

Lutheran Congregational Services



Rising to the Challenge: Lutheran Disaster Response in Action

The 2024 hurricane season made history with three destructive storms—Debby, Helene, and Milton—each taking an unpredictable path and leaving communities unprepared.

Northern Pennsylvania was severely impacted by Hurricane Debby’s relentless heavy rains. In response, Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) teamed up with its partner, Crisis Cleanup, to recruit call center volunteers who connected those in need with crucial resources and assistance.

After Hurricanes Helene and Milton unleashed their devastation in the southeast, LDR shipped cleanout buckets and hygiene kits to regional distribution centers. These essential kits were assembled by dedicated LDR volunteers during MLK Day of Service and God’s Work Our Hands Day.

Thanks to the ongoing support of donors, LDR continues its vital work in communities still recovering from previous storms. Special events like Oktoberfest at St. Paul’s in Glenside and Pumpkin Fest at Trinity Lansdale are raising both funds and awareness to strengthen disaster preparedness and recovery efforts.

West Philadelphia Senior Community Center



More Than a Career

Areatha Dorsey, Center Counselor at the West Philadelphia Senior Community Center (WPSCC), finds the most rewarding part of her role to be building relationships with older adults. “Seniors like to have fun,” she shares. “They like to dance and party. And people who come to the Center find that we’re like one big family here. That is why WPSCC is called The Wow! Of West Philly- it is a ‘wow experience’.”

In addition to fostering community, the WPSCC offers a range of activities and services. Classes include exercises, eating healthy, technology, art and much more.

Areatha works with seniors to provide guidance and support, from social insurance programs like Medicaid and Medicare, to legal and financial resources, and food, housing and utility assistance. Sometimes she helps them navigate challenging situations, like an abusive relationship.

“For someone who is older, figuring out how to do the research to find the assistance you need can be difficult,” she says. “Being able to help and knowing that the Center is here to support them means a lot to me.”



Discover inspiring stories from each of our communities by visiting our blogs!

libertylutheran.org/our-blogs

Nurturing Growth at The Hearth: A Garden for Well-being

At The Hearth at Drexel, gardening is more than just an activity—it's an opportunity for residents to flourish through meaningful experiences that nurture their cognitive, social, and physical well-being.

Under the guidance of Jessica Buck, Director of Community Life, residents plant and grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers in both group and individual settings. Raised garden beds and patio pots allow everyone to participate in these enriching activities, regardless of mobility.

"Watching the gardens bloom and using the fresh vegetables in our cooking activities is incredibly rewarding for residents," Jessica shares. "It's not just about gardening—it's about creating connections and promoting a positive mindset."

Gardening provides gentle exercise that strengthens muscles and improves cardiovascular health while allowing residents to bond and enjoy the beauty of nature. The impact is clear: happier, healthier residents thriving together.

Your support enables programs like these to continue enriching the lives of our residents. Thank you for making a difference!



Recognition for Dedicated Service at Paul's Run



The Giving Tree, located in the Greenhouse at Paul's Run, holds heartfelt tributes to the special people who have touched the lives of others. On July 23, 2024, a new leaf was added in recognition of Meghan McGillian, Director of Concierge Services.

The leaf, gifted by Lillian Silverstein, a ten-year resident,

reads: "Meghan McGillian, the Right Hand of Paul's Run."

"Meghan is a God send," Lillian shared at the reception. "She's always there, helping residents with whatever they need, and she does it all with grace."

Touched by the gesture, Meghan expressed her gratitude: "Lillian's kindness took my sense of fulfillment to a whole new level. I'm deeply honored and humbled by this recognition."

The permanent leaf is a testament to Meghan's kindness and commitment, now part of the Giving Tree for all to see.

For more information on gifting a leaf at Paul's Run, email giving@libertylutheran.org or call 267-464-7700.

The Power of a Gift to Offer Hope and Confidence

Special gifts for specific projects provide more than the funds needed to get a program up and running. The Rock Steady® Boxing Program at Artman's Becoming Center, made possible by a generous donor, brings energy and enthusiasm to people with Parkinson's Disease.

Participants like Ris, Marie, and Lenore, engage in exercises that improve strength, balance, and confidence. From boxing and biking to footwork drills, these women are seeing remarkable improvements in their physical and emotional well-being.

Ris, diagnosed two years ago, is a scientist passionate about Parkinson's research. She joined the class this spring and praises the program for its positive impact. Marie, seven years into her diagnosis, appreciates the convenience of the nearby classes, while Lenore, age 77, enjoys the camaraderie and physical benefits.

The classes, led by certified trainers, offer a mix of workouts, from boxing to cycling, with

Cheers to the Manor: Creativity & Community at Peddler's Village

Residents and staff at The Manor take pride in crafting a masterpiece that represents their community at one of Bucks County's most beloved landmarks.

Since 2018, The Manor community has participated in the annual Peddler's Village fall scarecrow competition. This year, they aimed to capture the community's charm with a nod to a favorite pastime: the weekly happy hour. After a series of brainstorming sessions, they decided on the theme "Cheers to the Manor," bringing it to life by designing a bottle of "Manor Bubbly" as their scarecrow.

Visitors to Peddler's Village wander through the pathways, admiring hundreds of scarecrows before casting their vote for a favorite. Fittingly, "Manor Bubbly" found its place outside of the



Nissley Vineyards Store, adding a touch of serendipity to the display.

In past years, The Manor's themes have paid tribute to significant events, such as the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, the centennial of women's suffrage, and breast cancer awareness. Other entries have celebrated iconic figures like Wonder Woman, Marilyn Monroe, and Jalen Hurts.

Robyn Fine, Director of Community Life, sums up the group's spirit by saying, "We aren't in it to win it. We simply enjoy the creative process and the camaraderie."



participants rotating through exercises. The companionship, encouragement, and lively music make each session special. As Marie says, "I feel fitter and more confident, and the camaraderie with others is inspiring."

With each workout, the women not only improve their physical health but also find joy, connection, and most of all, hope.



Beyond the Classroom: Life Lessons for Students

Penn State University students are connecting with older adults in unexpected ways through Conversation Partners, a partnership between the university and The Village at Penn State. This ten-week program helps students improve communication and listening skills while growing more comfortable interacting with older adults.



Residents at The Village volunteer to participate in the program based on their comfort level and personal goals, and are often thrilled to have the opportunity to dispel stereotypes about aging.

Dr. Amy Lorek, course designer and instructor from the School of Hospitality Management and Center for Healthy Aging, notes that while some partnerships bond quickly, others grow over time. She encourages students to share more about themselves in order to connect.

In one instance, a student and resident found common ground as twin siblings, creating a unique bond. Another pairing led to a mentorship when a student discovered his partner's background in administration.

Beyond classroom lessons, Conversation Partners teaches students the importance of forming genuine, intergenerational connections. It's a valuable experience in the hospitality industry, fostering empathy and understanding across all ages.



ArtmanHome.org
215-643-6333



BecomingCenter.org
215-643-9908



PaulsRun.org
215-934-3000



ManoratYorkTown.org
267-488-0398



TheHearth

TheHearthatDrexel.org
610-771-1200



AT PENN STATE



VillageatPennState.org
814-235-8900



WestPhilaSeniorCenter.org
215-386-0379



Lutheran
Congregational
Services

LutheranCongregationalServices.org
267-464-7740

Liberty **At A GLANCE**

Newsletter is published by



7002 Butler Pike
Ambler, PA 19002



LibertyLutheran.org



Liberty Lutheran

WHY I GIVE

Linda Breckenridge



I grew up in Greenville, PA, a small college town. Although I moved to the Philly suburbs as a young adult, I remained emotionally close to my parents. When my mom was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, my dad became her primary caregiver. After he passed away, I moved Mom to Artman's memory care so she could receive the care she needed and live closer to me.

The team at Artman treated Mom with dignity and provided excellent care, even on her most difficult days. Although she couldn't participate in their programs, listening to familiar music from a CD player helped her connect in a way nothing else could.

Inspired by my dad's generosity and grateful for the care Mom received, I started giving back to Artman. My involvement deepened when a church member, John Heck, invited me to join the Liberty Lutheran Board. That's when I learned about Liberty's strong commitment to high standards and integrity, which made giving my time and money even more worthwhile.

Recently, I began giving through my IRA, allowing me to contribute more while enjoying tax benefits. It's an easy, win-win way to support a cause dear to my heart.

Interested in learning more about making a gift from your IRA and other giving options?

Email giving@libertylutheran.org.

DONATE NOW!

Visit our website at:
libertylutheran.org/giving/

