



SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER FALL 2010

News and views from our local branch

2010 FALL BRANCH AUCTION

North & South Hampton Reformed Church
1380 Bristol Road (East Wing), Churchville, PA 18966

Set-up on Sunday, October 31

1-2:30pm - donations accepted in the church auditorium
All items should be easily carried by 2 people.
No TVs or computer monitors, please.
1-5pm - volunteers needed for sorting items

Auction, November 6

8:30am doors open
9:00am auction begins

Remember that all items for sale have been donated as someone's cast offs...sometimes better known as "treasured trash." We have had a wonderful assortment of household goods, books, jewelry, tools, furniture, old paper goods, antiques, collectibles, quilts, sports equipment, glassware, appliances, office items, linens, crafts, and gift items. You never know what you will find.



Inquiring minds want to know...Will the auction shirts keep multiplying? Could be!



FROM A HAPPY BIDDER'S MOM

Sewing has been my life long passion. I remember admiring my grandmother's old Singer sewing machine when I was young. I am so excited to be the proud owner of one that my daughter got at your auction last year. According to the serial number it was built in 1892 and it is in good working order. The treadle belt needs to be replaced but the mechanical parts still move smoothly. The drawers of the cabinet were filled with lots of little treasures like the 1889 wooden fold up box of attachments and a paper mache egg. I'm thrilled to be the recipient of this treasure and thank the previous owner for taking such good care of it. Nancy Kennedy Raleigh, NC

A special THANK YOU to all 80+ volunteers who helped at the March auction. We raised \$5,600, had fun, made some new friends for NGA, and worked hard together as a team so that other people can have a better life. That's really neat. Little groups of people working together can and do have a huge impact on those around them.



OUR BRANCH SOCIAL...WHAT FUN!

Laura Castle

On Wednesday, June 9, over 60 NGA supporters and volunteers gathered in the North and Southampton Reformed Church auditorium for our ice cream social. This year's theme was "Down on the Farm," so attendees were encouraged to come dressed appropriately. We sang *Old MacDonald* with enthusiasm. This year we had a lyric-writing competition. Each table, after deciding on an appropriate name for their group, was asked to create NGA songs to the tune of *Old MacDonald*. (Lots of creative people in NGA!) And guess who

won? The Castle Girls! We also played Pin the Tail on the Pig, tried the chicken dance (which was a flop), showed how our branch members can work together to solve a puzzle, and had a demonstration of Milky the Cow by AnneMarie and Jim. This vintage cow toy "is milk-able and moos." Who are these People!! A Southampton Branch social wouldn't be complete without a mini-auction, and our auction included several farm specialties including some farm maidens modeling their attire for the pond.

A wonderful time was had by all at the Ice Cream Social DOWN ON THE FARM! A few adventurous souls even went down to the pond for a swim. Do you recognize any of the farmer's daughters?



You can find more about our social on page 4

Volunteering is Good for Your Health – In a recent AARP Health publication, two pages were devoted to an article entitled “**Volunteer to Help Others, and Help Yourself.**” The author and 2009 studies published in the *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* support the notion that volunteering your time and talents can improve other people’s live and may improve your own life at the same time. Volunteers burn more calories, stay more mentally alert, and are usually individuals with a sense of purpose. According to the article, volunteering when you are young makes a person less likely to experience poor health down the road. So let’s promote a healthy society...GET MORE YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED in NGA..



Art and Doris Cox are seasoned keepers of the back sales' table at our auctions.

Husband on the Look Out – While visiting WalMart on business, one branch member called his wife's cell phone and left a message to come to the store soon there were \$1 items. When she got the message, she went to investigate (good word, her husband is a police officer) not knowing what to expect. What a bonanza! Adorable infant/toddler outfits for just a dollar each. She emptied the display. When opportunity knocks, we act.

LOSS, GIFT, CHALLENGE

Maryanna Trembath

It is with sadness that I share that our dear friend, Ben Burnley, passed away this summer. He had been part of our branch's mission for over 25 years. He was our friend and sold us wonderful merchandise at truly bargain prices – sweats, t's, blankets, underwear, sox, jeans, jackets, etc. and last year alone he gave us auction items and over 400 new clothes to distribute, as well as financial support. What a loss!

Just before he died, Ben wrote our branch a letter in which he told us that he was leaving a significant gift to our branch. This gift, when received, will be invested and provide us with ongoing additional purchase power. We will be able to help more people for years to come. What a gift!

Ben wrote that he had chosen the Southampton Branch of NGA for this gift because we exemplify "volunteering from the heart." He continued..."the best way to honor my memory is to keep up your truly good works!" What a challenge!

An Expansion Task Force is working on a plan to put his gift to work efficiently and effectively. We will need to expand our branch to meet his challenge. We will be developing a system that will help "our truly good works of volunteering from the heart" to continue to provide new clothes, linens and toiletries to those in need for generations to come. (Of course I'm assuming that we will all keep working as we have been – with auctions, knitting, sewing, purchasing, collecting, donating, allocation, distributions - and that Ben's gift will supplement our current giving and allow us to help more people in need.)



Louanne Lemke worked on barcodes and rebates.

Read the small Print and Reap Rewards – At the bottom of a page in one circular from Kmart, an obscure little box advertized a Fruit of the Loom Rebate Program when a customer bought five F of L family packs (5-10 items) of socks and undies. At the time, these items were on sale in Kmart's, in bonus packs, if you looked carefully. Because of members who always look for good deals, willing shoppers and barcode removers, we should be getting over \$300 back in rebates to buy additional items at that store. The purchased socks and undies were given away at our August Back-to-School distribution.



NGA CREATIVE MINDS AT WORK

"The Barnyard Animals" table took first place for NGA lyrics. Sing along.

*At NGA we love our men
 ee-i, ee-i, oh*
 Jack, Tom, Joe, Bob and others, too
 ee-i, ee-i, oh
 With a tall guy here, and a strong guy
 there
 Here a guy, there a guy, everywhere a
 big guy.*

*At Working Session they take breaks
 ee-i, ee-i, oh*
 They work for five, then break for ten
 ee-i, ee-i, oh

With a break, break here; and a break,
 break there
 Here a break, there a break, everywhere a
 break, break.*

And auction items our men do love
 ee-i, ee-i, oh
 They model hats, aprons, and gloves
 ee-i, ee-i, oh

With a poster here, and a dresser there
 Maybe even inappropriate glassware.
 At NGA we love our men
 ee-i, ee-i, oh!

The "Hatfield, McCoys, and the Farmer's Daughter" table came in second, the "Piggly Wiggly" was third place, and the "Lucky 7," "Sexie 6," and "Winner's BH" took honorable mention.

HOW I GOT STARTED IN NGA

Bev Barcalow

I am a 3rd generation NGA director. My grandmother – Caroline Sinkler – was a director, as was my mother – Mildred Barcalow. My Aunt Florence Sinkler is a director, and I believe my Aunt Anna Wild may have been a director in the Hatboro Branch of NGA (In later years, she contributed to my mother's collection for Ingathering).

When I was a child, I remember my mother going to NGA working sessions. She would sew, knit hats – scarves - mittens, and crochet afghans. Occasionally, the directors held their meeting at our house. At Ingathering time, she would receive clothing and some handmade items, and checks to spend on more items. I often shopped with her when she purchased her items. As the time approached for Ingathering, after her contributors had delivered their items to her, and she had made her purchases with the money donated to her for NGA, she spread the items out on the dining room table to be counted. There was supposed to be two of each item to give to NGA. I looked forward to the time when I could be one of her contributors and could buy items for her Ingathering collection. That day came, and for many years, we went shopping together for NGA Ingathering.

When my mother was unable to continue as a director, I became a director with her contributors. One of her contributors told me she has been giving to NGA for 60+ years. She is happy to continue and is grateful for learning about NGA from my mother those many years ago. Another contributor gives me items for Ingathering, some purchased especially for NGA, and some items she purchased for family or herself that were the wrong size and instead of returning the purchase, she saved it for the NGA Ingathering. I have been using that idea myself ever since.

I am happy to be part of the Southampton Branch of NGA and their mission to improve the quality of life for economically disadvantaged individuals in the United States by collecting and distributing to them NEW gifts of clothes, linens, and personal care items.

OUR PARTNER AGENCIES SHARE ABOUT HOW WE CARE

City of Philadelphia Department of Human Services - The clothes and other items you give D.H.S. are very needed. Last week an infant was brought to the department without any clothes other than a diaper. We utilized sleepwear given by your NGA for this infant's needs both here at D.H.S. and also during transport for placement. Many children are brought to us (especially infants and toddlers) with only the clothes on their backs. NGA provides us with a means of support for these children.

Cedar Avenue/Elizabeth Houses – We believe in creating a supportive environment in which our residents can retain and strengthen their sobriety, develop sober living skills, and explore personal growth capabilities. Many of our clients come into our facilities with only the clothing on their backs. With help from your branch, these individuals start to feel whole again. They start to feel that there are people who do care. Thanks you for your continued support over the years.

Impact Services - On a weekly basis, our Impact Mall "where NGA items are stocked" is visited by men, women and their children in need. They are given clothing and supplies for their families and are so appreciative. We deal with a welfare population and many homeless Veterans. It is always amazing to see that most moms and dads give everything to their kids before looking at anything for themselves. Diapers are a very needed and popular item that helps the financial situation of many of our families. Thank you. Please keep them coming!

Today Inc. – Our clients struggle with many problems in their lives. The help afforded them through your donations of new clothes goes beyond just an outfit. It give hope, dignity, and personal pride to those who are often at the lowest point in their lives. The many dedicated volunteers in your branch have been thanked and blessed many times over by our clients. Recently a client obtained employment – his very first job after years of incarceration. He attributed it to the fact that he was able to present himself as a responsible person who was not ashamed of how he looked. That was because he had new clothes provided by NGA. This is just one of many examples of how your important program impacts lives.

Belmont Center for Comprehensive Treatment – Upon receiving his new clothing from you, Daniel M. literally could not stop grinning. His personal care home usually provides him with used clothing and to have new clothes was a particular treat for him. Dawn, at his boarding home, called to express her thanks, too.

Many volunteers worked hard to prepare our **Back-to-School give-a-way in August**. We start them young (five weeks old and ready to sticker) and thank all our willing helpers. Many kids and adults will be ready for school and the season change because of you.





Beautiful Pillowcases – Clara Vaughan reigns over the pillowcase kingdom. She has made several hundred beautiful cases in her home over the past couple of years. They are given back to the branch all pressed and ready to enhance some needy person's bed.

WHO IS A MEMBER?

A person who works hard for our branch reflected that she was not a "member" of our group. She said she didn't pay dues, attend meetings or the like. Well, guess what? She is a member. Anyone – man, woman, boy or girl - who contributes (1) things – NGA gifts, money, auction items, rebate receipts, yarn, fabric, and/or (2) time – sorting, sewing, stickering, knitting, shopping, writing articles for the newsletter (yes, Gerry), hauling, carrying, using the computer, planning and preparing for events, etc. is a member. No dues or other requirements. Just care and share. Our branch is stronger because of the diversity of ages and interests of the people involved. Thanks to all our members.

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ...

Doris Woodrow

A funny thing happened on the way to the checkout line the other day. My sister and I were purchasing some children's winter jackets for NGA that were on sale at a great bargain price. We had a grand time picking out a wonderful assortment of colors and sizes until both our carts were heaped high. We seemed to cause quite a stir as we walked through the store. People stared and pointed, and we heard whispers of "E-Bay" and "Yard Sale". We glanced at each other, amused that people thought we were buying them for re-sale. When we got in the check-out line, I noticed a shabbily dressed young woman with two small children standing nearby watching us intently. After we paid the bill and were leaving the store, she approached me. "Excuse me," she said. "Are you buying those jackets for a charity?" "Yes," I explained. "They are for NGA, an organization that provides new clothing for people in need. They meet at my church." With that, she thrust some crumpled bills into my hand. Instinctively, I said, "Oh, you don't have to do that." "Please take it", she insisted. "I want to help, too. God bless you," she murmured with a smile, and she disappeared into the crowd with her children. I glanced down at my hand and saw the two worn five dollar bills she had given me. "God bless you, too," was all I could call after her. Needless to say, we loaded our treasures in the car with a happy heart that day, amazed at the goodness and generosity of people.



Always Thinking NGA – Tom Burst sent this email with this picture attachment: "If I can keep these 5+ footers frozen, we will use them at the June ice cream social, or try to sell them at the March auction when the snow might finally leave. Stay warm..."

Ingathering Coming Soon...Mark Your Calendar October 18-21

October 18	Director/leader items due 4-5pm or 7-8pm in auditorium
October 19	Sorting and organizing 9:30-noon 6-8:30pm
October 20	Sorting and organizing 9:30-noon 7-8:30pm
October 21	10-11am AGENCY PICK-UP

We need help, but there will probably not be any sit down jobs. Ask a friend to join the fun..

LET'S DO IT AGAIN THIS OCTOBER

Taken from a report by Laura Castle, Ingathering Representative

The October 2009 Branch Ingathering was very successful from a volunteer standpoint. We had moms and grandparents from the North and Southampton Reformed Church Preschool join us one morning to sort hundreds of hats, gloves, scarves, and jackets. It would be great if we could continue to have this group give of their free time while their children are in pre-school. (Although we meet in the same building, it was like meeting new neighbors and they were very interested.) Boy Scout Troop #5 helped form a human conveyer belt getting things from the attic on one side of the church to the auditorium on the other. (The old saying "Many hands make light work" didn't quite fit, but the heavy bags and boxes were relocated quickly and saved many steps and back aches.) Two troops of girls scouts - #2826 and #2828 - helped with allocating and quality control. After the work was done, we had a great time sharing ideas about how it would feel if they had no new clothes and very few choices of well worn ones. It was a meaningful exchange for all. Use of the computer for sorting and distribution was very effective. Receiving all the like-items before we started to allocate was the best improvement we've made in a while. It takes many people at several sessions to make our ingathering flow smoothly. All volunteers are welcome!

[Laura went on to report she thought Lynn (that's her mother) should bring better snacks...muffins in particular, and that Jack should stop stealing (borrowing) pens...it was distracting.] Ingathering is a lot of hard work, but we mix fun with the pleasure of helping others.

125 YEARS!

From our early beginnings
in Philadelphia, branches across the
country have joined together to put
a dream into action...

NEW CLOTHES FOR NEW TOMORROWS

Congratulations to all the members of
NGA for making a positive difference
in so many people's lives.



Active in NGA since 1938 and looking to the future.

Our national organization, NGA, Inc., was founded in Philadelphia in 1885. As a branch of the organization, we sent greetings for this special milestone. Some of our members will be floating down the Delaware on the *Spirit of Philadelphia* as part of the celebration.

Auction: Volunteer/Donate/Bid

NGA of Southampton (www.ngasouthamptonbranch.org) is an organization that improves the quality of life for needy individuals through gifts of NEW clothes, household linens, and basic personal care items. NGA holds two auctions a year to raise money to buy these items. Their next auction will be on November 6th. Here are some ways you can be involved: 1. Donate any household items (not clothes) in good condition at the North & Southampton Reformed Church, 1380 Bristol Road, Southampton between 1 and 2:30pm on Sunday, October 31. 2. Volunteer to sort items from 1-5pm on October 31. 3. Volunteer to help with the auction itself on November 6, anytime from 8am- 4pm 4. Attend the auction as a bidder. For more information call 215-357-0121.

(This was adapted from Julie Pacheco's article in "The Well Feasterville" electronic newsletter. Our branch was fortunate to have their church's youth group help set up our March auction and publicize our event.)

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C/o M. Trembath, President
7 Kay Drive
Churchville, PA 18966

Check us out at Laura's website
www.ngasouthamptonbranch.org

NGA is registered as required. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

WANTED

Computer data entry person(s)
Shoppers
News articles
Contacts for good buys
Knitters, cutters, and sewers
New members - all ages...
Men, women, kids
Call 215-357-0121

HELPFUL HINTS FOR DONATIONS

1. Infant and school-aged children items are most needed.
2. Any size new clothes, linens and toiletries (think travelling pickups) are useful to needy clients of our partner agencies.
3. Throw, afghans, or covers should be a minimum of 36" by 45".
4. Consider the Southampton Branch of NGA as a United Way Donor Option Choice. Our vendor number is 024360. In Bucks County, donations must be specifically designated to the Southampton Branch.
5. Consider us for matching corporate donations through your workplace.
6. Remember, we change lives and save lives through our gifts. Wow!

Auction Info

Sunday, October 31
Items accepted 1-2:30pm only
Help needed to sort 1-5pm
Saturday, November 6 Sale
Doors open 8:30am
Sale starts at 9am

Next auction - March 12, 2011

Is This the Best Buy of the Year?

At the end of the past winter season, Laura Castle found fleece hats at Old Navy for less than 30 cents each, originally priced at \$7.99. She bought all of them - over 200! Be on the lookout for great end-of-season deals as summer is ending. NGA and the needy people in our area will benefit from your efforts.

Let us know of your super buys of current-style, good quality items for NGA and we'll see who really got the best buy this year.