



December 2012

Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot

*A mission of Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem, Pa.
1866 Auburn Street, Bethlehem, PA 610-861-7373*

A Vision of the Future for the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot

What a wonderful year this has been! Generous donors all over the Lehigh Valley have donated furniture, appliances, bedding, linens, household goods and money to help improve the living conditions of hundreds and hundreds of needy families served by our ministry.

Every Tuesday and Saturday we experience God at work through the hands and feet of our dedicated volunteers. Drivers, movers, packers, dusters, arrangers, managers, inventory control workers, data entry folks, and people telling our story through our local newspapers, television interviews and news programs.

Every so often our volunteers get a few minutes break and take advantage of the opportunity to share their experiences with others who also experience what we call "God Moments", moments where we clearly see God at work in the lives of each of us and in the lives of each of our guests.

A New Years Resolution

Do you have a couple of hours once a month that you might commit to helping our ministry? We need people willing to reach out on our behalf to local hotels, businesses and social agencies, inviting their support and keeping us in their prayers.

Please give this prayerful consideration. Contact Gayne Marriner at 610-730-5420 or gayne@ptd.net, Carol Totten at 610-737-1640 or totten.60@rcn.com or Barbara Reimers at 610-694-0767 or bbreimers@verizon.net

Merry Christmas to Both our Guests and Volunteers!



As the 2012-2013 holiday season approached, we found that we were blessed to be able to offer our guests a wonderful variety of Christmas trees and Christmas decorations. Dozens of our guests' homes now display those items!

Our Outreach Depot volunteers will receive a special gift also. They'll be able to enjoy more of the holidays with families since the Depot will be closed December 25th, Christmas Day, Saturday December 29th and January 1st, New Years Day.

December Donations

The Depot trailer will be at the front door of Wesley UMC Sunday, December 16th.

This month we're asking you to go through your closets and consider donating your unused warm blankets and comforters, towels and small appliances to the Depot. That way you'll be able to help support our guests, many of whom have nothing, while making room in your home for the many gifts you'll find under your Christmas tree!

www.lvoutreachDepot.org

THANK YOU BOX
Paying it Forward
by Karen Schaefer

Walking into the Depot with a gift bag is not unusual except when it is brought by a guest in need of assistance. Concerned for the safety of the bag's contents, I asked the guest about the purpose of the bag. She indicated that it was a "gift for the Depot, everyone at the Depot." I requested that she hold on to the bag until she had made her household selections and I would gather some of the volunteers at the Depot to receive the gift. She was very pleased with her ability to select items she needed and anxious to present her gift to "the Depot"(and the wise men came bearing gifts).

The gift bag held an orange and green box with fall colored leaves pasted on the box top. With anticipation we opened the box to find a note on the inside of the "box top," with pencils and colored slips of paper. The message on the box top read:

THANK YOU BOX
A special
THANKSGIVING DAY
TRADITION
For the
LEHIGH VALLEY OUTREACH DEPOT
VOLUNTEERS

When the leaves start changing color,
And before Thanksgiving Day,
Write a prayer request
On a slip of paper.
Fold the paper and
Put the paper in this box. Then...

PRAY
For the needs.
On Thanksgiving Day, gather together
And pass around this box.
Take a paper, open it,
And give THANKS for the Prayers God answered.

As I wipe away a single tear that has traversed my cheek, I already know that my prayer request was granted. WOW! This is as powerful as the birth of Christ and reminds me that we all have a lot to be thankful for at the Depot and in our personal lives. AND most important, I (we) are thankful for the guest sharing this thoughtful and grace filled gift, one that will last a lifetime.

Perhaps you might consider starting this tradition with your friends and family to extend gracious hospitality all year round.

A Reminder:

You can give a gift to the Depot, giving the recipient a memorial card showing you made a donation in their name.

If you and your family draw names for gifts or choose a charity to give to, please consider the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot. Material objects could be a toaster, coffee pot, crock pot, toaster oven, sheet set (any size) comforter or blanket (any size). Those items can have a huge impact on a family going through a difficult period in their lives. Blessings and Merry Christmas!



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A Guided Tour of the Depot



Bill Kuntze "Taking the Initiative"

Last month Rev. Bill Kuntze helped us communicate the story of the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot in a broadcast seen all over southeastern Pennsylvania and western New Jersey. If you missed that broadcast, you can see it by opening your web browser and entering: <http://alturl.com/2ke22>.

The broadcast includes a guided tour of the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot, the story of how we help people in need here in the Lehigh Valley and assemble thousands of disaster relief kits that are sent all over the state, the nation and the world.

We were also given the opportunity to let viewers know how desperately we need the use of warehouse space to expand and continue this very worthwhile ministry. Winter is fast approaching and presently the Depot is set up in an unheated warehouse.

Our landlord has been very generous in allowing us to use this space at a greatly reduced rental rate. That space is being advertised for lease and the entire warehouse building is on the market for sale.

If a renter or buyer should make a reasonable offer, we'll have 90 days to shut down or move this ministry.

HURRICANE SANDY

Our Response

As Hurricane Sandy approached the East Coast, we realized that our guests and volunteers might find it difficult if not impossible to get to the depot on Tuesday, October 30th. We had 10 new guests and 4 returning guests scheduled.

We decided to deal with this issue by closing the depot Tuesday and rescheduling all of those appointments for Friday, November 2nd. Fortunately we had enough willing volunteers to make this happen.

We contacted all guests by phone and their caseworkers by email to see if this would work for them. Most found this an acceptable alternative, but a couple of guests had schedule conflicts and had to be rescheduled for later dates.

We anticipate an increase in appointment requests as well as a need to assemble as many flood buckets as possible. Can you volunteer some time?

November Donations

The Depot trailer will be at the front door of Wesley UMC Sunday, November 18th. Don't forget to save your travel size or hotel toiletries and donate them along with your gently used small appliances, kitchenware, lamps, serviceable towels, sheets and other bedding.

www.lvoutreachdepot.org

Holiday Gift Giving

Celebrate the holidays this year by starting a tradition. If your family or business office exchanges names for gift exchanging, consider doing something different this year.

The Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot offers an alternative to buying gifts that may get placed in a closet or end up at a garage sale. You can purchase items for one of the various UMCOR disaster relief kits or the local kits that the Depot assembles for local distribution. You can purchase various new items such as cleaning supplies, towels, cloths, sheet sets, toasters, coffee pots that will make a special gift for a person or family who is less fortunate than we. You can make a monetary donation that helps cover operating expenses. Whichever alternative you choose, you'll know that this Christmas you've made a significant difference in the life of someone who really needs your help.

New Signs Helping People Get to the Depot

Every Tuesday and Saturday, when the Depot is open for business, volunteers set up directional signs at strategic intersections to help guide guests and donors to our location.

It is often confusing for people to know exactly where to turn. These signs contain directional arrows. After 2.5 years of usage and weather elements playing havoc on the signs it was time for new ones.

An anonymous donor learned of this need and has graciously covered the cost of the three new ground signs.

The Depot trailer is now sporting a sign for everyone to see as it travels the roads throughout the Lehigh Valley picking up donated furniture and household goods.

The Depot Team acknowledges and thanks this generous sign donor.

A Request for Help

Do you have a strong back and a few hours available to help pick up donated furniture and other household goods from generous donors? Do you have a truck that you'd be willing to use to bring those items to the depot?

We're looking for a couple of strong, able bodied people to help pick up donated goods one evening a week or one evening a month. This would be done after work hours and after the Depot is closed. If we get enough volunteers you'd only be asked to help perhaps only once a month.

Please give this idea your prayerful consideration. Contact Gayne Marriner at 610-730-5420 or gayne@ptd.net or Bob Totten at 610-737-1640 or totten.60@rcn.com

STATISTICS

Since launching this ministry in April, 2010, the Outreach Depot has distributed more than \$575,000 worth of used furniture, household good and disaster relief supplies to the Lehigh Valley, to Pennsylvania and around the nation and the world.

Guests Referred	1,207
Household Members	3,922
Volunteers	240
Volunteer Hours	14,557
Web Site Visits	11,428

Kits Assembled, Verified and Distributed:
Disaster Relief Kits 9,918

Furniture Distributed:	
Chairs	1,671
Tables	1,103
Small Appliances	730
Beds	566
Lamps	557
Dressers	521
Sofas	490
TVs	337
Desks	174
Large Appliances	95



October 2012

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Another Benefactor!



1-800-GOT-JUNK

Another coincidence or just another of our many "God Moments"?

1-800-GOT-JUNK is a nationwide business that responds to people who simply need to or want to get rid of things they no longer have use for. They will come to your house, storage unit or business and remove whatever you want taken, for a fee. Most of what they take could end up in the landfill.

Some of what they take is good furniture. We recently connected with this business and have set up a win-win relationship that helps out our ministry! 1-800-GOT-JUNK wants to reduce the volume of stuff going into the landfill. They, like us, believe in recycling. They'd also like to reduce their landfill costs! So....we're willing to receive their serviceable "junk" and they're willing to bring it to the Depot free of charge! For the last two months we've received about two truckloads a week and the needy people of the Lehigh Valley have been the beneficiaries.

If you need to downsize or dispose of some things, please contact the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot first! Then, call 1-800-GOT-JUNK and ask them to come pick up whatever you have left. This will not only help

our ministry, but reduce your cost! When you get a chance, please thank 1-800 GOT JUNK for their awesome support!

What's new on the Depot Web Site?

We have just recently added a new link, "STATISTICS" to our web site. By clicking on this link you can find out the latest statistics from our database.

We report the numbers and value of furniture and house wares that have gone to families in need throughout the valley. We report the types and quantities of disaster relief kits processed by the Depot. We list the number of volunteers, total recorded volunteer hours, the number of visits to our web site, a listing of the many social agencies who referred clients to the depot, and finally, the numbers of adults and children who have been directly touched by this ministry.

Go to www.lvoutreachdepot.org/

October Donations

The Depot trailer will be parked at the front door of Wesley UMC Sunday, October 21st.

Don't forget to save your travel size or hotel toiletries and donate them along with your unused small appliances, kitchenware, lamps, serviceable towels, sheets and other bedding.

Volunteers are not paid — not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.

Anonymous

www.lvoutreachdepot.org

A Collage of Valued Volunteers

This month we want to acknowledge the efforts of several dedicated volunteers who help out regularly at the Depot. These folks can be found any Tuesday or Saturday "digging in" and doing a variety of things



Joan Palisca



Bunny Miller



Joan, Bunny and Mary Jean come into the Depot never knowing what the day will bring. They can be found working on various projects in the Disaster Relief Kit area; they can be found working on

Mary Jean Cole various projects in the Disaster Relief Kit area; they can be found sorting through donated items and placing them in an organized fashion on the shelving or they can be found working with a guest, helping them find what they need to make their living conditions better. Ladies, thank you for your dedication to the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot.

We also want to recognize other volunteers who are less visible at the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot, but without their dedicated support, the Depot wouldn't be able to operate efficiently:

Allan Cole is known by church members as the "computer guru". Allan has helped many within

our church family with large and small computer problems. The same applies to the Depot. Allan has solved several major issues that we've had to deal with. As any business, we are dependent on the computer and the network working properly. Allan, we appreciate your service!



Sharon Schultz is the treasurer for the Depot. Sharon puts in countless hours which most of us don't even know about. Her behind the scenes work is often unacknowledged. Let's change that! Sharon processes all Depot purchase requests; all Depot reimbursement requests; Depot bills; all incoming donations and fundraising amounts. Sharon, thank you so much for your tireless effort and awesome support on behalf of the Depot!

A Special Volunteer Opportunity

Do you have muscle power? Do you have a strong back? Do you have a couple of hours a month you can spare to help the Depot pick up donated goods? Do you have a truck that you'd be willing to drive. We're looking for a couple of strong, able bodied men to help pick up donated goods one evening a week. This would be after work hours and after the Depot is closed. If we get enough volunteers you'd only be asked to help maybe once a month. Please give this idea prayerful consideration. You can contact Gayne Marriner at 610-730-5420 or gayne@ptd.net or Bob Totten at 610-737-1640 or totten.60@rcn.com

"Taking the Initiative"

Reverend Bill Kuntze again features the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot

Tune in as Bill interviews the Tottens on his TV program "Taking the Initiative". The night before the Depot opened in April 2010, Bill interviewed Bob and Dannel Fowler who talked about the hopes and expectations of Wesley Church's new ministry.

The show will air at 8:30 pm, October 23rd and Friday, October 26th. Tune in!

- RCN Channel 60
- Service Electric Channel 51
- Blue Ridge Channel 19
- Comcast Channel 17
- Other local satellite systems



September 2012

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Volunteers of the Month



Donna & Vince Giardina

The “Dynamic Duo” — dynamic personalities, dynamic energy, dynamic in giving of their time, talents and treasure (the 3 T’s) is the way the Depot team refers to Donna and Vince.

Donna volunteers both at the Depot and elsewhere in the valley, organizing and managing fundraisers on our behalf. She’s never at a loss for words when speaking about the good work done at the Depot. God has blessed her with a bubbling personality and enthusiasm to promote those things in which she believes!

Vince often shows up at the Depot with his truck and trailer ready to pick up donated furniture from kind people all over the Valley and bring it to us so we can help others in need. Just like Donna, Vince has an infectious smile, terrific personality and a passion for helping others!

Vince is also an enthusiastic supporter of Wesley Church and can often be found volunteering his time at the New Bethany Ministries soup kitchen.

We encourage everyone to join us in thanking this wonderful couple for their support and example to others.

Representative at Large

It takes very little effort to act as a Rep-at-Large for the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot. Pick up a few Depot brochures and keep them handy to pass on to potential donors.

When you go shopping for furniture, consider letting the stores know about what we do and ask if they might help by encouraging customers to donate used furniture to a good cause.

Do you go to garage sales? Drop off a brochure suggesting that unsold serviceable furniture be donated to the depot for recycling.

The next time you go to your dentist, ask if they have extra toothbrushes and toothpaste for the Depot. Most dentists will gladly free up shelf space!

The Value of Volunteers!

These numbers will boggle your mind! “Independent Sector”, a coalition of public charities, estimates the average value of a volunteer’s time in the state of Pennsylvania. The latest figure (for 2010) is \$20.86 per hour.

Since beginning this ministry in April 2010 we’ve logged 13,000 volunteer hours — a total estimated value of more than \$270,000!

September Donations

The Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot trailer will be parked at the front door of Wesley UMC Sunday, September 16th.

Don’t forget to save your travel size toiletries and donate them along with your unused small appliances, kitchenware, lamps, sheets and other bedding.

www.lvoutreachdepot.org

People blessing people and "Cats" by Karen Schaefer

Harry and I were camping a few weeks ago and were surprised to see a kitten, about six months old and pregnant, roaming around the camp sites. In 25 years of camping we had seen only one kitten run across the road - lots of bears, deer, chipmunks, rabbits, turkeys and even a moose or two, but only one kitten! So where did she come from? Did someone just not want her and dropped her off to fend for herself?

Let me first put the "elephant on the table." We both LOOOVE cats! Fearing the kitten might not be taken care of, I decided to put a dish of milk by the fireplace. We left for a walk and when we came back the milk was gone. YEAH - she ate some food and, of course, she needed this for her babies! So the next time I left milk with a little bit of grain bread broken into tiny pieces. It too was gone when we came back from another walk! On the way back from our hike to the water falls, we spotted the cat in the road running after a chipmunk, which high-tailed it into the bushes. We watched and waited; the cat began to crouch into her attack posture, wiggle her little behind and spring forward like a gazelle. In seconds she appeared from the bushes walking tall and proud with her prey in her mouth. She ran down the hill on the other side of the road so we don't know the outcome for the chipmunk, but we suspect she used her instinctive skills and did what she had been taught. More importantly we knew she would survive for her kittens with or

without our help.

There had to be a lesson in this! It was simple, yet profound. This cat was one of God's wonderful creatures, and God gives each of us the tools to survive.

In our work at the depot we encounter individuals who need help every day. We do our best to help guests find the things they need to make them whole and proud, so that they can help themselves as well as their families, to begin anew. We do not know who they are or where they come from. In fact we do not know what happened in their lives that morning, let alone some years before - all we know is that God sends them to us for help. We hope our help changes their lives in a way that matters to them and we pray that their lives are just little better because we were part of it for a moment.

Every day the volunteers at the Depot start their day with a prayer that God will be with us in every encounter and that we will know that God is there through the work we do! God is there for everyone and, yes, even for the little "kittens."

Do you know? Have you looked?

Do you know that you can sign up to volunteer ANY Tuesday or Saturday on-line. Have you looked at our web-site recently? Our newsletters are found there; who has reached out to support this ministry can be found there. You can also find information on the various Disaster Relief Kits .

Some Depot Facts and Figures Since April 2010

When did we first open?	April 2010
When are we open?	Tue & Sat 9-3
Guests Referred	1,104
People Helped	3,588
Volunteers	224
Volunteer Hours	13,289
Website Visits	10,548

Some Depot Output Numbers Since April 2010

Chairs	1,045
Tables	992
Small Appliances	682
Beds	557
Dressers	470
Sofas/Sofabeds	433
Large Appliances	89
Disaster Relief Kits	8,908



August 2012

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Volunteer of the month



Dereck Mutzfeld

Derek will be entering 10th grade at Liberty High School in the fall. During the summer you can expect see him at the LVOD on most Tuesdays and some Saturdays wearing a red depot shirt helping to load and unload furniture, and heading out with the "guys" to pick-up furniture being donated to the depot.

What he likes about volunteering at the Depot is that the work keeps him busy and he feels good knowing that the furniture will be selected by someone who is really in need. Of course there is a small benefit that his time spent at the depot helps him accumulate community service hours for graduation. He is a very hard worker and he is good at determining if the furniture and household goods are in good condition for the depot guests. When asked what he would tell his friends about what he did during the summer, he said he would tell them he worked at the depot because it is a good thing to do to help others.

Derek is the grandson of Ray and Lin Robey, with whom he resides. In addition to working at the depot this summer, he will travel to visit friends and spend a week at camp. He is Boy Scout and has served as a role model for other young men who might consider volunteering for the depot. His goal is to eventually become an Eagle Scout.

If you stop by the depot on a Tuesday that Derek is working, you will more than likely see him hanging out with the guys, moving furniture around for selection or distribution, or having a snack in our break area with the guys. He loves most cookies!

If you see Derek in church please let him know how much you appreciate his help making "people blessing people" a reality.

Do you speak Spanish?

The Depot could use your help! We find a significant number of our guests have difficulty communicating in English. Unfortunately none of our regular volunteers are fluent in Spanish. If you are bilingual, please consider volunteering one or two days a week to work with our Spanish speaking guests.

Travel Size Toiletries

Every hotel provides travel size toiletries in the bathrooms – shampoo, conditioner, soap, etc.

Please consider bringing those items home with you and giving them to the Outreach Depot so we can distribute them to our needy guests.

Reminder - Sunday, August 19th

The Depot trailer will be parked at the front door of Wesley United Methodist Church! Bring your gently used sheets, blankets, comforters, linens, dishes, pots & pans, utensils, TVs and lamps. We don't accept cribs, strollers, books, clothing, shoes, stuffed animals, luggage or console TVs!

School Supplies

We continue to need school supplies to create school kits! Drop them off at the Depot or at Wesley Church on Center Street.

See our web site: www.lvoutreachdepot.org

Another God Moment

Pictures Speak Louder Than Words!

by Karen Schaefer

Several months ago I was helping load a truck with items selected by one of our guests. I was just about to pick up a bedside cabinet when out of the blue I decided to check the drawers. To my surprise when I opened the top drawer, I found a small photo album, some loose photos and what appeared to be tax returns. On closer look I discovered they were tax returns from last year and was immediately concerned that someone might need them. Of course, when I checked the papers, there was only a name, but no phone number or address to help me locate the donor. So I picked up the pictures and tax returns and took them home with me so I could look through them very carefully.

My first thought was that the cabinet may have belonged to someone who had passed away. I had no way of knowing this for sure and did not want to make assumptions. At the Depot we don't keep records of people donating items and therefore I couldn't determine that this particular item had been donated by "Mary Jones."

I looked through the photo album and discovered a series of snapshots with a little girl holding up birthday invitation poster boards for her second, third, fourth and fifth birthdays. The same telephone number was on each invitation. WOW! I thought that maybe the donor's granddaughter or just maybe this child was related in some way to

the woman whose name was on the tax returns. Should I call? I did not want to be presumptuous! Then I found pictures of what appeared to be infant twins. They were so cute and only made me wonder more about the donor. I know how important it is to have photos of grandchildren to remind us that God is always sharing miracles. I could just imagine her smiling and remembering the little girl, her birthdays and the twin babies!

OK, so now what to do? I wanted to be sure these papers got to whoever needed them. After rehearsing a few scenarios in my head I dialed the number. A young woman answered. I explained who I was and why I was calling, asking if anyone there might be related to the woman whose name was on the tax forms. It turned out that the woman had been her mother-in-law! Her husband got on the phone and explained that his mother had recently passed away and yes, he would pick up the tax forms the next day. When he arrived I shared with him how the pictures had been so helpful and a wonderful thing to have shared with his mother. Then I asked about the little twins. Yes, they were his twin sons - "a little bigger now." I congratulated him and thanked GOD that I had had the courage to call and relieve this young man of one more burden during his time of grieving. Obviously GOD had been there for us once again!

Depot Facts and Figures (since April 2010)

Guests Referred	1,067
Household Members	3,451
Volunteers	243
Volunteer Hours	12,427
Website Visitors	4,845
Website Visits	9,865

Some Depot Output Numbers (since April 2010)

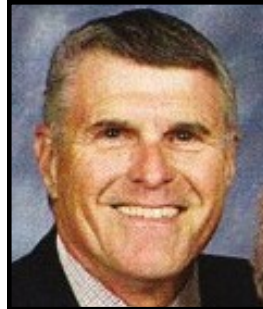
Health Kits	5,621
Birthing Kits	1,886
School Kits	644
Chairs	991
Tables	948
Small Appliances	640
Beds	526
Dressers	424
Sofas	405
TVs	298
Desks	148



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Volunteers of the Month



Rich Chambers & Ron Horizny

Dependable, although not regulars! These two men can always be counted on to help—Rich and Ron are invaluable to the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot. Rich, as President of the Board of Trustees, acts as liaison between the Depot team, our church and our landlord. Rich has been seen loading his truck with as many mattresses as it can hold or bringing donated furniture or bringing boxes and other needed supplies to the Depot. As co-owner of Tape Works, he's kept the Depot supplied with various types of tape used to seal kit boxes, secure towel & sheet sets, and to hold inventory tags on large items for our guests.

As a long time member of Wesley Church. Ron volunteers at Habitat for Humanity and can be seen using the Habitat truck to take damaged or unserviceable furniture and trash for disposal. Without his enthusiastic help other volunteers would have to be diverted from helping guests and picking up donated furniture and household goods.

Did you Know?

Did you know the Depot consists of two ministries-in-one? One is the Disaster Relief Kit ministry which supplies kits locally, nationally and internationally. The other is the personal local disaster relief ministry.

Do you know how guests are referred to the Depot for help? "Guests" are referred by more than 100 social agencies or churches in the Lehigh Valley. We don't help people who just walk in the door asking for help.

Do you know the steps in helping and working with our guests? First, case workers request an appointment for their client. They are then provided a Referral/Waiver form indicating the date and time of the appointment and the caseworker is asked to certify the need of their client. The caseworker is also sent our guidelines and asked to explain them to their client. The guest is required to sign the form and brings it, together with picture ID, to the appointment. A volunteer then assigns a guest number which we use for our records and which helps identify items selected by the guest. The volunteer sits down with the guest and verifies the personal information and finds out what is needed (furniture, large & small appliances, lamps, linens, dishes, glasses, pots, pans, tv, etc). The volunteer then takes the guest through the warehouse, giving them the opportunity to select their own items.

Items in the warehouse are arranged much like a store, with like items grouped together. Guests can clearly see what is available. Certain items do have a limit as to how many can be taken because of high demand and limited supply. Chosen items are tagged with the guest's initials and number. If the guest is unable to take the items with them, they are given a pick-up appointment date. When they return for pick up they are given the opportunity to choose needed items that weren't available at the time of the 1st visit. We allow no more than 2 visits. If any appointment is missed and we do not receive a call in advance, that is considered a no-show and the person has forfeited the opportunity for a future appointment.

Depot Facts and Figures

Referrals	1,015
Household members	3,263
Volunteers	229
Volunteer hours	11,668
Website visits	9,763

People Blessing People

Some of our volunteers who consistently bless others with their selfless service:

Alida Ammon	Bob McCormick
Carolyn Anders	Cathy McCormick
Lawrence Bauer	Carolyn McGrath
Carol Beach	Don Mette
Craig Beach	Carolyn Miller
Elizabeth Bauer	Bunny Miller
Jack Bernstiel	Dottie Moore
William Biggs	Sue Moore
Sarah Bilheimer	Ken Niewoehner
John Caldwell	Phyllis Niewoehner
Barbara Cavallo	Barbara Reimers
Rich Chambers	Susan Reiss
Joey Ciose	Nina Reppert
Mary Jean Cole	Josh Reppert
Cathy Conley	Jeff Rose
Pam Cullen	Karen Rose
Bob Cullen	Bill Ryan
Gail Dauscher	Judy Santa Maria
Emily Doll	Harry Schaefer
Dave Doll	Karen Schaefer
Diana Fehnel	Sharon Schultz
Dan Field	Zel Shifter
Don Follmer	Tolly Sinko
John Fowler	Tiana Smith
Danell Fowler	Natalie Smith
Vince Giardina	Erin Smith
Donna Giardina	Bob Sopko
Brian Graybeal	Kathy Sparrow
Charles Hampton	Dave Stout
Marie Hoffman	Irene Tavares
Dan Hooper Family	Forrest Taylor
Ron Horizny	Patti Tironi
George Jacobs	Bob Totten
Chip Johnson	Carol Totten
Tom Koch	Katie Trembler
Mike Krom	Jeff Werkhauser
Vinny Marfisi	Fritz Werner
Gayne Marriner	Marion Werner
Susan Matacavage	Bill Whipple

Depot Output

Disaster Relief Kits	8,908
Tables	871
Beds	494
Dressers	392
Chairs	949

Disaster Relief Supplies needed for School Kits

School supplies are once again going on sale. Please consider getting some for the Depot when you are out shopping. Needed items are:

- Blunt tip children's scissors
- 8½ X 11" single subject notebooks, spiral bound, 70 pages each
- Hand held pencil sharpener at least 1½" long
- Ruler (30 centimeters) – no advertisements
- Unsharpened pencils (no advertisements, patriotic, religious or military designs)
- Eraser (2½ inches – no advertisements, etc.)
- Crayons (24 count box only)

And, if you can sew, we need to have school bags made – see Karen Schaefer, Barbara Reimers or Pam Fries for instructions. (We can provide the materials, too)

June 2012 Deliveries

June 20th found three vehicles and the Depot trailer filled and headed to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, PA.

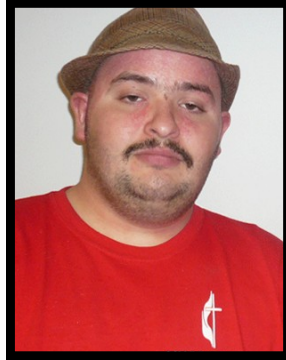
Those vehicles, containing 5 volunteers, delivered 701 health kits; 222 birthing kits; 42 cleaning buckets; 78 layette kits, along with used computer components (monitors, keyboards, hard drives, printers and wiring). Also delivered were miscellaneous medical supplies and hardware.



June 2012

Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot
A mission of Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem, Pa.
1866 Auburn Street, Bethlehem, PA 610-861-7373

Volunteers of the month



Nina & Josh Reppert

This month we give thanks to our mother and son volunteer team of Nina and Josh Reppert. Nina initially volunteered ½ day every other week, greeting guests, answering the telephone, giving directions, entering data and maintaining the Depot's database, maintaining clerical records and now she puts in a full day every Saturday, working with what she calls "**A GREAT CREW.**"

Nina, a member of Wesley UMC since 1988, participates in bible study and works with high school children with multiple disabilities. She enjoys reading and gardening and encourages people to volunteer even if only for a few hours every month.

Josh, who suffers from Asperger's Syndrome, a form of Autism, graduated from Liberty High School and works in the produce department of Height's Market. He loves animals, movies, model trains and the Simpsons!

Nina first brought Josh to the Depot two years ago when most of the men were attending a conference. Josh enjoyed being a furniture "mover" and began coming with Nina on a regular basis. He's an early riser and often nudges Nina to hurry up!

Josh is also a swimmer—swimming with Bethlehem Special Olympics and usually competes at State competitions where he specializes in free-

style and the backstroke. He also bowls with the MORA (Men of Retirement Age) club.

Look for Nina and Josh at Wesley's second service and thank them for their service at the depot!

Where is the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot?

The Depot is in a warehouse located just south of Saucon Park in Bethlehem.

Saucon Park is about a mile southeast of the Sands Casino. Take Route 412 in the direction of Hellertown and look for our sign (as well as the sign to Saucon Park) on your right.

What happens at the Depot?

See for yourself by coming by for a visit any Tuesday or Saturday any time between 9 am and 3 pm. We'll be glad to give you a tour.

Visit the Depot's internet web site at www.lvoutreachdepot.org. There you'll see pictures of recent depot operations, links to web sites of our generous benefactors, tv news broadcasts, newspaper articles and monthly newsletters. Read about our vision as well as "God Moments." Click on "Volunteer" to let us know when, and in what capacity, you might be able to help out. Click on "Donate Furniture" to request a pickup.

People Blessing People! Lenten Season Matching Grant

An anonymous donor offered to match donations to the depot during Lent up to \$20,000! We received donations totaling \$15,718.25 which, when the matching funds are added, equals \$31,436.50. This will permit flexibility in our search for a new location and enable us to cover the costs of rent, utilities, trucking operations and disaster relief supplies. People Blessing People!

“Sharing”



A note from Jean Norris Mission Central

“I wanted to share with you an amazing thing that happened at the 10th Anniversary celebration on Saturday night at Mission Central.

“At the time where there were to be some testimonies about Mission Central, a woman was introduced from Sierra Leone. She was beautiful and in her colorful native dress. She witnessed to the blessing that the birthing kits are to the people of her country. She said they are life-saving. She said they help prevent HIV because the bodily fluids can be contained by the plastic sheeting - otherwise, the fluids are on the floor and if someone comes in contact with the fluids that are infected with HIV and they have an open sore or cut, they can be infected. Also she said the clean razor blade to cut the cord is preventing neonatal tetanus - a death threat to the newborns. And, of course, the gloves for the midwives help protect them from infection.

“Please know that all the UMCOR kits you are doing are so meaningful in their own ways. It is special to hear the stories.

“Blessings and Thanks for all you do,”

Jean

*Jean Norris
Volunteer Coordinator, Mission Central*

What’s in a Birthing Kit?



- 1 small bar of soap—1 to 2 oz. (hotel size)
- 1 pair latex, surgical, or thin rubber gloves
- 1 square yard of clear plastic sheeting—4 mil thick
- 3 pieces of cotton string—each 12” long
- 1 single edge razor blade (*carefully wrap the blade in paper or plastic to protect it and keep it from causing injury*)
- 2 receiving blankets—30” x 30” or 32” x 32” only (no thermal or fleece)

On the Border Fund Raiser Thank you!

A big thank you to everyone who ate at On-the-Border any of the 5 Wednesdays in May. We look forward to receiving an accounting and a check for the generous fundraiser On-the-Border arranged for us. Also, many thanks to Karen Schaefer for coordinating this event.

Reminder

If you or your neighbors are having a garage sale—leftover items can be donated to The Depot. Guests, referred to The Depot, from the many Lehigh Valley Social Agencies, can use those gently used sheets, bedding, blankets, comforters, tablecloths, dishes, pots & pans, lamps, pots & pans, glassware and furniture items. They can be brought to The Depot any Tuesday or Saturday from 9 to 3. If you or your neighbors need items picked up by volunteers, please leave the info on our website form. Tax receipts are available for records. Remember, we don’t accept cribs, books, clothing, stuffed animals, luggage or console TVs!



May 2012

Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot

A mission of Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem, Pa.

Volunteer of the month



Jack Bernsteiel

Jack recently moved to the Lehigh Valley from the Pottstown area. In fact, Jack has a house for sale in that area if you know of someone looking for real estate. Jack is a flagman with the Flogger Force company, working on our highway system. Jack and our own Brian Graybeal happened to be working on the same job several months ago. Their conversation turned to God, religion and Wesley Church. Jack decided to come and discover for himself. He was so motivated that he moved to the Lehigh Valley. That move also encouraged Jack "to give back". Saturdays find Jack and his "muscle power" volunteering at the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot. Jack's friendliness, enthusiasm and energy are appreciated by all who come in contact with him. Sincere thanks to Brian for helping introduce Jack to our church family.

Jack is taking an active part in the activities of Wesley Church. He's been attending the United Methodist Men's meetings on the 3rd Saturday of each month. He played a very significant role in securing a Lehigh University basketball and tee shirt signed by all members of the 2012 basketball team for the UMM's spring basket auction. That basket received the 2nd highest bid in this year's auction. A portion of this year's basket auction proceeds will benefit The Lehigh Valley

Outreach Depot. Thanks go out to Jack and the United Methodist Men.

Jack is seriously considering becoming a member of Wesley Church. Let's make him feel not only welcome, but a member of our church family. You may also want to ask Jack what it's like to volunteer at The Depot.

The Outreach Depot: Starting our Third Year!

On April 24th we celebrated two years of "people blessing people" — as the hands and feet of God. We first opened our doors April 24th, 2010 after several months of planning and preparation and started accepting and picking up donated furniture, household goods and disaster relief supplies. Those items have been distributed to the less fortunate all over the Lehigh Valley and elsewhere in the state, the nation and the world. They have helped alleviate suffering brought on by natural disasters, economic hardship and other circumstances.

Our 223 volunteers logged 10,700 hours helping nearly 3,000 needy men, women and children improve their living conditions. We've provided more than \$290,000 worth of used furniture and household goods and distributed 7,800 disaster relief kits valued at \$125,000.

A few statistics: our guests have been given 415 beds, 329 dressers, 565 small appliances, 759 tables, 846 chairs, and a variety of dishes, flatware, bedding and other items essential to daily living.

Reminder - Sunday, May 20th

The Depot trailer will be at the front door of Wesley Church! Bring your sheets, blankets, comforters, linens, dishes, pots & pans, TVs and lamps. We don't take cribs, books, clothing, stuffed animals, luggage or console TVs!

A Call for Cleaning Kit Supplies!



Mission Central, on behalf of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), has called for a special effort to assemble Cleaning Kits (also known as Flood Buckets) to be prepared for the upcoming hurricane season. Their current inventory is critically low.

Supplies needed include

- Scouring pads
- Sturdy sponges
- Scrub brushes
- Reusable wipes (Handiwipes)
- Liquid laundry detergent (50 oz.)
- Liquid household cleaner (12-16 oz.)(no ammonia)
- Disinfectant dish soap (16-28 oz.)
- Clothes pins
- Dust masks
- Latex gloves (dishwashing style, size L)
- Work gloves (size L – must have leather palms)
- Heavy duty (3 mil) trash bags (33-45 gallon size)
- Insect repellent spray (6-14 oz. with protective cap)
- Air freshener (8-9 oz. can with protective cap)

Items can be taken to the Depot any Tuesday or Saturday, placed in the basket by the Hospitality Table or put into the Depot trailer the third Sunday of the month. Thanks for your continuing support!

Do you shop on line?

Are you familiar with igive.com? This is a web site where you can designate a cause to help and retailers are willing to donate a percentage of your on line purchases to help that cause!

Participating retailers include Amazon.com, Apple Store, Banana Republic, Barnes & Noble, Best Buy and many, many others.



If you visit the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot web site (www.lvoutreachdepot.org), you'll find a link to **igive.com** in the upper right corner. Click on that link and you can sign up to help the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot every time you shop on line. It won't cost you anything but it could make a big difference to our ministry. If you agree to add their icon to your web browser for 90 days, they'll credit the Depot with \$5.00 even if you don't make any purchases.

Fundraisers



May is On-the-Border month! Present a flyer (available at the Hospitality Table) Wednesday, May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 while enjoying a good meal and the Depot will receive 10% of your bill (less alcoholic drinks).

A long list of proposed fundraisers has been developed. If you are good at coordinating activities, have time to spare and would like to help, speak to Barbara Reimers or Karen Schaefer.

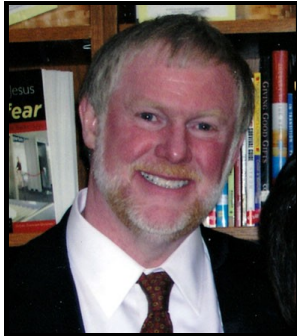


April 2012

Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot

A mission of Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem, Pa.

The Outreach Depot: Genius, Blessing, & Opportunity!



"I tell you the truth, *whatever you did for one of the least of these ... you did for me.*"

-- Matthew 25:40

Down through the ages, most people agree with these words from Jesus. But many find it difficult to find a way to put them into practice. Here lies the genius and blessing of the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot. The Depot is a living example of how Jesus' words can be put into action ... right here in our community!

The stories I hear from those who serve and receive always convey the same theme: God is with us!

A great saint of the Church wrote: *"Without God, we cannot; without us, God will not."* Herein lay the mystery and the challenge for those serious about the work of the soul.

The hand of God is evident in the fact the Depot exists; now comes our part. The needs of the Depot are simple: financial support and people to help in a variety of ways.

May we search our hearts, listen to the Voice of the Spirit, and respond!

-- Pastor Tom Fries

Reminder - Sunday, April 15th

The Depot trailer will be at the front door of Wesley Church. Please bring your gently used small appliances, sheets, blankets, comforters, bath and kitchen linens, dishes, glassware, pots, pans and lamps. We don't accept books, clothing, stuffed animals, luggage, cribs or consoles!

What do we need this month?

This month we need good quality hand towels, rolls of paper towels, sauce pans, frying pans, sheets (queen size), and pillowcases.

Items can be deposited in the depot trailer, placed in the basket located next to the hospitality table in the atrium, or delivered to the Depot any Tuesday or Saturday between 9 and 3.

What do we need every week?

Every day we're open we're asked for beds, dressers, tables, chairs, TV's, air conditioners, large appliances and small appliances.

If you can't bring such items to us, we'll be glad to ask our generous volunteers to pick them up from you. Just go to our web site, click on "Donate Furniture", fill out the form and we'll call you before coming to pick up the items you've listed.

Matching Donations Opportunity

An anonymous donor is willing to match donations, dollar for dollar, up to a maximum of \$20,000. This matching grant is available through Easter, but consider donating at any time.

www.lvoutreachdepot.org

Can you spare a warehouse?

I have a pitch for you today on behalf of an organization I very much admire. But with your indulgence, I'll ease into it.

I've been attending small group sessions throughout this Lenten season, and one of the questions we seem to be confronted with every week is:

What does it mean to be a Christian today?

Contrary to the impression you may have gotten from some politicians and [TV](#) preachers, the vision we've discussed focuses much more on being God's hands and feet in the world, helping the same kinds of people Jesus helped, than it does with judging and condemning people.

This kind of vision is modeled every day by the [Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot](#), a project of [Wesley United Methodist Church](#), Bethlehem, that I wrote about last December. It not only focuses on being those hands and feet, it brings together people of different Christian traditions and even other faiths to do it.

Outreach Depot is two mission projects in one. The first part is a kind of showroom full of donated furniture and household items from which qualified guests — referred by charitable organizations and arriving only by appointment — are able to make selections to fit their tastes and needs. It's a wonderful way of helping our struggling neighbors begin re-establishing their lives after some devastating event or difficult personal circumstances.

The second part is a collection of neatly stacked items used to fill disaster relief kits of various kinds, all prepared according to careful specifications and distributed around the world through Mission Central, the mission warehouse of the Susquehanna [Conference](#) of the United Methodist Church. Kits also are distributed locally as needed.

When I wrote about Outreach Depot last time, I focused on the God Moments its volunteers have experienced, including the way Ed Sinko and Gary Wagner, co-owners of the Bethlehem company Rustic Exteriors, offered the fledgling organization 5,000 square feet in their building, free of charge for the first year and very inexpensive since then. It opened in April 2010.

"Since then," wrote communications coordinator Bob Totten in a recent letter to the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, "there's been an outpouring of support by residents of the Lehigh Valley. Generous donors, both private homeowners and [business owners](#), have given used but service-

able furniture and household goods valued at more than \$260,000. All has been passed on free of charge to thousands of needy people referred to us by dozens of local social service agencies. We've been able to assemble and distribute thousands of disaster relief kits. We've also received financial support to cover the cost of utilities, office supplies and other expenses." They're working now to raise enough money to earn a \$20,000 matching gift.

The whole enterprise could be described as a two-year-long God Moment.

Still, they knew the space at Rustic Exteriors wasn't a permanent [home](#). In recent months, Outreach Depot began searching for a larger facility and its benefactor received an offer to lease, at market value, the space the group had been using. The Depot temporarily moved upstairs into another warehouse space on a month-to-month basis, but although it's much larger, it's unheated and there's still the likelihood that another tenant will come along.

That's where I hope one of you may come in.

In his letter, Totten wrote, "Now we're seeking another warehouse owner willing to help continue this vital work! We know there are hundreds of unused warehouse spaces all over the Valley — spaces that currently generate no income but which could be donated or rented for a nominal fee for one or two years. This also has the potential benefit of justifying a significant tax credit."

I first heard about their search last February, and although they have had some [leads](#) since then, they're still looking. Given all they've accomplished in the last two years, I hate to even contemplate this work ending because they couldn't find space for it. So I figured I'd offer this pitch on their behalf. Totten's cellphone number is 610-737-1640.

He's confident that they'll find a way. "I don't think this thing's going to shut down," he said. "Too many people need our help."



Bill White - the Morning Call

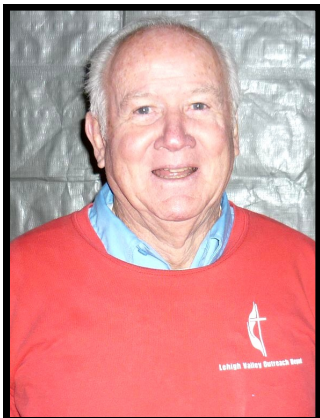


March 2012

Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot

A mission of Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem, Pa.

Volunteer of the Month



Gayne Marriner

This is another case of finding someone who is always busy. Although retired, Gayne maintains a busy schedule. He is owner of several properties which keep him busy with maintenance issues. He is a former church Board of Trustees leader. He helps his wife Beverly with the Labyrinth Ministry, helps with the sound system during services in the sanctuary and is a former Bethlehem Steel executive who willingly volunteers his time and talents both Tuesdays and Saturdays helping to pick up furniture and household goods from donors all over the Lehigh Valley. Gayne shares below his experience working at the depot:

"I have a photo of my maternal grandfather in my office - he is on his quarter horse and in the lower right hand corner is a sticker with the quote "ANYONE ENJOYING WORK CAN HAVE A GOOD TIME IN THIS INSTITUTION".

I have to say that fits my experience of working in the Depot to a "T". Everyone works very hard but they are always joking and having a good time. The Depot is a place where we get to see

the benefits of doing something for others.

When we show up to pick up furniture and household items at someone's home they are really glad that we are there to help them dispose of their gently used furniture and those

things we all collect over a lifetime and have hung onto for lo these many years. They want to be sure that someone will get to use their donation.

When our guests arrive and get to select their furnishings from the vast array of items in the Depot they are not only pleased but often unbelieving that this is really happening. When they leave they seem at a loss for words to express their feelings and, we are the ones that benefit from those moments.

So, my friends and family, I extend an invitation to to one and all, come on down to the Depot and join in on the fun and share in the joy of doing something for someone else and reap all the rewards of those special moments. We need your help and would love to have you working alongside us. "

The Depot family thanks you, Gayne, for your support and for your great sense of humor as we experience each day at the depot!

A Matching Donations Opportunity

During Lent, an anonymous donor is willing to match donations, dollar for dollar, up to a maximum of \$20,000. Please consider donating and spreading the word about this opportunity to individuals and organizations you deal with. We are also reaching out to others in the community in order to expand our base of support since we receive no direct funding from any source.

We ask that checks be made payable to "Wesley Church" and include on the memo line "LVOD-Matching Grant. Paypal and credit card donations are also welcome. Go to our web site at www.lvoutreachdepot.org and click on the "Matching Grant Opportunity."

www.lvoutreachdepot.org

What have we done so far?

The Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot, with God's help, continues to bless our guests, our donors and our volunteers every Tuesday and Saturday. Current results are:

Numbers

Guests Referred by Local Agencies	813
Lives Touched in the Lehigh Valley	2,602
Volunteers:	213
Volunteer hours logged:	9,111

Value & numbers of Household

Goods Distributed: **\$258,475**

Chairs:	739
Tables :	652
Small Appliances:	439
Beds	333
Cleaning Supplies:	254
Dressers:	299
Sofas:	289
TV's:	236
Desks:	107
Large Appliances:	68

Value & numbers of Disaster

Relief Kits Distributed **\$124,072**

Health Kits:	4,920
Birthing Kits:	1,664
Cleaning Buckets:	357
School Kits:	644
Layette Kits:	265
Sewing Kits:	<u>15</u>
Total Kits	7,865

We need a new home!

Last month we were advised that our lease, due to be renewed March 1st, would not be renewed, but that we were welcome to use space in the same building on a temporary basis until we find a new home or until that space is leased by another tenant. If you can help find another warehouse suitable for our ministry, please contact any member of the Depot team as soon as possible.

Volunteer Opportunities

Fund Raiser: If you are good at organizing functions and are creative consider planning an event to benefit the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot. Again, keep in mind that the LVOD receives no direct funding from any source.

Realtor: Network with your fellow realtors to help find a new warehouse for our ministry. Become familiar with our vision and our history by visiting www.lvoutreachdepot.org. You can also keep our brochures with you ALL the time to leave at homes currently for sale or to leave with a new owner. Most times people find there are items that just don't fit or won't work and these could be donated to the Depot to help someone who isn't as fortunate.

Sewing: Do you sew? Fabric is available at LVOD to create school bags which are shipped world-wide. Patterns showing the cutting and sewing specifications are also available. You supply the sewing! Other than time, there is no cost to you.

Write letters: Write to churches, hotels, retirement communities, self-storage units, doctors, dentists and others telling them about the LVOD and asking them to consider donating to our ministry.

Phone: Make follow-up phone calls to those who have received letters from the LVOD. Remind them of our vision, our services and the need to receive furniture, household goods and relief kit supplies.

Other: On-Site—there are opportunities at the LVOD any Tuesday or Saturday that are or are not labor intensive. You decide.

Mark your calendar!

March 22nd

5-7PM Therapeutic Thursday Fundraiser
at the Bethlehem Apollo Restaurant —
see Donna Giardina for more details.



February 2012

Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot

A mission of Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem, Pa.

Volunteers of the Month



Chip Johnson & Jeff Werkheiser

Chip and Jeff have been volunteering with the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot on a regular basis since July 2010. Chip lives in Lower Saucon Township and Jeff lives in Bethlehem. Jeff is a caseworker with Community Service Group/Concepts of the Lehigh Valley, an adult training facility for persons with disabilities. Not only do Jeff and Chip work together but they have become good buddies.

These men can be found working every Tuesday for about two hours, performing a variety of tasks as assigned by the volunteer leaders. These tasks mainly consist of assembling one of the various disaster relief kits that are sent to people and agencies throughout the country as well as around the world where they are needed. It may seem trivial to many, but Chip and Jeff, both of Christian faith, get great satisfaction knowing they help provide comfort and aid to the people receiving the kits. Chip likes that all of those who direct and work at the Depot are wonderful people and thinks they should be commended for their faith, diligence and hard work.

Would you like to volunteer?

The Depot offers a variety of opportunities to volunteer. Many important tasks can be done from your home at any time of the day

and any day of the week. Most of these tasks can be tailored to the time slot that you have available. If you'd like to find out more, contact Carol Totten (610-253-0342 or email: totten.60@rcn.com or Barbara Reimers (610-694-0767 or email: bbreimers@verizon.net.

Donations are always welcome!

"People blessing people" is seen in action every day at the Outreach Depot. The congregation and leadership of Wesley United Methodist Church were, with God's help, instrumental in inspiring and setting up this unique ministry and their prayers and financial and moral support are most appreciated by everyone working at the Depot and those we serve.

Now the Depot is launching a campaign to reach out to other charitable organizations, businesses and the public asking for financial support (reminder - the Depot receives no direct funding from any source).

A generous (anonymous) donor has just announced a willingness to match donations dollar for dollar up to a maximum of \$20,000. We're asking everyone to spread the word about this great opportunity to double the value of individual or corporate donations to this very worthy cause.

We ask that checks be made payable to "Wesley Church" and include on the memo line "LVOD Grant".

God bless you for your prayers, support and help!

www.lvoutreachdepot.org

Questions we hear a lot at the Depot

Question: *Why do you volunteers work at the Depot? Why do you go all over the Valley picking up donated furniture and household goods?*

Answer: The reason we work here is found in the Bible, Luke 10:25-37. This is the story:

Jesus was talking to a large crowd. A lawyer (who else?) stood up and asked, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus asked the lawyer to remember that the scriptures say "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

Lawyers always want to make sure they have the meaning right of every word. So the lawyer challenged Jesus: "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied by telling a story about a man walking along the road who was stripped and beaten by robbers and left for dead. A religious leader came along, and walked past on the other side of the road. Another stranger came along and also walked by. But a man whose people were enemies of the dying man's group stopped. He applied bandages, took the man to an inn, stayed all night with him, and left money for the innkeeper to take care of him.

Then Jesus asked the lawyer, "Which of these passersby do you think was a true neighbor to the dying man?"

Wisely, the lawyer said, "The one who showed him mercy."

Jesus said, "Go and do likewise."

Short Answer: We volunteer at the Depot in response to God's unconditional love for us and for our neighbors.

Question: *What do we ask of those we help?*

Answer: We ask for three things:

1. Prayers. Everything you discovered at the Depot is the result of prayers.
2. Pay forward. Look for opportunities to help others. Volunteer your time and skills wherever you feel led to do so. We'd be pleased if you chose to volunteer at the depot and become a part of our ministry.
3. Visit your local church, synagogue or mosque this week. There you'll find people who believe in the vision of the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot, faithful believers who love God and neighbor.

Depot Facts and Figures

Guests Referred	767
Household members	2,449
Volunteers	204
Volunteer hours	8,214
Website visits	7,323

Mark your calendar!

March 22nd

5-7PM Therapeutic Thursday Fund-raiser at the Bethlehem Apollo Restaurant — see Donna Giardina for more details.



January 2012

Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot

A mission of Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem, Pa.

Our Volunteer Team of the Month



**Don Mette &
Gail Dauscher**

Don and Gail moved from Bethlehem Township to Hellertown in December 2010 where they started attending Saint Paul's United Methodist Church. In August they went to a new members' class at Pastor Monica's house where she told everyone about the good work being done by the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot.

Gail had formerly worked with Cigna Insurance Company and Don had a 42 year career in pharmaceutical research and development. Now that they were both retired, they had been thinking about volunteering at a local hospital or food bank. When they heard about the depot they were both excited and wanted to hear more about it.

On a Tuesday evening last August they went to the depot together with Pastor Monica and several others from Saint Paul's church to see what it was all about. They were impressed to discover how many families, who had nothing, had been helped. Since then they have been going twice a week to volunteer their hands, feet and hearts to help out in some small way. They are also active at Saint Paul's church in various ways

At the Depot they spend most of their time making various kits that are then sent to people who have virtually nothing, both in the United States and in other countries.

When they first started volunteering at the Depot they found that all the volunteers

were so nice to work with. They say that this has been a rewarding experience for them in so many ways.

Would You Like to Help?

The Depot offers a variety of opportunities to volunteer **both** on-site and off-site. Some tasks can be accomplished any day of the week that is most convenient for the volunteer. Most of these tasks can be tailored to the time slot that you are able to offer. If you'd like to find out what you can do to help, please call Carol Totten at 610-253-0342 or email: totten.60@rcn.com or Barbara Reimers (610) 694-0767 or email: bbreimers@verizon.net.

Mark your calendar!

March 22nd

5-7PM Therapeutic Thursday Fundraiser at the Bethlehem Apollo Restaurant — see Donna Giardina for more details.

Download Music for a Cause!

Go to genuinecaring.com to download your favorite tunes. Choose the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot as your cause!

Reminder! Sunday, January 15th

The Depot trailer will be outside the front door of Wesley Church. Please your gently used small appliances, sheets, blankets, comforters, bath and kitchen linens, dishes, glassware, pots, pans and lamps. We don't accept books, clothing, stuffed animals, luggage, cribs or consoles! We also can use unopened household cleaning supplies to be given to formerly homeless guests in cleaning supply bags.

Learn more about the Depot!

Visit our web site:

www.lvoutreachdepot.org

The Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot opened April, 2010 and, with God's help and inspiration, has continued to bless our guests, our donors and our volunteers every Tuesday and Saturday since it opened (except for holiday and weather closures). Here are some results:

Numbers

Guests Referred by Local Agencies	710
Lives Touched in the Lehigh Valley	2,261
Volunteers	203
Volunteer hours logged	7,970

Value & numbers of Household Goods Distributed \$218,000

Chairs	588
Tables	468
Small Appliances	304
Beds	287
Cleaning Supply Bags	275
Dressers	234
Sofas	222
TV's	192
Desks	92
Large Appliances	58

Value & numbers of Disaster Relief Kits Distributed \$108,748

Health Kits	4,810
Birthing Kits	1,591
Cleaning Buckets	331
School Kits	490
Layette Kits	145
Sewing Kits	15
Total Kits	7,182

Total Dollar Value of Household Goods & Kits distributed \$326,748

The Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot

A Ministry of
Wesley United Methodist Church

"People Blessing People"

A HUB of Mission Central

"Connecting God's Resources with Human Need"

