



Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot

<http://www.lvoutreachdepot.org/>

1866 Auburn Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015

610-861-7373



A mission of Wesley Church, a United Methodist community

Giving back to our veterans

Veterans, referred through Hope for Veterans, comprise one of the largest groups we serve at the Depot.

Many of these men and women have struggled to reconnect with their communities; they find themselves homeless and unable to find a job. *Hope for Veterans* helps them find affordable housing and refers them to the Depot to furnish their new homes. We are especially happy to help, because they have served our country AND because they make our jobs easy!

These reliable, kind, gentle, and humble veterans are so very thankful for anything that we can do to help them. They know their needs and are amenable to creative repurposing to make their homes



comfortable. One veteran needed a small kitchen table, but we did not have any available tables. As we walked around the warehouse, I spotted a tea cart with two attached leaves. I pulled one side up and asked him if he could use this as a table. It was perfect for him, so we looked for a chair and found an almost perfect match. Something magical happens when little things come together. God continues to be work with us as we help others.

God Moments

They happen every day...

Joellen came in at the end of the afternoon to pick up the furniture she had chosen on her first visit to the Depot. "I know a lot of people wouldn't bother saying 'thank you,'" she told us, "but you have been such a blessing to me. I have been without furniture for two months and sleeping on the floor."

"You have been a real blessing to me, and the only good thing that has happened to me this week."

Not only that, Joellen further shared: "My father died unexpectedly two days ago, and my husband, who had been in remission from cancer, had to return to the hospital the same hour my father passed away. You have been a real blessing to me, and the only good thing that has happened to me this week. I will pay this forward. God bless you."

Depot inventory needs a boost!

Did you know the Depot closed for 3 days last month? This was not—for a change—due to the weather. Fact is, we had so few dressers, beds, sofas, and tables and chairs that we couldn't keep up with demand. How disappointing for our guests and embarrassing for us! We decided to reschedule appointments and concentrated on picking up furniture donations.

At the moment, we are pretty well stocked, but it can be difficult keeping ahead of the needs. Are you ready to redecorate, downsize, or get rid of some furniture that is still in good condition? Give us a call at 610-861-7373; we'll be happy to pick it up. Or, if you are able, bring it over on a day that we are open.

- Travel-size toiletries for personal care kits.
- Cleaning supplies for the cleaning buckets we send to flood victims in the South. These include:

- Air freshener: one can aerosol or pump
- Clothesline: one 100-foot or two 50-foot lines (cotton or plastic)
- Dish soap: one 16- to 28-ounce bottle
- Clothespins
- Dishwashing gloves
- Dust masks
- Handi-wipes or reusable wipes: No terry cleaning towels
- Insect repellent spray: 6- to 14-ounce aerosol or spray pump with protective cover

- Liquid household cleaner: one 12- to 16-ounce bottle of concentrated liquid cleaner that can be mixed with water
- Liquid laundry detergent: one 50-ounce or two 25-ounce bottles
- Scouring pads: Non-stainless steel (Brillo or SOS pads); nothing with built-in soap
- Scrub brush: plastic or wooden handle (no toilet brushes)



Feel free to bring any of these items by the Depot OR to Wesley Church.

If you would rather contribute \$\$\$, make your check to the LVOD and send it to us at our new Post Office box. P.O. Box 373, Bethlehem, PA 18016.

- Sponges: Only non-cellulose sponges due to mold issues
- Trash bags, heavy duty: 33- to 45-gallon size, at least 2-mm thick
- Work gloves: cotton with leather palms or all leather

Our newest volunteer

Several months ago, we were asked to consolidate our inventory because another group needed more space and could pay a better rate than we could as a non-profit. We asked church members for help moving and rearranging our inventory. Enter Tony Vigilanti!

Tony must have had a great time with us, because he has been coming back every Saturday when he's free. Younger than most of us, Tony is strong and works well with others. On his first day, he even helped change my very flat tire, but that's another story ...

A member of Wesley United Methodist Church and husband to Audrey, Tony is also Elijah Jacobson's step-grandfather. He works in maintenance at Hickory Farms and enjoys working with the men at the Depot. He wishes he could do more, but his family and work are important to him and come first. He also helps the senior group in his community and is always willing to give a helping hand. Audrey describes him as loving, caring and patient. We are so glad that God sent him to us. ~Karen Schaefer



Going with the flow: a team effort

Each day at the Depot has its own rhythm.

Sometimes it's slow because people do not show up or they call to reschedule. Other days are hectic as guests arrive late for their appointments, are slow making their choices, or have large families with lots of needs. After being out for several weeks because of a foot problem, I was both excited and a bit worried when I returned to work. We were short of volunteers and had a full schedule of new guests and those returning to pick up furniture. Not to worry—God had our backs, and we had a day that flowed just perfectly.

Several guests rescheduled appropriately so that there was only one guest every half hour. Bunny filled the shelves with donated kitchenware and assembled cleaning bags; Karen R. worked with me to pack selected items and label furniture for guests; and Nina welcomed guests, answered the phone, and entered all data for the day. We also had several men available to help shift and load furniture.

Five new guests kept their appointments, and three guests picked up the furniture they had selected on their first visit. After weeks of running short of furniture and other items, the most amazing thing happened—all the new guests found everything they needed. We were ecstatic! Additionally, Chris Potter-Jones stopped in with some towels and dish sets she picked up at the thrift store to donate; Tom and Anne Henshaw stopped by with some pots and pans and 10 new no-sew quilts for our guests; another member of Wesley stopped in with piles of linens and blankets/comforters, many of which were brand new; and then Shelly Goldberg stopped by with extra kitchen supplies donated to Project You Are Love. We truly felt the presence of God working with us to do his work. ~Karen Schaefer

A boatload of donations arrives at the Depot

We continue to be amazed by the creative ways people in the community find to help others. One morning a women came in with a "boatload" of supplies she hoped we could use. Very quickly we learned that Brittni Kholi started collecting items to donate to an organization as a way to give back to the community. Her efforts soon resulted in such a huge collection of household items that she needed to find non-profit agencies to help. She went to website: Donate Local Simple (<http://donatelocalsimple.com/nonprofits/>), and found the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot. She retrieved the list of items we could use and went even further to

explore the Depot website (<http://www.lvoutreachdepot.org/>). We became the happy recipients of five large garbage bags and six boxes of

items for guests of the Depot.

But wait! There is more. Brittni works in the school system, so she has summers off. She engages children to help sort items and put things together for distribution. When she was leaving, she asked if we needed volunteers and indicated that she

might come back in the summer. We pray that she will find her way back, so she can see first hand the people who benefit from her generosity. Thank you, Brittni! God Bless You!



Every Third Sunday!



Don't miss the Depot truck at Wesley Church, 2540 Center Street, Bethlehem. Bring your donations, and pile them in!



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1866 Auburn Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015 610-861-7373

Hours: Tuesdays & Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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610-865-5715**