

The Shepherd's Staff News



Winter, 2011 Issue 4

Over the years your “*Gift of Charity*”

has been a BEACON OF HOPE for many.
Here’s one story of a single Mom we met long, long ago...

...Almost 18 years ago at a Thanksgiving dinner, my young son and I were befriended by strangers who turned out to be angels from The Shepherd’s Staff. Little did I know that a turkey dinner would lead to a lasting bond of friendship.

From that day on they have given me HOPE each time they have helped me find housing, fill my cupboard with household necessities, provide school essentials, Easter baskets and warm coats for my son — even providing clothing and way to wash them. So, when the opportunity to give back came ... I took it! Keeping busy organizing the Clothing Shed and cleaning The Shepherd’s Staff house makes me feel needed, but more importantly, they accept me for who I am.

When my Dad was dying they gave me hugs and cried with me. Where else can you go to find truly caring people who will listen to you no matter what walk of life you come from. Feeling welcome may seem like a small thing, but for me it continues to be a BEACON OF HOPE not often found in this world, but I was lucky enough to find it at a house on Carroll Street.

My heartfelt thanks to the staff, volunteers and community,
Donna

To keep *The Shepherd’s Staff*
BEACON OF HOPE
bright for the coming year we hope you will
consider a year-end “*Gift of Charity*.” We are
truly thankful for all your past “*Gifts*” and
wish this blessed season be
filled with joy for *You and Yours!*

How Your “Gifts of Charity”

Our Mission

“In a loving response to our Lord Jesus Christ’s command to feed his sheep, The Shepherd’s Staff exists to reach out to those in crisis, to aid those in need, to support those in trouble, to seek out and encourage pathways to self-sufficiency, and to be a witness for Christ in our community”

Festival Decorators

Thank you for your wonderful creativity, hard work, time and talents decorating each tree with love.

Anonymous
Leslie Brannon
Laurel Brown
Jeannie Deckelbaum
Terry Eckard
Ann Gifford
Linda Ibox
Dottie Irwin
Nancy James
Pat Kennedy
Bev Kerkam
Melissa Mashang
Josephine Minturn
Marilyn Morton
Mary L. Poirier
Cindy Potee
Barbara Rhine
Connie Rooney
Sharon Row
Sondra Sarles
Beth Sergott &
Wild Flowers by Alicia
Junella Spencer
Kathy Taylor
Sue Thomas
Kristy Vandervalk
Sandy White
Pat Wright
Kathy Zimmerman

Thanksgiving

Blessings on Kathy Reid for coordinating the Thanksgiving Day Dinner. We served over 300 guests through the efforts of many volunteers. Sandy, one of our founding volunteers, was sorely missed this year. May God keep her in his care.

Hugs and Stitches

Much appreciation for the efforts of the knitters to make hats and scarves to give.

Filling up the Car

“...Right now at this current time I’m hoping that they will be able to help me with some gas to put in my car so that I’m able to get my son down to Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore...”

Celebrating Together

“...For many years I would have been alone on Thanksgiving if it hadn’t been for The Shepherd’s Staff Thanksgiving Day Dinner...”

The Power of a Shower

After hitting rock bottom over a year ago Chris asked, “Where can I go to get cleaned up?” Someone suggested The Shepherd’s Staff on Carroll Street and so started his journey. Every morning he came early so he could be the first to shower, change and get ready for his job hunt. After storing his clothes and toiletries and having been armed with snacks, he was ready to start the day feeling confident and refreshed. This routine went on for weeks while his job search continued. Using a bicycle as his only means of transportation, he rode up and down the streets of Westminster and wherever he saw a business, he went in, applied and eventually found work.

Today, not only is he working two jobs and paying rent, but he also started his own business making it possible to buy a vehicle. While he attends a 12-step fellowship program, he looks for ways to help others as he has been helped. One of the ways he continues to give back is by frequently stopping by The Shepherd’s Staff loaded with Blessings Closet supplies to distribute to others in need.

While providing a shower may seem like a simple gesture of kindness, for Chris, it became a BEACON OF HOPE to get him to his next positive step in life — paving the way to self-sufficiency. He is eternally grateful for being treated with dignity and respect by the Staff of Shepherd’s Staff and as he reflects, he found a place to shower... and in turn was empowered by so much more.

Importance of a Coat

“...People do not realize the importance of a simple coat if you do not have one when walking is the only means to take care of your family, whether going to buy food or make appointments...”

Stretching the Budget

“...I work but my paycheck doesn’t stretch far enough to buy necessary household items...”



Are A BEACON OF HOPE!

Summer School Fee

“...I want to thank Shepherd Staff for helping me with and organizing the help I needed for my son to go to summer school. My son will now have the opportunity to be able to go to the 10th grade and further his education...”

Grandma's Gift

“...My seven grandchildren loved the Easter baskets! For so many years I was not able to give them something special to remember Grandma by. Thank you for giving them their very own first Bible from me...”

How Your “Gifts of Charity” Helped Serve Others Throughout The Year!

November 2010 – October 2011

Emergency Financial Assistance - 998 Households
Rx Financial Assistance - 427 Individuals
Back-To-School Program - 1,100 Students
Back-To-School Year-Round Essentials - 33 Students
Blessings Closet Items - 2,667 Households
Call for Coats - 1,813 Individuals
Spiritual Easter Baskets - 1,304 Children
Take-A-Book Project - Over 4,000 Individuals
The Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen - Over 4,000 Individuals
Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner - 302 Individuals
Annual 4th of July Cookout - 175 Individuals
Summer Food & Fellowship (incl fresh produce) - 450 Individuals
Christmas Celebration - 120 Individuals
Christmas Stockings - 412 Distributed
Bath Facility/Laundry Facility - 370 Individuals
Distributed 600 lbs Pet Food donated by
the Community Foundation of Carroll County

Hundreds of Other Requests Were Granted For:

Emergency Lite Meals & Hospitality
Telephone and Daily Newspaper Use
Baby, Career, and Year Round Clothing
Grocery Coupons
Religious Literature
Referrals, Advocacy, and Compassionate Listening

Like All the Other Kids

“...We are working our way back from being homeless. We are thankful for any help we get. I would like my kids to go back to school happy, clothed and ready like all the other kids. There are things I just can't do right now on my own. I don't want them to feel different. Thank you very much for being here for us...”

“...” - Indicates the stories are in the words of those we serve.

Please check our website for
more details about
programs
and fundraisers!

The Shepherd's Table

Every Friday a noon meal is served at the Westminster UMC. Our wonderful Coordinator, Mary Reeb, is responsible for the eight churches who rotate throughout the year to cook and serve. To each Church, deepest appreciation and to Mary, God's blessings for her spirit of dedication to feed our hungry visitors.

Crosswinds Church of God
Grace Fellowship Chapel
St. John's Lutheran
St. Joseph's Catholic
St. Luke Lutheran
Wesley United Methodist
Westminster Baptist
Westminster Church of
the Nazarene

Call for Coats

Much appreciation to *Admiral Cleaners* for cleaning the coats and the *Carroll County Times* for media sponsorship. Thank you Boscov's, Coldwell Banker-Hampstead, Long & Foster-Eldersburg, New Windsor State Bank and Servpro.

Blessings Closet

Many thanks to our Blessings Closet Coordinator, Peter Jones, for delivering a U-Haul filled with personal care items collected through a drive at LifePoint Church.

Taylorsville UMC

Heartfelt gratitude for sending a team to repair, paint, fix walkways and install fans in the Clothing Shed to make it more bearable in hot weather.

LifePoint Church

Many thanks for helping with the multitude of tasks for “Saturday of Sharing” as well as hosting a wonderful Fall Cookout which conveyed such a caring spirit.

Home Sweet Home

Blessings on the Pastor's and Congregation of *Grace Lutheran Church* for providing the house on Carroll Street that has become a BEACON OF HOPE these many years.

Pack the Pavilion

SAVE THE DATE!
Sunday, 3/11 @ 3pm
Carroll Lutheran School

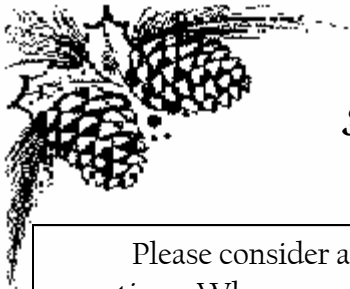


Non-Profit Organizations
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Westminster, MD 21158

Save the Date!
March 30, 2012
"2nd Annual BINGO"
See Flyer for Details



*Brighten Our BEACON OF HOPE With
Your "Gift of Charity"!*



*As Part of Your Year-End Generosity,
Help Keep Our BEACON OF HOPE Bright with a
"Gift of Charity"!*

Please consider a tax deductible donation to support *The Shepherd's Staff* outreach programs and operations. When you are planning your year-end contributions, your decision to support *The Shepherd's Staff* will play an important part in helping people in the Carroll community throughout the coming year.

Your "**Gift of Charity**", no matter how small or large, will be greatly appreciated.

Please Check One: Cash Check | \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

For Year round updates please provide email: _____

Please make checks payable to: The Shepherd's Staff

Mail: The Shepherd's Staff, P.O. Box 127, Westminster, MD 21158

Drop Off: 30 Carroll Street, Westminster, MD 21157

www.shepstaff.org

410-857-5944

shepstaff@comcast.net

Funds in excess of the need for this program may be used for other Shepherd's Staff programs at the discretion of the Board of Directors.