



SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER FALL 2011

News and views from our local branch!

OUR BRANCH IN 2011

Monthly Working Sessions and Distributions
March Auction
Spring and Fall Branch Luncheon Meetings
Spring and Fall Branch Newsletters
June Ice Cream Social
August SOS Opportunity
August Back-to-School/Seasonal Distribution
October Ingathering and Distribution
November Auction
Many Creators Working at Home
Contributors and Purchasers Working Year-round
Leaders and Directors Collecting and Sharing
Groups Planning and Reviewing Branch Activity

Wow! We've really been active and productive!
Look at all we've accomplished and have planned
for the rest of the year. We should all be proud of
our success!



SCHOOL BELLS RINGING

Some of us are old enough to remember the ad
jingle that went "School bells ringing, children
singing, back to Robert Halls again." Let's have a
reality check here! For many children going back
to school is NOT a time for singing, or for going
to Robert Halls (how long ago did they close?),
Wal-Mart, Kmart, Target, or even the Dollar
General and the Dollar Store.

How would you feel if it were time to return to
school and the few clothes you had were badly

worn and didn't really fit any more. And then you
only had old flip flops and no sneakers for gym.
Last year the kids made fun of you because of how
you looked and sometimes even smelled, and they
called you and your family nasty names. You
didn't even have a school bag, let alone a
backpack. How would you feel?

Our summer give-away provided new clothes so
that many more children could add their voices to
the back-to-school song. It gave them a chance to
fit in and go about the business of learning when
in school.

AUGUST ACTION

They say, "How you look is how you feel."
Wouldn't it be miserable to feel bad about
yourself and your children and have no resources
to better the feelings and help them look better and
feel better? And think of the cold and discomfort
if you all weren't properly dressed for snowy or
cold weather! Think of your self-esteem.



**Bob and Laura Scheithauer celebrated their 53rd
anniversary by volunteering at the August Action.**

SOS Timeline

August Action Continued

Think of the kids getting ridiculed. That's where the Southampton Branch of NGA comes in.

In mid-August, over 152 volunteer hours were logged (not including purchasing, carting, storing, transporting) so that the Branch could organize, allocate, and provide over 13,000 new clothes, linens, and toiletries for area folks in dire need as their back-to-school, season change distribution. Socks, about 6000 pairs, were distributed. Guess what? That's not enough socks to give each person reported in need of socks...one. No, not one pair, but one sock!

This event held at the North and Southampton Reformed Church allows kids to go back to school looking like the rest of the kids; parents to seek employment attractively dressed; folks to go food shopping, to doctor's appointments without added embarrassment.

The Southampton Branch works through 15 recognized local agencies who serve needy people known as their clientele. Volunteers of all ages work together so that others can have a chance of a better life. All are welcome to get involved.

Special thanks to the church for giving the space for this activity and to the volunteers who ranged in age from 14 – 94 who gave of their vacation time to help others. This inter-generational effort will have a HUGE impact on the lives of our neighbors in need.



This group rallied to the SOS call and donated their time to help others on a hot summer Saturday. (Joe's behind the camera.)

Thursday, August 4 – 1:30 pm learn of branch windfall (14 cartons and several bags of new merchandise); 1:45 pm get okay from church to accept items.

Friday, August 5 – 9 am receive and stack containers in the church all-purpose room; 11 am learn that floors at church may be waxed on Monday and things need to be moved.

Saturday, August 6 – 9 am 1st phone call, couple isn't available until 1 pm; calls 2, 3, and 5 finds 1 pm will work for them; left message on calls 4 and 6.

Saturday, August 6 – 1 pm eager workers arrive to sort, label and bag about 100 pairs of shoes, clogs and flip flops, 50 flannel-lined jackets, 100's of t's, sweats, undies, toiletries, and general apparel.

Saturday, August 6 – 3 pm all labeled and sorted items are packed away, room cleaned up and the job is finished.



VIRTUAL MAKEOVER

Those gathered at this year's branch Ice Cream Social made some observations of clowns: silly; standout; colorful; big feet; red noses; clothes are big; men; wear wigs, ties, and hats; make us laugh and/or scare people. In just a few minutes, with Ali's help, we had a "virtual makeover" and clown "Joezo" appeared. Don't you think he really fits in with other clowns?

How would you feel if you did not fit the image of those around you at school, work, out in society? Within five seconds we make a value judgment of others based on how they look. We don't even get to know anything about a person before we've subconsciously made that judgment based on appearance. We in NGA should be proud that each year we provide for hundreds of "virtual

makeovers” so that our less fortunate neighbors can go about life and not be judged too harshly for how they look.

CLOWNING AROUND

Sylvia Amato

We must be lost! Have we wandered into try-outs for Ringling Bros.? Or are these characters actually escapees from a local summer carnival? There are folks here with red bulbous noses, funny glasses, and strange hats. One person wanders past with red yarn hair, round wired pants, and a bicycle horn; another sports red long-johns and a Temple shirt. Ah, ha! No doubt about it! The “emcee” in full clown regalia begins the evening’s activities. This is actually an NGA ice-cream social.



This annual event is happening in the community room at North and Southampton Reformed Church on a warm June 8 evening. Organized to share the good deeds of NGA volunteers who make possible the collection, sorting, and distribution of clothing, linens, and toiletries, this event combines education, fun, food, and games. The point of the activities during the evening is to show that everyone is “dealt” a different “hand,” and it takes people willing to “lend a hand” to make the branch work.



We had a clothesline art display and hats and wigs were available so everyone could feel more in the mood for clowning around.

Upon arrival, gaily dressed clown “participants” make their way to long tables set up with clown centerpieces and each



place setting has a sheet of paper with a 3-D clown face mounted on it. From that, these would-be Picassos busily complete artistic visions of assorted harlequins to be judged during the social. As the evening moves along, members engage in elephant nose ring-bobbing, bean bag tossing [really little pillows], and several more games of “skill”--- all to illustrate how difficult being economically challenged is. With activities, comes the fun of creating ice cream sundaes, ingredients already set up by some dedicated NGA members and enjoyed by all. During the sundae celebration, numbers are pulled for a raffle of some door prizes and several lovely themed baskets. In addition, a mini-auction gives people a chance to bid on unique items to raise funds (over \$250). With the end of the evening comes clean-up and many appreciative comments for the hard work and organizational skill of the branch officers and their helpers. Ringling Bros. might want to get to know these folks!

WHAT A FAMILY TRADITION!

How many generations does your family’s involvement in NGA include? Our national organization was founded in 1885 and our branch in 1938 so that makes for the possibility of many.

Descendents of Elva Finney, former member of the Ivyland (in the early 1900’s) and Southampton Branches, have made quite a contribution to our activities and have had a huge impact on the lives of many people. [By the way, did you realize that Ivyland was the metropolis, Southampton was the farming community, and the Southampton Branch was a spinoff of Ivyland’s Branch?]

Elva’s daughters - Grace and Clara Dungan held offices of leadership and Clara is still a director in the branch; currently active grandchildren – Maryanna, Fenton, Doris, and Cheryl find themselves busy in many aspects of branch activities with creating, purchasing, auction leadership, etc; great grandchildren – Melodie, Lisa, Andy, Sarah, Sean, and Tom carry on the

NGA tradition with their support and activity; we're up to great great grandchildren – there's



Caitlin and Ross recently helped set up for the August Action. It takes a lot of carrying and sorting to prepare. Gabe has helped at the auctions for 5 years already.

Georgia, Alexis, Caitin, Ross, Gabe, and Gabriel who have grown up (or are in the process) sharing their time, creativity, stickering items and helping at the auctions; and now we have Elva's great great great grandchildren Grace, Allyssa, and Jacob who are getting into the habit of helping others through our branch.

That's SIX GENERATIONS of NGA involvement because of the tradition of love and caring shown by Elva! Amazing! Even if your family has not been involved for very long, just think of the influence your involvement could make on generations to come.

[We can't overlook Elva's extended family including Jack, Karen, Joe, Paul and others who are all dedicated to helping needy people through our branch.]



We sang "Happy Birthday" to Grace on her fifth special day at the ice cream social. The sixth generation is already participating in our branch. (I think Grace's family is the proud owner of the auctioned doll house.)

YOU KNOW YOU ARE AN NGA SHOPPER WHEN...

Doris Woodrow

You have trouble getting your car in the garage because of all the bags of clothing stacked there.

You can scan a store and find the clearance racks in 30 seconds flat.

You feel your heart rate, breathing, and blood pressure go up when you spot an exceptional buy and there are lots of them.

You cover your eyes and run out of a store if you see a bargain and just don't have time to shop that day.

You find yourself going back to the same store the next day to get the good deals because you feel guilty.

You let other shoppers go ahead of you in the checkout line because you know your purchases will take so long to be rung up.

You hear comments about all the clothing in your cart.

Curiosity – "I bet she's going to sell all that stuff on E Bay."

Impatience – "It's taking her forever to check out because she has so much stuff."

Hostility – "Did you really buy ALL of them?"

Envy – "Can I look through your cart for a blue one, a size 6, or a short one?"

Compliment – "It is wonderful that your group gives all this clothing away."

Generosity – "Please take this money so you can buy more."

You spend your evenings sorting your purchases, matching sales slips to each purchase, and trying to keep your records in order.

You go to bed and dancing in your dreams are stuffed bags of bargains, sale racks and yard long receipts.

You are thankful you are able to spend time shopping to help people and having fun doing it!

Note: According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA Food and Nutrition Services, U.S. Census Bureau, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps more than 44 million Americans put food on the table – 93 percent of benefits go to households with income below the federal poverty line (about \$22,113 for a family of four in 2010).

IT'S THE PEOPLE

One of our agency friends recently thanked us “for our continued support of their programs.” We are glad that our gifts of new clothes, linens and toiletries help enhance their programs, BUT we give to PEOPLE in their care so that their lives can be enriched.

It may seem like a technicality, but there is a difference. Under the law, we do not help agencies; we help needy people in their care. We are a conduit that provides resources to those in need. Agencies are part of that conduit, too.

"Taking a look at volunteering from the other side"

Randy Hofer

Director of Marketing, Impact Services Corporation

First and foremost, a big thank you goes out to the Southampton Branch of NGA for yet another year of dedication and support for the needy. At Impact Services, our homeless vets, welfare moms, ex-offenders and other less fortunate neighbors are many.

Impact has been greatly serviced for many years by Maryanna Trembath and Brenda Cole at the branch and I have been an interested "day of pickup" observer. Last year I paid closer attention to the tremendous organization for thousands of donated items, necessary paperwork, the counting and lots of packaging necessary for NGA's consistent and timely delivery process. I discussed this with Maryanna and decided to help out at one of the upcoming distributions.

So I volunteered just recently. The beginning "mountains of clothing and products" is a very different observation than the end "neatly packaged goody bags" lined up in order with agency names quietly waiting for pickup. I jumped in head first and started counting, tagging and marking hundreds and hundreds of youth outerwear. Next came stacking them in piles of 10, recounting and getting ready for boxes or bags. Most of us know this drill and the process continued for hours until all the toothbrushes, diapers, blankets, shoes, toiletries and other new clothing were ready for new destinations.

However, to me it was the people making the impression that was most noticeable and the bright spirit of the many volunteers working together. It quickly became contagious and you really feel the care that goes into the distribution process for the many needy benefactors all over the Delaware Valley. Before I knew it, the agencies were here and somehow the mountains of product were ready to go out the door. I heard many thanks from the representatives loading up their vehicles and in the blink of an eye the room was almost empty. There, lining the wall, were various boxes and bags marked IMPACT SERVICES.

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This day was truly a great feeling of giving and also receiving. I suggest you try volunteering at the Southampton Branch just once... and see how you feel.

[Thanks for sharing your time and our story, Randy.]



It helps if the socks can stay as pairs. “How many pairs do we have to go?” could be heard from time to time.

BRANCH WORKING SESSION

Bev Barcalow

Our NGA Working Session meets the second Wednesday of each month 9am – noon, from September to June. We meet on the west side of the North and Southampton Reformed Church. When we arrive at a working session, the tables are filled with items to be labeled. Each table has items for one age group. We label new clothing or toiletries with NGA stickers and pack them in bags of 10 items per package. The items to be labeled may be t-shirts, sweatshirts, baby shirt/pant sets, blankets, toiletries, or other. After each working session, maybe 2 or 3 or more agencies pick up some items we prepared that day. At one working session, someone had donated skeins of yarn that filled two long tables. I helped out at the yarn table that day and we were separating the skeins by color, ply, & type of yarn, and before the working session was over, several knitters or crocheters working that morning had already chosen yarn to take home to knit and/or crochet items for NGA.

When you come to a working session, you get a chance to prepare items to be given away, and also to work along with others and have a good time. Before you know it, it is 12 noon – the end of another working session – until next month. We hope to see you at a working session soon. Our next working session is September 14th at 9am – noon.

This is the official notification that the 2011 Fall Branch Meeting will be held at 12:30 pm after a simple lunch together at noon (it's provided) following Working Session, November 9, 2011. All are welcome.

POTENTIAL = SUCCESS

We advertized “A great potential waiting to happen!” – Christmas items for a summer yard sale. Thanks to Mary Rich for stepping up, managing, and holding the branch yard sale. Our branch story was shared, many folks got holiday treasures at great prices, and the branch gained revenue to buy more gifts for distribution. Thanks to Fenton and Karen, too, for sharing their driveway for the sale.



Having two auctioneers really keeps things moving along.

IT'S OVER BUT...ANOTHER ONE'S ALMOST HERE!

Approximately 75 volunteers from 8 - 90+ years-old worked together to pull off the March 26 Southampton Branch Auction. Willing workers from the Neshaminy Valley Baptist Church youth group, Girl Scouts in Troops #2426 and #2428, North and Southampton Reformed Church and the NGA branch sorted and organized donations and then staffed the auction.

We want to thank everyone who helped make this event so successful – those who donated items to sell, who supported the auction by coming and buying, those who made yummy food and treats, who volunteered time and expertise, and who made financial contributions. And we want to thank the church for the use of the building and for continued support of our local mission. Although the Southampton Branch of NGA is non-sectarian, we certainly believe it is “The Church” in action as we strive to be our brother’s keeper.

We raised a bit over \$5,200 at the auction and now have the opportunity to spend it on much-needed items for our neighbors in dire need. Last year we gave away 37,235 new items (number adjusted after branch review) and the average cost of items that we purchased was under \$.80. That included purchases of hoodies, jackets, jeans and slacks, diapers and toiletries, socks, undies, sleepers, t’s, sweats, blankets, sheets, etc. We continue to find wonderful bargains of quality, current-style clothes to give to those in need in the Greater Delaware Valley.

November 5, 2011 is our next branch auction. Mark your calendar and bring some friends.

DO YOU REMEMBER “THE YEAR OF THE ...”

A regular branch auction-goer recently inquired, “What was ‘The Year of’ this past March Auction?” She couldn’t remember and neither could I at that moment. We could remember “The Year of “(We started “The Year of” abundance tradition before we started having two annual auctions.) bowling balls, ironing boards, Reader Digest books, new craft items, hats, military items, antique toys (a real “Teddy” bear, etc.), tool box lots, quilts, Catherine’s special items, tea pots, kitchen and bathroom collectibles, pigs, etc. The list goes on and on.

I can’t imagine how I forgot this past March’s abundance of Wallace Nutting prints and beautiful bone china tea cups. What treasures folks share and others were able to purchase! Now, can we guess what this November 5, 2011 auction will offer! Make sure to come and check things out.

Note: Donations for the auction will be accepted only on Sunday, October 30 from 1:30-3:00 pm in the North and Southampton Reformed Church auditorium (east wing), 1380 Bristol Road, Churchville, PA.



Yummy homemade food is available during the sale.

THE NGA FAMILY National Headquarters

The NGA family is comprised of the national headquarters and 32 branches in 10 states across the United States. The branches distribute new gifts to those in need in their areas. National distributes new gifts to the branches and to agencies across the United States. National and the individual branches work together to change lives and save lives--the lives of our less fortunate neighbors. We all do this through gifts of new clothes, linens and basic toiletries.

The NGA family, both the national organization and the individual branches, would like to thank you for your support and assistance in furthering our mission. Thus, it is important for you to know that regardless of where your donations go, be it to the national headquarters or an individual branch, they will be used to help further the mission that you, the donor, and the organization care so deeply about.

GO Team, GO!

PART OF THE TEAM?

A team, you say! That's right, a team... Each member of a team plays an import role in the success of the activity and so it is with our branch.

There's the officers and Coordinating Committee who plan for our branch, institute checks and balances, keep records, and provide direction.

The directors and leaders get others involved, keep records, make purchases, and live our mission.

Then, there's the North and Southampton Reformed Church that provides space for our activities and supports our mission. (Have you seen the closet lately? My strong recommendation is that you NOT open the door. Full is an understatement!)

Let's not forget groups who play on our team – boy and girl scout troops, church youth groups, church families, residential facilities members, pre-school parents and caring adults, circles, and those who help pull off our auctions.

What about those who come and sticker, sort, label and allocate at our monthly Working Sessions, at our Back-to-School summer give-away, and/or Ingathering? Those men, women, and kids realize the importance of our united effort to make others have a better chance in life.

And there are all the individuals who make it happen through their donations of items, money and services. (Thanks to Richard Noe of Yawnboy Films (auction), Tom Burst, and Joe Schuck for pictures in this issue.)

The agencies help get our gifts to people in special need. They determine who qualifies for our gifts.

Oh, and those who donate items for or buy items at our auctions.

We have a great team of varied people who work together to give others a chance for a better life. Thanks for being part of our NGA team. **GO TEAM, GO!**

FROM SOME OF OUR PARTNER AGENCIES

Some of our "Partner Agencies" shared how our hard work is meaningful to less fortunate neighbors – specifically needy clients in their care. Here are a few of their comments.

Belmont Center for Comprehensive Treatment - (This Einstein affiliated adult mental health day program is one of a very few in our state. Some clients were residents of Byberry Hospital before it closed.) "Last year we received a number of blankets from your branch. Since most of our clients live in boarding homes, it was a welcome gift to give the blankets out to people who otherwise could not afford them and who can not control the heat where they live. The toilet articles we dispense are especially appreciated because most of our clients are given only \$2.00 per day spending money." [That \$2 is to provide bus fare, personal needs, snacks, etc.)

Bethesda Project, Inc. – (This is a Philadelphia men's homeless shelter system with related programs.) "In 2003 when Bethesda began managing Our Brothers' Place Shelter, we had approximately 1,800 shelter guests a year. Currently we care for approximately 7,000 guests a year. The growing numbers place a heavy pressure on Bethesda's resources and we are deeply appreciative of your NGA's generous and faithful support. Thank you, once again, for being there for us. Your support is one of the steady resources we can always count on."

Bucks County Children and Youth Social Service Agency (This government agency provides services to assure the safety, permanence and well-being of Buck County children.) "We have families with children they cannot clothe and once they get the new clothes from NGA, they feel comfortable, confident, and cared for. It gives them a sense of dignity because they fit in with their peers.

BRANCH CALENDAR

October 12 – Working Session 9 am – noon

October 17 – 20 **INGATHERING**

17TH 4 -5 and 7-7:30 pm items due

20th – 9:30 – 11 am Agency pick up

October 30 - Auction Set-up 12:30 – 5 pm ish

30th – 1:30 – 3 pm sale items accepted

November 5 – 8:30 am doors open, **Auction** begins at 9 am

November 9 – Working Session, Noon luncheon 12:30

Branch Fall Meeting - All contributors of items, monies, and time; the Coordinating Committee, branch directors and leaders; and all interested individuals are welcome (west end).

December 14 – 9 am – 11:30 Working Session

May 9, 2012 **Branch Spring Meeting**

This calendar is the official notification of the November 9, 2011 and May 9, 2012 Branch Meetings. Please mark your calendars and plan to come. All are welcome!



Southampton Branch Fall 2011 Newsletter

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.

CHOICES?

Studies have shown that child abuse is much more likely to happen when parents can't provide for the basic needs of their family. Just think how it would be to have very limited money and have to choose what NOT to get that you really needed. Would you choose NOT to pay the rent, buy food, have bus money to get to work, pay for heat, electric, water and sewer, doctors' visits, soap, medicine, or appropriate clothes for you and your family? It's a hard choice, isn't it? But if you were in these circumstances, like thousands of families are, you would probably do without any other clothes than what you already had regardless of their size or condition.

Aren't you glad that you don't face these decisions? Our branch lessons child abuse, as well as helps clothe children appropriately who wouldn't otherwise have a choice. Our branch gives our less fortunate neighbors a chance for a better life. Ask others to get involved.



37th Annual Auction

Antiques and Early Attic, Linens, Old Quilts, Ephemera, Jewelry, Household/Kitchen Items, Glassware and Dishes, Books, Old Tins, Small Furniture, Old Sheet Music and Magazines, Holiday Items, Art Work and Posters, Vintage Clothes, Military Memorabilia, Old Games and Toys, Dolls, Doll Clothes and Beds, Tools, Craft Items, Gifts, Old Photos, Assorted Sewing Items, and Much More...

Something for everyone! Come check it out!

Saturday – November 5, 2011

9 am – 3 pm ish (Doors Open at 8:30 am)

North & Southampton Reformed Church East Wing
1380 Bristol Road, Churchville, PA

Homemade Refreshments and Lunch

Sponsored by the Southampton Branch

Providing New Clothes for New Tomorrows Since 1938

For more information call: 215-357-0121 or check
www.ngasouthamptonbranch.org

Sale items accepted October 30 from 1:30 – 3 pm only!