

Weekly Calendar

AA

Fridays, 8 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 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Third Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Food Pantry, Columbia County

3rd Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Fresh Express: Every Thursday

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

CHILI COOK OFF

Sat., November 4, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
AGAPE, 19 E. 7th Street, Bloomsburg

BON TON COMMUNITY DAYS

Nov. 8-11, Columbia Mall, Bloomsburg
Coupon Books available at AGAPE

CRAFT FAIR and VENDOR FAIR

(Benefits AGAPE) Evansville United
Methodist Church, 8 Lights Road, Berwick
Saturday, November 4, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MISSION MALLS

Sat., Nov. 4, Central Susquehanna
Community Foundation, Berwick
Sunday, December 3 & 10,
St. John's Lutheran Church, Miff Linville
Sunday, December 10,
Trinity Lutheran Church, Danville

ADVENT CELEBRATION

Sun., Dec. 3, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Wesley United Methodist Church,
Bloomsburg.

All proceeds go to heating assistance.

PRIME TIME HITS THE ROAD!



Kim Sullivan, Small Beginnings, and Laurie Swank, DailyBread, talk about their trip to the museum and about the Backpacks that AGAPE gives to Summer Prime Time

Ephesians 2:10: For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

During the summer months, Prime Time meets in the early afternoon to give the kids a chance to stay busy but cool during the hottest part of the day. We add an extra half hour to the program and try to provide additional opportunities for learning. On one day in August, we traveled to the Children's Museum in Bloomsburg with two goals in mind – have fun and learn something new!

Upon arrival, our group was greeted by staff from the museum who shared some helpful information and told us they were confident we would meet both goals. They encouraged us to move as small groups at our own pace throughout the exhibits stopping longer at those things which peaked individual interests. This proved to be the key to our success as no one felt compelled to rush through something to get to the next thing. Some of our friends were captivated by the art projects spread throughout the building and were excited to use their creativity to complete several crafts. Others were mesmerized by the two most prominent features in the science exhibit area. The first was a wall of levers and gadgets to crank, push, and spin as you tried to propel balls through a series of simple machines. The second was a 3D printer which students programmed to produce facsimiles of the resident turtle, Molly. The museum's abundance of hands-on experiences resulted in everyone leaving with something new and exciting to talk about.

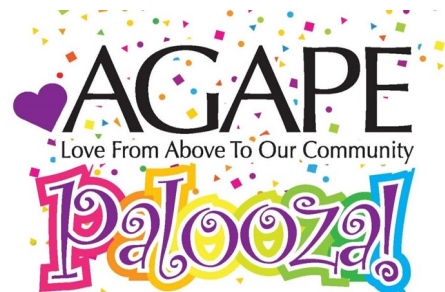
Before we made the journey back to Berwick, we crossed the street to meet the staff and volunteers at AGAPE. The children were delighted to discover festive tables set up for a healthy snack served by the kind crew for the day. They got to meet Eileen and Laurie, who organize the efforts behind the backpacks they receive each Thursday. A lively conversation ensued consisting of heartfelt thank yous from the children for the many blessings they had received, and a discussion about the significance of the word, "AGAPE," and its trademark color purple. The children promised to return again and offered to serve on their next visit, hoping to pay forward the kindness and generosity they had received.

As we made our way back to the vans, the sweet ladies from Extended Services made sure each child left with a treat bag filled with good things to play with and eat. Perhaps most special of all, each bag was decorated with a star inscribed with words detailing the unique, special qualities of each child. The positive effects of those words along with all of the encouragement that day to grow, create, explore, and discover are still being felt today! We are grateful for the many people who contributed to this wonderful experience. Thank you for investing in the community through the lives of the children!

CELEBRATING AHA GRADUATES



On September 13, 2017, seven people were honored as graduates from the Getting Ahead in a Gettin' By World Program. The graduation was held at Grace Lutheran Church in Berwick. The graduates spoke about how the class had helped them to grow and develop a community and family within the group. They learn about themselves and how to set short-term and long-term goals. Each graduate received a certificate and a Bible. Each of their children also received a Bible and a special gift. A reception followed in the church social room. Among the special guests were three Berwick City Council members. The councilmen invited the graduates and the facilitators to visit their meeting the following week to explain the program. Several AGAPE volunteers attended the meeting. The volunteers were given time to explain the Getting Ahead Program, and encouraged the community to step up and get involved. A new class will be forming soon. *For more information call AGAPE at 570-317-2210.*



The Palooza Festival on August 26th was a huge success and we had a great turnout. Thanks to all who came out and supported us!



Free Pony Rides



Free Petting Zoo



Free Face Painting



THANK YOU GEISINGER HEALTH PLAN

\$13,000 Grant

for SCHOOL BACKPACK PROGRAM

\$10,000 Grant

for General Programming

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER
VIA EMAIL, PLEASE EMAIL
YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS
TO US AT
news@agape-pa.org

HURRICANE RELIEF

AGAPE continues to accept donations for the hurricane victims in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico; and now we are accepting in-kind donations. Steve Shannon has donated the use of a trailer for AGAPE to collect cleaning and hygiene kits, school kits, or individual items to make those kits. The kits will be shipped to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, and from there they will be shipped to the affected areas.

For information about what is included in the kits, please visit our website www.agapelovefromabove.org or our Facebook page.

*Together we can make a
difference!*



*FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
HAVE DECREASED OVER THE
SUMMER, AND OUR CLIENTS'
FINANCIAL NEEDS HAVE IN-
CREASED. CAN YOU HELP? WE
WILL SOON BE ABLE TO ACCEPT
AUTOMATIC BANK WITHDRAW-
ALS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE
MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE
CONTACT AGAPE
AT 570-317-2210.*

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear AGAPE Friends,

AGAPE has tried since 2010 to implement a re-entry program for ex-offenders from Columbia and Montour Counties. In January 2017, we began by partnering with the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Court. Twelve recommended probationers attended Getting Ahead While Getting Out. Seven graduated and are doing well.

Then Berwick Area United Way called us to discuss mentoring ex-offenders to help them reintegrate successfully back into the community as good citizens. We heard from someone who mentored four ex-offenders over two and a half years. Three of the four are living good, responsible lives in the community—a 75% success rate. These are three individuals “saved” by someone who cared enough to give hands-on encouragement to help them become successful. When asked if AGAPE could help establish a mentoring program, we said, “absolutely, but we need a coordinator.”

Volunteers willing to implement a major community-impacting new program are hard to find, but we found one—Cindy Sanford. We welcomed her with a great deal of excitement because of her passion and mentoring experience with long-term, state-confined prisoners. She is making contacts, outlining a step-by-step program for mentoring in and out of jail/prison while coordinating with judges, commissioners, the prison, Probation and Parole, and our Getting Ahead While Getting Out facilitators and Volunteer Coordinator.

We call this program FreeLIFE. It will help reduce recidivism, by giving local residents who have committed offenses against society an opportunity to restore their credibility as valued residents of our community and become role models for others who might be heading down the wrong path.

We are excited about our new venture and hope you are too. Please support and help with this endeavor. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS WHO WILL MENTOR.

On another subject, AGAPE has had an increase in the need for financial assistance. About 95% of our contributions, financial and in-kind, goes to programming, while about 5% goes to operations. For every dollar donated, 95 cents goes to helping our clients with just five cents going to operations. Since the middle of June our financial donations have been down. We expect this during the summer, but we expect donations to increase substantially by September. Unfortunately, that has not happened.

We understand that your generosity has been focused on the tragedies of our nation from hurricanes, fires and tornadoes. Victims of these catastrophes must be helped, but please remember our community. Most of our clients try very hard to make their expenses meet their income, but often, they are about \$200.00 short. Rarely does financial assistance exceed \$300.00, and that goes directly to the landlord or utility, never the client. If the situation is not of their own making and our help will make them sustainable, we provide financial assistance. Can you help us help others in our own community? Your generosity would be extremely appreciated.

In His Service,

Eileen



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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Front Desk, Warehouse, Bookkeeper,
Data Entry, Fundraising, Marketing,
Event Planning, Food Packers,
Project Frozen
(Warming Center - Mid-January to Mid-March)

FEEDING THE THOUSANDS

July – September 2017

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

ACE Hearing Centers - The Auction Gallery
Century 21 Covered Bridges Realty, Inc. (Susan Barchik & Dorothy Rhone)
Columbia Alliance for Economic Growth - Columbia-Montour Thrivent
Dent Plumbing & Heating, Inc. - Gordner-Coombs Insurance, Inc.
Hamilton Dental Care - Marr Development, Inc.
Nathan Snavelly Nationwide Insurance - USG - Willow Tree Wellness & Counseling