



SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER SPRING 2011

News and views from our local branch!



The men and women of the Chandler Hall Adult Day Program, Newtown were looking for ways to continue to give back to their community, and our NGA needed caring, energetic folks to support our wonderful mission - what a perfect match! The clients of Chandler Hall have a lifetime history of volunteering as Boy Scout and Girl Scout leaders, Sunday school teachers and homeroom parents to name just a few. They realize that sharing your time and talents with others gives you a purpose at any age. They thank us and ask us to keep those items coming. [We're glad they're part of our efforts.]
Karen Freedman

BEST BUY OF THE YEAR

Last issue of our newsletter we challenged our super buyers of current-style, good quality items for distribution to let us know of their best deals and let us see who really got the best buy of 2010. We heard of jeans for \$.79, undies for \$.17, tops for \$.79, diapers for \$.14, \$35 jackets for \$2.40, \$65 for \$5...the list goes on and on. What we did learn is that our shoppers for the branch bought

23,201 items (including jackets, jeans, hoodies, toiletries, socks, blankets, sheets, towels, briefs and panties, t's, sweat shirts and pants, sleepers, etc.) at a cost of \$17,570.47. That's an average of less than \$.76 per item. Wow! I'd say all of our branch shoppers got best buys in 2010! If you'd like to be a "super shopper for the branch" in 2011, call 215-357-0121 to learn the process and the recording and payment procedures.

We thank all branch shoppers, those sharing discounts with us, and folks who worked to get our rebates - \$260. We also thank all of you for contributing to our success - giving money, getting matched gifts, giving through United Way, sharing your time, talents, items for auctions, and coming to our auctions. Our branch is truly is a team effort.



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, Old Toys, Vintage Clothes, Military Items, Games, Dolls and Doll Clothes, Tools, Craft Items, Gifts, Old Photos and Sewing Items, and Much More...

Saturday – March 26, 2011 (Note new date)
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 of NGA, Inc.
Providing New Clothes for New Tomorrows Since 1938



Approximately 80 volunteers work to make our auctions move smoothly. Laura coordinates this and is checking the schedule and responsibilities with leaders at our fall auction.

FEELINGS

We were lucky to have girls and leaders from Girl Scout Troops #2826 and #2828 help at our October Ingathering. As part of the evening activities, we asked the girls to reflect on a couple of questions on a written questionnaire. Here are some of the responses:

How would you feel if you were poor?

I'd probably feel pretty ashamed of myself and how others depict poor people.

It would be different because I'm not used to being poor. Being poor stinks!

I would feel unloved and unwanted, but I would have to get used to it and make the best of it.

I would feel closer to my family because we would have to work together.

I would feel sad, neglected, lonely, upset, unhappy, gross, and broke. Also, I would most likely feel hungry.

I'd be filled with hopelessness; I'd be upset and glum!

Dirty, upset, like I need help, having less worth than others.

I would feel like people thought little of me and feel bad in that situation.

I would hate it and not be used to it. I'd feel SO out of place.

How would you feel if you had to look poor?

I'd be more self-conscious; I'd feel underprivileged, like an outcast, mad, upset, and different.

I'd be embarrassed because people would always judge me by my appearance and I wouldn't like it. I'd hate it because I wouldn't want people to single me out. I wouldn't be proud of myself.

How do you think people would treat you?

They would judge me very harshly. People would probably treat me differently and make fun of my poverty.

They would not be nice or just not talk to me at all.

I think people would act like I wasn't as good as they were; they'd laugh and think I was inferior. They'd think I was lazy and possibly feel bad for me, would pity me and not talk to me.

I think people would try to avoid me.

Might you treat someone who looks poor differently than your friends?

I would try not to, but it would be very hard. Probably, but I would feel bad afterwards. I wouldn't mean to.

Yes, even though I wouldn't realize it. I don't mean to.

Unfortunately I think I would. I don't think I would be as open to them as I would be to someone who dresses nicely or smells good.

I wouldn't treat them differently because everyone should be equal, but I would feel sorry for them.

No, because they could still be my friends and I wouldn't treat my friends like that.

No! People judge me for how I look all the time; I know how they feel.

No, that would be mean.

At our fall branch meeting we asked the same questions of ourselves and found that our written responses were very similar to those of the scouts. We had strong feelings just as the scouts had. We voiced how lucky we were to be part of NGA and that our branch can remove the appearance and the smells of being poor and allow people of all ages to go out into life fitting in and feeling better about themselves.



This inter-generational team of Wednesday evening Ingathering workers stopped to smile for the birdie...or was that Tom Burst our roving photographer?

We are VERY proud of our branch impact last year as shown in our **2010 Distribution Record** below. We were able to provide more new clothes, linens, and toiletries to people in need than ever before.

2010 Distribution Record

Partner Agencies	Total
Belmont Center	1,514
Bethesda Project	1,876
Bucks County Children & Youth	158
Bucks County Head Start	714
Caring People Alliance	3,227
Cedar Avenue House	733
College Settlement Camps	687
Concilio	3,565
Consortium	1,972
Impact Services	4,061
Lenape Valley Foundation	815
Libertae	322
No Longer Bound Prevention & Training	9,628
Philadelphia Dept Human Services	4,457
Seeds of Love (Ambassadors)	427
Today, Inc	1,503
Total Items Given	35,659

[This is the largest annual distribution in our history.]

HOW WE FUNCTION... IT'S A PROCESS

NGA is built on partnerships – within the community and with our partner agencies. Each year our partner agencies must register with the national NGA and agree to certain terms and conditions before getting our services. The agencies that help distribute our gifts tell us the number of people in their care that need our services. We try to visit each of our partner agencies, review their specific needs and the resources they have for meeting those needs. We review their needs in relationship to our resources and also review our working relationship with them. Each agency is given a rating based on our findings. The agencies provide us with specific needs in each category – infant, preschool, elementary school, teen, adult – by gender. All this info is entered into the computer. We have developed a computer program that allocates the number of items (example - elementary girls' jeans) available to each agency for their distribution based on the number they serve, the rating of that agency and the number of articles available. This divides our donations very fairly among all those we serve, but it takes lots of volunteer hours and dedication to carry out the process. Each article is stickered, counted and bagged by agency for distribution. Agencies come and pick up their allotment of our gifts at a given time. It takes generous donors, prudent shoppers, and numerous volunteers to make our branch function effectively.



Doris Woodrow was a deodorant expert at Ingathering – stickered, allocating, and then distributing for pickup.

MORE AGENCY PARTNERS SHARE ABOUT HOW WE CARE

Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency – When a newborn is delivered to a single mom without income, living in subsidized housing, unable to afford pampers, baby blankets, onesies, and other baby necessities, NGA donations are very important and much appreciated. When the social worker takes these items to the new mom, the look on her face tells us that she is feeling very blessed. She is thankful that there are people who care enough about her situation (that's your NGA) and are willing to help her.

Bethesda Project, Inc. – Recently one of the shelter guests accompanied me on an NGA pick-up from your branch. On the way back to Philadelphia, he expressed amazement at the amount of clothing and toiletries we had received. His final comment was, "I think there's enough stuff in the world to go around, but folks have to be thinking that way to make it happen." We are grateful to you in NGA for thinking that way.

College Settlement Camps - Our campers spend two weeks each at our facility and the items we can have on hand with the help of your NGA have been a God send. We thank you for your continued support of our organization. We have 4 two week sessions of overnight camp and 2 four week sessions of day camp.

Impact Services - Your NGA staff [that's our volunteers] are simply wonderful people. They provide resources and supportive service at a much needed time. Your mission is clear and our thanks and appreciation goes to all who help make the distributions possible. In summary, Impact and our needy community benefit from a great resource and our hope is it may continue to prosper in the years to come. Please keep up the much-needed support.

We hope you used a pencil... our upcoming AUCTION is March 26 starting at 9 am



At our fall branch meeting, we shared branch happenings, business, ideas and feelings together as well as a yummy luncheon. All interested people are welcome at our branch meetings which are listed in our branch calendar in this issue.

SEND IN THE CLOWNS ICE CREAM SOCIAL

When? Wednesday, June 8, 2011 (Ice cream served at 6:30 pm sharp.)

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

Who? Anyone interested in our NGA Branch or ready to celebrate our accomplishments and have fun. All ages and friends welcome.

What? Come dressed for the occasion and ready to fit in with the clowns!

RSVP: Call Bev at 215-322-2483 between May 23 and June 3 to reserve your spot. Please spell your last name and report number coming in your party if leaving message on the machine.

Hope to see you there! Yummy treats, fun for all, great friends and some clowning around!

[It's not too early to plan ahead, mark your calendar, and ask your friends to join the fun and celebrate NGA together. June will be here before we know it.]



This is not an advertisement for Kmart. It is one of our famous branch “bag men.” Joe totes bags from Rite Aid headquarters, from his daughters and wife and then comes to Working Session and gets to work with more bags – bags on tables for trash, bags to put 10 like items in, and bags of donations and items purchased. And then he helps place stickered, bagged items in larger bags for agency pick up. We appreciate all those who help with our bags. Thanks!

AGENCIES RESPOND

We considered holding a meeting with our partner agency representatives, but decided to save time and prepare a brief questionnaire instead. We wanted agency input on how we could better – more efficiently and effectively - provide for people in need. Here are some responses to the three areas we requested.

List 3 advantages of being part of the Southampton Branch of NGA network.

Getting top-quality, useful, free clothing available for needy individuals. **

Very supportive and helpful communications from and friendly, generous workers at branch.

Saves on time, expenses and there is no other agency that provides this service.

Items help our clients on the road to recovery and to a better life.

Our clients are able to receive quality items “staple necessities” they otherwise could not afford and otherwise we couldn’t give them.

We are part of a group that is networking together to help people.

Help families feel good about themselves receiving brand new items instead of used items others gave away.

List problems encounter because of being part of our network.

Hard to find location; even after going several times, the drivers get lost. **

Storage is a problem for us and it would be easier if pickups were every month.

None. **

Not knowing the what and when of pickup much in advance can be a problem, but that is the kind of problem to have, if you are going to have a problem.

There may be a dis-connect between the NGA volunteers and those who receive their donations. (No face to face interaction.)

Unfortunately, our need is much greater than the NGA supply and we turn away needy people when we run out of your donations. **

What suggestions do you have that could make our services more efficient and/or beneficial.

You already do much more than we might expect.

It works very well and smoothly. **

None. **

Would like to have more pickups; more available inventory.

At times items become available on short notice and I have to adjust my schedule...but, it is well worth it to have these items to hand out.

Have more centralized pickup locations where agency members can bring the people to receive their donations directly. [NGA was founded 125 years ago and since that time its branches have been helping people in need through recognized community agencies and organizations. We do not provide direct services to those in need.]

Access to special or emergency requests for a family in need or experiencing a difficult situation after we have distributed all of the NGA items.

[Agencies are welcome to contact us with urgent, specific emergency needs and we will try to assist them.]

E-mail confirmations about pickups and deadlines.

** indicates multiple responses



Those special “auction shirts” certainly seem to get around. Ali made herself a “Mertz in training” name tag for the occasion. We bought a second mic so that we could have two auctioneers working much of auction day. Great job, Ali!

2011 BRANCH CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

(The Working Session and Branch Meetings meet on the west side of the North and Southampton Reformed Church, 1380 Bristol Road, Churchville, PA and the Auctions, Ice Cream Social and Ingathering are held on the east side (auditorium) of the church. Agency pickups are generally the second Wednesday of the month on the west side except in August and October. There are no regular Working Sessions in July and August.) ** Indicates new date/ time.

- February 9 – Working Session 9 am-noon
- March 9 – Working Session 9 am-noon
- **March 20 – Auction Set-up 1 – 5 pm**
 **2-3:30 pm acceptance of auction
 donations ONLY (Note new time!)
- **March 26 – 8:30 am doors open, Auction**
 begins at 9 am
- April 13 – Working Session 9 am-noon
- May 11 – Working Session 9 am-noon
 12:30 **Branch Spring Meeting** – All
 contributors of items, monies, and time;
 branch directors and leaders; and all
 interested individuals are welcome.
- June 8 – Working Session 9 am – noon
 Ice Cream Social – Send in the Clowns,
 Serving 6:30 pm sharp
- July – NO Working Session

- August 22 – 25 – **Back-to-School Distribution**
 (west end)
 August 22 – 6 – 8:30 pm
 August 23 – 9 – 11 am, 1 – 3 & 6 – 8 pm
 August 24 – 9:30 – 10:30 agency pick up
- September 14 – Working Session 9 am – noon
- October 12 – Working Session 9 am – noon
- October 17 – 20 **INGATHERING** (times will be
 shared in the fall newsletter issue)
- October 30 - Auction Set-up 12:30 – 5 pm**
- November 5 – 8:30 am doors open, Auction**
 begins at 9 am
- November 9 – Working Session
 Noon –**Branch Fall Meeting** - All
 contributors of items, monies, and time;
 branch directors and leaders; and all
 interested individuals are welcome (west
 end).
- December 14 – 9 am – 11:30 Working Session

This calendar is the official notification of the May 11 and November 9, 2011 Branch Meetings. Please mark your calendars. All are welcome!

VERIZON FUNDRAISER SUPPORTS OUR BRANCH

It was agreed at a meeting of the branch leadership that we would offer our members and friends the option, if they were going to order new residential phone, TV, or internet service, to order through a Verizon program that would raise money for our NGA Branch. This invitation does not mean that our leaders or the branch endorse Verizon’s views, statements, or services.

Verizon Velocity Fundraising

Fundraising Goal: All funds will be used to purchase new clothes, linens, and toiletries that will be given to those in need through recognized area partner agencies. Our nonprofit will receive a donation from Verizon when someone orders a new qualifying residential Verizon product following the steps listed. This works with any currently advertised promotions, too.

How to place your order:

Step 1 - Supporters in NJ must call 1-888-678-1384. PA & DE supporters must call 1-888-345-544. Monday – Friday (10:00am – 9:00pm) One-time donations are paid to our branch on the following qualified new residential product orders: Verizon FiOS Triple FreedomSM order will generate up to a \$65 donation; Verizon Internet (FiOS® or High Speed Internet)\$25.00; Verizon TV (FiOS or DIRECTV®)\$20.00; Verizon Phone Service (Freedom™ Calling Plan, FiOS Digital Voice)\$10.00; Verizon Long Distance\$10.00.

Step 2 - Provide **our code 50606** to the Verizon representative and say that your order is part of the Verizon Velocity Program.

Got all the products you need? Then pass this opportunity on to friends and family in PA, DE and NJ so their new Verizon residential order might help us.

Participation in the Verizon Velocity program does not indicate acceptance or endorsement by Verizon of participants' views or statements. Donations paid on new product orders that remain with Verizon a minimum of 30 days from order date. Renewals or speed/package upgrades do not constitute a new sale. Term commitment may apply. Product availability varies. Contact Verizon for details.

OUR AUCTIONS

Sylvia Amato

“Going once! Going twice! Sold to the highest bidder!” Another happy auction bidder secures the “prize.” Sounds like a typical local auction? Not if you are in the crowd at our NGA auction. Thanks to master auctioneer Maryanna (Mertz) Trembath, our bidders hear funny anecdotes, cute songs, and find models wearing vintage hats, aprons, furs, etc. Here the tables are laden with items ranging from collectibles, ephemera, crystal, china, linens, vintage toys, and antique tools waiting to be sold.

Our NGA auctions come with the same drama, competition, and thrill of victory that many auctions have. The main difference is that those in

need served by area partner agencies receive the benefits provided by the profits created by satisfied auction-goers. As a result, needy people throughout our region receive clothing, linens and toiletries that give dignity to those most in need. Can you believe that over the thirty-six years of our NGA auctions, \$221, 364 has been raised? That accounts for a lot of coats, hats, gloves, jeans, socks, and underwear for needy folks.

So dig out those “attic treasures” and contribute them to a worthy cause. It takes organization and many willing hands to set up this auction twice yearly. When contributors drop off their items, a cadre of volunteers takes over and begins the unpacking and sorting through donations. Items find their way to the auction tables, the fifty-cent table, the jewelry area, the books and records carts. Goods are measured, appliances checked for “workability,” parts are reunited, the tables are prepared, and the auditorium set up for the Saturday event. It’s a six-day process. This year’s spring auction will take place on March 26. Hope to see you there!



Sleet nor snow kept some hearty souls from sorting purchases, cutting pillowcases, organizing items for Chandler Hall residents' attention, stickering donations, and tidying the closet on a snowy day in January. [It looks like Jack is boxed in with towels and girls panties.]



Southampton Branch Newsletter Spring 2011

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.

JUST A PEEK AT 20 YEARS AGO

A thank you was sent to Beedee Ewald for collecting \$337.70 from friends at Southampton Estates. 137 shirts, 107 bras, and 145 knit caps were purchased with their donation. We are pleased that the Southampton Estates community continues to be an important part of our branch.

Klinger Middle School 6 B students sold 328 Wawa hoagies to raise \$460.40 for our branch. Other Klinger students sponsored a "Giving Tree" at Christmas and the items were given to those in need through our branch.

Our branch Working Session was meeting in the west wing of the North and Southampton Reformed Church. We are very grateful that they continue to support our mission as their own.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR DONATIONS

1. Infant and items for elementary school-aged children are most need.
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".
4. This is a great time to find change-of-season clothes on sale in local stores for your NGA purchases and donations.
5. We can greatly further our work by asking other people to get involved. Will you meet the challenge in 2011 of each one get one involved? It's up to you!