



SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER FALL 2007

FROM THE CARTERS

A recent letter from the Carters and the Carter Center included the following statement: "Every day millions of determined individuals prove one of the Center's guiding principles: That people can improve their own lives when provided the knowledge, skills, and resources to do so."

It goes on to reflect on people everywhere..."we all yearn for a world free from war, where we can provide for our families, enjoy the benefits of democracy and human rights, and look to the future with hope."

We in NGA should be proud that we help make that yearning a reality for the people we help.

UNITED WAY OF SEPA AND NGA

Please consider making the Southampton Branch of NGA your United Way of Southeastern PA Donor Choice. We recently received over \$350 in payments (for 2005 and 2006) because United Way contributors designated us for their donations. Our vendor number is 024360. Thanks for considering the Southampton Branch of NGA for your donation.

Our branch has a website. Visit us online at www.ngasouthamptonbranch.org
Special thanks to Laura Castle for providing and managing our site.



OUR BRANCH'S ROSE ANDREWS WINS NATIONAL NGA AWARD

In May, Rose was honored at the 14th Annual NGA, Inc. Dinner and Auction held at the Spring Mill Manor, Warminster, PA. She received the national, prestigious Marion Bettle Award for her outstanding dedication to NGA and for her lifestyle of promoting our mission.

For several decades Rose Andrews has been furthering NGA's mission through leadership, participation, dedication, and financial support at the local, state and national levels. Rose has served as a branch officer. She is currently our branch treasurer keeping detailed records of all income and expenses of our very active branch. Rose also served as Pennsylvania State Chair for many years and as such initiated the Ingathering Exchange Program. Many individuals and branches learned new ideas and methods through this exchange.

Then, as now, Rose exhibits an awareness of the needs of the needy people we help and takes action daily to make a difference in their lives. She not only considers the needs of people, branches, and the community-at-large, she looks at them as part of the potential of our branch. She has secured donations from her car service center, her dentist and his staff, the local grocery store. She has asked her family and friends to make contributions to her “favorite charity...NGA” instead of giving her birthday and Christmas presents. She carries NGA literature in her purse and shares it freely with all interested or potentially interested people. She is great at reviewing daily and weekly newspaper sale ads and coupons that can further our purchase power.

Because of her ongoing commitment to expansion and NGA organizational development, Rose continues to get new people involved in our branch as volunteers and contributors. Rose lives her dedication to helping those in dire need through NGA everyday. We feel she is very deserving of this special recognition and congratulate her on receiving this award.



Bethesda Project – Our Brothers’ Place serves over 1800 individual homeless men in a year. We offer mental health, medical, vocational, and recovery services for our guests. Our staff is very impressed that people [NGA] who are not from the city take such an interest in our homeless poor.

Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services – Clients truly appreciate your donations because they can not afford to purchase items due to their financial situation. The staff is pleased to have items for their clients who can not otherwise provide for themselves.

WORKING TOGETHER

This past spring our branch had the chance to buy leftover backpacks from Warminster Kmart. It was a bargain too good to pass up! Rather than distribute the empty packs, we enlisted the help of friends and members of the North and Southampton Reformed Church. The bags were stored at the church until August. Over the summer, school supplies and money were donated to the church for this project. The church effort generously filled our 39 backpacks plus 24 large Ziploc bags with school essentials and many, many extras.

Two enthusiastic social workers from Bucks County Children and Youth filled their vehicles with the abundantly filled bags. They were thrilled and expressed how much the school bags are needed. Caseworkers were able to take the filled bags to their needy clients before the first day of school.

This was truly a community project and fun to work on. Can’t you just imagine the joy of the students as they began the school year prepared and knowing that people care! We hope that this joint project will continue next year through the generosity of the Kmart, NGA purchases, and our friends at the North and Southampton Reformed Church.

Kathy Vogel
NGA Member and N&SRC Service Chairman of
Women’s Ministries

Today, Inc. – Your gifts provide our residents with new items which enhance self-esteem, and help those going on to independent living situations with items necessary for housing and job interviews, as well as jobs. Your donations positively impact the staff as they embrace the life skills education provided our clients, teaching them appropriate dress and hygiene.

AGENCIES, DID YOU EVER WONDER?

Someone asked, “How does NGA work?” Well, it’s lots of work done by lots of volunteers because they care. Some people sew, knit or crochet; others make financial contributions. Some donate time on a regular basis (working session is the second Wednesday of each month); others shop for great values. Over 80 volunteers were involved in our March auction alone. The money raised is used to purchase socks, blankets, outfits, undies, toiletries, linens, sweats, etc., etc.

“Then what?” you ask. All of these items - whether donated, created or purchased – are counted, stickered, and sorted by size and age categories. Next comes the allocation of items to agencies based on the number of needy clients reported in your care. Items are then counted as to which agency will distribute them and records are kept of all this. It takes lots of volunteers, a generous church that allows us to store things and use their facility, and folks dedicated to helping others just because they care.

Our volunteers wonder, too! What happens to the donations they worked so hard to provide once they get to your agency? A short note of thanks will go a long way to keep the morale of our workers up and keep them ready to further help your clients in need.

Note: Thanks can be sent to: Southampton Branch of NGA, c/o M. Trembath, 7 Kay Drive, Churchville, PA 18966. We look forward to hearing from you.

CARING PEOPLE ALLIANCE APPRECIATES US AND TOLD US SO

The president/CEO of Caring People Alliance wrote this as part of a thank you letter for our summer contribution.

“The clothing will be used in our *Services to Children in their Own Home* (SCOH) program. SCOH provides services to at-risk children and families to stabilize the family unit and prevent out-of-home placement. Most of the families participating in our SCOH program live in poverty and are in great need of new clothing. Your donation will make a significant impact on these families lives especially now as the school year is about to begin. We appreciate this opportunity to partner with NGA and we look forward to working more with you in the future.”

[Just think how we impact others by caring and sharing! You should be proud.]

WE’RE HELPING THEM IN 2007

Cedar Avenue House – This is a new partner agency for our branch which consists of four houses serving males, and most recently females, in both Alcoholism and Substance abuse. They provide a supportive environment for people to live in order to gain strength, some measure of personal security, and a chance to begin a “new life” by breaking destructive patterns of behavior. They’ll be able to tell us how our gifts impact their clients in the near future.

Lenape Valley Foundation – A significant percentage of our clients are on fixed, low incomes. Clothing and personal effects are often sacrificed when funds are limited. NGA donations allow for new clothing and a sense of well being. Thanks you! Having your resources for our clients allows our staff to focus on other issues in a client’s life thereby improving overall quality of life.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Note: The monthly Branch Working Session meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month (not July, August) in the all purpose room (west wing) of the North and Southampton Reformed Church, 1380 Bristol Road, Churchville, PA from 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. All are welcome!

INGATHERING

October 23 (Tuesday), 4 – 5 and 7 – 7:30 p.m.
leader/director delivery of donations

October 24 (Wednesday), 3:30 – 5 and 6:30 – 9 p.m. sort and sticker, allocate...HELP

October 25 (Thursday) 3:30 – 5 and 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. sort, sticker, allocate, count..HELP

October 26 (Friday) 9 – 10 a.m. final preparation ...HELP
10 – 11:30 agencies pick up

Director/leaders, please bring your stickered items in bags labeled in these categories: Infant (0 – 24 mo.), Pre-school (2T – 6), Elementary (6 – 18/20), Teens boys or teen girls (teen or adult sizes thinking appropriate youthful styles), men, and women, linens, and toiletries. This will be very helpful to properly allocate items that fit the clients. Call Brenda (215-322-4914) with questions or for supplies.

FALL AUCTION (Note - Saturday event)

November 4 (Sunday), 1 – 2:30 p.m. ONLY accept donations for auction

1 – 5:30 p.m. Sort for auction
(Other sorting to be determined)

November 10 (Saturday), 8:30 a.m. Auction doors open

9 a.m. – 3 ish Auction

5 p.m. – Leftover pick up

SPRING AUCTION

March 2 (Sunday), 1 – 2:30 p.m. ONLY accept donations for auction

1 – 5:30 p.m. Sort for auction

March 8 (Saturday), 8:30 a.m. Auction doors open

9 a.m. – 3 ish Auction

5 p.m. – Leftover pick up

Every person – old or young, male or female – is invited to share donations of new clothes, linens, and basic toiletries for people in need through our NGA branch.

Call Mertz (215-357-0121) if you want to get more involved. Last year our branch gave away over 32,000 items. That didn't nearly meet the needs in our area.

“How you look is how you feel!”

In the book entitled The Lost Boy by Dave Pelzer, a sequel to the bestseller A Child Called “IT”, the importance of all we do in NGA is brought home. During a foster child's search for real love and a family, he often carries his entire belongings in a grocery bag from place to place. There's even room for more things, but he hasn't any.

At one point, the author describes the elation of the child returning to a foster home after his “mom” took him shopping for school as he had grown considerably since he had gotten any clothes. He was smiling from ear to ear. When he got to his room, he spent several hours sorting, smelling, admiring, arranging and re-arranging “his” clothes in his drawers.

I quote from the chapter entitled *New Beginnings*. “Yes! I told myself. These are my clothes! Clothes that no one had ever touched or worn before. Not rags that Mother had made me wear or clothes she had given me out of pity, that she had stored since last Christmas, or clothes from Aunt Mary that other foster children had worn before.”

There are hundreds of thousands of kids in each of our states that are in this kind of situation. What we in NGA do affects those whose lives we touch. Our gifts really have an impact on people of all ages!

MERTZ...FYI

Someone left the Editor's Note page out of the *Real Simple* magazine October 2003 issue in the NGA closet and it was unearthed during our summer distribution. The editor reflects that her mother always told her that the happiest people she knew were "the ones who spent time doing things for others." She recounts rolling her eyes and wondering about her mother's wisdom.

Now she is passing on her mother's theory to her children who may also be rolling their eyes. She hopes they listen as she apparently did. She recognizes that people who care don't find time to help others; they make time for it to be a big part of their daily lives.

Let's keep sharing the NGA story with today's kids and encourage them to participate in our activities. Our branch is an intergenerational one and we welcome all willing help regardless of age or gender. [Our March 2007 Auction had 70 hard working volunteers from 4 to 90 years old.]

No Longer Bound Prevention and Training Center – NGA donations are much appreciated by the NLB needy clients. They [the clients] are low income, often single parents who cannot afford to shop for their families for needed items for school, and summer and winter. NGA clothing has allowed our clients to look and feel like the more fortunate people in their schools and community. NGA donations impact our staff with the comfort and pleasure of giving. Because they, too, are counted among the needy, they also benefit from the generous donations from NGA.

Belmont Center for Comprehensive Treatment – NGA fills the gap that is not covered by the Department of Welfare or the boarder provider. It enables the staff to immediately and directly impact their clients' lives in a positive way.

Philadelphia Human Service/Children and Youth Division – Our needy clients will be able to receive emergency clothing during their time of greatest need. We serve children from 0 – 18 years [old] who often arrive in our office with dirty, torn, or ill-fitting clothing. Having new, properly-fitted clothing helps our clients feel better about themselves. Staff members receive the satisfaction of being able to meet the basic needs of those in their care.

The College Settlement of Philadelphia – Our campers go home with clothing when they come with nothing. The toiletries and linens are used by most of the campers.

Impact Services – NGA donations provide items for our families who get services from us. These include education, life skills, and job development. NGA gifts provide families with things they could not otherwise afford.

AUGUST ACTIVITY

Eight willing folks braved the heat and attacked the task of organizing the purchases of 3300 socks for rebate returns. They cut off UPC codes and matched the store receipt with those codes in the late afternoon on Tuesday, August 7. After a short supper break, they were joined by 14 additional volunteers who sorted and stickered with them. Panties and briefs were also prepared for rebates and allocation.

Wednesday, a team of 25 allocated and packed the large purchases of socks and undies for 15 partner agencies and labeled and distributed approximately 400 toiletries, 45 linens, and over 600 articles of general clothing for 7 agencies to pick up on Thursday morning. It was a bit of a tedious job, but all volunteers, first timers and seasoned helpers, realized the steps in the process and rejoiced that over 7000 new items were given away and many others were packed ready for our ingathering distribution. What team work! We even had fun....well, I heard people asking "Is it fun yet?"

Southampton Branch of NGA
C/o M. Trembath, President
7 Kay Drive
Churchville, PA 18966

**The Southampton NGA Branch is an
extensive community effort.**

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Contributors for giving gifts that make a huge impact on the lives of many.

Directors/Leaders for collecting and record keeping that justify our activities.

North and Southampton Reformed Church for storage, meeting and auction space, and special contributions.

Johnsville Reformed Church for making NGA a monthly mission project.

Southampton Estates for permitting branch members to collect from other residents.

Scouts and school students for making the time to help us help the less fortunate.

Auction volunteers and participants for helping to raise funds for the purchase of many NGA gifts.

Partner agencies for seeing that our donations get to those in need.

Warminster Kmart for helping us with bulk orders and bargains.

Monthly volunteers for your dedication and hard work.

Just think, together we change lives and save lives.

IMPORTANT DATES AT A GLANCE

INGATHERING

October 23 – 4-5 or 7-7:30 pm director items due
October 26, 10 – 11:30 a.m. **agency pickup**

AUCTIONS

Saturday, November 10, 2007
Saturday, March 8, 2008



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 toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.