

AGAPE recollections

Love From Above To Our Community



Join in our annual celebration

AGAPE is ready to entertain and serve our community! Local churches and non-profits will join us in the Fourth Annual AGAPE Palooza to be held August 17 at the Bloomsburg Town Park from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This celebration marks the fourth birthday of AGAPE's service to our community throughout Columbia & Montour Counties in the name of Jesus Christ. Come for fun, food, music, games, entertainment and fellowship and to learn about our community resources.

Entertainment and Activities include: Shiloh Praise Band at 10 a.m., Evansville Gang, Raven's Creek at 2-p.m., Pickles the Clown, Face Painting, and a Silent Auction.

Special this year, a pre-Palooza Event: "Kayaking for Our Communities" sponsored by Susquehanna Outdoor Adventures. A Kayak Float will launch from the Espy Boat Ramp with kayakers leisurely floating to the Palooza. All registration monies go to AGAPE.



Susquehanna Outdoor Adventures owner Chris Ehmer is sponsoring a special Palooza event, Kayaking for Our Communities, as part of this year's program.

Bring your own kayak or we can provide one. Transportation to the Espy Boat Launch begins at 8:30.

For more information, see our website at www.agapelovefromabove.org. Register online or get forms at AGAPE, Bloomsburg YMCA, Columbia-Montour Visitor's Bureau, JP's in Espy, Sheetz Bloomsburg, Berwick & Danville or Steph's Subs.

AGAPE Numbers

- DailyBread Meals this quarter - 1,161
- In-Kind Donations distributed this quarter - \$51,057.41
- \$17,000 Grant from Berwick Health and Wellness
- \$1,000 Grant from Youth in Philanthropy
- \$1,000 donation from Central Columbia Softball Team
- \$12,000 Grant from Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Churches

Weekly Calendar

- **AA Meetings:**
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
& Fridays at 6:45 p.m.
- **AL ANON Meetings:**
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
- **NA and NAR ANON Meetings:**
Thursdays at 7 p.m.
- **DailyBread Meal for Community:**
Thursdays 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- **Celebrate Recovery Gathering:**
Saturday evenings at 6:30 p.m.
- **Adult Clothing Giveaway:**
4th Thursday of each month
1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Upcoming Calendar of Events 2013

August

- Friday, August 16, 9 a.m. to 12 noon - Columbia County Food Pantry at AGAPE (I.D. required)
- Saturday, August 17, 8 a.m. - Kayakers meet at Bloomsburg Town Park for "Kayaking for Our Communities"
- Saturday, August 17, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - 4th Annual Palooza at Bloomsburg Town Park Band Shell
- **Saturday, August 31, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. - Applebee's Flapjack Breakfast Fundraiser**

The following workshops presented

by AmeriHealth NORTHEAST are tentatively scheduled on the 4th Tuesday of each month:

- Tuesday, August 20, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Bullying Workshop
- Tuesday, September 24, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Children's Weight Management
- Tuesday, October 22, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Women's Health
- Tuesday, November 19, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Diabetes

Those who can do more, volunteer

From our Clients

Two ladies share compassion, care, and patience

Volunteers are the life blood of AGAPE. This issue we profile two outstanding women whose dedication helps make us what we are.



Faith Long (above) came to AGAPE in January of 2010. She greets people at the front desk and works as an Assistant Caseworker. She enjoys meeting people, listening to them and helping them find alternatives to their problems while showing them the love of God. A native of Bloomsburg and graduate of Bloomsburg University, Faith retired from teaching, a career that included kindergarten and many grades as well as a stint as Curriculum Coordinator. She taught in both public and private schools and has been Director of Children's ministries at her church, Bloomsburg Christian Church, and a volunteer with Salvation Army.

She was caregiver to her husband Paul, now deceased, and has four living adult children and 15 grandchildren.

Her interests involve missions, teaching children, gardening and music. Her musical group "Faith and Friends" minister to residents of nursing and assisted living homes.

Kathy Becker (above right) started at AGAPE July 2009 when we opened our doors. She works the front desk registering clients and does case work. She also enters computer data and volunteer hours.

During the 2011 Lee Flood she coordinated food donations and helped plan and prepare meals and their distribution. She currently serves on the Planning Committee of the Columbia County Volunteer Organization for Active Disasters (CCVOAD) to coordinate a food distribution plan in the event of another disaster.

Prior to coming to AGAPE, Kathy worked 15 years as a health care office manager in a physician's office. She also has accounting experience. Kathy attended Bloomsburg University in accounting and business, with a minor in art history. She is a member of the Professional Association of Health Care Office Managers and has a medical secretary certificate.



Kathy has lived in Bloomsburg for 25 years and was married to the former Dr. Bruce Becker (deceased). She has four children, two step-children and four grandchildren. She attends Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Bloomsburg, where she is a lay leader and wedding coordinator, a member of the worship committee, and a helper with the community monthly mission meals.

AGAPE volunteers have become like family to her, and she enjoys working with them each week. It is rewarding to help others, get hugs and smiles from those in need, and see AGAPE continually improve its services.



Local Girl Scout Troop No. 32330 hosted a clothing giveaway for AGAPE. For the event, they collected clothes, sorted them, and distributed them to clients. Thank you, Troop 32330!

We do what we do because it is the right thing to do. Still, hearing from clients that they appreciate our services reassures us and inspires us to do even more. Here is one that is touching in its detail. A client writes...

Dear Mrs. Heaps,

As yourself and your agency help such a profound number of people on a daily basis, I don't anticipate your remembering me. Please know, however, that you all, you especially, will be thought of in my family on a nightly basis, in our prayers. A few days ago I came to your office expecting the same response I received from every other agency/human services facility I'd spoken with. Fortunately I was wrong. After confessing some of my most heinous and painful secrets, you took a breath and showed more compassion and genuine empathy for my family than I've known in many years. You also told me to pray. What you couldn't have known is that every night at 9:00 my children, there are three, and I climb the stairs, read a story, and end the day with "Now I lay me down to sleep," and we bless everyone, pray for the sinners, and for help, for mommy to stay strong and for God to continue to bless us and help our family together. You were the answer to one of those prayers, and we are forever in your debt. Thank you and God Bless you every day.

FINANCIAL REPORT - (April-June, 2013)

Income:	
Churches	\$ 7,091.62
Community Organization	\$ 1,586.00
Corporate Donations	\$ 750.00
Individual Donations	\$12,559.67
Grants	\$21,510.00
Income from Stock	\$ 766.80
Other	\$ 1,567.75
Total	\$45,831.84

Financial Assistance Given \$19,673.65

REPORT ON SERVICES - (April-June, 2013)

StoreMore	
In-Kind Donations	\$88,834.58
In-Kind Distribution	\$51,057.41
NetWorks (regular clients)	308
RoadHome (homeless)	36
HelpMates (ex-offenders)	35
Disaster Survivors Helped	1
Total Clients Served	380

DailyBread Meals Served 1,161

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Staff Volunteer Hours	3,377
Other Volunteer Hours	768
Community Service Hours	547
Total Hours	4,692

Current Needs

Household Items - Pillows (NEW), Toilet Paper, Hygiene Products (i.e. Razors, Shaving Cream, etc)
 Food - Cereal, Ramen Noodles, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Mac and Cheese, Condiments (i.e. Ketchup and Mustard)
 Fresh/Frozen meats in bulk (for our Thursday meals)

Furniture Drop-Off Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Reflecting on our blessings

Letter from the Executive Director

...We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy...Daniel 9:18b

Brothers and Sisters,

This has been another exciting quarter for AGAPE.

We received 8 pallets of mixed detergent and fabric softener from Kathryn's Kloset, a Lutheran Diaconal Social Service Ministry from Baltimore with whom we have a partnership.

Bloomsburg University gave us 70 tables, 120 dressers, 60 desks that AGAPE Board member Frank Gehrig is modifying into dressers, 40 end tables and 100 twin bed frames.

An anonymous donor gave us 12 pallets of canned fruit and vegetables.

We received 60 full mattresses from Honeysuckle Apartments.

Topping all of that are the 312 Individuals who gave 3,227 items valued at \$88,187. We have a loving, caring community dedicated to filling needs and giving hope.

The Berwick Health and Wellness Fund approved a grant for our NetWORKS program. We asked for \$10,000.00 and they approved \$17,486.00. For our KidsCARE Berwick Health and Wellness Fund and the Central Columbia Educational Foundation funded the Save Money Go Green Cloth Diaper Program for another year.

Youth In Philanthropy, sponsored by Central Susquehanna Community Foundation, gave AGAPE \$1,000. Students from Benton, Berwick, Central, Columbia-Montour Area Vo-Tech and Northwest school districts learn the importance of giving and serving, decision-making and leadership skills and how to take action on issues that are important to them and evaluate the merits of grants.

Wesley United Methodist Youth Mission Group, Bloomsburg, painted flooring, installed insulation and drywall, taped, spackled and sanded the office space on our second floor.

The Central Columbia softball league

donated \$1,000.00 to AGAPE. We are amazed with the generosity and service to others by the youth of our community.

The Bloomsburg Catawissa United Methodist Cluster of churches did a week of mission in our community spending a day at AGAPE preparing, serving, and cleaning for the Daily Bread Meal, painting and sanding, packing family food boxes and sorting clothes for our clothing giveaway. Three small groups from the cluster provided volunteer carpentry, pressure washing and painting skills for three clients of AGAPE's FixerUPPER program.

“A new program, HeACTS, includes Daniel's Prayer Team and the Nehemiah Card Project. Daniel's Prayer Team are volunteers who pray with and listen to the spiritual concerns of clients.”

AGAPE's clothing give away, the fourth Thursday of every month, has been a great success. 215 clients have received 409 bags (13" x 7" x 17") of clothing valued at \$16,360.00.

A new program, HeACTS, includes Daniel's Prayer Team and the Nehemiah Card Project. Daniel's Prayer Team are volunteers who pray with and listen to the spiritual concerns of clients. If you would like to be part of this ministry, training is available. For more information, contact Ginger Hock at 784-7849 or AGAPE.

In the Nehemiah Card Project, individuals and groups make cards of encouragement for prisoners in Columbia County Prison to show that someone cares about them and that, regardless of what they have done, God loves them. The prison population is about 200, males and females. Send or deliver cards of encouragement to AGAPE. When we have 200 cards, we will deliver them to the prison.

Wow! All of that in three months. Thank you to all who serve, give, pray and witness Jesus Christ.

In his service, Eileen

According to the government standard for reporting volunteer hours in dollars and cents, so far in 2013, over \$538,000 worth of volunteer hours have been shared with AGAPE.

Going Green

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. – Psalm 51:10

Ahh...how good we all feel when things are neat and tidy! We especially feel this when things are neat and tidy between us and God. Step up that feeling by keeping a clean home. Having a clean home is a gift of God. He rewards us with happy feelings and less stress; however, keeping a clean home is a task that few people enjoy.

Cleaning is time-consuming, tedious, messy and can be costly. Here are a few tips to make it easier on yourself and our environment:

Make your own cleaners! Here is a recipe to make your own all-purpose cleaner: In an empty spray bottle (more than 12 ounces), place ½ cup rubbing alcohol, ½ cup white vinegar and a few drops of lemon juice. Mix all ingredients and fill the rest of the way with water. This is a disinfectant as well as a glass cleaner!

Buy concentrated cleaners such as Murphy's Oil Soap or Spic N' Span.

These cleaners are long lasting and environmentally friendly.

Use old shirts, bar mops and cloth diapers as cleaning rags. Why keep purchasing "extendible duster refills" when you are only throwing your money away? Using cloth instead of paper towels keeps more trees upon our earth.

Take your cleaning a step further and use micro-cleaning cloths on your windows. Just lightly dampen them with water and you are ready to go. Do not use fabric softener when washing the cloths. It will leave streaks.

Use bag-less vacuum cleaners. It doesn't make "cents" to have the garbage man haul away bags of dirt. Use a bag-less vacuum and compost the dirt from your home. Composters like the materials!

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 PA 17815
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AGAPE Staff:

Executive Director: Eileen Chapman
 Treasurer: Sylvia Richer
 Case Manager: Karen Heaps
 Volunteer Coordinator: Barbara White
 Joseph's Storehouse Coordinators:
 Amber Lee and Matt Korol
 Office Coordinator: Donna Houser
 IT Coordinator: Michael DeMarco
 Extended Services Coordinator: Vacant
 Daily Bread Meal Coordinator:
 Mary Ridgway
 Addictions Coordinator: Betty Brown
 PR Coordinator: Kathy Lowe
 Marketing Coordinator: Vacant
 Disaster Relief Coordinator:
 Victoria Wilcox
 Grant Coordinator and Cloth Diaper
 Program Coordinator: Megan Fernsler
 Fixer Upper Coordinator: Vacant
 Webmaster: Sam Vetovich
 Newsletter Production: Louise Naus,
 Ann Diserod, and Sam Bidleman

Board of Directors:

President: Pastor Susan Knorr
 Vice-President: Vicky Burnside
 Secretary: Peggy Kopitsky
 Valerie Evert
 Kathy Lowe
 Frank Gehrig
 Bruce McMichael, Jr.
 Ginger Hock
 Pastor Greg Molter
 David Kovach
 Louise Naus
 Pastor David Rosenberger
 Chris Renninger

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Marketing Coordinator
- Fundraising Coordinator
- Special Events Coordinator
- Caseworker
- Mission Central Coordinator
- Standby Electricians, Plumbers and
 Carpenters for small home projects
- Mentors Coordinator
- Fixer Upper Coordinator

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



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

Financial Donation & Contribution Form

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Address: _____ Apt #: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____
 Check Enclosed Donation Amount: \$ _____ Dedication (If any): _____

Financial Donations May Be Mailed To: AGAPE, P.O. Box 424, Bloomsburg, PA 17815

The official registration and financial information of AGAPE Love From Above to Our Community may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania (1-800-732-0999). Registration does not imply endorsement. AGAPE is a 501(C) 3 organization.