

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:**
Thursdays: 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.
- **Additional Clothing Giveaways:**
Tuesday, May 12, Noon to 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Food Pantry, Columbia County**
3rd Friday of each month
9 a.m. to 12 noon

Upcoming Calendar of Events 2015

- Saturday, April 25 – Visit us at Renaissance Jamboree, Downtown Bloomsburg
- Saturday, July 11 – Second annual Golf Tournament, The Links at Hemlock Creek, registration at 7:30 a.m.
- Saturday, August 29 – Sixth Annual Palooza, Bloomsburg Town Park. – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Looking Ahead – Save the Date: – Saturday, September 12 – Bus Trip to Air and Space Museum



Visit us @ agaplovefromabove.org/EventsCalendar/overview.html

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



Elsie and John Angus enjoyed volunteering at the Warming Center during Project Frozen: Share the Warmth.

Warm hearts share comfort during long, cold nights

Master...when did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink, see you sick or in prison and come to you?... 'Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.' Matthew 25:37-40

Project Frozen: Sharing the Warmth served an average of eight people per night from January 5 through March 25, providing those in need a place to warm up, clean up, fill up, and rest up.

AGAPE served twenty-three different people (six women, sixteen men and one child) with pairs of volunteers working three, four-hour shifts every night from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Eighty-seven different volunteers provided a total of 1,848 volunteer hours. We are grateful to all, but several deserve special recognition.

One man who was helped last year as a client came regularly as a volunteer this year. He now works full time supporting a family of four.

Elsie and John Angus volunteered at least twice per week. They wanted to give back to the community, and this was something they could do together. They welcomed

guests to the Center and offered hot chocolate, coffee, soup, and snacks. If guests needed clothing, Elsie helped them find what they needed from our well-organized clothing department. Personal care items, hot showers and laundry facilities were also available. John sometimes played cards with guests or just listened to their stories.

Says Elsie, "We have had no problems. We are not trained counselors and we don't know what people have been through, but we try to be good listeners. This experience has really opened our eyes to the needs in our community."

A special thank you goes to volunteer John Karcher who organized Project Frozen: Sharing the Warmth this year.

Some visitors found more than temporary relief. Our staff, led by Senior Case Manager Karen Heaps, got two individuals into transitional housing at Danville's Gatehouse and helped another find full-time employment and a place to live.

Seeing so many people taking advantage of this outreach, we ask, "What does our community offer to individuals the other nine months of the year?"



Tech recycler Mark Rusanowsky surveys the piles of technology that will soon become sorted and valuable.

Another man's treasure

AGAPE volunteer Mark Rusanowsky is a wired, 21st Century techie who works with technological garbage. You know, those outdated computers and servers, printers, keyboards, mice, DVD players, cameras, and phones that we retire to various kitchen drawers and yard sales. And because he sees the value inside each of those now useless items, he wants you to give all that stuff to him.

Standing in an area filled with over two dozen plastic bins and cardboard containers, Mark describes a process that starts with a staging area where donations are first evaluated for usefulness. Devices with a future are identified for families in need, resale, or reuse, and everything else heads to the unsorted workspace area where he and other volunteers open them up and "get the good stuff" as Mike describes it.

After a few more steps, Mike and his team of salvagers have separated ABS plastics, scrap metal, mother boards, processors, hard drives, fans, motors, CPUs, non-magnetic metals, and wiring into their own bins.

And what once required users to pay someone to take away their formally new technology is now a valuable collection ready for a second life.

But working inside tight spaces and carefully removing small parts is not easy. Safety is key throughout the various reclamation steps. Gloves, glasses, and even grounding wrist straps are required to protect workers from sharp edges and still dangerous power supplies.

Yet when the finished product is weighed by thousands of pounds, finding responsible buyers is a challenge. Add gas or mailing charges to deliver the recyclables, and costs add up. Increased donations would make the difference. Dropping off your devices at AGAPE help the community, give senior citizens and those completing community service hours valued goals, repurpose for those who need, and keep this type of hi-tech junk out of landfills.

AGAPE's e-cycling also meets eligibility requirements for Green Grants, which in turn would help expand this fledgling program and let recycling outlets know we have the product and the amount they want.

So, Mike is looking for volunteers. Right now, about six men are the recycling team, but that number is growing. Yet, "We still need more hands, the labor," Mike says.

And he is offering a generous schedule to those who want to help. "Any day of the week except Wednesdays and any time," generally describes his offer. Those interested can contact Mike at 570.956.9770 or at agaperecycling@ptd.net.



Bins of motherboards, circuits, and casings are waiting their turn to be recycled.

Sunbury group rolls up their sleeves



ABOVE: Members of the Klinsgrove United Methodist Church, Sunbury, are sorting and putting out clothing for the clothing giveaway.



ABOVE: Part of the Klinsgrove United Methodist Church congregation are building emergency food boxes.



And another group from Klinsgrove United Methodist Church, Sunbury, here cutting and installing drywall.

AGAPE Palooza!
Love From Above To Our Community

When: 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! Featuring Family Friendly free Pony Rides and a free Petting Zoo, along with the strolling, close-up magic of Eddy Ray.

We are also pleased to welcome 100 craft and food vendors!

Sharing our financial status

Letter from the Executive Director

Brothers and Sisters,

We have filed our 2014 Form 990 with the IRS as a faith-based non-profit 501(c) (3) and wanted to share our financial status with you.

AGAPE and its clients would like to give heartfelt thanks for the generosity of all the individuals, churches, businesses, and organizations that supported us in 2014. Your financial contributions of \$160,727 and in-kind donations valued at \$314,088 assisted 2,206 of your neighbors in need:

- 1,365 individuals received clothing, furniture or household items valued at \$221,756.
- Our DailyBread program provided \$60,094 in emergency food to 383 clients and to 14 local food cupboards and various churches; 4,983 were guests at the DailyBread Meal on Thursdays; and 18 local businesses sponsored 35 meals.
- Our TransPorts program expended \$4,263 to assist 93 people with gasoline to get to work, bus vouchers to get home, car repairs and mileage for AGAPE volunteers to take clients to medical appointments and treatment and rehabilitation facilities.
- We counseled 131 homeless persons and helped 18 homeless individuals with brief motel stays.
- We assisted eight families who were victims of tragic fires.
- Over \$54,525 was distributed to help 248 clients pay for rent, utilities, heat, prescriptions, insurance, water, car repairs, and other necessities.

In addition, AGAPE volunteers provided encouragement, spiritual guidance, emotional support and counseling to assist individuals in becoming self-sufficient.

Contributions from our community included the following:

- Local churches - \$61,022
- Individuals - \$66,627
- Corporations and businesses - \$17,076
- Community organizations - \$11,390
- Grants - \$28,236 from Berwick Area United Way; Berwick Health and Wellness Foundation; Bloomsburg Area Community Fund, the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church and The Community of Christ Church.

AGAPE's newest program, Getting Ahead in a Just Getting By World, graduated

its first class of 11 men and women. This program teaches self-sufficiency, instilling self-confidence to enable participants to rise above their circumstances. The group was truly inspiring. We know they will have a bright future with their newly gained knowledge.

We expended \$26,828 for administration, facilities, technology, fundraising and wages for three staff members.

The most exciting news is that AGAPE far exceeded national charitable averages of keeping operating costs minimal to program costs. Just 5.6% of funds collected went to operating expenses while 94.4% was directed to individuals needing help.

The low operating costs are due to the work of our wonderful volunteers who provided over 16,000 hours of their precious time as well as Autoneum, Bloomsburg University, Colonel Kirk's Auction, and Geisinger for their awesome gifts of equipment, skilled services, and food.

We thank God for all His blessings and for the many volunteers, donors and sponsors who provided the inspiration to do His work.

In His Service,
Eileen Chapman



Connecting God's Resources with Human Need

On March 15, UMCOR, United Methodist Committee on Relief, celebrated its 75th anniversary.

AGAPE serves as a mission hub for Mission Central to collect supplies and assemble kits which UMCOR distributes to those in need or suffering from disasters. We received help during the 2011 flood.

There are Birthing and Layette Kits, Cleaning Buckets and Health Kits, Sewing Kits and School Kits. During the past year community groups have sewn baby nightgowns, knitted baby sweaters and made blankets for Layette Kits. Churches and organizations have assembled and donated Health Kits. Now there is an immediate need for School and Health Kits.

Groups and individuals can contribute individual items or complete kits or gather at AGAPE to assemble kits. For complete information on items required for kits or how to join us to assemble kits, please contact Kelly Kocher-Ross at 570-441-0765 or visit the AGAPE website.

We hope that you will have a heart for a particular kit.

Program Outreach

(January - March 2015)

Client Requests:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Ex-offenders | 11 |
| Homeless | 38 |
| Disaster Survivor | 2 |
| AGAPE Give-Away Events | 622 |
| Benevolence Clients | 364 |
| Total Clients Served | 1,037 |
| DailyBread Meals Served | 1,243 |

Direct Program Distributions:

| | #Assisted | Expenditure |
|----------------|-----------|---------------------|
| CleanLife | 0 | 0 |
| DailyBread | 396 | \$21,753.97 |
| HeActs | 243 | 52.00 |
| FreeLife | 1 | 100.45 |
| KidsCare | 7 | 289.00 |
| LifeEssentials | 59 | 14,218.85 |
| RoadHome | 11 | 1,085.20 |
| SmartStart | 9 | 156.85 |
| StoreMore | 578 | 72,297.08 |
| TransPorts | 24 | 1,253.62 |
| FixerUpper | 6 | 630.00 |
| Total | | \$111,837.02 |

Financial Report

(January - March 2015)

Financial Income:

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Churches | \$18,185.37 |
| Community Organizations | 2,742.82 |
| Corporate Donations | 11,363.48 |
| Individual Donations | 12,583.16 |
| Grants | 10,581.30 |
| Other | 1,173.47 |
| Total Financial | \$56,629.60 |

In-Kind Donations:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Corporate/Business | \$35,284.80 |
| Individual | 63,626.45 |
| Total In-Kind | \$98,911.25 |

Total Income

\$155,540.85

Expenses:

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Total Program Expenses | \$142,463.00 |
| Operational Expenses | 9,378.00 |

Total Expenses

\$151,841.00

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: Barbara White
 Office Manager: Donna Houser
 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
 Frank Gehrig
 Ginger Hock
 Kathy Lowe
 Pastor Greg Molter
 Louise Naus
 Chris Renninger
 Pastor Michael Spagnuolo
 Maxine Vandermark
 Eileen Chapman: Ex-officio member



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

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Joseph's Storehouse Coordinator
- Caseworker
- Extended Service Volunteers for: Nehemiah Card Project Fundraising Special Events
- Prayer Warriors
- FixerUpper Team
- Data Entry Volunteers

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
 Web: www.agapelovefromabove.org

Feeding the Thousands
 (January-March 2015)

- Big Heart Pet Brands • Benton Foundry, Inc.
- Nathan Snavelly Nationwide Insurance
- Susan Tetrick Lynch Attorney at Law
- US Gypsum Company
- Col. Kirk's Auction and Surrounding Community
- Harrell Automatic Sprinkler Co.
- American Legion Post 273, Bloomsburg



From Our Clients

I cannot begin to thank you for the wonderful gifts you gave me. I always enjoyed giving to others, so it was hard for me to ask for help. Thank God you were there. Thank you. Thank you.

I don't even know where to begin! I truly believe it was God's plan to send me here to AGAPE. Each one of you has taught me something, and not just about social work, but about life. You are all so inspiring, and I am so blessed to have had the opportunity to get to know you all so well these short months. I know this is only the start of what AGAPE will be. Thank you all so much.

There are no words to express my gratitude for your kindness and generosity that you all showed me last Thursday. After living in such a negative environment these last few months, you made me realize there are positive sides to life; and all I have to do is allow myself to feel it.

I have never felt such warmth and caring from perfect strangers, and I left that day with such joy inside me.

In all sincerity, thank you so very much for taking the time to listen to me.

God Bless you all.