

Recollections

Weekly Calendar

AA: Fridays

8:00 p.m. to 9 p.m.

NA: Thursdays

7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

NAR-ANON Family Group:

Thursdays

7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

SAA for Men:

Sundays, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

DailyBread Meal for Community:

Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Thursdays 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Adult Clothing Giveaway:

First Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Third Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Food Pantry: Columbia County

3rd Friday of each month

9 a.m. to 12 noon

Fresh Express: Every Thursday,

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Upcoming Calendar of Events:

August 25 – 9th Annual Palooza

11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Bloomsburg
Town Park

August 29 – Hosting Bloomsburg
Chamber After Hours Open House
4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

September 24 – 28 – Office Closed,
No Fresh Express, No Meals Served

October 8 – Dining to Donate
(Applebee's)

October 12-13 Berwick River Fest

October 26 – Boo! Burg

November 3 – Evansville UMC
Craft Fair (Benefits AGAPE)

AGAPE Daily Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Friday
9am to 4pm, Thursday, 9am—5pm

Hebrews 6:10: God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

Alleviating the Insecurity of Being Hungry

"We are not just feeding a child's physical needs, but it goes deeper. We are helping their wellbeing by alleviating the insecurity of being hungry. It helps them to learn better, improves attendance and test scores, and helps them to become more involved at school. It is also a cushion for the family unit which has a ripple effect from the child, to the school, to the community." These are some of the thoughts of Laurie Swank who runs the School BackPack Program here at AGAPE.

The program began in the fall of 2015 with 182 students enrolled. This year over 24,000 backpacks will be distributed. Each weekend students who are enrolled will take home healthy food and snacks to supplement their diet while not in school. Schools currently participating in this program through AGAPE include Benton, Berwick, Central Columbia, Millville, Columbia County Christian, Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech, Southern Columbia and Sullivan County Head Start. Each school is responsible for determining who will qualify for the backpacks. The school task forces try hard to keep anonymity for the students, while at the same time, giving them access to additional healthy food.

Berwick Head Start has also established a Food Pantry for elementary school families to use during the week to supplement the family's food. The Vo-Tech Homeless Task Force (whose job it is to try and keep students in school) has established a Food Pantry for the teens there. All these programs are supplied through AGAPE from the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and through donations we receive. AGAPE does not accept any expired food or food exposed to peanuts and tree nuts for this program.

The last Tuesday evening of each month about 15 volunteers gather in our warehouse to pack the backpacks for the coming month. Backpacks may include breakfast foods, packaged noodles, canned fruit and vegetables, juice boxes and other healthy snacks. They are then stored and delivered each week to the schools. Some schools pack their own backpacks; we simply ship them the food.

To donate to this program or to volunteer, please contact AGAPE at dailybread@agape-pa.org or 570-317-2210.

Berwick AHA Graduation



On May 30, 2018, ten people graduated from the Berwick Getting Ahead in a Gettin' By World Program. The event was held at Grace Lutheran Church. Co-facilitators of the group were Danielle Howie and Vicki Palko, both graduates of the program. The graduates spoke about how the program has helped them. They received certificates, and a reception followed.

Bloomsburg AHA Graduation



Bloomsburg AHA graduation was held on June 28 at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church. The program included a video made by Central Susquehanna Community Foundation. Facilitators were Judy Ryan and Gail Menapace. A reception followed. Graduates pictured are Ruthann Passmore, Jeanne Benjamin, Jennifer Rutherford, Mary Lynn, David Rutherford, Elizabeth Rhone, and Amber Rose Mayo. Missing from the photo is Linda Ruhl. For information on how you can be involved in this program or to refer someone to the program, call AGAPE at 570-317-2210 or email at agapelovefromabove.org.



Matt Korol and Eileen hug at Matt's farewell party. He has been the Director of Facilities and Operations at AGAPE since 2011, and we wish him well as he moves to Florida. He has helped AGAPE grow to where it is today, and he will be greatly missed.



Fork Lift Training in the Warehouse. Ruth Thomas takes her turn as the warehouse staff receives training in the proper operation of the fork lift.



Check presentation from Service 1st Credit Union

Letter from the Executive Director

Friends of AGAPE,

It has been an interesting, exhausting summer. Our warehouse is Hot! But we are not complaining too much because we realize it's not dark, dreary and snowing. It's been exhausting because we are trying to catch up with major staff changes and volunteer vacancies that have made our staff take on additional jobs and help others with their jobs. God blesses them because things are getting done, but not as efficiently and effectively as we would like.

If you are interested in helping we sure could use someone to help with public relations, marketing, and fundraising. We could also use some muscle to help with pick-up and delivery of appliances and furniture; a driver for a van and/or box truck (CDL not required but a clearance for our insurance company is). We would really like help Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays between 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Because of the nature of our business, regularity is appreciated; less than two hours is not productive. If you haven't been to AGAPE recently, we would be more than happy to show you around. You might find something you would like to do. Without our valuable volunteers AGAPE really could not operate.

To explain how valuable volunteers are, in 2017 volunteers gave 31,674 hours of service. That equates to \$229,636.50 worth of paid service at the minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. We were able to give \$101,266.77 in financial aid in 2017, so none of that would have been used to help those in need had we paid those who volunteered. Currently, our operation costs are extremely low because we believe our clients' needs are of more concern than hiring people. Only \$.04 of every dollar contributed to AGAPE financially is used for operations, while \$.96 of every dollar goes to programming (helping our clients). Those eight staff members who are paid but do not receive any benefits (except three weeks of vacation) earn between \$8.25 and \$12.00 per hour. They are sacrificially working at those low wages to ensure AGAPE can use its financial assets for the benefit of its clients. We have an awesome staff paid and volunteers.

Even though it's been a stressful summer due to the lack of volunteers, we are grateful for the strength and perseverance God has equipped us with as well as the joy we have in serving our community. As this newsletter goes to press we are all praying the flood waters will be held back and that no member of our community will experience disaster. If you need help, please call us at 570-317-2210.

SEE YOU AT OUR 9th ANNUAL PALOOZA, AUGUST 25th, BLOOMSBURG TOWN PARK.

Blessings,

Eileen

We appreciate the generosity of the following donors:

Service 1st Federal Credit Union

We have received a grant in the amount of \$12,000.

The Magee Foundation

We have received a grant in the amount \$5,000 for the Backpack Program.

Youth Philanthropy Grant

The Central Columbia Youth in Philanthropy group awarded AGAPE a grant in the amount of \$500, titled Healthy Meals Backpacks for Hungry Central Columbia Kids.



-See our insert-

9th Annual Palooza

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

Bloomsburg Town Park

- Tons of Vendors
- Free activities for kids
 - petting zoo, face painting, pony rides & much more!



Love From Above To Our Community

19 East 7th Street
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
570-317-2210
www.agapelovefromabove.org



Donate On-Line using
PayPal on our Website:
www.agapelovefromabove.org

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bloomsburg,
PA 17815
Permit No. 19

FEEDING THE THOUSANDS

April – June 2018

Appleman Financial
(all three months)

Hamilton Dental Care
(all three months)

Gordner -Coombs Insurance, Inc.

Marr Development, Inc.

Twin Bridge Storage

WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT MEALS

Help us provide a restaurant style environment for our clients by providing a meal once a year. It can be made ahead and dropped off, or you may stay and help with the serving. Our goal is to provide a restaurant environment twice each month on Wednesday evenings.

If your church or a group of your friends or fellow employees would like to help with this, please contact AGAPE at 570-317-2210 or at agapeoutreach@agape-pa.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Grant Researcher

Responsible for the administration and research for grants for which AGAPE is eligible and gather the factual information needed to complete the grant application. Work with grant writer during the application process and follow-up as required.

PR and Marketing

Responsible for obtaining and maintaining AGAPE recognition in the Columbia and Montour Counties using multi-media contacts and other outlets, including businesses, foundations, churches, etc.

Warehouse Help

Must be 18 years old. Helping pull orders, stocking new items, packing kits, and in some cases, lifting at least 20 lbs.

Fresh Express

Thursdays. Help with set-up 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.; serve guests 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Clean-up: 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Events

Responsible for overseeing all events; or just one event of your choice once a year (same or different event); or being part of the team that sets up events.