



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

December 2013

### Shopping for Christmas Gifts?

Once again as the holiday season approaches, shopping is on everyone's mind, and we are bombarded with ads. As we make our lists, let's remember the needy serviced by the Depot. Pick up an extra gift for them. Always in demand are coffee pots, toasters, pots & pans, dishes, eating utensils, sheets (queen, full or twin), and towels. Perhaps you could get creative and ask people in your office or family to forego the usual grab-bag or gift exchange in order to give to someone who really needs the gift you offer. Think of what you would like if you were a single mother with nothing in your apartment but a couple of beds and a table & chairs (and many have less than that!). Perhaps you are a father trying to resettle your family after a fire. What things would you want? Think about it and give generously!

### Statistics

In the past we have given out a variety of long term statistics but it is sometimes also interesting and informative to look some shorter term numbers. This is useful in preparing grant applications and help us to monitor seasonal ebbs & flows in our statistics.

Recently we calculated appointment and pickup requests for one month and came up with the following:

Requests for help: 100

Requests for pickups: 46

Guest appointments are being scheduled from 4 to 6 weeks out and we try to get pickups made within 2 weeks. This doesn't always work, however, for a variety of reasons – location of pickup address, types of items, and number of available men doing the pickups.

### Dr. Don, the Fix-it Man

When people contact us because they want to donate furniture and household goods, we tell them that it needs to be clean and in good condition. Unfortunately, it doesn't always work out that way, but then Dr. Don, the Fix-it Man comes to the rescue. He repairs legs and dresser drawers, rehanges cabinet doors and fixes hinges. When we have to dismantle something in order to transport it, Dr. Don puts it back together. He tests lamps and rewires them when necessary. And sometimes he removes stains and defects in the finish of a piece. When asked, he says he finds joy in taking something someone has discarded as useless and restoring it so someone else can use it. He learned his carpentry from his grandfather and is still using his grandfather's tools. Hooray for Dr. Don who helps us provide our guests with the best we can!



### A Letter from a grateful donor

*I can't thank you enough for your prompt response to my urgent request for furniture pick-up at .....Linden St. in Bethlehem.*

*The 3 volunteers who arrived on Tuesday, October 29th were polite, courteous, efficient and true gentlemen.*

*Please accept the enclosed donation to aid your continuous efforts to help those in need.*

*Thank you again and God Bless!*

*Nancy*

## A New Approach to the Holidays

Instead of “decking” the malls or cutting Thanksgiving dinner short, to rush out in search of the best deals, why not give a lasting gift? You can donate either “in honor of” or “in memory of” a loved one. That donation will touch the lives of those less fortunate. You choose how much or how little the donation will be. Only you will know but all will know how you touched another’s life this holiday season.



These cards can be found on the Welcoming Table in the Atrium.

### Why I Volunteer

*by Carol Totten*

God has blessed my life, my entire life. I grew up in a large family with parents who struggled to support their seven children the best way they knew how. Life was not particularly easy. My parents were not perfect parents, they had many faults but they were religious, they were generous to those who had less, they insisted that we eat meals as a family and they taught us manners and to be respectful to all. These are values that never leave you. I have also been blessed with energy and pretty good health.

Having been brought up with these core values, I have always been mindful of someone feeling left out, someone in need and how very fortunate I have been. I have always had a need to help!

The news media shows the world the hardships people are experiencing. These can be disturbing to watch. Such was the case when Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005. It was impossible to watch and not want to do something. My husband’s and my “journey to help” those in need is found on the Depot’s website.

Today we are so very pleased and proud to be part of the dedicated group of volunteers who give of their time, physical energy, and who endure the summer heat and winter cold in the warehouse helping those who are re-establishing their home lives due to their life struggles. It is so heartwarming to know that we are providing a bed to those who have been sleeping on the floor or being able to provide a table set so the family can sit and eat together.

There are some volunteer days that are a real challenge due to the personality of the person being helped, the fact that the caseworker hasn’t properly followed the simple guidelines required or due to the temperatures that I and the others choose to work through. I and each volunteer leave the Depot at the end of the work day knowing, however, that we have helped make a family or someone more comfortable. It is so comforting to know there are so many generous people in the Lehigh Valley that want to share by “passing along” their unwanted gently used furniture and household items. It makes any discomfort we feel bearable and well worth our while.

### The Depot Trailer

The Depot trailer will be at Wesley United Methodist Church to receive donations on Sunday, December 15th.

Go to our web site to discover the contents of each disaster relief kit. This month we’ll be making a concerted effort to assemble birthing kits, so please consider donating receiving blankets and latex surgical gloves (size large or one size fits all) .

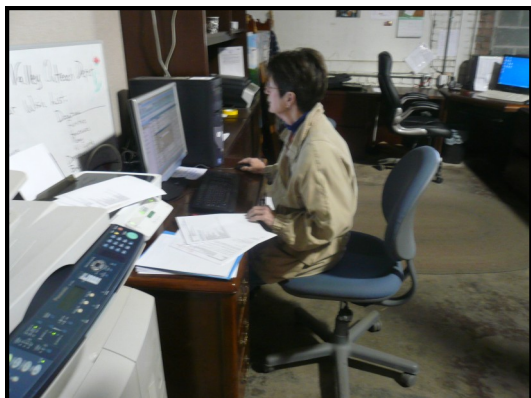


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November 2013

**We are the Depot**

There are many different things to be done on Depot days – some of those things are easy, but others can be pretty challenging.

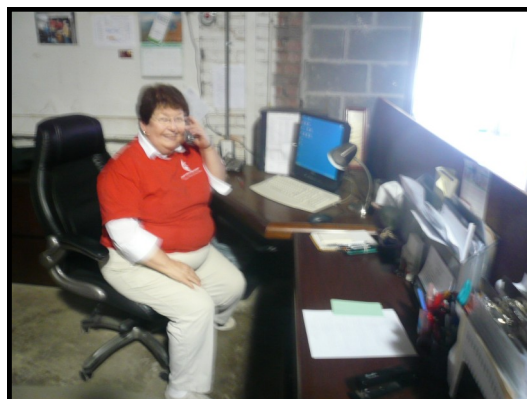


Right now some of our volunteers are cross-training – learning new skills so they can take over some of the more specialized jobs, like scheduling guest appointments.

Others focus on managing the continuously changing list of pickup requests all over the valley as generous people ask that their furniture and other household goods get picked up and delivered to the depot as soon as possible.



Some volunteers answer the phone or check the answering machine almost every day of the week - the phone rings without stopping!



Others volunteers greet new guests (referred by social agencies all over the valley), listen to their stories and discover their individual needs. They then take the visitors through the warehouse, allowing them to choose from what we have available. Usually we're able to satisfy most of their needs.

Others are busy moving the guests' selected furniture items from within the warehouse area to the loading ramp where they can then be loaded onto the guest's waiting vehicle.



Sometimes the guest's "waiting vehicle" belongs to the guest's caseworker or to a friend. God bless those caseworkers and friends! Sometimes the guests use what little money they have to rent a van or a truck.

***Depot now open Tuesdays & Saturdays 9-12:30, Wednesdays 1 to 4pm***





Still others are on the loading ramp having just returned from a trip to a number of homes where they picked up donated furniture and other household goods. Others identify and tag incoming donations and unpack, organize & display the household goods.



Others use their skills to repair damaged furniture or verify the necessary tools and supplies are adequate to the task.



And there is always the task of taking care of trash and, yes, cleaning the bathroom!

Each of these tasks is approached with good cheer and a real sense of camaraderie.

Every one of our hundreds of volunteers, of course, has unique talents and areas they enjoy working in but one of the remarkable things

about these people is how they are all willing to show up, pitch in and to do whatever task needs doing. Rarely do we ever see one of our volunteers relax!



Every volunteer's day at the Depot is tiring but filled with satisfaction.

### **What's most important?**

*By Barbara Reimers*

You meet some amazing people at the Depot. Last week a soft spoken older man came in with his wife. She spoke no English and his was not the easiest to understand. While they were waiting to choose some furniture, he told me "We used to have furniture, but some teenagers in the neighborhood told my son they would kill him if he didn't sell drugs for them, so we left everything behind and moved away. I won't let anyone hurt my family." He knew what was most important, and I felt humbled to be able to help them get reestablished.

### **The Depot Trailer**

The Depot trailer will be at Wesley United Methodist Church to receive donations on Sunday, November 17th.

Go to our web site to discover the contents of each disaster relief kit. This month we'll be making a concerted effort to assemble birthing kits, so please consider donating receiving blankets and latex surgical gloves (size large or one size fits all) .





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October 2013

### Changes Coming

We are reevaluating our procedures in order to work most efficiently and to better serve our guests. This process began when Bob and Carol Totten, who had been working 24/7 on Depot matters, gave notice in June that they needed to regain some of their life back. Effective October 1st they will no longer be handling the daily phone calls, daily appointment requests and daily donation pickup requests.

These are major commitments which overwhelmed us at first and caused us, as a group, to seriously rethink our procedures.

We are grateful to the Tottens for what they did so well for the past 3½ years.

Consequently, we are trying to simplify these procedures and distribute the workload so that no one individual is burdened down with them.. (And, yes, we can certainly use additional volunteers to help if anyone feels inclined to offer their services.)

Secondly, having curtailed our hours during the summer heat wave, we've decided to adjust the hours we're open during the rest of the year. The half days have been certainly easier for our "elderly" volunteers to cope with--we actually find we have some energy left when we return home. But the fact that we were better able to deal with the heat and humidity made us realize that this would also be a good idea during the freezing months of winter.

Therefore, starting in November, our Tuesday and Saturday hours are going to remain 9 - 12:30 and we will also be open Wednesday afternoons from 1 - 4.

Adding an afternoon to our already busy

schedule will be helpful to both our guests and their caseworkers. Many caseworkers are not available to help their clients with transportation on weekends.

### Furniture and Houseware Needs

Do you know anyone who pays good money to keep unused furniture in a storage unit? Please encourage them to consider contacting the Depot to pick it up and give it to someone with nothing to sit or sleep on. That extra dresser that you moved to your basement or attic, if donated to the Depot, would be claimed and put to very good use within days by a very grateful guest!

What to do with those extra dishes, extra blankets, extra sheets, extra kitchenware, extra chairs, extra glasses, coffee mugs and extra tables?

Bring them to the Depot (or ask us to pick them up) and we'll find them a new home. To have them picked up, go to our web site and click on "Donate Furniture".

### The Depot Trailer

The Depot trailer will be parked at Wesley United Methodist Church to receive donations on Sunday, October 20th.

Go to our web site to discover the contents of each disaster relief kit. This month we'll be making a concerted effort to assemble birthing kits, so please consider donating receiving blankets and latex surgical gloves (size large or one size fits all).

## Choices

*By Karen Schaefer*

At the Depot we give our guests the opportunity to **choose** items that will meet their basic needs. Inherent in these choices is the opportunity to **select** a sofa from several available sofas. In theory the ability to select will improve the guests' sense of control when they may have had a life that was out of control! We do not know what kind of life they lived prior to coming to the Depot. Some guests will share their "back" stories and some **choose** not to share. Regardless of the reason for a referral, Jesus would want us to open our hearts and serve them as he would have.

I recently assisted a young woman referred to the depot by Mary's Place. She told me that prior to entering Mary's Place she thought she would be a homeless single mom. Her referral to Mary's Place changed her life. When she thought she had no choice, God provided. She successfully completed the program at Mary's Place and was referred to the Depot to help her furnish her new

apartment. She selected a sofa, chair and several household items. She left the Depot with a handshake and a smile that conveyed how much she appreciated the help we were able to give her.

This young woman modeled the importance of **choosing** items to meet her needs. She could have chosen tables and chairs, but what we had didn't meet her needs. Even though we might think she should have taken what we had, we've learned that we cannot force guests to take something that is not a good fit for them. If we did, we would be meeting our needs and not theirs. I am reminded of two fundamental principles that helped guide my career in nursing: first, those who are seeking health care will always keep certain parts of their lives a secret, even in the context of an illness/health need, and second, never impose your personal values on a client (guest).

In this case, a smile and a hand shake affirmed the importance and impact of doing God's work.

### A Day at the Depot

**9:00AM:** Volunteers arrive/set up/remove dust covers from items/ make coffee, check phone messages/ prepare pickup list/ exchange needed information. Signs get taken & placed on 3 street corners directing people to the Depot. All gather for Group prayer.

**9:30AM:** Pickup team starts their "runs"; Tables and areas get wiped down; Bathroom is cleaned; Calls are returned and acted upon throughout the day; one of these includes scheduling an appointment for a refugee family being resettled in the Lehigh Valley; Volunteers assemble disaster relief kits or sort and put away donated housewares - tasks which which may occupy the entire morning

Mr. Fix-it begins his repair work. The first guests arrives on schedule but so does a guest scheduled for an hour later. Volunteers accommodate both.

**10:00AM:** One of our volunteers receives some computer training; A man drops by with some furniture donations. We help him unload his vehicle. He needs to move off the ramp as a family arrives to pick up furniture they chose last week. Volunteers tag the new items and move them into the warehouse while other volunteers bring the guest's items to the ramp.

**10:30AM:** A single man comes in to get a new sofa and bed. Rats ate the ones he had.

**11:00AM:** A divorced woman with a 4 year old child arrives. She had to leave everything behind in her old apartment. Another woman arrives to pick up items chosen on a previous visit.

**11:30AM:** Local church members arrive to pick up emergency basics for a recently relocated man paralyzed from the neck down. They schedule a follow-up appointment for him to get other basic items.

**12:00PM:** Our pick-up crew returns with the truck loaded with items. They help load other vehicles before they can drive up onto the ramp and unload. All new items are tagged and put on display.

**12:15PM:** A young woman with 2 preschoolers arrives late for her appointment just as we are preparing to close up. We stay to help her. Her sons were thrilled to be able to take a couple of toy trucks home with them.

**12:30PM:** The truck leaves to make a couple of quick pickups before ending the day.

**12:45PM:** Closing up procedures begin - covering upholstered items to keep as dust free as possible; gathering and taking out the garbage, recyclables and cardboard; and going to pick up the Depot 's directional street signs from three corners, turning off lights and making certain everything is locked.

**1:00PM:** Home for some of us to update the website, proofread the newest draft of our Bylaws, and work on the next newsletter.

**2:00PM:** Truck returns from its second pickup (traffic was bad) to be unloaded the next Depot day.



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September 2013

***Urgent Need!***

The Tottens, who have worked tirelessly on Depot matters from the very beginning, are stepping back from some of their responsibilities. Consequently we are rearranging and reevaluating our tasks and procedures. What we need right now is someone with basic computer skills who would be willing to take care of scheduling our guests' appointments. This does not have to be done at the Depot except for a bit of training time.

Speak to Gayne Marriner (610-217-4887) or Bob or Carol Totten (610-253-0342) if you can do this.

***More God Moments!***  
***Beds***  
*by Bob Totten*

We enjoy giving people tours of the Outreach Depot and talking about our generous donors, both individuals and businesses. People always ask what items are needed the most. When it comes to furniture, the answer is an unequivocal - **Beds!** They are always requested by our guests, and many times we have none to give.

In August we got a call from Novosbed Memory Foam Company, a Canadian firm, asking if we'd be willing to accept a donation of memory foam mattresses! It turns out the mattresses were actually made in nearby Fogelsville and they wanted to give them to a non-profit organization which would give them to needy people! Apparently the company had consulted the Red Cross which had a toll free number used to locate nearby non-profit agencies fitting that description.

The result: The Outreach Depot received 51 brand new Novosbed memory foam mattresses still in the boxes, rolled and vacuum sealed.

Some of the king sized mattresses include memory foam pillows. They are beautiful, comfortable and exactly what many of our guests are looking for, having slept on a bare floor the night before they visit our ministry!



***A Homeless Man***  
*by Karen Schaefer*

A homeless man who was transitioning into an apartment was referred to the depot to select basic items to furnish his apartment.

He was an older man, quiet, yet focused and very clear about what he needed. He selected a twin bed, a loveseat, a small three drawer dresser and a small kitchen table with one chair. I provided him with a bag of cleaning supplies and then helped the two young men who had come with him load his newly acquired furniture into a truck.

At one point I approached the young men when I noticed they were chuckling like two little boys. I must have looked puzzled as they seemed to be laughing at the guest. They turned to me and said, "Just look at him out there (on the steps of the depot ramp) smoking a cigarette. He's never had a home of his own until now."

I can only imagine our guest could not believe that he finally had a place to live and the furniture he needed to create a home for himself.

***[www.lvoutreachdepot.org](http://www.lvoutreachdepot.org)***



### ***Patience is a Virtue!***

The Depot phone and website are quite active every single day with requests from people who want to donate items to those in need. How wonderful that is! People tend to forget however that we are basically a small group of volunteers trying to make many people happy – the caseworkers requesting appointments for guests; the guests hoping we'll have the items they need to re-establish a normal family life; and the donor who wants their items picked up sooner, rather than later.

Just this week there were only 2 men available to take the truck and to make pick-ups. Obviously, with just 2 men it takes longer and fewer pick-ups are made. Please know that every effort is made to pick up items as quickly and efficiently as possible. Unfortunately, sometimes it just can't happen. Pick-ups are made by the number of requests in a geographical area which helps expedite pick-ups.

It is a real benefit to the Depot team if folks are able to deliver their items to the Depot, especially if it is just one or two items. We always have help unloading if you can get someone to load your vehicle at your end.

There is a "Donate Furniture" box on the main page of our website where all information can be submitted for requesting a pick-up. It is easier and helps guarantee all information is obtained correctly, using the website.

### **Call it What it is!**

A recent article in the Sunday newspaper's Parade magazine gave us a new way of thinking.

#### ***"It's not downsizing, it's 'rightsizing'!"***

Many of us have reached or are soon to reach the stage in life where either we are moving to a smaller residence or we are finding it necessary to move a family member into a smaller one.

How many times have we taken an article that belonged to the family that we knew we'd never use, didn't need and really didn't want? We all have items that we totally forgot about until it was time to move. We took it or moved it merely for sentimental reasons. How long has that item taken up space? How long have we allowed it to clutter an area of our basement, closet or cabinet? Fall is coming! It's the perfect time to sort out, weed out and resize our space. Those useful, gently aged items can be of real value to someone who is re-establishing their lives where they live.

### **Discount Coupons**

We have an ongoing need for coupons from Bed, Bath & Beyond and Buy Buy Baby. Both stores are owned by the same company and we use the coupons when we purchase diapers for Layette Kits.

It might seem that it would be more cost effective to purchase diapers from Walmart or someplace similar, but the fact is that we use flat fold cloth diapers, not disposables. These are hard to find in the quantity we need. If another store has them at all, they will just have couple of packages.

Buy Buy Baby has them in the quantity we need, and using the coupons helps bring the cost down to something comparable to prices elsewhere. So please remember us when you get those coupons. They may be turned in at the hospitality table or put in Barbara Reimers' mailbox in the church office

### **The Depot Trailer**

The depot trailer will be parked at Wesley United Methodist Church on Sunday, September 22nd to receive donations.

Go to the Depot web site to learn about the contents of each of the disaster relief kits. That's what we're looking for this month!



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August 2013

***Many forms of Addiction...***

You might wonder how thoughts of addiction might become a topic in our monthly newsletter. Other than those that usually spring to mind, there are some we don't give a second thought to like shopping, hoarding, eating, watching TV, texting or using the computer. Breaking these addictions helps promote healthy lifestyles.

Donating to the Depot helps ease the over abundance of items filling a residence because of simply being unable to throw something away (even though it may have outlived its usefulness) or because it was bought as a "deal too good to pass up."

Breaking away from unnecessary time spent at the TV or computer and donating some of that time to helping others at the Depot substitutes meaningful purpose to our time. We get paid back by knowing that with a little help from others people who can't help themselves are helped to get their lives back on track.

We challenge you to put a smile on your face and in your heart and on the face of one of those we try to help. Become a member of the team of "People Blessing People."

***Summer Operating Hours***

The recent heat wave was brutal on our guests as well as our volunteers! We found the temperature inside the warehouse almost unbearable. A collection of fans and a good supply of bottled water (kept in the refrigerator) got us through the day.

Because of this situation, we decided it was a good idea to shorten our hours.

Now the Outreach Depot is open from 9:00 to 12:30 on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Even though the heat wave has broken, that doesn't mean it is cooler inside the warehouse. We've decided to keep this reduced schedule until further notice.

***Patience is a Virtue!***

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***[www.lvoutreachdepot.org](http://www.lvoutreachdepot.org)***

## What is a Disaster Relief Kit?

Every so often someone comes to the Outreach Depot and is curious about what we do. When possible we try to offer a tour of the entire warehouse, including our Disaster Relief Kit Assembly and Verification area. There is always the question: What is a "Disaster Relief Kit"?

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has created standardized kits for worldwide distribution. These kits help provide care for the most vulnerable people during times of crisis. Health kits, sewing kits, school kits, bedding kits, birthing kits and cleaning buckets are collected by generous donors all over the United States. These are then sent to one of two major supply depots, where they can be sent to wherever they are needed most.

These kits also help sustain everyday life for people who lack ready access to essential supplies. They provide vital support for UMCOR's global development work and make a tangible difference in people's lives.

Kits assembled and/or verified at the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot include:

**Cleaning Bucket:** These supplies enable people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a flood or hurricane.

**The Health Kit:** Provides basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Health kits are also used as personal hygiene learning tools.

**Layette Kit:** Many women do not have swaddling clothes with which to welcome their child into the world. Layette kits provide basic supplies for their baby's needs.

**Sewing Kit:** These kits foster independence rather than dependence. Women can make clothing in their own size and in the style of their own culture. Cottage industries often grow out of the sewing classes where women

use these kits to practice valuable income-generating skills.

**School Kit:** In some countries children don't have books or school supplies. Many have no schoolrooms; classes are held in inadequate or half-destroyed buildings, tents, or even the open air. School kits may be these children's only educational resources.

**Birthing Kit:** The birthing kit provides the essential items to promote a safe, clean delivery and to encourage good aftercare.

### What is UMCOR?

The Methodist Committee on Relief was created by the Methodist Church in 1940 in response to refugee needs arising from World War II. What began as a temporary relief program became a permanent part of The United Methodist Church in 1972. Renamed the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), since that time it has remained a unit of the General Board of Global Ministries.

Today, UMCOR supports work in more than 80 countries, with a direct presence through UMCOR NGO in nine of those countries. UMCOR's work includes programs and projects in disaster response, health, sustainable agriculture, food security, relief supplies, and more.

### The Depot Trailer

The depot trailer will be parked available at Wesley United Methodist Church on Sunday, August 18th to receive donations.

Go to the Depot web site to learn about the contents of each of the disaster relief kits. That's what we're looking for this month!

### Bed, Bath & Beyond and Buy, Buy Baby Discount Coupons

Drop your unused discount coupons off at the Hospitality Table or give them to Barbara Reimers! She'll use them to save on cloth diapers purchased for the UMCOR Layette Kits!





# Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot

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July 2013

## Inspire others!

Supporting the mission of the Depot doesn't have to be laborious, time consuming or physical in nature. It can be as simple as buying something extra for those in need while shopping for yourself or for your family. Things don't have to be expensive and they don't have to be in large quantities.

Subtle suggestions and clever themes can be just what is needed to inspire coworkers to "jump on board" with help for the Outreach Depot.

One of our regular weekend volunteers is employed full time. She makes regular postings at her workplace. Each month she offers a theme for the month. May's theme was "Dollar Days". Suggested items were can openers, measuring cups, coffee cups, dishes or any useful household item available at the Dollar stores. June's theme was "Can you Spare a Square". Suggested items were paper towels and tissues. July's theme is "We Thirst for Donations" - plastic tumblers, mugs and glasses.

Why not see if you can do something similar at your workplace or with your own social group?

## Donation Drop-Offs

Donations brought to the Depot are greatly appreciated. PLEASE, if dropping things off at our location at 1866 Auburn Street, bring your donations on days when the Depot is open (Tuesday or Saturday 9 am – 3 pm).

The warehouse is not our property. We are only tenants and all inventory has to be kept within the space allocated to our ministry —not outside. Other tenants have to have access to the outside ramp on a regular basis during the

week. Donated items can't be just left on the ramp when the Depot is closed.



**Wanted:** Someone to handle the front desk on Tuesday or Saturday mornings. This would entail guest registration and updating records. Contact Carol Totten (610-253-0342) or Barbara Reimers (610-694-0767) if willing.

## July Donations

The Depot trailer will be parked outside the front door of Wesley United Methodist Church on Sunday, July 21st.

This month we're seeking donations of gently used (or new) small appliances, dishes and glassware.

Other items on our "needs" list are also welcome as always. To see our "needs" list, go to our web site and click on "needs".

[www.lvoutreachdepot.org](http://www.lvoutreachdepot.org)

**Total Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot  
Output since April 2010**

***Furniture and Household Goods: \$541,461***

This figure is the total dollar value of all furniture and household goods taken by our guests. Values are based upon the average donation value specified by the Salvation Army Valuation Guide.

***Disaster Relief Kits: \$212,000***

This is the total dollar value of UMCOR disaster relief kits assembled and/or verified by Outreach Depot volunteers and delivered to Mission Central for distribution worldwide.

The majority of these kits were donated to the Outreach Depot by churches all over the Lehigh Valley and beyond. Depot volunteers verified each kit, making sure that only contents specified by United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) were included in each kit. Many of the contributing churches donated supplies and raised cash to purchase items necessary to complete the kits. (Note: Each kit has a specified dollar value reported by the UMCOR web site.)

The Outreach Depot would like to acknowledge the many hours of hard work, generosity and financial contributions of the following:

Advent Lutheran Church  
Arndt's Lutheran Church  
Asbury United Methodist Church  
Blakeslee United Methodist Church  
Calvary United Methodist Church  
Centenary United Methodist Church  
Christ Lutheran Church of Lower Saucon  
East Stroudsburg United Methodist Church  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity  
Faith Lutheran Church  
First Presbyterian Church  
First United Methodist Church  
Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Friedens Lutheran Church  
Grace United Methodist Church  
Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Lutheran Congregational Services

Mountainhome United Methodist Church  
Nativity Lutheran Church  
New Hanover Lutheran Church  
Pius X High School  
Quakertown United Methodist Church  
Reeders United Methodist Church  
Royersford United Methodist Church  
Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church  
Saint Daniel's Lutheran Church  
Saint John's Lutheran Church  
Saint Mark's Community Lutheran Church  
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church  
Saint Michael Lutheran Church  
Saint Paul's Lutheran Church  
Saint Paul's Third Lutheran Church  
Saint Paul's United Church of Christ  
Saint Paul's United Methodist Church  
Salem United Church of Christ  
Scottsville United Methodist Church  
Ziegels Union Church of Christ  
Zion's Union Church of Christ  
Zwingli United Church of Christ

**Second Quarter 2013  
Results**

Greater Lehigh Valley residents helped in April, May and June:

Adults	197
Children (infant - 12)	178
Children (13-18)	<u>63</u>
Total	438

Help included, among other things:

Chairs	229	Tables	170
Beds	95	Dressers	76
Sofas	81	Desks	33
Lamps	96	TVs	30
Cleaning Bags		26	
Dollar Value: \$64,710			

1,441 verified disaster relief kits and supplies were taken to Mission Central for distribution throughout the world. Included were:

Health Kits	814	Cleaning Buckets	94
Birthing Kits	331	Layette Kits	130
Dollar Value: \$22,300			



## **Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot**

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

### **Another God Moment** **Morning Call Columnist Bill White**

For the third time since we launched this ministry, Bill White tells our story to residents of the Lehigh Valley and beyond. Bill's most recent article is quoted in this newsletter for those who may have missed it and for those who don't get the Morning Call.



### **Bustling Outreach Depot** **still needs stable home**

*by Bill White*  
*The Morning Call*

I've written before about Outreach Depot, a mission project of Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem. It's in an unheated, 8,000-foot Bethlehem warehouse rented very inexpensively from Ed Sinko, owner of the company Rustic Exteriors. In fact, Rustic Exteriors let them have a smaller space downstairs for nothing in the Depot's first year.

As word has spread of the amazing work these volunteers are doing on behalf of people trying to rebuild their lives, other contributors have come forward with what Depot organizers call **God Moments**. There was a \$100,000 contribution toward the purchase of a permanent home for the operation. A \$15,000 grant that allowed Outreach Depot to buy its own used truck with a hydraulic lift, and the cooperation of local car dealers in helping get one for a good price. An offer of up to \$20,000 in matching funds for donations

to the operation by July 4. The \$500-plus in disaster relief supplies donated through a fundraising effort of the National Honor Society at Pius X High School. Continuing donations from 1-800-GOT-JUNK, which cleans out homes and contributes suitable items to the Depot.

As Outreach Depot begins its fourth year — volunteers, contributors and friends celebrated its third anniversary last Sunday — it has logged almost 17,500 volunteer hours from 262 volunteers. It has distributed 11,275 disaster relief kits, 2,179 chairs, 1,334 tables, 830 small appliances, 696 beds, 662 dressers, 606 sofas and much more.

It has served 1,420 referrals, resulting in 4,690 total lives touched.

"We do a lot of praying," Totten says, "and it seems to pay off."

Karen and Harry Schaefer, who have been volunteering for two years, heard a presentation from Bob and Carol Totten (Carol, Bob's wife, is volunteers coordinator) at a church mission meeting. The Schaefers showed up one day at the Depot — "We didn't have a clue what to expect," Karen told me — and quickly found themselves caught up in the effort. Harry was part of the team on that Outreach Depot truck Tuesday morning. Karen, who wrote the grant request that got them the truck, took knitting lessons so she could help make infant sweaters for disaster relief kits aimed at people with newborns.

I'm writing again about Outreach Depot in part to recognize the way this wonderful effort continues to grow. I find it inspirational that ordinary people could have made such a leap of faith three years ago and succeeded so spectacularly.

I'm also writing about it because this ministry will remain in jeopardy until a more stable home can be found. Generous as Rustic Ex-



teriors has been, this warehouse space still is being marketed to commercial customers. If a taker is found, Outreach Depot will have 90 days to find a new home.

Totten figures they'll need about \$300,000 to buy the building they need. Meanwhile, they're hoping to lease someplace suitable — preferably heated — at a nominal fee.

Ideally, they're looking for about 10,000 square feet. They had some bites the last time I wrote about this, but none worked out. If you have a suitable unused space that you would like to see put to important use, call Bob Totten at 610-737-1640.

I'm hopeful, as I know they are. One thing I didn't mention about their busy morning was the way every day starts out at the Depot Warehouse.

The volunteers gather in a circle to pray.

It does seem to pay off.

### **How the Depot Recycles**

*by Karen Schaefer*

Recycling is the process of collecting and processing materials that would otherwise be thrown away as trash and turning them into new products.

Once we started asking "What could we use this for?" we realized that we were throwing materials into the trash that could be used for other purposes. Here is a list of some of the things we are doing to help the community and the environment:

- Plastic bags are used to line waste baskets, sent to Turning Point for disposal of diapers, and saved for library book sales.
- Ribbon from bundles of washcloths are saved for crafters and used by some for wrapping gifts.
- Plastic containers from sheets and receiving blankets are used for preschool colored markers.
- Sleeper sofas that come into the depot

in bad condition are stripped and the metal is taken to recycling for cash for disaster relief supplies.

- Other metal items (i.e. filing cabinets) that are not selected by guests after several months are also recycled for cash to ship depot supplies worldwide.
- Computers and printers are sent to Mission Central to be refurbished and then distributed to other individuals and non-profits in need.
- Non-compliant relief kit supplies are used in cleaning bags for local distribution or given to local shelters or schools.
- Vases and other decorative containers that are not selected by our guests are used by a volunteer to make flower arrangements for the guests to select.
- Non-compliant soap is used for safety pins. Diaper pins are stuck into the soap to make it easier for securing the diapers around the layette kits.
- Items that come to the depot that are outside of our mission (clothing, baby items, books, stuffed animals) are given to non-profits that can use them.
- Soda can tabs are collected for McDonald's which cashes them in for supporting families and children in distress.
- We practice the recycling of paper, cans, and glass on a regular basis.

And last but not least:

Dr. Don Follmer (known as Dr. Don) gives new life to furniture that is brought to the depot in disrepair by adding legs, gluing loose woods, replacing shelves, and cleaning furniture to give the items a fresh clean look, thus making them more appealing to the guest!

We do not manufacture new products from our "trash" for the purchasing of recycled products by others; we use items for multiple purposes keeping them in circulation rather than sending them somewhere to negatively impact the environment. Our hope is to support a healthy community in which our guests can have a better life.



# **Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot**

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

## **Starting our 4th year of Ministry!**

The month of April is known to us for the beauty of the spring season. It encompasses the ultimate sacrifice that was made for ALL of us. For the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot, it officially (April 24<sup>th</sup> to be exact) marked the anniversary date of the Depot's grand opening. We are now in our 4<sup>th</sup> year. God is good! This ministry has been blessed by people who believe in what the Depot is doing. We thank each and every one who is reading this publication, who has helped in any way, shape or form to be involved with the Depot. We have received monetary donations, material donations and many offerings of time, talents and prayers.

We invite you to come and see the creativity of our "Fix-It Man" who is able to replace a missing table corner, create a drawer to replace a missing one for a dresser, or rewire a lamp. You also could see the creations of our special "Jack of all Trades" who has created various carts to help lighten the moving, loading and unloading of donated goods.

We have knitters and crocheters who put love into each stitch of the sweaters created for the UMCOR Layette kits.

We have beautiful flower arrangements created to not only brighten and beautify the Depot but to also brighten our guests' homes. There are those who give of their time fixing our computer system; who have created an

### **May Donations**

The Depot trailer will be at the entrance to Wesley United Methodist Church Sunday, May 19th. Fill it up with whatever you have to give! And remember, we have ongoing needs for bedding, towels, small appliances and travel size toiletries.



interface database system; those who maintain the database; those who record our donations and expenditures; our webmaster; our grant writer; our organizers, those who work with guests, our movers, our kit coordinator and assemblers, those who help keep us stocked with office supplies and ALL the volunteers in general. The list goes on and on.

What we still need is a bilingual volunteer who can assist with Spanish speaking guests.

### **Spring Garage Sale?**

Please keep the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot in mind if you or your neighbors are planning a garage sale or if you are going to a garage sale.

Unwanted or unneeded used, but serviceable furniture, kitchenware, glassware, small appliances, rugs, bed linens and other items are often left over when the garage sale is over.

What is to be done with all of those wonderful leftover things?

Rather than putting them back in storage until next year's garage sale, thus creating clutter in the basement or attic, why not pack them into your car and drop them off at the Depot? We can even give you a receipt so that you can claim them as charitable donations!

### 3 Years of God's Work

Last month we started our 4th year of ministry. When we began we had no idea to what extent this ministry would impact the Lehigh Valley.

How many people have been helped?

Adults	2,233
Children (0 - 12)	1,940
Children (13-18)	<u>528</u>
Total	4,701

These were referred by more than 75 local service agencies and churches. They were able to move these items into their homes:

Tables	1,345	Dressers	687
Chairs	2,184	Desks	213
Sofas	610	Lamps	638
Beds	699	Cleaning Bags	330
Small Appliances		831	

11,275 disaster relief kits and a variety of other supplies were delivered to Mission Central for distribution throughout the world. Here's what we delivered:

Health Kits	6,454	Sewing Kits	79
Cleaning Buckets	759	Layette Kits	486
Birthing Kits	2,600	School Kits	897

During this period the Depot's internet web site has had 14,436 visits.

Volunteers:	256
Volunteer hours:	17,460

### A Special Thank You For Those Who Made This Possible

On Sunday, April 28th, the Outreach Depot Volunteers sponsored and hosted an afternoon reception to express their thanks to Depot Donors.

A slide show chronicled the day to day operations of the depot from the time the idea was first conceived up until the present. (You can



see the slide show displayed on the monitor in Wesley Church's Atrium!) Refreshments were enjoyed by all, thanks to the generous hard work and efforts of our many volunteers.

Thank you one and all who have offered prayers in support of this ministry and help provide the continued strength to trust God's direction and blessings on those who do His work.







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April 2013

***A Real Blessing for the Outreach Depot and its Volunteers!***

**Question:** It's only a truck.....what's the big deal? The Depot has been using volunteers' pickup trucks, the depot trailer and other trucks borrowed from local real estate agencies who let us use them on an "as available" basis!

**Answer:** Thanks to Karen Schaefer's skillful grant writing, the Outreach Depot was given a \$15,000 grant to help buy a box truck. For the past few weeks we've found that having our own truck enhances our ministry in ways we never expected!

Every Tuesday and Saturday our volunteers pick up furniture from homes and businesses are all over the Valley. In the past, when we had to use our volunteers' pickup trucks and trailers, they had to make multiple trips. Often, when returning to the depot, they'd have to wait until our guests cleared the loading ramp. Only then could they unload and leave to get to the next appointment. Now, with more truck capacity, they don't have to return to the depot as often and have to make fewer trips, (and thus reduce fuel costs)! Also, fewer volunteers are needed and part of the crew can stay at the depot to do other work.

About once every 3 months we deliver disaster relief kits to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg. We have had to take two pickup trucks with trailers and a mini-van.



Now we can take everything in the new truck— fewer vehicles, fewer drivers—less gas!

We often get short notice calls asking us to pick up donated furniture. In March we were contacted by the general manager of the Marriott Fairfield Inn in Allentown. He had just been asked by his renovation contractor to clear 7 hotel rooms so his workforce could get to work the next morning. The manager offered the Outreach Depot 14 full size beds with frames and pillows— but only if they could be picked up and removed by the end of the day! If we hadn't had the truck ready to go on short notice, we may or may not have been able to round up multiple pickup trucks and volunteers on short notice. Fortunately we had both the truck and a few strong volunteers available to move on short notice! What a blessing!

**April Donations**

The Depot trailer will be parked outside the front door of Wesley United Methodist Church on Sunday, April 21st. This month we're seeking donations of gently used (or new) small appliances, dishes and glassware. Other items on our "needs" list are also welcome.



**[www.lvoutreachdepot.org](http://www.lvoutreachdepot.org)**

### First Quarter 2013 Results

The Depot continues to be blessed with very generous donors. Because of this, we continue to be a blessing to many needy families in the Lehigh Valley.

These are the people whose lives have been directly touched since the beginning of 2013:

Adults	193
Children (infant - 12)	145
Children (13-18)	<u>60</u>
Total	398

These people were able to move the following into their homes

Tables	99	Dressers	78
Chairs	205	Desks	21
Sofas	67	Lamps	48
Beds	61	Cleaning Bags	13
Small Appliances		51	

More than 900 disaster relief kits and other supplies were delivered to Mission Central for distribution throughout the world. Here's what was delivered:

Health Kits	481	Sewing Kits	35
Cleaning Buckets	244	Layette Kits	27
Birthing Kits	120		

During this period the Depot's internet web site ([www.outreachdepot.org](http://www.outreachdepot.org)) had 1,300 visits.

Volunteers: 45      Volunteer hours: 1,584

### **"And the Angel Appeared"** **Partnering with Mary's Shelter** *by Karen Schaefer*

Volunteers at the depot were helping a family load their furniture when I noticed a woman standing near the entrance to the depot with a large cardboard box at her feet. I thought she was probably waiting for one of us to help her load her selections. I asked if she was being helped and she said, "I have a box of things to be delivered to the Depot." She was not sure where to take them. I ushered her into the waiting area of the Depot during which time she

told me the box was full of knitted/crocheted baby sweaters that Mary's Shelter could not use. All she had to say was "baby sweaters" and I got so excited I could barely contain myself. I had heard a whisper about possible sweaters being delivered and quickly put the pieces together.



I sifted through the box with the joy of a child and could not believe that we received 33 handmade baby sweaters along with tiny hats, scarves and mittens! PRAISE the LORD! We took her on a tour of the depot and took a picture of her with the sweaters to file with our God Moments. She was reluctant because she did not make them. She was the Angel that brought them to us and her name was Karen. In return we gathered overstock of non-compliant cleaning supplies for her to take to the women housed in the shelter. What a great day this was!

We have a new friend and another community connection. Mary's Shelter Cay Calgon Center provides temporary housing to young women while assisting them with counseling, education and quality pre-natal care that focuses on achieving independent living skills. The goal is the birth of a healthy baby to a healthy well-informed mother. So many individuals want to make baby sweaters for the infants that often there are not enough babies to fill the sweaters! We can help the knitters get some of those sweaters to babies all over the world. In turn we can assure individuals who give cleaning supplies to the Depot, that if we cannot use them, we will make sure we find someone in need who can. We are so blessed!!



## **Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot**

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March 2013

### **Watch For This Truck Around the Lehigh Valley!**



The Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot recently announced that it had received a \$15,000 grant to be used towards the purchase of a box truck. We are so happy to share this picture of our purchase from Milham Ford.

The truck is already being used by our volunteers to move donated furniture and household goods from the homes of generous donors to the Outreach Depot warehouse. It will be "sporting" lettering soon.

By the time this newsletter is printed, more than 900 disaster relief kits will have been delivered to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, PA.

### **March Donations**

The Depot trailer will be parked outside the front door of Wesley United Methodist Church on Sunday, March 17th.

This month we are still asking for donations of gently used (or new) warm blankets, comforters, sheets, towels, washcloths and travel size toiletries. Other items on our "needs" list are also welcome.

### **Financing the new Warehouse**

For 2 years now we have been searching for a warehouse to lease but have found nothing suitable and/or affordable. We have been trying to find a new location because our current place is for sale and is unheated. It is amazing that our dedicated volunteers continue to come in to work every Tuesday and Saturday, despite the cold!



As a consequence, a generous donor has given us \$100,000 to apply toward the purchase of a new home for our ministry.

We recently found what appeared to be a suitable property in Allentown but couldn't act on it quickly enough.

Experience has shown that, should we be able to raise an additional \$200,000, we should be able to buy a building and cover the cost of utilities, insurance and taxes with donations received from our regular donors.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if there were someone willing to make a special donation to help make up the difference?

Please pray about this and see if you might be able to help us fill this need.

**[www.lvoutreachdepot.org](http://www.lvoutreachdepot.org)**



### **"The Newbies on the Block"**



**Tom and Anne Henshaw**

We welcome our "newbies", Tom & Anne Henshaw. They are a couple who see a need and just jump in, helping wherever it's needed.

A personal note from Anne:

*"Tom and I have been married 35 years and reside in Hellertown with our golden retriever, Violet. We are members of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bethlehem.*

*Tom is Public Works Director for the Borough of Hellertown, and I am an Accounts Payable Representative for Brown & Brown of Lehigh Valley (an insurance agency) in Bethlehem.*

*Tom and I are both inspired by the seasons of Lent and Spring. It is a season of self-sacrifice and abundant hope and time of renewal and rebirth and of starting over. I personally have always been inspired by my mother who, throughout her life, had little but gave so very much to others. She and her love of flowers have been the inspiration for the silk flower arrangements I make to donate to others. I know she would be very pleased to see the joy that her inspired designs bring to guests of the Depot.*

*We had been looking to find a place to volunteer that needed our time and efforts and where we could do the most good. Our*

*church ran an article about the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot, and after calling (Carol) and learning of all the programs you have, and how well and efficiently the facility is run, we were inspired had to come and take a tour. Needless to say, we were not only impressed with what you do, and how you do it, but that everyone was so helpful and welcoming to new volunteers. After seeing the tremendous need for donations, what started for us as a place to volunteer time, quickly turned into our calling on friends, family and co-workers for items for the Depot clients. I guess passing the word to others, as to how they can help others, is what ministering means to us. I cannot describe the joy and satisfaction that comes from our being the conduit to get goods to the clients at the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot.*

*We would both like to thank the office staff ladies of Hellertown Borough for their donations of silk flowers and vases that allowed me to start the gifts of silk arrangements. We would also like to thank the employees of Brown & Brown of Lehigh Valley for numerous gifts of furniture, housewares, and linens.*

*Thank you for your donations, and your continued support.*

*Anne Henshaw"*

The Depot team thanks Anne & Tom for their time, their talent and their treasures.

### **The Greater Lehigh Valley Auto Show**

The Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot has signed up with the Greater Lehigh Valley Automobile Dealers Association to sell tickets for the March 21-22 Auto Show at Stabler Arena. The tickets are \$10. each.

The Depot will get a percentage of each ticket sold, but those tickets must be sold by March 14th. If you expect to attend the show or would like to give tickets to friends and neighbors, see Gayne Marriner, Barbara Reimers, Karen Schaefer, or Carol or Bob Totten.





**Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot**  
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February 2013

**Our Third Anniversary is Coming Up!**

*by Barbara Reimers*

We have recently begun a new year, and, at the end of April, the Depot will be celebrating its 3rd anniversary.

It is amazing to reflect on how far we have come in such a short period of time, and yet there is so much more to do. Just in the past couple of months, we have seen a great expansion in the breadth and depth of our contacts, our partner agencies, and our impact in the community. A number of new homeless shelters have sprung up and we have been able to help them with bedding and personal care kits.

We continue our relationships with such organizations as Victory House, the Allentown Rescue Mission, Turning Point, and TeachRwanda among others, and we do what we can to adapt to their shifting and expanding needs.

When we began, our thought was to provide furniture for homeless people transitioning to new living quarters and disaster relief kits to those in crisis wherever the need was. And we were told that we would find other local needs to provide for as well. We accepted this but didn't really understand. Now we get it. Hurricane Sandy made it plain, the increased homelessness in the Valley made it plain, and so did the encounters with many whose needs did not fit into our neat little preconceptions.

Do yourself a favor--visit us to see what we are about. Let us give you a tour of our facility. You do not have to volunteer but you do need to understand at the heart level what we are about. Come and see. Your mind will be expanded and your life enriched.

**L** Light - 2 Corinthians 4:6  
Love - John 13:34

**V** Value - Luke 12:4-12

**O** Obey - Luke 11:28

**D** Disciple - John 13:35

February is the shortest month of the year.

It is, however, a very powerful month.

It is known as:

**"Heart Month"**

**"Dental Health Month"**

and

**"Black History Month".**

The *Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot's* mission touches hearts by helping make people's lives more comfortable and manageable.

**February Donations**

The Depot trailer will be parked at the front door of Wesley United Methodist Church on Sunday, February 17th.

This month we're specifically asking for donations of gently used (or new) warm blankets, comforters, sheets, towels & washcloths. We also need toothpaste and toothbrushes. Other items on our "needs" list are also welcome.

### **Agencies Using the Services of the Outreach Depot**

Abraxus Youth & Family Services	Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living
Allentown Rescue Mission	Lehigh Valley Community Mental Health Center
Allentown School District	Lehigh Valley Drug & Alcohol Intake Unit
Assertive Community Treatment	Lehigh Valley Families Together
Beginning Over Foundation	Lehigh Valley Health Network
Bethlehem Area School District	Lehigh Valley Hospital
Broughal Family Center	Lehigh Valley Intake Unit
Career Link	Marvine Family Center
Casa de Adulam, Inc.	Mary's Shelter Cay Galgon Center
Casa Guadalupe Center	Mosser Village Family Center
Catholic Charities	Muslim Association of the Lehigh Valley
Center for Independent Living	New Bethany Ministries
Community Action Committee	New Story
Community Services for Children	Northampton Community College
Community Solutions, Inc.	Northampton County Children & Youth
Comunity Mental Health Center	Pennsylvania Mentor
Department of Veterans Affairs	Pinebrook Family Services
Donegan Elementary School	Private Industry Council
Drug & Alcohol Intake Unit	Project of Easton
Early Head Start	Salem United Methodist Church
Easton Area Community Services	Salisbury Behavioral Health Center
Edgeboro Moravian Church	Salvation Army
Esperanza for Bethlehem	Service and Access Management, Inc.
Faith Lutheran Church	Signature Family Services
Family Answers	Sixth Street Shelter
Fowler Family Center	Society of St. Vincent dePaul
Friitz Memorial United Methodist Church	Spanish Council
Hispanic Center of the Lehigh Valley	St. Luke's Hospital Community Health Center
Hispanic Council	Step by Step
Hispanic Senior Center	The Program for Women & Families
Holcomb Behavioral Health System	Trinity Episcopal Church
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	Transitional Living Center
Holy Trinity Catholic Church	Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley
Iglesia Casa de Adulam, Inc.	Valley Youth House
Justice Works Youth Care	Veterans Administration
Lehigh County Children & Youth	Victory House
Lehigh County Conference of Churches	Wesley United Methodist Church
Lehigh Valley Assertive Community Treatment	Youth Advocate Program



# **Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot**

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

January 2013

## **In Memoriam**

By Bob & Carol Totten

In October 2009, the vision for the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot became reality.

We received a call in response to a mass mailing sent to warehouse owners asking if a business owner might have space available to house this ministry. Gary Wagner called and arranged a meeting with us, his partner Ed Sinko, our former pastor Bill Lentz and Bill Whipple.

*Someone believed in, understood and shared the vision!*

The rest is history. The vision for a disaster relief warehouse would never have come to fruition if this generous and caring man hadn't been touched by the need of others.



**Gary Wagner**

Gary Wagner wasn't well known by us but we want to honor and recognize his memory, his contribution and his mission work. Gary's obituary, which includes a plethora of meaningful accomplishments, was published in the Morning Call December 23, 2012. It was in reading this obituary that we discovered his generosity was widespread and that many other charitable organizations had benefitted from his desire to reach out and help others.

Gary, together with Ed Sinko, created our first God Moment by believing in what we hoped to do. The start these two men gave us helped launch The Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot to the point it is today.

This year we'll celebrate the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of The Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot. We strongly believe it was the result of the belief and faith Gary bestowed on us that has helped this mission flourish. Gary gave us our start. Gary was a blessing to us and to thousands of souls we've been able to help. We are eternally grateful.

Gary, job well done!

---

## **2012 Summary Report**

This has been a very blessed year for both our guests and our exceptionally busy volunteers. Statistics for 2012 include:

**Lives touched** - 1,772 needy people, including 957 children, who received \$283,450 worth of furniture and household goods donated by the generous people of the Lehigh Valley.

**Disaster relief kits distributed** - 3,185 kits valued at nearly \$60,000.  
**Volunteer hours recorded** - 4,700.

**Web site visits** - 5,257.

In December we received a very generous \$15,000 grant from a foundation (which wishes to remain anonymous) to help our ministry buy a used or new truck.

The truck will be used by our volunteers to pick up and bring donated furniture and household goods to our warehouse in Saucon Park. It will also be used to deliver verified disaster relief kits to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, PA.

**[www.lvoutreachDepot.org](http://www.lvoutreachDepot.org)**

## God Works in Unexpected Ways

We have been talking about "God Moments" since the Depot opened.

God Moment #2 tells the story of a church couple purchasing a variety of household goods for us, and a half an hour later being able to answer a single mother's request for pots and pans by giving her a set that the couple had provided.

There have been many more of these God moments since, and naturally, we came to develop an idea of what a God moment looked like.

But then He surprised us! A few weeks ago, a young mother came in hoping to find beds for her family as well as a few other things. Unfortunately, that day we

had nothing that she needed.

As she sat there digesting this and talking with the volunteer who was working with her, she realized there were other ways she could get what she needed -

- there was a bed in storage which could be used, and
- she had just gotten a job and could put a few things on layaway.

When she left, she was pleased with the outcome of her visit. *She was pleased with herself.*

And we realized that, even though this encounter was different from our usual guest visits, we had still been able to help a woman *in need* pull her life together. This too was a God moment!

---

*Dear Wesley Family,*

*The Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot team thanks our special church family for the wonderful gifts and monetary donations received as a result of the Christmas Giving Tree program. Your kindness and generosity have created smiles galore on the faces of both our volunteers and from the families receiving desperately needed assistance from the Depot. Thank you!*

### 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](mailto:gayne@ptd.net), Carol Totten at 610-737-1640 or [totten.60@rcn.com](mailto:totten.60@rcn.com) or Barbara Reimers at 610-694-0767 or [bbreimers@verizon.net](mailto:bbreimers@verizon.net)

### Our Search for a Larger (and warmer) Warehouse Continues

We continue our search for a new home for the Depot. Our present setup is ideal in every way except for the fact that the building is for sale or lease and, equally important, the lack of any heat!

We need to find 8,000-10,000 square feet of heated warehouse space where we can continue our ministry without our volunteers being subjected to cold and dampness during the winter.

### January Donations

The Depot trailer will again be parked at the front door of Wesley Church on Sunday, January 20th.

This month we're specifically asking for donations of gently used (or new) warm blankets, comforters, sheets, towels, washcloths, crock pots, coffee makers, pots & pans and toasters. We also need new, not used, toothpaste, toothbrushes, single edge razor blades and receiving blankets