



AGAPE volunteer Brandon Weaver has become a summer volunteer staple for three years, helping out wherever he is needed. His enthusiasm can make any job enjoyable, even when painting the entry railing.

## Summer is his best season

For many high school students, summer is a time for sleeping in, mowing the lawn, catching up with missed television shows, or playing video games. But for one 18-year-old from Southern Columbia, summer is his time to shine as an AGAPE volunteer.

Catawissa native Brandon Weaver approached AGAPE Executive Director Eileen Chapman three years ago, and she suggested that they set up an interview. "He came in, and we asked all sorts of questions, and he answered them all right," said Chapman. Brandon started the next day.

Brandon's services to AGAPE clients include pick up, deliveries, painting, and anything else asked of him, but he is very clear as to what is his favorite part of each day. "Devotions," he says with hugs for the staff a close second.

"He loads trucks for deliveries, he helps us with food give-aways, and bags clothing for distribution," says Director of programs Amber Lee. "He is our in-house foreman."

And because of his work in house, Brandon has built a close relationship with the AGAPE staff and is proud of their reaction

to him. "I like working here with these guys, and I enjoy picking on Matt," says Brandon, who quickly adds that Director of Operations and Facilities Matt Korol likes to pick on him too.

In addition to his everyday responsibilities, Brandon is part of an orientation program for Bloomsburg University students who are volunteering with AGAPE for the first time. Because of all he does, Brandon was given a fob that he uses to track his hours.

Outside AGAPE, Brandon loves music and playing his guitar. During Fair Week, Brandon helps at the St. John's church stand, working before breakfast through the noon lunch rush, cleaning up and setting up for their customers. Brandon's father is the breakfast chef at the stand, and Brandon loves working with him.

Brandon has two favorite sayings that he shares at every chance. "Back to work" is usually used when his short breaks are over and "Lunch is ready"... well, that one is obvious. Everyone at AGAPE has a Brandon Weaver story, but because of his efforts, he is writing a story of his own, one few high school students can match.

## Weekly Calendar

- **AA Meetings:**  
Wednesdays and Fridays  
6:45 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- **AL ANON Meetings:**  
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
- **NA and NAR ANON Meetings:**  
Thursdays at 7 p.m.
- **Daily Bread 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 2014

- Saturday, August 23, "Kayaking for Our Communities" beginning at 8:30 a.m., Bloomsburg Town Park
- Saturday, August 23, 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Palooza, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bloomsburg Town Park
- Friday-Sunday, October 10-12, visit us at Berwick Riverfest
- Monday, October 13, Applebee's Dining to Donate Fundraiser

Go to [www.agapelovefromabove.org](http://www.agapelovefromabove.org) for more calendar listings and updates.

**NOTE: If you would like to receive *Recollections* through your email, please contact us at [agapenews@ptd.net](mailto:agapenews@ptd.net).**

## Apology to Volunteers

We are in the process of revamping our volunteer system. We are updating our volunteer lists and trying to set them up more efficiently and effectively. We hope to have this process accomplished by the end of 2014. We sincerely apologize to those of you who volunteered and were never called and who became frustrated. We hope to improve in this area in the future. Please call us if you are willing to volunteer in any way. Thank you for your patience.



Putting for par on the 18th hole at The Links, Todd Warren pushes his shot a bit to the right, but the rest of his game was good enough as Warren and his partners took first place with a score of 54.

## Foursomes play for a good cause

With an 8 a.m. Shotgun Start, AGAPE held its first golf tournament at The Links on Saturday, July 12. Nine better ball foursomes raised \$2,500.00 for AGAPE outreaches. Congratulations to the team of Bill Sponseller, John Staradoj, John Stockalis and Todd Warren who took first place. Thank you to the following sponsors of the event: Bloomsburg Elks Club, Bloom Bounce, Dean W. Kriner, Inc., AGAPE Board of Directors, United Water, Columbia/Montour County Chapter of Thrivent Financial, Rt. 11 and State Street Carwashes, Berwick Dental Arts, Chip Adams Sewer and Drain Cleaning, BODNAR Sales and Service, McMichael Funeral Home, Robert C. Young, Inc. Knecht Auctions, and Anonymous.

## Wellness grant targets improved self-sufficiency, budgeting

AGAPE has received a \$15,000 grant from the Berwick Health and Wellness Fund (BHWF) of the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation. These funds will support residents of the BHWF service area who receive services from AGAPE's NetWorks Program.

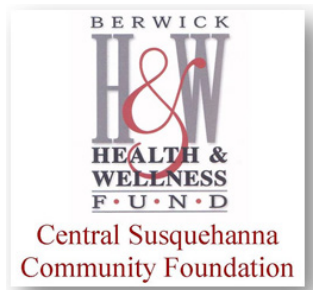
The NetWorks program offers a variety of services aimed at changing a client's circumstances permanently, rather than "applying a band-aid" or promoting dependence on the human services system. Its primary goal is to improve client budgeting capabilities, increasing their ability to attain self-sufficiency and eliminating the need for further assistance. It is because of grantors like the Berwick Health and Wellness Fund that AGAPE can continue to serve our community.

Eileen Chapman, Executive Director for AGAPE states, "Our clients and their families are at the end of the line in getting needs met through human services, coming to us desperate and defeated. Whether they have suddenly experienced a downturn in fortune or live in chronic poverty, they see that they can make changes and move towards independence, which restores hope. Some of them even come back to us as volunteers, to give back to the community."

### About the Berwick Health and Wellness Fund

The Berwick Health and Wellness Fund is the original and largest fund of the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation.

Its purpose is to improve the health and welfare of residents and communities of eastern Columbia and western Luzerne counties. For more information about the Berwick Health and Wellness Fund and the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation, please visit [www.csgiving.org](http://www.csgiving.org).



## Finding a ride may become a lot easier with new program

The cost of transportation in this area is a major problem. For example, a round trip from Bloomsburg to Geisinger Medical Center by cab is \$34.00. Ride Share is a new, web-based ride-matching program designed to alleviate the problem for commuters in Montour/Columbia Counties and surrounding areas.

Participants self-register, editing their own profiles to create the best possible matches for a carpool. Access to match lists is instant and available 24/7. It takes time to build a data base so participants should not become discouraged if they do not obtain a match right away. Notification is sent when a match become available. If



An innovative program allows participants to register and post their own profiles to create the best possible matches for a carpool.

our counties can prove a significant need, a van service may becomes available. Save money, time and the environment: Register at <http://rideshare.nextinsight.com/>

# Help limited as need increases

## Letter from the Executive Director

I regret making this report, but the plight of our clients is serious and AGAPE's ability to help is limited. AGAPE is now the only source of financial assistance to many in our community. Other social service agencies can't help because budgets haven't passed or have been cut. The economic situation has hit all of us, and we are finding it harder to serve those in need just when that need is increasing.

Comparing our mid-year numbers for 2014 with 2013, we find a 4.08% increase in number of clients served (1,224 v. 1,176); a 26.83% (461 v. 630) decrease in those approved for financial assistance; and a 94.52% increase (142 v. 73) in those denied financial assistance. The number of people we can't help is growing many times faster than the number we can help.

The increase in denials is a concern. Some denials are inevitable. When clients take no responsibility, AGAPE can't help. Others fail to follow through with what they need to do in order to receive our assistance; denials hold them accountable.

Many however, find themselves in a "black hole," where even when we can provide financial assistance, it is not sufficient to get them out of their situation. We can now provide a maximum of \$150 per client with a total for all clients of \$3,000 per month. AGAPE never could pay black holes entirely, but we negotiated with bill collectors and coordinated payment with churches and other agencies. Now, that is not possible because agencies lack funding and the debts are larger.

## Feeding the Thousands

We appreciate the following sponsors who helped with our weekly noon meals during the last quarter (April through June 2014):

- Bloomsburg Carpet Industries, Inc.
- Evansville United Methodist Church
- Econo Lodge
- United Water
- Col. Kirk's Auction Gallery and the Millville Community
- Susan T. Lynch, Attorney at Law
- Rohrbach's Farm Market
- Marr Development

Clients in black holes face eviction or utility shut-off for failure to pay over a long period. Rents and utility bills cannot be paid without jobs. Black holes arise from long-term unemployment when benefits expire or haven't begun or are denied. Bloomsburg's unemployment rate is 4.1%, Berwick's 3.8%.

The national average is 5.7%, but unemployment statistics do not include

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people ineligible for unemployment or whose benefits have expired. Even the employed are vulnerable. The poverty level for Bloomsburg is 36.5%, 14.9% in Berwick, with 14.2% the national average.

We have people in need in our community. Can you help AGAPE help those who are sincerely trying to help themselves? May God continue to bless our community as we pray,

serve and contribute to our people's well-being. Showing the love of Christ under all circumstances is our priority!

In His Service,

Eileen Chapman

### FINANCIAL REPORT (April-June 2014)

#### Income:

Churches	\$11,110.28
Community Organizations	1,678.14
Corporate Donations	2,635.29
Individual Donations	14,299.00
Grants	12,450.00
Other	5,070.54

#### In-Kind Donations:

Corporate/Business	\$11,770.54
Individual	19,802.74
Total In-Kind	\$31,573.28

Total Income \$78,816.53

#### Expenses:

Total Program Distribution	\$20,866.79
Operational Expenses	\$27,128.49

Total Expenses \$91,181.54



*Build houses and live in them; and plant gardens and eat their produce.*

- Jeremiah 29:5

Ahh, it's August! The dog days of summer are upon us, so make sure to take advantage and to enjoy them before they are gone. Fall will all too soon be here and that means the harvest will soon be over.

Now is the time to "go green"! Shopping at your local farmers market (if you don't have your own garden) can help you go green in a number of ways: 1. You'll help out the local economy. 2. Fewer food miles mean less expensive and really fresh food. Fewer food miles also mean less greenhouse gas. 3. Your overall health will benefit. We all know how good fresh fruits and veggies are for us.

Want to stretch your dollar farther? Try canning your own fruits and veggies at home. You can find easy-to-follow instructions at [www.ballcanning.com](http://www.ballcanning.com).

Want to keep those fresh veggies longer than a few weeks? Try creating your own root cellar! They are inexpensive and all you need is a cool dry place to store your food! Find out more and "how to" at [www.motherearthnews.com](http://www.motherearthnews.com) Have a wonderful summer!

### Program Outreach

(April - June 2014)

#### Client Requests:

-Ex-Offenders	11
-Homeless	37
-Disaster Survivors	0
-AGAPE Give-Away Event	206
-Benevolence Clients	312
-Total Clients Served	566
-DailyBread Meals served	1,511

#### Program Distributions:

	# Assisted	Expenditure
-CleanLife	N/A	\$325.00
-DailyBread	52	\$8,670.75
-Daniel'sPrayer Team	165	\$0
-HelpMates	11	\$0
-KidsCare	9	\$941.50
-NetWorks	56	\$13,294.59
-RoadHome	6	\$1,640.00
-SmartStart	5	\$0
-StoreMore	297	\$37,469.93
-TransPorts	23	\$1,711.28
-FixerUpper	0	\$0
-Total		\$64,053.05

**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 Coordinator: Donna Houser  
 IT Coordinator: Michael DeMarco  
 Extended Services Coordinator: Deb Franssen  
 DailyBread Meal Coordinator: Mary Ridgway  
 Addictions Coordinator: Betty Brown  
 PR Coordinator: Kathy Lowe  
 Grant Coordinator and Cloth Diaper Program Coordinator: Megan Fernsler  
 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  
 Larry Finnicum  
 Frank Gehrig  
 Ginger Hock  
 Kathy Lowe  
 Pastor Greg Molter  
 Louise Naus  
 Chris Renninger  
 Pastor David Rosenberger  
 Michael Spangnuolo  
 Maxine Vandermark  
 Eileen Chapman: Ex-officio member

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

- Joseph's Storehouse Coordinator
- Caseworker
- Extended Service Volunteers for:
  - Nehemiah Card Project
  - Fundraising
  - Special Events
- Prayer Warriors
- Standby Electricians, Plumbers and Carpenters for small home projects

**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](http://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.