



SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER SPRING 2010

News and views from our local branch!



TAKE TWO!

March 13, 2010 Auction
Re-scheduled to MARCH 27, 2010

Sunday Auction Set-up - March 21

- Accept **donations** from community
1 – 2:30 pm ONLY; if Sunday is a snow day, accept items Monday, March 22 from **6 -7 pm ONLY!** All items should be easily carried by two. No TV's, please.
- **Sort – 1 – 5 pm** Anyone interested in helping should come to the church auditorium ready to pitch in.

Saturday Auction - March 27, 2010

Please note NEW date and time. The doors will open at 8 am and the auction will begin at 8:30 am.

Auction held at the North and Southampton Reformed Church auditorium, 1380 Bristol Road, Churchville, PA 18966. Call 215-357-0121 for more information.

HOMELESSNESS... I WAS WONDERING

I was just wondering! Can you practice your violin in a homeless shelter? Where do you keep your belongings safe in the shelter? What belongings might you have? How do you get a good night's sleep? How and where do you do your homework at the shelter? What about snacks when you're hungry? What if there is no room at the shelter? How can you keep your clothes clean and unrumpled? What about shoes for growing feet?

People don't want to say they are homeless, let alone be homeless. There's the big issue of pride. Our branch helps many folks who are homeless and at risk of homelessness. Our gifts give them comfort and some pride so they can go about the daily tasks of living.

UNITED WAY, CORPORATE SUPPORT, AND OUR NGA

In 2009, the Southampton Branch of NGA received over \$1,900 in United Way donations. Then we received Matching Gifts from a corporation for an individual's United Way donation to us. We also received corporate funds for an employee who volunteered with us.

Please check and see if you can support us in this way. Our United Way vendor number is 024360. In Bucks County, you must indicate "Southampton Branch of NGA" with any local United Way donations. *Continued next page*

We thought you might like to read an e-mail we got from one of our donor volunteers.

“Thanks for the information. United Way is supposed to cut checks on 12/5 and the Matching Gifts program releases it’s funds on a quarterly basis, so that should be done in early January. I am so glad to be able to support such a great organization that provides help to so many in need.”

Special thanks to all who support our branch through time, financial contributions, corporate programs, talents, and gifts of new clothes, linens, and/or toiletries.

**MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND RECORDS
A HUNDRED-YEAR TRADITION**

Someone recently was over heard commenting about the frustrations of modern technology and regulations. Gathering new clothes, linens, toiletries and money to help needy neighbors by asking friends, neighbors, and relatives had always been a joy...but lately they were finding it a bit of a burden. They loved helping people through NGA, but didn’t really like to keep records of every little thing. Why couldn’t things just stay the same?

Well, it’s funny they should mention “modern” in connection with record keeping. Way back in the 1880’s, during the first years of our organization’s history, records were kept and published of how many things were collected by a director or group and how many things were given away through each agency. In the 1940’s, the reports were so detailed that they included exactly how many of each item including knickers, union suits, and gertrudes [Did you ever hear of them?] had been collected and given.

We aren’t being asked to do anything new as far as record keeping is concerned. We record what comes in and how many items are given through each agency. Good records help assure that we

in NGA can keep helping our needy neighbors in our very special way. We, in the Southampton Branch, are very fortunate to have the use of “modern technology” including computers to help us fairly allocate our gifts, track receipts and purchases, and keep specific distribution records.

2009 BRANCH DISTRIBUTION REPORT

Belmont Development Center	1196
Bethesda Project	3976
Bucks Co. DHS, Children & Youth	1064
Bucks Co. Head Start	605
Caring People Alliance	3129
Cedar Avenue House	61
Central Bucks Schools – Barclay Elem.	72
College Settlement Camps	805
Council of Spanish Speaking Organizations	4526
Impact Services	3957
Lenape Valley Foundation	406
Libertae	270
No Longer Bound Prevention & Training	7631
Philadelphia DHS, Children & Youth	2028
Seeds of Love	368
Today, Inc.	1437

TOTAL ITEMS GIVEN 31,531

We are very proud to have given 309,630 new items away in the last 10 years. What a wonderful accomplishment for a group of volunteers! Guess what? We’ve given 853,396 items of new clothes, linens and toiletries since our branch started in 1938. WOW!



Volunteers from the Churchville Pre-School joined others in the sorting and preparations of our gifts for our October Ingathering and big distribution.

THANKS TO THE TEAM AND FOR THE DREAM

Our 2009 October Ingathering was a huge success moving smoothly through the process of sorting, stickering, allocating, packing, recording, and pick up. This was due to wonderful team work – Rebekah Circle, The Churchville Preschool adults, Troop #5 Boy Scouts, Girl Scout Troops #2828 and 2826, numerous NGA regulars and many new recruits. The dream was to make an immense task work - and the team did it! Thanks to all who helped in any way.



Is this shampoo okay for men, or does it smell too much like flowers? Sorting and allocating correctly takes a lot of thought and effort.

Southampton Branch Newsletter Spring 2010

Special thanks, also, to the over 80 volunteers who helped pull off the November auction. (Read Jerry's account on page 4 in this issue.) We had volunteers from 5 years to 90 years old working together to raise funds to make purchases of blankets, socks, undies, hoodies, jeans, clogs, sleepers, t-shirts, jackets, etc. possible.

We also welcome and thank the Ivyland New Church for joining and taking action through our NGA. The Johnsville and North and Southampton Reformed, and St. Johns United Methodist churches continue to be an important part of our mission.

What a team! Your efforts helped make our less fortunate neighbors' dreams of a better life a reality.



After girls and leaders in Girl Scout Troops 2826 and 2828 finished allocating and acting as quality control experts – childrens' items should not be going to a men's shelter, we took a time out. We gathered for an informal time of sharing how it would feel to be poor and not have choices about how we looked. It was an eye-opening discussion for many.

Did you know that more than a quarter of Philadelphia's residents live in poverty, one of the highest rates in the county? These facts were part of the Philadelphia Orchestra's Food Drive 2010 handout.

AT the AUCTION INTAKE—and AFTER

By Jerry Burnsteel

4

Something I didn't think I would be doing on a Sunday afternoon the other week was showing up at the intake for the NGA, whose members auction off the old memories of our church people to purchase new clothes for those in need in our surrounding communities. Friends of ours, active in the group, had told us about the affair. Like us, they had a cellar's worth of items from times past, and they invited us to mine our own cellar of treasures, too, and make a contribution. So there we were at the church door, unloading the back end of our car. The small auditorium / lunchroom into which we walked with our things was full of women, and a few men, all buzzing over boxes like the ones we'd brought. They were sorting the goods. Glassware there. Children's items by the door we'd come in through; pictures on the stage; and books in the corner by the kitchen pass-through window.

Our friends were there—it's their church that supports this venture, you see—and when I'd gotten all of our stuff from the car, I found myself helping out. There were two aquariums too big for one guy to unload, so I grabbed onto one end, he the other, and up the stairs to the buzzing room the two of us went. An elderly woman pulled up in her SUV and groaned under the weight of her treasures and, as gentlemen and stalwarts of the community, we relieved her of her burdens.



The author in a plaid shirt on the floor is working hard.

Southampton Branch Newsletter Spring 2010

Shortly after that, I found myself sitting cross-legged on the auditorium floor, taking the newspaper wrapping from glasses, courting lamps, salts and peppers of every dimension, and the odd souvenir from Williamsburg or Gettysburg. I'd gotten rash a bit earlier and bowed to the request of the auctioneer to write, and put on, a name tag. So identified, I soon heard my name being called for help with this and that. Could I reach this glass vase over to the other side of the table, someone asked, and oh, this item goes over on the piano with the rest of the Christmas stationeries—couldn't I put it there, please? Polite women of a certain age are damned difficult to turn down, that's all I can say.



We always say, "How you look is how you feel." Well, Joe looks great and seems happy. You never know what you'll find at our auctions.

Mertz, the auctioneer, was the major-domo of the affair, a veritable MacArthur of logistics, pointing the way for all of us to deliver items to the thither and yon of the room and, by the way, she said, at one point, there are do-it-yourself goodies and drinks (well, *beverages*—after all, this is church!) in the kitchen. After thirsty work emptying boxes and filling up the assembled tables with items of intake, I partook of a beverage and one of those lovely Entenmanns apple pies, small packages of fruit delight drizzled all over with icing—yum! I felt a bit guilty. I'd never been to such an affair as this. And I couldn't remember the last time I'd

volunteered to help with so many other men and women in the same place.

We had to leave then, as the day was getting on for us, and of course we'd left the dogs on the deck out the back of the house, and they had needs, too. In the parking lot, we found that the drizzly day of low clouds had gone off to the east and let the sun through. It was the first of November and probably one of the last few days of sun and weather good enough that just a heavy shirt would do to stay warm outside. On the way home, dogs and student papers to grade on my mind, I offered up to my wife the idea that I hated giving up nice days like this when we'd so few left, but I thought.... And then, with what can sometimes be that annoying magic between two people so close as we, she finished my sentence for me—"But it felt good, didn't it?" she said, with a gentle bat of those always convincing eyelashes of hers. "We did a good deed today," she continued. I didn't want to say so out loud, but I guessed she'd hit the proverbial nail on the head. After that exchange, I gripped the steering wheel a bit differently. So much for my first afternoon ever at the intake for the NGA.



Furs going once, twice, sold to the highest bidder!

The next weekend, after sitting with others in the church auditorium, listening to M's auctioneering, and learning how to wave my bidder's number in the air, I stood in our driveway viewing the cache of goods I'd won and stacked in the breezeway after driving home from the NGA auction. There was the bedwarmer, which M— had said she'd like to start at ten dollars, and for which I'd taken the bid at seven dollars, afraid that someone else would have the opportunity to shine its brass other than me.

Two black, cast-iron andirons that would spruce up the fireplace and come in handy for those larger logs I'd cut last autumn. One coverlet in blue, white and rose winding vines that would serve our bed well until the holiday coverings came out of the cedar chest, and a linen tablecloth with a crocheted edge that reminded me of my great-grandmother's work. It would look swell on the dining-room table, an odd size for which we'd been having trouble finding just the right thing. A wood jointer on a homemade metal stand—an absolute must for my expanding woodshop. I'd been looking at new ones and figuring out how long I'd have to wait for one, when this sturdy beauty struck my eye as I walked into the church's auditorium doors hours before. Apparently, it had drawn "no interest" earlier in the day when I wasn't in attendance and then, back on the block at my request, I'd managed a winning bid at five dollars. An early Sears model, predating me by half a decade, it was nearly in perfect shape except for the fine sawdust that had worked itself into hidden cracks and crevices. I couldn't wait to joint all the wood in my shop, just to be sure every piece had a true edge! And, finally—as a balm to my wife's sure-to-be wonderment (I'd gone to the auction alone, while she made her first foray into Christmas shopping) about why I'd bought a bed warmer, andirons, an old cast-iron wood-shop machine, and some linens—I'd bidden for, and won, a couple of cobalt blue bottles for her collection, one particularly special one advertising the worthiness of Bromo Seltzer.

Helping to set up an auction, much less letting the spiders out of my wallet to make good on a winning bid (well, several winning bids, as you've seen!) was altogether new to me, but here I was looking over my take for the day, proving once again the old saying about one man's trash being another man's treasure. Of course the real treasure was the discovery that I could do my own soul some good—perform a good deed, as my wife had noted the week earlier—and make the result my contribution to help the NGA—

DO YOU REMEMBER?

By Doris Woodrow

How many of you remember a day when you went off to school, your job, to church or a social event feeling especially good about yourself? Chances are part of your pride that day had something to do with what you were wearing. Maybe you were wearing a new shirt, dress or pair of shoes. Wasn't it wonderful to feel so good?

The other day I was doing some little jobs for NGA and got thinking about what happened to me when I was in the 7th grade. I was having some problems with my feet and the doctor said I had to wear orthopedic shoes for a year. Now I was about 13 years old and orthopedic shoes were not in my realm of desires. But, mother and the doctor held out, and one day I found myself tying the laces of a pair of ugly corrective oxfords, "teacher shoes" to me. To make matters worse, the soft creased leather they were made of made them look old and worn, and the only color that fit me was oxblood (rust). I was humiliated! In school that day and every day after that, I did my best to hide my feet so the kids wouldn't laugh at me. And so it went, and no matter what I wore, my outfit was always ruined by those shoes. But perseverance paid off, and after a year, the horrible, life-ruining shoes were put away, and I was allowed to go shopping for a new pair for school.

I picked out a pair of black suede loafers with a sling back and a thick silver chain that draped across the front part of the shoe. It even "chinked" a little each time I took a step. Cool! The next day I wore them to school, and walked into my classroom feeling like a queen. I don't know if anyone else even noticed them, but I knew I had them on, and that made such a difference in how I felt about myself.

This brings me back to NGA. Most of the people we serve seldom have new and attractive garments or shoes to wear. Imagine what it would be like to wear shabby clothing each and

every day, and to never have that "good" feeling that comes with looking special.

NGA works hard to provide new clothing to people who need it. We want to make that difference for those who benefit from our services. Men and women, boys and girls, young, middle-aged or old, all people deserve to have that wonderful feeling at some time in their lives. Come join us to help make that difference. There are many jobs to be done and there is one waiting just for you! [We meet the second Wednesday of each month (not July and August) in the west wing of the North and Southampton Reformed Church, or volunteer at Ingathering or at the auctions.]

CALENDER OF EVENTS

March 21 (Sunday) NEW DATE

1 – 5 pm auction set up

1 – 2:30 pm ONLY sale donations accepted

March 22 (Monday) only if snow on Sunday

6 – 7 pm ONLY sale donations accepted

March 27 (Saturday) AUCTION - New time and date!

8 am doors open

8:30 am auction starts

May 20 thru June 7 RSVP for Farm Ice Cream Social **All welcome! Call Bev at 215-322-2483**

June 9 - 6:30 pm sharp Farm Ice Cream Social

August large before school distribution - TBE

Note: **Working Session** meets the **second Wednesday of each month BUT not in July and August.**

October 18 – 21 Ingathering in the auditorium

October 21 – 10 thru 11 am agency pick up.

Agencies please mark your calendars now.

SISTERS CREATE

By Marilyn Boyer

Last year Claire Altseimer met her goal to knit 100 hats for our NGA and she is busy on this year's goal. Her sister, Elinor, found an adorable pattern for knitted little hoods for babies. Claire has had fun creating these for families with infants. These sisters are just two of the many people who care about others and then do something in a loving and constructive way through the Southampton Branch.

TAKEN FROM THE SOUTHAMPTON ESTATES REPORT ON 2009 NGA GIVING

By Edith Blikle, Coordinator

On October 19, Ingathering Day, we will be taking the contributions of our residents to this good cause. We will be taking 14 very large bags of new clothing, linens (many beautiful handmade items), and toiletries – a total of 709 items. Incidentally, the Southampton Branch of NGA is a tightly controlled organization. Each item taken is stickered and properly recorded. The dear folks heading this work are truly exceptional people, sometimes entire families giving endless hours of time to it.

A total of \$2192 has already been passed on to the branch and has been put to work. NGA is ever grateful for all your contributions – many, many thanks to all of you who participated! Needless to say, all this gathering of clothing and money would not be possible without the help of many friends – our NGA representatives in each building.

Myrtle Taylor, one of our residents has been an active leader in NGA for 35 years and is retiring from that role, but not from NGA. She recently told of NGA in the 70's when a small group of women came together one day a month to sew. They kept three sewing machines working – sewing little girl's dresses, slacks, nighties, panties, etc. When discount stores came to town, it became more feasible to buy some items in bulk. Many thanks, Myrtle, for your faithfulness to this wonderful work.

[We want to thank Edith for her outstanding efforts in promoting our branch through the Southampton Estates' cable TV and newsletter. She does a super job of coordinating and reporting on the 10 wing leaders and all the activity for NGA by the residents of Southampton Estates. You help make the community a better place for all.]



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR FARM-STYLE ICE CREAM SOCIAL

When? Wednesday, June 9, 2010 (Ice cream served at 6:30 pm sharp.)

Where? North and Southampton Reformed Church Auditorium, 1380 Bristol Road, Churchville, PA (auction location)

Who? NGA contributors, agency staff, friends, family...all those who would like to join the fun, fellowship, share NGA branch facts and enjoy a super ice cream treat. This is a great time to introduce others to the work and fun of our branch.

What? Come dressed for the farm and the occasion!

RSVP Call Bev at 215-322-2483 May 20 through June 7 to reserve your spot.

Hope to see you there!

DON'T BE CONFUSED

(As seen in the last issue of NEWS)

NGA, Inc, headquartered in Warminster, is the national parent administrative organization of the local NGA volunteer branches in various communities and states. The Southampton Branch is part of NGA, Inc; however, contributions to our branch are used to help needy people in the Greater Delaware Valley. Contributions to NGA, Inc. help with the administrative costs of the national organization.

Clarification requested by the national NGA - All donations given to NGA, Inc. and specifically earmarked for new items for distribution are used to buy these items.

Branch note: We are grateful for the new items that NGA, Inc. receives from jobbers, merchants, manufacturers, groups, and individuals, and shares with our branch for local distribution. We recently received 357 such items. They would have given away on February 10, but we had SNOW! They will be distributed the second Wednesday of March (March 10) along with hundreds of other branch-generated items.



Spring 2010 Southampton Branch 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 toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

36th Annual March



Proceeds to buy new clothes, linens, and toiletries for neighbors in special need

Antiques and Early Attic, Linens, Ephemera, Jewelry, Vintage Clothes and Uniforms, Household/Kitchen Items, Glassware and Dishes, Books, Wedgewood Plates, Small Furniture, Old Sheet Music and Magazines, Holiday Items, Posters and Framed Items, Old Medical Supplies, Toys, Games and Dolls, Tools, Craft Items, Gifts, Old Photos and Sewing Items, and Much More...

Saturday – March 27, 2010...NEW DATE

8:30 am – 3 pm ish (Doors Open at 8:00 am) **NEW TIME**

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

Refreshments and Lunch

Call 215-357-0121 for more information.

Southampton Branch Newsletter Spring 2010

How many people read our newsletter? Several people reaped the benefit of their reading by redeeming the coupon and getting delicious, homemade, special NGA cookies at the November auction. They were so popular and delicious, they may be sold in March.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR DONATIONS

1. Infant and items for school-aged children are most needed.
2. Any size new clothes, linens and toiletries are needed by clients of our partner agencies.
3. Throws, afghans, or covers should be a minimum of 36" by 45".

We want to thank Ben Burnley of the B.J. Burnley Co., Middleburg, PA for supplying our branch with high-quality, bargained-priced items for distribution. We appreciate his continued interest and support.