at (610) 820-5049. We thank you in advance.



PROGRAM NEEDS

- **Daybreak** - The warm weather is arriving and Daybreak loves to go on picnics! We usually go to Cedar Beach and enjoy the warm weather over some hot dogs and burgers. Our members enjoy drinking cold Iced Tea and playing Frisbee. We are asking for donations of: Hot Dogs, Hamburgers Rolls, Chips/pretzels, Olives/pickles, Paper Plates.
- **General Conference Needs:** Hard Back or vinyl chairs for our Chew Street reception room, Commercial Type Vacuum Cleaner, Adjustable Office Desk Chairs, Paper Products-Plates, Plastic Forks, Spoons and knives for Soup Kitchen, Office supplies-Xerox Paper.

The Early Bird Gets The Worm!

DAYBREAK'S ANNUAL PERENNIAL PLANT SALE

WHEN: MAY 1ST, 2010
WHERE: NEFF'S UNION UCC
ROUTE 873
TIME: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE
LEHIGH COUNTY CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES
DAYBREAK PROGRAM



THE ALLENTOWN COMMISSION TO
END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Invites You To

**A COMMUNITY RESPONSE
FOR ENDING HOMELESSNESS**

YEAR 3 OF THE 10-YEAR PLAN AND BEYOND

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2010
LEHIGH VALLEY HOSPITAL
MUHLENBERG CAMPUS
ENTER MAIN ENTRANCE

8:00 AM
REGISTRATION &
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:30 - 10:00 AM
PROGRAM & DISCUSSION

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
PATRICIA HOLLAND, MS, C.R.C.
VP OF RESIDENTIAL & HOMELESS PROGRAMS, PROJECT H.O.M.E.

PHILADELPHIA-BASED PROJECT H.O.M.E. IS
COMMITTED TO BREAKING THE CYCLE OF
HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY THROUGH STREET
OUTREACH, SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND
COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES.

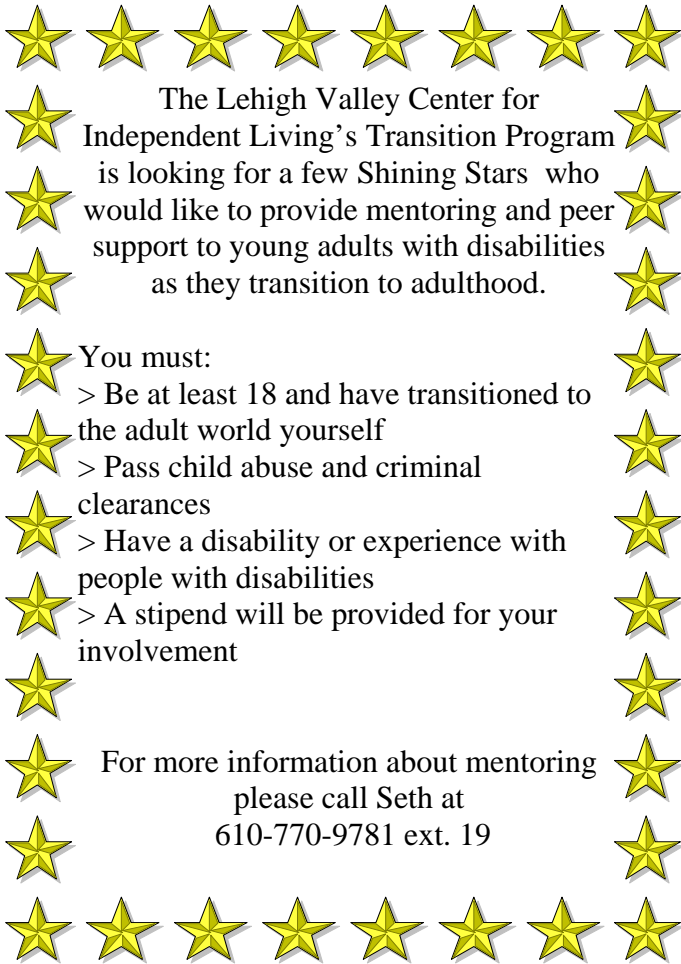
RSVP BY APRIL 15, 2010:
LAUREN GIGUERE: GIGUERE@ALLENTOWNCITY.ORG
610-439-5965

JOIN US FOR A TOUR OF THE LEHIGH COUNTY OF CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES

Upcoming tours: April 15th, 2010 May 20th, 2010 June 17th, 2010 July 15th, 2010

All tours are held at the Chew Street location at 11:30AM. Please call Gigi Pacheco, Administrative Assistant, to attend: 610-433-6421.

Bulletin Board



The Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living's Transition Program is looking for a few Shining Stars who would like to provide mentoring and peer support to young adults with disabilities as they transition to adulthood.

- You must:
- > Be at least 18 and have transitioned to the adult world yourself
 - > Pass child abuse and criminal clearances
 - > Have a disability or experience with people with disabilities
 - > A stipend will be provided for your involvement

For more information about mentoring please call Seth at 610-770-9781 ext. 19

*Get Involved in a
Community Wide
Interfaith Community
Service Week*

*Interfaith Coalition for Community Service of Allentown
Turning Faith into Action*

**Progressive Prayer Walk
April 24, 2010
Community Service Projects
April 25 - May 2, 2010**

*Working Towards
Making the Greater
Allentown
Community
a Better Place
by Turning Faith
into Action*

Lehigh County
Conference of Churches

Interfaith in Action
Committee

**Presents
"Why People of Faith Do
Service"**

**An Evening of Interfaith
Dialogue**

April 29, 7-9 PM (Thursday)

International desserts
At Muslim Association
of Lehigh Valley
1988 Schadt Avenue, Whitehall PA

All are welcome.

For Information:
Email events@lehighchurches.org
610-433-6421

For more information please call Kimberly Lapp, 610-468-4049 or Nusheen Beik, 610-391-0538 or visit www.InterfaithCoalitionofAllentown.org

**Stay Tuned for our New Look Website
with Added Features**

The LCCC website is undergoing a complete overhaul – a new look, new features, and new ways to donate your time, talent, and treasure. For instance, for your convenience we are in the process of being approved for donations through PayPal.

We hope to have the new look www.lehighchurches.com up and running by this time next month and, when it is, we'll welcome your comments.

**Annual Wallenberg Tribute –
Institute for Jewish Christian Understanding**

Sunday, April 18, 2010
3:30 - 5:00 pm,
Moyer Hall, Miller Forum,
Lecturer: Yossi Klein Halevi

5:00 pm,
Seegers Union Great Room
(111-113), Reception and Dinner

Honoree: The Rev. Dr. Christine L. Nelson

Each year Muhlenberg College and the IJCU pay tribute to one or more local individuals who are recognized for their courageous moral action on behalf of others.

For registration info contact ijcu@muhlenberg.edu or (484) 664-3470.

Lehigh County Conference of Churches
534 Chew Street
Allentown, PA 18102

April 2010

Non-Profit Organization
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Allentown, PA

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Conference of Churches

The Rev. Dr. Christine L. Nelson,
Executive Director

Ira Faro,
Development Senior Director

Tom Smith,
Operations Director

Tom Walker,
Human Services Director

Carol Closson,
The Rev. William Seaman,
Executive Directors Emeritus

APRIL EVENTS

**NOMINATIONS FOR LEHIGH COUNTY CONFERENCE OF
CHURCHES**

**2010 ECUMENICAL SERVICE AWARDS
DUE APRIL 15, 2010**

**ANNUAL WALLEMBERG TRIBUTE
2010 HONOREE THE REV. DR. CHRIS NELSON
APRIL 18, 2010, 5:30 PM
MUHLENBERG COLLEGE, ALLENTOWN, PA**

**A COMMUNITY RESPONSE FOR ENDING HOMELESSNESS
YEAR 3 OF THE 10 YEAR PLAN AND BEYOND
LEHIGH VALLEY HOSPITAL MUHLENBERG CAMPUS
APRIL 22, 2010, 8:00 AM**

**AN EVENING OF INTERFAITH DIALOGUE
“WHY PEOPLE OF FAITH DO SERVICE”
APRIL 29, 2010, 7-9PM
MUSLIM ASSOCIATION OF LEHIGH VALLEY**

United Way of the
Greater Lehigh Valley



Lehigh County Conference of Churches

Email: info@lehighchurches.org

Telephone: 610-433-6421

Fax: 610-439-8039

www.lehighchurches.org