



Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot

A community outreach program founded by Wesley Church

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

1866 Auburn Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015

610-861-7373



Depot fundraising a creative endeavor

How do we raise money for the Depot? Any way we can!

First, a number of people have made pledges for our support, which is vital because it gives us a baseline of income that we use to form a budget covering rent, utilities, and other basic expenses. Second, we solicit non-pledge donations through holiday giving and matching grant campaigns. Third, we apply for grants offered to organizations like ours. These are not for day-to-day operational expenses but instead for special items that enhance our mission—such as money to buy beds for our guests. Fourth, although we make pickups for free, we do ask people to consider giving a donation toward gas and truck maintenance.

Finally, throughout the year, we hold various fund-raising events.

One such event happened at the end of September at the **Apollo Grill** in historic Bethlehem. This upscale bistro regularly hosts “Therapeutic Thursday” events, which can be used as fundraisers for local charities. The Depot event was a fun evening full of fellowship that netted \$1,380 for the Depot! A huge THANK YOU to Donna

Giardina—and to the Apollo Grill—for making this event possible.

The **Depot Sidewalk Sale**, another recent fundraiser, was a HUGE success! Collectibles and other wonderful items



Because this year's Sidewalk Sale was such a big success, we plan to have one every year! Consider donating your collectibles, and we will turn that donation into much needed funds for the Depot's work.

such as jewelry, linens, and framed artwork were given to the Depot over the past year specifically for us to sell. This we did at the **Bethlehem Historic District Sidewalk** sale held in mid-September. Ginny and Ernie Josar and other volunteers who love helping and shopping at yard sales organized our items and worked on sale day, earning valuable funds for the Depot and publicizing our work. Special thanks to Laura Zaharakis, Bunny

Miller, and Harry and Karen Schaefer.

The sale garnered \$700, which we used to purchase items for cleaning bags, personal-care kits, kitchen items, and additional disaster relief kits that we send to crisis areas wherever they are needed. Because of this success, we plan to make this annual event into a sale that focuses on collectibles. If you have collectibles you no longer want, consider donating them to us—at any time of the year—and we will use them to support our budget.



While we do not encourage families to bring children to the Depot, they often have no other choice. So, in the spirit of serving individuals and families, we do whatever we can to help—even if it means carrying the tiniest next to our hearts.

Recently, within a two-week time frame, we served two families with young babies at the Depot. One family brought a two-day-old baby (ahhh!) with 2 older sisters; the other a 2-week-



old baby snuggled to Mom's chest with 5 siblings waiting at home. Both families desperately needed furniture due to unexpected events in their lives. While the mom in one family and the dad in the other selected items, our volunteers talked to, held, walked, and cuddled these bundles of joy.

We prayed that these tiny little girls would learn to know God and, as they grow, share their love with those in need.



The holidays are coming!

Count your own blessings and consider blessing others by making a donation to the Depot.

Depot volunteers come in all ages

About two years ago, the Depot welcomed one of its younger volunteers. Dino Zaharakis started by volunteering at the Depot during the summer months. He had learned about our work through his grandparents, Ginny and Ernie Josar, who also volunteer. Hearing about all of the great things that happen at the Depot piqued Dino's interest, so he gave it a try. After one day at the Depot, Dino kept coming back because of what he calls the "feel good" factor.

A strong and reliable young man, Dino steps up to the plate when anyone needs help on the warehouse floor or loading items into their vehicle. He also helps pick up furniture and other items for us. His amazing smile puts people at ease immediately, and he enjoys having a chance to occasionally practice his Spanish.

Dino was born in the United

States, but his father was born in Australia to a Greek family and was raised in Greece. His father first came to America to attend Lehigh University, and he has

lived here ever since. Dino loves visiting his father's relatives in Greece with his 15-year-old sister and 10-year-old brother.

An active athlete, Dino manages to volunteer at the Depot during the school year while at the same time participating

in lacrosse, football, and wrestling. He attends St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and goes to Saucon Valley High School where he has served as class president for four years. After high school, Dino anticipates continuing his education at either the Naval Academy or Purdue University and plans to study engineering.



WISH LIST

- Dishes
- Pots and Pans
- Bedding
- Towels
- Dressers
- Table and chair sets

Be inspired!
Share your gifts with the Depot.



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.



A mission of **Wesley Church**

A United Methodist Community
2540 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017
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