

**Weekly Calendar**

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

NA:  
Tuesdays and 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.

Daily Bread Meal for Community:  
Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Thursdays 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Adult Clothing Giveaway:  
First Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Third Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Food Pantry: Columbia County  
3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month  
9 a.m. to 12 noon

Fresh Express:  
Every Thursday  
11 a. m. to 4 p.m.

**Upcoming Events**

Renaissance Jamboree –  
Saturday, April 29, Downtown  
Bloomsburg, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE - 7th Annual  
Palooza, Saturday, August 26,  
Bloomsburg Town Park



*A local child receives fresh produce from one of the many volunteers at Fresh Express on Thursday, March 9th, 2017.*

*Luke 3:11 ESV/265*

*"And He answered them, whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise".*

**THERE IS HOPE FOR THE HUNGRY**  
Carin Wharton

I recently had the opportunity to come by and see a Thursday afternoon of Fresh Express in action. Needless to say, I was blown away, not only by the line of people in need in our very own neighborhood, but by the volunteers and the sheer organization I found inside. Lines of people were formed and were able to select the items they needed through the Fresh Express program, just one of five free food programs AGAPE offers to the public. Fresh Express is a program of the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank that provides fresh produce such as vegetables, fruits, fruit juices, milk, yogurt, and eggs. I had the pleasure of speaking with organizer, Ruth Thomas, during my visit. She warm heartedly relayed that many of the donations received in bulk are from regional and local manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers and farmers as well as other food related companies. I was overwhelmed by the generosity of these groups and their willingness to serve so many in need. I also learned that AGAPE distributes food donated by our local Giant, Kirk's Auction Gallery and Sheetz.


Fresh Express gives out between 25,000 to 35,000 pounds of food each WEEK valued between \$20,000 to \$40,000, depending on whether meat is included. On April 6th, 2017, Fresh Express served 420 households despite the heavy down pour of rain. Those 420 households accounted for 1,108 people: 339 were children 17 years of age or younger, 523 were between the ages of 18 and 59, and 246 individuals were 60+ years of age. In 2016, this program alone distributed a total of 1,042,650 pounds of food to residents of Columbia and Montour Counties as well as a few from Luzerne and Northumberland Counties. Fresh Express is open every Thursday from 11 am to 4pm and all are welcome.

As I left the AGAPE center that day, I realized that hunger reaches so close to home and so many people are in need. To volunteer or make donations to any one of these programs, please call 570-317-2210 or email [info@agape-pa.org](mailto:info@agape-pa.org).



## Diamond Donor Reception



On Wednesday, March 8, we held our second annual Diamond Donor Reception. Donors who gave \$5,000.00 and above in monetary and/or in-kind donations during 2016 were honored and received plaques. Kelly and Joy Dent and Jane Reppa of our Extended Services Department along with the help of some of our other staff organized this event and provided the food. Diamond Donors were presented with plaques. 



Do you like to shop on Amazon? If so, with the click of a button you can continue to buy all of your favorite items and now support your local community. To sign up, go to <http://smile.amazon.com> and when prompted to select a charity enter **AGAPE Love From Above To Our Community (Location: Bloomsburg, PA)**. Now, every time you shop at Amazon a percentage of your purchase will be donated to AGAPE. And, the great thing is you can still use your current Amazon account – no need to setup a new username and/or password.

## CELEBRATING AHA GRADUATES

We are proud of the seven people who graduated from our spring AHA class on Thursday, March 23. The ceremony was held at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Bloomsburg. The graduates were honored and refreshments were served. Judy Ryan coordinates this program and is assisted by Gail Menapace and Vicky Berlin.



## FEEDING THE THOUSANDS

(January – March 2017)

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

- ◆ ACE Hearing Centers
- ◆ Appleman Financial
- ◆ The Auction Gallery
- ◆ BIDA
- ◆ Century 21 Covered Bridges Realty, Inc. (Susan Barchik & Dorothy Rhone)
- ◆ Columbia Alliance for Economic Growth
- ◆ Dent Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
- ◆ Gordner-Coombs Insurance, Inc.
- ◆ Hamilton Dental Care
- ◆ Harrell Automatic Sprinkler Company, Inc.
- ◆ HeRo Canine Consulting, LLC
- ◆ Nathan Snaveley Nationwide insurance
- ◆ USG

## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear AGAPE Friends,

Yes, we've finally got a newsletter out. Our somewhat new newsletter team includes Louise Naus, Heather Beagle, Ann Diseroad, Carin Wharton and Joy Dent. They got out the postcard in February (a great job), and now you'll see their real work.

A lot has gone on at AGAPE over the past year. We've lost some board members: Susan Knorr, Maxine Vandermark, Lesa Angell, and Connie Fairchild. Our new Board of Directors are Sandie Yule, President; Frank Gehrig, Vice President; Louise Naus, Secretary; and members Matt Beagle, Jodi Berry, Adam Bowman, Jessica Kingsborough, Jack Lewis, Gail Menapace, Greg Molter, John Thomas, Fred Trump, and Matt Vanderstraten.

Fresh Express, our fresh produce and non-perishable food giveaway, made available by the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, hit an all-time high Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup> serving 492 guests. We had 149 for the DailyBread meal. AGAPE has a new Wednesday evening meal, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

We were sad to lose Amber Lee as Director of Programs and Human Resources. She left for a job in her dream place, Florida, Sarasota to be exact, where she directs the federal food program for the All Faith Food Bank in Sarasota. We miss her big time but also wish her a big THANK YOU and GOD BE WITH YOU ALWAYS. She was a huge asset to AGAPE during her eight years with us. Big shoes to fill.

Our new DailyBread Manager is Laurie Swank, who started April 17th and is charged with enthusiasm for the job. We wish her well and pray for her as she learns ALL the ROPES AGAPE must jump over for its food resources.

Mike Bozung is our new StoreHOUSE Manager. He is responsible for the in-kind items we receive including their distribution, setting up the warehouse for Fresh Express, and the acceptance of major deliveries.

Tina Perkins is our new database associate, responsible for all in-kind, financial and client reports. She also helps with our website.

We received a grant of \$20,000 from the Berwick Health and Wellness Fund of the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation to help with Life's CHALLENGES, our benevolence fund that provides clients with financial assistance to help pay for basic needs: rent, electricity, water/sewer, prescriptions, gasoline for getting to work, etc. BHWF has been extremely supportive of AGAPE over the years.

We also received two grants from the Youth In Philanthropy program of the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation. They will be applied to our Cloth Diaper Program. We have 38 babies currently in the program. Benefits of cloth diapers include saving money, no diaper rash, and faster potty-training.

That's it for now. Want to know more? Come visit us. Better yet, be a regular volunteer, even if it's only an hour or two a month. We'd enjoy having you. We need you!

In His Service,

Eileen

## THANKS FROM OUR CLIENTS

A Bloomsburg resident who was moving, donated some backyard playground equipment to AGAPE. Eileen identified Pinnacle Place in Sunbury, a home for women ages 18 to 22 and their young children who need a temporary place to live, as an appropriate recipient. They were thrilled. Below is their "thank you."

"Dear members of AGAPE and volunteers,

On behalf of Pinnacle Place, I want to thank you for the recent delivery and donation of the outside play equipment for the participants to use here at Pinnacle Place. This donation will further ensure a safe place for the participants to play with their children in a positive way. Additionally, I would like to thank the gentleman who volunteered to deliver and assemble it. Now all we need is some nice warm weather!

Thanks Again.

Pinnacle Place Team."



Agape has received several "thank you" notes from people who suffer from diabetes. Many cannot afford the fresh produce they need to remain healthy. They have expressed gratitude for the produce they receive each week from FRESH EXPRESS.



Love From Above To Our Community

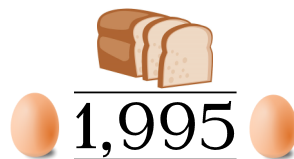
19 East 7th Street  
Bloomsburg, PA 17815  
570-317-2210  
www.agapelovefromabove.org



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

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Bloomsburg,  
PA 17815  
Permit No. 19

PPL FOUNDATION  
OPERATIONAL GRANT  
\$25,000.00



1,995  
MEALS SERVED BETWEEN  
JANUARY 1- MARCH 31

THANK YOU TO OUR  
30  
DIAMOND DONORS  
FOR 2016

RAISE THE FOOD REGION  
FIRST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP OF PENNSYLVANIA  
TOTAL DONATIONS  
\$10,109.92



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:  
~Grant Writers  
~Administrative Assistant  
~Kitchen help for  
Daily Bread meal

\$ \$ \$  
\$600,779.37  
IN FINANCIAL &  
IN-KIND DONATIONS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

### AGAPE's Hope and Healing

Ethan Baker Bloomsburg University Student/Intern

Sherry Lockman heads Hope and Healing under AGAPE's HeACTS program, an AGAPE special spiritual outreach and liaison for other local organizations involved in critical issues. Sherry is cancer survivor whose purpose in creating the program was to reach out to cancer patients who are alone and need help, Sherry conquered her personal struggles and set out to help others, starting her ministry in 2014. It became part of AGAPE's HeACTS in 2015. Hope and Healing reaches out to anybody suffering a critical illness who feels alone with nowhere to turn for help and support.

It serves local residents utilizing AGAPE resources such as food and clothing, as well support for their financial and spiritual needs. Many donations to AGAPE are specified for Hope and Healing. The spiritual aspect includes prayers and cards of encouragement for those struggling with illnesses. The ministry occasionally visits homes and hospital rooms, if requested.

Another important initiative of Hope and Healing is Bonnie's Blessing Bags. Donated personal items are supplied for emergencies and when clients have to go for a hospital stay.

These programs are open to anybody in need. "We are not about religion, we are here to help you," Sherry said. Her main goals for Hope and Healing are to give hope to those in need, increase outreach to the community, and get more people to know about the program.

Hope and Healing Ministry is open to anyone who knows someone struggling with a critical illness regardless of faith.

To learn more about the program, call AGAPE at 570-317-2210 or Sherry at 570-387-5290.