

2008
Non-Profit
Philanthropist
Of
The Year Award!



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF
A Christian Outreach and Support Center
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20th Anniversary
August 1991 - 2011

PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE!

The idea for a cooperative ministry of churches began in 1989 with the clergy of the Westminster Ministerium and other community lay people. The vision was to create one place where anyone in need could find immediate assistance. Its goal was to consolidate the efforts among area churches to avoid duplication of services and provide information about available community resources. In 1990 the name *The Shepherd's Staff* was chosen and a mission statement was adopted.

On August 5, 1991, *The Shepherd's Staff* opened its doors in a tiny space donated by the Carroll County Human Services Program. In 1992, *The Shepherd's Staff* moved to a site on Main Street provided by the Westminster United Methodist Church. Within the first three years, beyond offering financial assistance, *The Shepherd's Staff* began targeting unmet needs that led to the creation of the year-round *Blessings Closet* program (distribution of non-food essentials), a weekly soup kitchen-*Shepherd's Table*, and an annual *Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner*.

In 1994, *The Shepherd's Staff* moved to 30 Carroll Street, a 10-room house owned by Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, which helped expand into a more comprehensive on-site operation to include a *laundry and bath facility, book room, clothing shed, a non-food distribution area, as well as an interview room, waiting area, administrative office, a production room, basement, attic storage, back yard picnic area and meditation garden.* This location allowed for space to initiate such programs as the *Call for Coats, Back-to-School, Easter Baskets, 4th of July Picnic, Outdoor Christmas Celebration and Take-a-Book project.* In addition, clients may use the telephone to set up employment interviews and medical appointments, as well as use our facility as a mailing address. The daily newspaper is provided as a tool to search for housing and employment.

Through the years, our financial assistance outreach has grown, especially in the area of medical need To handle this increasing demand of the uninsured and underinsured, the **Rx FUND** was created. Other programs have increased as the struggles of low income families, seniors, children and others continue to grow. To sustain operations and services, appeals are made to churches, organizations, businesses and individuals to support our grassroots efforts to help those less fortunate. *The Shepherd's Staff* solicits the community not only for monetary contributions, but also for in-kind donations to maintain various programs such as *Fill-A-Bag, Back-to-School, and the Blessings Closet.* Volunteerism is critical to the continuity of services, and the time and talents of hundreds are needed to support the work. Also, small grants and fund-raising efforts such as "*Rex*" the Piggy Bank, *Little Community Theater productions, Annual Festival of Trees, Flea Markets, The Shepherd's Staff News* (a quarterly appeal newsletter), and a merchandise line called "PRODUCTS WITH A MISSION" help maintain the organization. Our newest outreach encompasses Summer Food & Fellowship, including a Remembrance Service. Because *The Shepherd's Staff* does not receive Federal, State or County funding, it is vital that we continually implement new fundraising endeavors to ensure the continuity of service to the Carroll County community.

Since the beginning, The Shepherd's Staff, within a supportive environment, has worked with children and adults in a spirit of compassion and respect. The future lies in fostering self-help initiatives and developing pathways for social and economic advancement for those we serve.