

## Weekly Calendar

### • AA Meetings:

Wednesdays: 6:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

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

### • AL ANON Meetings:

Wednesdays: 6:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

### • NA and NAR ANON Meetings:

Wednesdays: 6:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

### • DailyBread Meal for Community:

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

### • Adult Clothing Giveaway:

4th Thursday of each month

12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

### • Food Pantry, Columbia County

3rd Friday of each month

9 a.m. to 12 noon

## Upcoming Calendar of Events 2015

### • Saturday, August 29 – Sixth

**Anniversary Palooza**, Bloomsburg

Town Park. – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### • Saturday, September 12 – Bus

**Trip to Smithsonian Institution**,

Washington, D.C.

### • Monday, October 12 - Dining to

**Donate, Applebees**, Bloomsburg

### • Sunday, November 29 - Advent

**Celebration**, Wesley United

Methodist Church, 2 p.m.

### • Sunday, December 6 and 13

– **Mission Mall, St. John's Evang.**

**Lutheran Church**, Mifflinville, 12 -3

p.m.

Visit us @ [agapelovefromabove.org/EventsCalendar/overview.html](http://agapelovefromabove.org/EventsCalendar/overview.html)

NOTE: If you would like to receive Recollections as an email attachment, please contact us at [agapenews@ptd.com](mailto:agapenews@ptd.com).



Volunteers Wes Levan and Kurt Meske take a break from packing food bags for the various locations of the Columbia County Food Bank which services close to 700 families each month.

## AGAPE now oversees the Columbia County food bank

*"Fill the men's sacks with food."*

Genesis 44:1

AGAPE recently began partnering with the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank to administer the monthly Columbia County Food Bank which serves approximately 700 families per month.

Since July 1, 2015, AGAPE has overseen the operations of the Columbia County Food Bank in the following locations:

**Berwick** at the Salvation Army on the 4th Wednesday of each month, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Bloomsburg, Catawissa and Lightstreet** at the AGAPE Center on the 3rd Friday of each month, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Greenwood and Madison Townships and Millville** at the Greenwood Township Municipal Building on the 3rd Friday of each month, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

**Orangeville and Orange Township** at the Orange Township Municipal Building on the 3rd Saturday of each month, 9-10 a.m.

**Benton** at the Northern Columbia County Cultural Center on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 9-11 a.m.

**Wilberton I and II** at the Wilberton Senior Center on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

AGAPE uses volunteers to help in packing, receiving, and distribution at the AGAPE Center. Volunteers are needed from time to time at the other distributions centers as well. To volunteer, call the AGAPE Center at 570-317-2210.

Each month, AGAPE staff orders food from the Central PA Food Bank. Eighty-two percent of the food supplied comes from corporate donations. Eighteen percent is government supplied.

Residents may register for only one of the county food banks and must provide I.D. and proof of residency. The AGAPE Center continues to supplement this program with the on-going food distributions and meals as in the past.





Program supervisor Julie Matylewicz dishes out some healthy desserts during the children's part of the Getting Ahead in a Gettin' By World program on a recent Monday evening.

## Listening to themselves

This particular Monday night starts with 12 children ages 4 through 11 transforming a conference table into an extended family dinner area. Plates, napkins, and eating utensils are carefully placed. Water glasses are filled. Scented candles are lit, fresh flowers are arranged, and soft music wafts through the room. After a short explanation, chef Tom Peterman and his staff begin preparing the stir-fry entrée of oven-baked rice crowned with chicken and steamed vegetables.

And almost effortlessly, program supervisor Julie Matylewicz glides from one child to another, reminding them of the social details of courtesy, the grace of waiting for everyone to have a plate before starting their meals, and the benefits of healthy eating.

To the children of parents involved in the AGAPE Getting Ahead in a Gettin' By World this is just one of many well-planned and exceptionally organized programs taking place while the adults work through their own sessions. Julie has set up evenings that include time at the YMCA, storytelling with librarian Hal Pratt, canine education with certified dog trainer Eileen Drummond, the Pillow Case Project, Bell Choir, an American Flag ceremony with the Boy Scouts, and many more.

"I have had the best of times coming here," said one young participant between mouthfuls of his meal. "We have all learned so much, and Julie allows us to do everything ourselves. It's just great."

In addition to the many presenters from

community programs, Julie is assisted by Judy Ryan and two young ladies who help with the children. One is Kiley, a Girl Scout working on her Silver Star. "I help where I am needed," she said, "and this is helping me finish my Journey Book of Activities." Kiley is joined by rising eighth grader Teja, who already volunteers with several AGAPE programs. Both help these children with games, supervision, and activities.

As Julie picks up a tray loaded with bowls of fresh fruit, she explains that a prior week's lesson on Emily Post etiquette prepared her children for tonight's dinner experience. And as if on cue, several "thank you's" from the well-behaved children fill the air as dessert is served.

After the table was cleared, the children lined up with their partners and crossed the street to the Children's Museum where they were greeted by museum director Shawna Meiser and Tooth Fairy Sasha who ended the meal program by explaining the benefits of daily tooth care. Then the children were invited to explore and participate in the museum's various exhibits before ending the night with each receiving their own packet of toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Julie explained that every activity is designed so that the children "listen to themselves, become aware of their feelings, and keep in touch with their own emotions." But one young man said it best when he exclaimed, "We have a lot of fun here, but I am also learning how to work with others and respect myself."

## Variety is key to children's program



AHEAD children participate in an American flag ceremony with the Boy Scouts.



AGAPE chefs prepare a chicken stir fry meal as part of the program's dining etiquette activities.



Tooth Fairy Sasha demonstrates flossing to everyone at the Children's Museum.



One of the AHEAD children digs into her stir fry chicken meal.

# Sharing our financial status

## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear AGAPE Friends,

Lots of good news this month!

Berwick Health and Wellness Fund approved a \$20,000.00 grant to AGAPE for Berwick area residents in need. Berwick represents about 32% of our clients. This is the fourth year BHWH has given AGAPE a grant. Each year they have been increasingly generous.

"Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' By World" has started its second class. A Berwick class will start the end of August at New Covenant Christian Church thanks to a generous financial grant from the Berwick Area United Way.

Good Samaritan in Danville is partnering with AGAPE to start a class in August at Mahoning Presbyterian Church. Their funding is at the halfway point thanks to generous individual donors. Good Samaritan prays for community generosity for the remainder of the funding to begin this new venture. To help, call AGAPE at 570-317-2210.

Judy Ryan, (Bloomsburg), Lisa Jarrett (Berwick) and Joan Miller and Betsy Hack (both of Danville and with Good Samaritan) are now certified facilitators for "Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' By World" and preparing for our next classes.

Eight people are in the current class. Jake Woodward, AHA Process coordinator, reports they are doing well and are excited about what they are learning. Julie Matylewicz, our volunteer children's supervisor, has done a marvelous job developing a program for the children of our "Getting Ahead" participants. They are learning table etiquette; were taught what to take with them in a home emergency by the American Red Cross; heard moral principles through Bloomsburg Public librarian Hal Pratt's storytelling; experienced dog therapy and learned safety from Eileen Drummond; and practiced bell ringing under the direction of Mary Osborne, Angie Rock and Mani Siegfried of Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Bloomsburg, with more to come. Both adults and children enjoy food prepared by ladies of the First English Baptist Church and the Church of Latter Day Saints.

AGAPE has a new, enthusiastic grant writer whose focus is applying for operational grants so more money contributed by our

faithful financial donors can go directly to clients. Please pray for success.

Elsie Angus is our new Volunteer Coordinator with Jacqui Willis assisting, updating our volunteer application and handbook and developing a training session.

Our volunteers are the firm foundation that makes AGAPE work. I heard a saying about volunteers that is so true for AGAPE: "Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless." Thank you volunteers.

God continues to bless us. Financial donations in June and July were slow as usual, but we've had some very nice unexpected donations that helped us through the summer crunch.

God is truly mysterious in blessing us at just the right time. We continue to be completely dependent upon Him. We are very grateful to Him because we still help, even if it's just a little, when no one else can.

In His Service,  
Eileen Chapman

### Program Outreach (April - June 2015)

#### Client Requests:

Ex-Offenders	11
Homeless	37
Disaster Survivors	2
AGAPE Give-Away Event	317
Benevolence Clients	368
Total Clients Served	735
DailyBread Meals served	1,292

#### Direct Program Distributions:

	# Assisted	Expenditure
CleanLife	-	\$ -
DailyBread	100	\$18,103.91
HeActs	115	\$76.00
FreeLife	11	\$ -
KidsCare	8	\$1,374.00
LifeEssentials	54	\$10,525.80
RoadHome	7	\$940.60
SmartStart	31	\$5,169.03
StoreMore	457	\$89,624.32
TransPorts	15	\$2,157.04
FixerUpper	1	\$10.00

**Total** **\$127,980.70**

## Thanks from our Clients

To Everyone at AGAPE,

A heartfelt "thank you" for your gift of a refrigerator. One never realizes how much that appliance is needed until it breaks. The one that your two guys brought me was cold within two hours. That's a huge improvement from the ice chest routine I've been going through for nearly a month. With my very small social security check, it is impossible for me to ever save money enough for a major appliance. You have no idea what a blessing your donation has been to me. I can guarantee that you will be getting a big box of hand-knitted hats, mittens and maybe scarves before cold weather sets in again. I have no money to donate; however, I knit a lot, so that is a donation I can make. Cold ears and hands are no fun for anyone, so perhaps I can help keep someone warm next winter. Again, many thanks to everyone at AGAPE. You are so special.

P.S. Your delivery fellows were very sweet and courteous, so let them know I also thank them.

I thank God for your services and hope to repay and give back somehow. God bless.

### Financial Report (April - June 2015)

#### Financial Income:

Churches	\$7,451.60
Community Organizations	17,589.65
Corporate Donations	4,869.52
Individual Donations	12,024.41
Grants	6,243.90
Other	10,183.22
<b>Total Financial</b>	<b>\$58,362.30</b>

#### In-Kind Donations:

Corporate/Business	\$36,601.31
Individual	74,371.94
<b>Total In-Kind</b>	<b>\$110,973.25</b>

**Total Income** **\$169,335.55**

#### Expenses:

Total Program Expenses	\$127,980.70
Operational Expenses	40,080.53
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$168,061.23</b>

**AGAPE Staff:**

Executive Director: Eileen Chapman  
 Treasurer: Brian Hornberger  
 Case Manager: Karen Heaps  
 Director of Human Resources and Programs: Amber Lee  
 Director of Operations and Facilities: Matt Korol  
 Volunteer Coordinator: Elsie Angus  
 Office Manager: Kathy Becker  
 IT Coordinator: Michael DeMarco  
 Extended Services Manager: Deb Franssen  
 Daily Bread Meal Coordinator: Mary Ridgway  
 Addictions Coordinator: Betty Brown  
 Daniel's Prayer Team Coordinator: Ginger Hock  
 Webmaster: Sam Vetovich  
 Newsletter Production: Louise Naus, Ann Diserod, and Sam Bidleman



**Board of Directors:**

President: Pastor Susan Knorr  
 Vice-President: Vicky Burnside  
 Secretary: Sandie Yule  
 Lesa Angell  
 Larry Brosious  
 Frank Gehrig  
 Ginger Hock  
 Pastor Greg Molter  
 Louise Naus  
 Chris Renninger  
 Fred Trump  
 Maxine Vandermark  
 Eileen Chapman: Ex-officio member



Donate On-Line using PayPal on our Website at: [www.agapelovefromabove.org](http://www.agapelovefromabove.org)

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

Caseworker  
 Grant Writer  
 Assistant Treasurer  
 Event Coordinator (Kayaking)  
 Food Bank Volunteers  
 Prayer Warriors  
 Newsletter Publisher

**AGAPE INFORMATION**

Monday – Tuesday – Friday  
 Open: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Thursday  
 Open: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Phone: 570-317-2210  
 FAX: 570-317-2213

Email: [info@agapelovefromabove.org](mailto:info@agapelovefromabove.org)  
 Web: [www.agapelovefromabove.org](http://www.agapelovefromabove.org)

**Feeding the Thousands**

(April - June 2015)

We appreciate the following sponsors who helped with our weekly noon meals during the last quarter:

- Big Heart Pet Brands • Benton Foundry, Inc.
- Nathan Snavelly Nationwide Insurance
- US Gypsum Company
- Col. Kirk's Auction and Surrounding Community
- American Legion Post 273, Bloomsburg

**AGAPE Palooza!**  
 Love From Above To Our Community  
 Saturday August 29, 2015 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Bloomsburg Town Park.  
 Scheduled to appear: Randy Fisher, Raven Creek and the Evansville Gang!



**Second sun-filled Golf Tournament was a huge success**  
*Sunshine and low scores warmed the many golfers at The Links at Hemlock Creek course on July 11.*