



SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER SPRING 2008

NEXT AUCTION, March 8, 2008

It's not too early to think about the spring NGA auction. On Sunday, March 2, your donations will be accepted in the North and Southampton Reformed Church auditorium from 1 – 3 pm. **ONLY**. Due to available manpower, only items that can be carried by one person will be received. The success of the auctions is based on items donated so start a box of "goodies" to donate now. The auction will be Saturday, March 8 starting at 9 am. Last year, the branch raised over \$9,000 at the auctions. The funds were used to purchase much-needed items. Mark your calendar, tell your friends, and make it a fun day out together.

NGA IS A WIN...WIN ORGANIZATION

Although the author of this quote is unknown, it seems to portray the feelings of many folks who are involved with the Southampton Branch of NGA. What do you think?

"Giving helps the giver as much as those to whom the gift goes. It broadens the vision, and enlarges life. It cultivates love, sympathy, and kindness. It develops nobility of character, and generosity of conduct."

And we add that it gives those receiving our gifts dignity, comfort and hope for brighter day. It's a winner!

IT'S HARD BEING A KID

In A Memoir by Richard B. Pelzer entitled A BROTHER'S JOURNEY, the second grade main character is reflecting that he had already been labeled as an easy target. Many times on the way home he would be tormented, mocked, and pushed into the mud and bushes. His pants were already dirty, so the extra dirt didn't make that much difference.

One such encounter goes like this after the pushing:

"He's worn the same pants all year long."

"He can't afford any clothes."

"His mother is a boozer!"

The child reflects that it wasn't the fact that they nailed his mom that upset him. It was his embarrassment over the clothes he had at the time and the fact he couldn't do anything about it.

It's Hard...Continued

The story tells of the child's distress over the class picture when he would have to stand near the others smelling of sweat and dirt. Just the thought of it made him cry. He went home upset and went to bed, tired from the thought of it, and tired of life itself.

We in NGA give many kids a chance to go to school and fit in with the others. We help lessen torment and ridicule, provide a ray of hope, and give kids a chance to focus on education and be able to smile in their class picture. We change their lives. That's important stuff!



This is just a peek at the branch closet after a few things have been moved out. The space is great!

WHAT'S BEHIND DOOR #1?

Each month NGA volunteers wonder, "What's behind the closet door this month?" It's usually packed to the limit with donated items, fabric for sheets, pillowcases, skirts and toddler playsuits, purchases, and mystery boxes and bags. It's a great feeling to transform what's considered a mess by some into a distribution of thousands of new items.

COME SHARE THE WORK AND JOIN THE FUN

You are invited to join us in the all-purpose room of the North and Southampton Reformed Church, 1380 Bristol Road, Churchville on the

second Wednesday of each month. Volunteers (men, women, and children) meet from 9 – noon (or 2 pm) to sort, label, and distribute gifts of new clothes, linens, and toiletries. These new items are given to people in special need in our greater community. All are welcome to join the fellowship and work and see what's behind the closet door. Call Mertz at 215-357-0121 for more information.

ATTENTION AGENCIES

Every NGA partner agency recently received the 2008 NGA, INC. Annual Registration and Agreement Forms from our NGA national administrative office in Warminster, PA. Our volunteer branch is permitted to distribute items to your neediest clients only after we are notified that your annual registration is complete. The associated fee is used by our central office to pay for the registration process. None of the fee comes to our volunteer branch that provides the actual donations. Your agency's registration documents your understanding of the use of our donations and is important for our charitable standing. Because of the vast agency staff turnover and changes in leadership, the registration must be an annual event. We hope that our partner agencies understand the need for this registration and have completed the 2008 process. That's the only way we can consider your agency and clients in our 2008 allocations and distributions. Our branch has already given thousands of beautiful jackets, tops, sleepers, jeans, socks, undies, and toiletries to 2008 registered agencies for their distribution.

We also would love to hear from you telling us how our donations make a difference in the lives of your recipient clients. Communications is a great way to further understanding and to inspire our volunteers in their work. Our members need to know how much their work means to others. Use the address on the back of this newsletter, or if you'd like to e-mail a note, send it to our branch president at matjat@verizon.net. We look forward to hearing from you.



It's That Time Again – AUCTION - March 8, 2008
It's taken over 60 volunteers – from 4 to 94 years old –
to make each of our recent auctions happen. It's neat to
see so many people of all ages working together to help
others. What an intergenerational team!

JUST SOAP?!

As seen and told by Kathy Vogel

This fall I had the opportunity to be at a branch distribution after many dedicated and tireless workers had labeled, sorted, and packaged thousands of new clothes, linens, and toiletries for agency distribution.

Three very well-spoken gentlemen came to pick up items designated for Bethesda Project (a men's homeless shelter in Philadelphia) distribution. Arnold, one of their representatives, spoke with respect and enthusiasm about the programs offered and the men his organization served. He told of the meals they prepared, their limited budget, their small staff, and their needs for clothes and coats. Then he saw boxes of soap and shampoo. He was overjoyed and quickly excused himself to use his cell phone and call his agency. They had just run out of personal care items. Arnold, and the other men, were sincerely grateful and truly thrilled with our NGA gifts for them.

I never realized that a single bar of soap or bottle of shampoo could solicit such a reaction and mean so much to someone. I won't look at the supply of soap and shampoo in my closet in

quite the same way now. Perhaps we, each of us, can watch for special sales and double and triple coupon offers to help NGA give more treasured toiletries for Arnold and other partner agencies to distribute.

A GLORIOUS UPRISING

Steven M. Schiavone, Esq., relatively new director of *Aid for Friends...* a food outreach for the homebound, frail and elderly, challenged volunteers to reflect on their own rising. You might wonder what rising. Here are a few quotes from his article. "When someone volunteers he rises above the pursuit of his own interests. He rises above the natural drive to work for his own survival or comfort. He rises above the need to make a better life for himself and his family.

Volunteers are strong and powerful. They perform one of the world's most difficult tasks. They change the world for the better. When you volunteer, you leave your selfish part behind, transform yourself into a better person, and rise to a higher level. Volunteering is a form of rising. You rise yourself and you bring the world up a little bit too."

You should be proud to be part of the uprising our branch volunteers have made for the last 70 years. Let's get others involved and have a glorious uprising together.

WE'RE 70 AND GOING TO CELEBRATE

Our branch is 70 years old this year and we're going to celebrate. A picnic birthday party is planned for June 11 in the North and Southampton Reformed Church auditorium. Invitations will be going out in May and seating is limited to 200. Attendees are asked to bring a birthday present (unwrapped new clothes, linens, toiletries) for NGA to distribute. There will be good food, new and old friends, games, music and entertainment. So mark your calendar now and make your reservations early. Call Beverley at 215-322-2483 for more details.

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT 2007

2007 Partner Agencies In Distribution	Total Received
Belmont Development Center	1178
Bethesda Project	2363
Bucks Co. Children & Youth	1627
Bucks. Co. Head Start	1408
Caring People Alliance	1438
Cedar Avenue House	516
College Settlement	927
Impact Services Corp.	2772
Indian Valley Opportunity Center	831
Lenape Valley Foundation	1011
Libertae	1085
No Longer Bound Prevention and Training Center	9244
Phila Dept Human Services Children and Youth Division	8022
Today, Inc.	918
Woods Services Foundation	342
TOTAL GIVEN BY BRANCH	33,682



Branch labels, records, distribution allocation, rebates and mailings lists are computerized by volunteers.

POLICY FROM NGA, INC. NATIONAL BOARD REGARDING ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

We received the following *NGA, Inc. Policy* in a January 14, 2008 correspondence from the NGA, Inc. National President:

08.05 Electronic Publications

1. The content of the NGA, Inc. website and all affiliated NGA, Inc. branches linked through NGA, Inc. National website shall have the approval of the Executive Director and/or the Board of Trustees before posting. Legal language, private policy and liability disclaimers need to be published on all websites.

2. The NGA staff shall be responsible for maintaining, updating, editing and managing the NGA, Inc. website. Affiliated branches need to confirm with NGA national before posting ANYTHING on the internet. (amended 11/14/07 by NGA National Board of Trustees)

At this time, the individually, privately-owned, and managed website that was announced in our last newsletter and was designed to carry information about our branch is no longer doing so as per the Board's request.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Have you ever thought where our NGA branch donations come from? Well, they come from varied sources. Many are given by individuals, merchants, church groups, clubs, schools and scouts, and the NGA national organization. But the bulk of our donations comes from things bought from monies donated and raised. In 2007, the auctions generated a little over \$9000 and over \$7,500 were given by individuals and groups. Donations ranged from \$1 to several hundred. That's a lot of caring people making a big difference.

This year we had a special bonus...rebates! About 80 people were involved in the process. We bought over 2,500 items – socks, undies, hoodies, diapers, jackets, shampoo, jeans, etc. - with rebates and special store coupons. They were FREE for our efforts. Wow! That's stretching our giving power to the max. If you hear of or see a special offer, please keep us posted. That's part of the winning NGA way of helping others.

AGENCY NAME	# Clients	Adults	Teens	Elementary	PreSch	Infant	Linen	Toiletries
	Need NGA							
	Items							
Belmont Center Human Development Center	300	300	0	0	0	0	150	150
Bethesda Project, Inc.	1800	1800	0	0	0	0	0	1000
Bucks Co Children & Youth Social Services	490	40	100	100	100	150	0	200
Bucks County Head Start, Inc.	715	140	35	80	400	60	150	150
Caring People Alliance	2150	200	450	650	450	400	750	0
Cedar Avenue House	190	190	0	0	0	0	100	100
College Settlement Camps	500	0	100	400	0	0	300	300
Impact Services	3250	2000	0	0	750	500	200	200
Indian Valley Opportunity Center	520	350	40	50	60	20	100	100
Lenape Valley Foundation	310	100	100	0	70	40	100	100
Libertae, Inc.	152	100	0	20	20	12	50	50
No Longer Bound	2460	750	481	415	514	300	500	500
Phila. Human Services - Children & Youth Division	10000	0	2000	4000	2000	2000	200	1000
Today, Inc.	200	50	150	0	0	0	50	100
Woods Services Foundation	250	50	125	75	0	0	0	0
Total collective number needing our help	23,287							
Number of people needing help by category		6070	3581	5790	4364	3482	2650	3750

CHART OF SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH 2007 PARTNER AGENCIES AND THEIR CLIENTS IN NEED

The following are some observations from this information:

1. Collectively, our 15 partner agencies reported 23,287 clients needing NGA services.
2. Clothes for newborns through mature adults are desperately needed.
3. It was reported that 3,750 people were in need of basic toiletries – soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, comb, etc. Since toiletries are consumable, there are never enough to meet the ongoing needs.
4. Although our branch gave away 33,682 new items in 2007, that's less than 1.5 items per person reported by these agencies who need our help.

Note: Our partner agencies are only a few of the area agencies serving people in need. Yes, it's hard to believe, but it's true here in the Greater Bucks County area. Just think how it is in depressed areas!

THANKS TO THE NORTH AND SOUTHAMPTON REFORMED CHURCH

In 2007, our NGA branch collected, made, and bought 33,682 new items and gave them through 15 local agencies serving those in need. Without the physical, moral, and financial support of the NSRC church family, and the use of the church facility this would not have been possible. A BIG thanks to them for believing in our grassroots mission and supporting our efforts.

MEET SOME OF OUR TEAM

Interviews and pictures by Alison Castle
An NGA member and Temple University student

There are many people who contribute time and energy week after week in the Southampton Branch. I interviewed a variety of people ranging in age from 47-91. (I'll let you guess who's who.)



The Mother/Daughter Team

Name: Edith March (right) and Barbara Schneider

When did you join NGA? "2007"

How did you get involved with NGA? "We were recruited by Marilyn."

How would you describe NGA in one sentence? "A group of selfless people who enjoy giving and recognize needs in the area."

If Mertz begged you to help in one way, what would you hope that she'd ask you to do? Edith: "Counting." Barbara: "Computer work."

The Community Helper

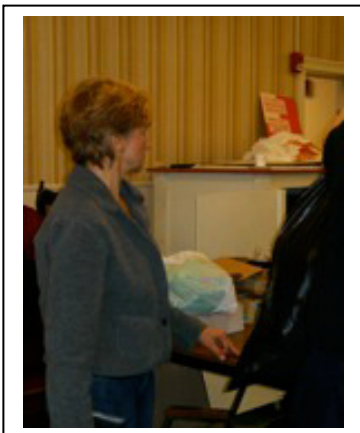
Name: Art Cox

How Long Have You Been Here? "All day -- I've been with NGA as long as Jack."

Why did you join? "I moved to Southampton and got involved in the community. NGA is a community thing."

How would you describe NGA in one sentence? "This is it! A group of people working together to serve the community."

If Mertz asked you to help in one way, what would you hope she'd ask you to do? "Whatever my wife tells me to do."



The New-Be

Name: Linda Partlon

How long have you been with NGA? "Two working sessions' worth!"

Why did you get involved? "It's a good cause that gives to those in need, especially children and young adults. There aren't many clothing groups that help the underprivileged."

How would you describe our NGA? "It's a group of people who care about the community and help people present themselves at their best. This increases their self-esteem and helps them become more productive members of the community."

A Home-grown Worker

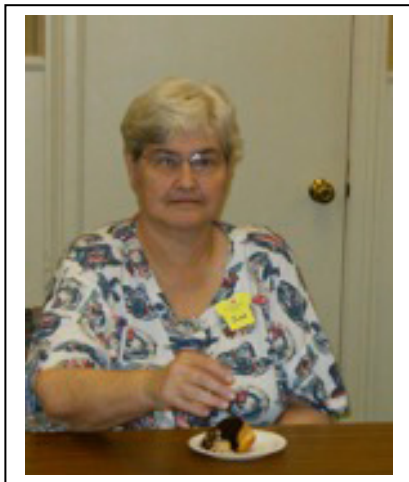
Name: Lynn Castle

When did you join NGA? “1972. I was 12 years old.”

Why did you get involved with NGA? “My mother was involved and she brought me.”

How would you describe our NGA working session? “There is never a dull moment. People are very busy doing all kinds of things...sorting, stickering, allocating, bagging, recording, cutting out, sewing, “borrowing” scissors and pens, taking breaks, and enjoying each other.”

If Mertz needed your help for something, what would you hope she'd ask you to do? “Sewing.”



The Retired Help

Name: Joan Grant

When did you join NGA? “1995”

Why did you get involved? “After retirement, I had time and decided to join this great group.”

How would you describe NGA? “Caring, giving people making others feel better.”

If Mertz needed your help, what would you hope she'd need you to do? “Sticker and count; anything I can do sitting down...or go shopping for bargains.”

“Jack” of All Trades

Name: Jack Trembath

When did you start helping with NGA? “A long time ago. Maybe 1960.”

Why did you get involved with NGA? “It came with the family. I married into it.”

How would you describe NGA in one sentence? “It's a wonderful opportunity to share and help others.”

If Mertz wanted your help for NGA, what would you hope it would be? “Shopping, getting all the bargains, and filling the van with goodies.”





Spring 2008 Newsletter
Southampton Branch of NGA
C/o M. Trembath, President
7 Kay Drive
Churchville, PA 18966

IMPORTANT DATES AT A GLANCE

Sunday, March 2 - Auction Set Up
Saturday, March 8 - Spring Auction
Monday, May 12 - Directors/Leaders Meeting
Wednesday, June 11 - Branch 70th Birthday
Party
Mon. – Thurs., October 27 – 30 - Ingathering
Thursday morning, October 30 - Agency
Pickup of Our Gifts
Sunday, November 2 - Auction Set Up
Saturday, November 8 - Fall Auction

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.

UNITED WAY AND OUR NGA

Please consider making the Southampton Branch of NGA your United Way Donor Choice. We recently received payments because United Way contributors designated us for their donations. Our vendor number is 024360. This number works in other areas for United Way drives directing contributions to our branch. Thanks for considering the Southampton Branch of NGA for your donation.

TEAM = DREAM

I had a friend who always said, “It takes teamwork to make the dream work.” Thanks for being part of our NGA Southampton Branch winning team that makes dreams come true.