

**Outreach Services of the
Lehigh County Conference Of Churches**

534 Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18102 ☎ Tel: 610-433-6421 – Fax: 610-439-8039
www.lehighchurches.org

We now have offices at two locations: 534 Chew Street and 544 Hamilton Street, Allentown

Volunteering – To volunteer for any of our programs, please call our Volunteer Coordinator at 610-439-8653.

534 Chew Street Programs: Call 610-433-6421

Ecumenical Endeavors - Since its inception, the Conference has served as a catalyst and a forum for which various religious traditions share their understandings. Such endeavors include CROP Walk, Campbell Memorial Lectureship, Interfaith Programs, Lenten Services, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, etc.

Daybreak – An adult drop-in center for persons who are mentally ill, participating in a drug or alcohol treatment program, infected with HIV/AIDS and the impoverished elderly. Daybreak provides three hot meals each weekday, an opportunity for socialization and support, job readiness skills, art and music therapy. We also empower these individuals with the skills and resources that they will need to reestablish themselves in the community in a safe, supportive and caring environment.

Homeless Supportive Services - The HSS Project serves persons who are disabled and who have been unsheltered and homeless continuously for one year or who have experienced four episodes of homelessness over a three year period. Services include intensive case management for the disabled homeless desiring to achieve residential stability, increase their skills and/or incomes, and obtain greater self-determination.

Linkage - Assist area homeless to find help through a street contact, warns the homeless of danger of extreme weather, either cold or hot, and also strives to move homeless toward self-sufficiency.

Pharmaceutical Assistance - On the recommendation of social service workers from hospitals or agencies, the Conference provides once-a-year emergency medical assistance for prescriptions.

Permanent Employment Program (PEP) –PEP assists chronically unemployed individuals reach a level of self-sufficiency through subsidized to unsubsidized work experiences. Participants are assisted in search for and obtaining meaningful employment by educational, case management and subsidized work opportunities while involved in the program.

Rep Payee - Many people today have difficulty handling money. About 80 such people have their SSI or SSD check assigned to our office. After rent and utilities are paid directly, our rep payee helps with budgeting and money management. In effect, the representative-payee system helps to prevent people from becoming homeless.

Soup Kitchen - Approximately 100 volunteers from area churches prepare and serve the meal Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at St. Paul's Lutheran, and a pastor is present each day for assistance and counsel.

544 Hamilton Street Programs: Call 610-439-8653

Aspires- Aspires is a mentoring program that is dedicated to the recruitment of volunteers, who offer support for students in the Allentown public schools who are at risk of not graduating, helping them to succeed academically, graduate from high school, and to be productive citizens.

Pathways - A core of Resource Counselors and four staff members help people in need make connections with other community resources, serve as advocates, and act as a referral service to human service agencies. Pathways' Housing Case Management assists homeless families and individuals find stable housing providing rental assistance, goal setting and budgeting.

The **Lehigh County Clearinghouse** assists with rental assistance and other housing-related needs for the homeless, transitioning youth adults (age 18-23), residents of a community rehabilitation residence, individuals being released from incarceration. Call 610-841-1370.

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Three case studies

Scenario 1

There are four adult children, all in their 50's. Mom, a widow is in her 80's, still lives in the family home, but her health is failing. She needs to be in a memory care facility and plans are in place to move her there. She has no other assets besides the family home, which needs to be sold to pay for the care facility. Their financially dependent sibling, Ben, has been unemployed for the past 10 years. He is not cut out for caregiving and can't provide that help for Mom. He has lived in the family home with Mom for years and doesn't want to move. He is in a battle with his siblings to get out. He has no place to go.

Push has come to shove and eventually the sheriff was called in to evict Ben. He became homeless.

Scenario 2

Sam was released from prison after serving four years. While incarcerated, he was diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury and depression. Sam had served his full sentence and was not required to report to probation or parole upon release. He was released with \$25 and the phone number for a community mental health provider. Sam is 27 years old with a ninth grade education and no prior work history. He has no family support. Within two weeks of release, Sam was arrested for sleeping in an abandoned building. He was intoxicated and told the arresting officer that drinking helped the headaches he has suffered from since he was 14 years old. Sam was sent to jail.

Scenario 3

Ms. Smith is a divorced mother with two daughters. In December, Ms. Smith fell behind on rent and other obligations after losing her job. This problem was compounded by unexpected expenses related to a domestic legal matter. Ms. Smith was committed to trying to keep her home. After weeks of searching, she found a company who gave her a chance. Although employed, Ms. Smith's net income did not allow her to catch up with her rent and other past due bills. Her landlord took her to court, and at the beginning of January she was evicted.