



SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

# SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER SPRING 2019

News and views from our local branch!

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## Upcoming Events

**Spring Auction** **March 23**  
Drop-Off March 17 @ 1:30-3pm  
Sorting March 18-20 @ AM & PM

**Branch Luncheon** **May 8 @ 12pm**

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## Monthly Working Session

Please join us for our monthly working sessions on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 9am-12pm at the North & Southampton Reformed Church in the All Purpose Room. We come together each month to process new clothes, toiletries, and linens and distribute through local agencies.

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## Spring Auction

Saturday – March 23, 2019  
9am – 4pm (Doors Open at 8:30am)



*Our “handymen” check donations and make sure everything works before we auction them off.*

If you wish to make a memorial, celebration, or general donation to our branch, please send a check payable to “Southampton Branch of NGA” to Karen Fesmire, Treasurer, 960 E. Maple Drive, Southampton, PA 18966

## What an Accomplishment!

With the help of the North and Southampton Reformed Church and numerous volunteers of all ages, the Southampton Branch of NGA donated 34,073 new clothes, linens, and toiletries to people in need in the Greater Philadelphia Area in 2018.

In the last 80 years, the Branch has donated 1,252,148 gifts through recognized agencies with “needy” clients (an IRS income-based determination). That’s a lot of hope and comfort for many less fortunate people. And that’s quite an accomplishment for a grassroots volunteer group.

The volunteers in our Branch extend special thanks to the church for providing space for our activities, embracing our mission, and for being part of our efforts and success for over 50 years.

Combined, the 2018 auctions raised \$11,881 to help purchase our gifts. We thank all those who donated items for sale, sorted and organized merchandise, and volunteered time in preparation for and on auction day. As is said, “It takes team work to make the dream work.” We have a dream and a great team – and it works.



*Two young volunteers and their great aunt put NGA stickers on flip flops for distribution.*

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## Branch News

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### Ingathering Notes

NGA members and recruits – 37 strong, plus 20 Girl and Boy Scouts and leaders, volunteered at 10 working sessions to prepare our gifts for distribution. Some folks helped at one session while others found time to work at several. That’s hundreds of man hours and lots of dedication to clothing our needy neighbors by our members in October alone!



That week, 13,466 new clothes, linens, and toiletries were given to people in need through seven partner agencies. This included socks, undies, shoes, blankets, sheets, towels, jeans, t’s, jackets, sweats, sleepwear, hats, gloves, and scarves. NGA partner agencies reported having 16,205 people needing our services. That’s a lot of needs.

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### Did You Know?

Our Branch is now part of the Council Rock LINC program. CR High School students can get credit for volunteering at our functions. We have youth volunteer forms for other students to get credit for volunteer hours, too. Let’s reach out and get students involved.

### Decisions, Decisions

After stickering, sorting, allocating, and recording hundreds of toiletries as part of our fall Ingathering, those participating (about 20) in the Scout evening activity were asked to list basic costs for a family or individual living independently. Here are some of their thoughts:

food	electricity	water
sewer	housing	transportation
taxes	appliances	laundry
heat	insurance	tooth care
clothes	cleaning supplies	toiletries
phone	medicine/medical care	tv

They were then asked what they would choose if they only had enough money to pay for four things. Shelter was picked first by most. Very quickly they ran out of choices. Decisions, decisions!

Four of the girls picked clothes as one of their four. They had saved their vote through many important basic needs. When asked why, one girl said she was growing so fast that nothing fit right for long. Another responded that she’d want to fit in.

When our daughter, Sarah, worked at the American Psychological Association, they had many studies regarding opinions and needs of teens. One study showed clothes were the most important need to teens suffering from poverty, homelessness, separation, or abuse. The kids wanted to fit in, not look poor or homeless. They also preferred to live in a car, garage, or make-shift shelter rather than have the stigma of living in a shelter and being labeled “homeless.” What decisions!



Just think—we in NGA reduce stigmas, help kids fit in, and provide comfortable, current-styled, season-appropriate clothes for our young needy neighbors and give hope for better days. Our caring is by sharing. That’s a good decision!

## We Make a Difference

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These stories of how our gifts affect our recipients help us understand the impact of our donations.

“One camper came for two weeks of camp with only three outfits and nothing else. Thanks to the generous donations from NGA, we were able to make sure this child had enough items for his time here at camp to keep clean and to be dressed (for the activities.) It’s so great that he could then take them home to use. NGA is such a blessing.”

“Last year, we helped several victims that came from Puerto Rico who had lost everything due to Hurricane Maria. They felt welcomed to our neighborhood and were pleased they had something to look forward to. Our residents look forward to this because it makes a huge difference in their lives. We appreciate and thank you for it all.”

“This year one of our clients could not find it possible to buy winter clothes for her five children. In the past she had worked and was able to afford what was needed. Then illness set in and she reluctantly had to go on assistance. With the help of NGA, her children will have nice warm clothing for the winter. She was so excited going through the various items. She sends a special thank you to the ones at NGA who made it possible.”

A neighbor attending church for the first time since moving in was proud to fit in and thanked the church mission and NGA for making it possible.

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At our 2018 Ingathering, we asked representatives of our partner agencies how our gifts of new clothes, linens, and toiletries are distributed to their needy clients. Here are some responses:

**Bethesda Project** – The donations from the fall distribution go into the welcome care kits for people entering the winter church shelter programs, which open on November 1 for people experiencing chronic street homelessness. Each guest receives a care kit that has soap, toothbrush and paste, underwear, etc. Any other donations from this distribution go to our 150 shelter guests and walk-ins at our largest shelter – Our Brothers’ Place.

NGA’s gifts of toiletries, clothes, and linens allow Bethesda Project to fulfill our mission of being a family to those who have none. Family provides the basic care of their members. Without these gifts, we would not be able to provide for our family.

**Impact Services, Corp** – Impact Services is located in a very high poverty neighborhood where the opioid crisis is severe. Our residents in Kensington who are in need are referred to us by local agencies and we distribute the clothes, linens, and toiletries as needed per family members. We also have vets who are transitioning from homelessness and from prison who also receive your donations.



*Our faithful volunteers sort toiletries and socks.*

**The College Settlement of Philadelphia** – We run a non-profit children’s summer camp and serve mostly low income families. Some children arrive without even the basic needs of toiletries and enough clothes, With your NGA donations, we are able to make sure our campers have everything they need to attend summer camp - toiletries, clothes, towels, shoes, underwear, and even bathing suits.

**No Longer Bound** – Our clients come to No Longer Bound for emergency foods. Because of their situations, we will be distributing other items to them including the gifts you gave. All our clients are very appreciative and asked me to thank everyone for the help. If not for NGA, many of our clients would be cold throughout the winter. Thank you for helping us fulfill our mission. [The pick-up driver told us our donations are sorted and when needy families come to select food items, they are also able to select clothing, etc. as needed. No Longer Bound has families sign that they have received donations.]



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## Get Involved in NGA

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### Wanted: Cold Weather Sewers

Do you or a friend like to sew or knit/crochet and have no special projects this winter? We'd love to have your help in sewing soft pillow cases, cozy fitted sheets, warm baby bags and blankets, and snuggly outfits for infants and toddlers. Sometimes we get new damaged items that need to be refashioned too. In fact, whatever you like to sew, we can provide the supplies to meet your creative urge when you're stuck inside during a snowstorm.

Call Lynn (267-987-0578), Mertz (215-357-0121), or email [nga.southampton@gmail.com](mailto:nga.southampton@gmail.com) and we will try to set you up. Supplies are typically available the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the North and Southampton Reformed Church, Bristol Road, Churchville, PA 18966.

### Fall Auction 2018 Report

Over 70 volunteers - men, women, and kids - worked together to staff our fall auction. Income was generated as follows:

Kitchen/Cake	\$573
Jewelry Table	332
\$0.50 + Table	376
General Sales	4634
<u>Donations</u>	<u>382</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$6297</b>



*Modeling (and selling) leather coats at the auction.  
A big THANK YOU to all our volunteers!*

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### 2019 Calendar

Working Session	February 13, 9am-12pm
Working Session	March 13, 9am-12pm
Spring Auction Set-Up	March 17-20
Spring Auction 2019	March 23, 9am-4pm
Working Session	April 10, 9am-12pm
Working Session	May 8, 9am-12pm
Branch Luncheon	May 8, 12pm
NO Ice Cream Social this year	
Working Session	June 12, 9am-12pm
NO Working Session in July or August	
Working Session	September 11, 9am-12pm
Working Session	October 9, 9am-12pm
Ingathering/Distribution	October 13-17
Working Session	November 13, 9am-12pm
Branch Luncheon	November 13, 12pm
Fall Auction Setup	November 17-20
Fall Auction 2019	November 23, 9am-4pm
Working Session	December 11, 9am-12pm

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### Quick Reminders

Choose "Southampton Branch of NGA" for...

- ✓ Your Amazon Smile partner
- ✓ Your United Way Donor Choice Code 381343

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### I'm Growing Up

Some firmly believe they are getting old, but I'm a "young, sweet thing." Well, whatever, time marches on. This is the 45th year our branch has held public auctions. (We had two before we went public.) Every now and again our Auction Committee meets and reviews our process and procedures. Because of our "growing up" and wanting to use our energy to raise the most money for NGA gifts, we re-established the limits on items we can use for sale.

We can NOT accept computers and related items, exercise equipment, big or heavy furniture (only furniture easily carried by one or two people), TV's, large appliances (washers, etc.), riding mowers, etc., or items that do not function.

We appreciate your contributions, but for ease of handling, please do not bring these items to donate. Thanks a bunch.

## Best Buys & Giving Stories

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What would you say if you were told that an NGA member bought six \$29.00 teen-hoodies for 3 cents? “Unbelievable!” is one response. This is how it happened. During an end-of-season sale, many needed items were purchased. Almost by mistake, the person noticed coupons attached to the sales slips. Upon return to the store for more goodies, six hoodies, that were then on sale for \$15.88, were purchased (using the store coupons) for \$.03. The receipt is almost worth framing – UPC and zip up hoodie sale, and amount tendered \$.05, change due \$.02. It doesn’t happen often, but when opportunity knocks, NGA tries to answer.



You can get beautiful donations in the most unexpected places. One member was annoyed when her washer was on the fritz. A trip to the laundry was in order – sort the wash and pack it up, get the detergent, softener, etc., find a book. You know the drill. The wash went in, as did the quarters. At the back of the laundry, there was a table with a sign on it. ”HELP YOURSELF IF YOU CAN USE IT.” (This was too interesting to ignore.) The member found a nice, gently-used, light-weight vest for herself and settled in to read. The wash moved to the drier. A little bored and with a less-than-great book, she decided to investigate the bags under the back table. What she found was two bags of brand-new clothing including 41 pairs of men’s socks labeled \$12 each, 5 men’s gloves marked \$35 each, plus other assorted things. Because of curiosity, she picked up 53 new items for branch distribution. Her trip to the laundry was a bonanza, not a bust.



Valentine’s Day is not far off. Why not encourage gifts for NGA instead of candy from family members? It could be a new tradition.

A branch contributor who moved from PA to ME was in the Family Dollar Store shopping for dog food. She saw a cart of diaper packs for \$2 and \$3 per pack. She called to make sure it was a good

deal, went back to the store and bought all they had left (156 diapers and 30 large bars of soap) for \$17.94 including tax. (Everything is taxed in Maine). We try to get diapers for under \$.17 each. (Note: We call diapers and toiletries consumables since you need to restock them frequently.) Watch for store sales; maybe you can find some too.

A neighboring town was having a “town yard sale.” Sounds like fun. At one of the stops, beautiful, hand-made polar fleece hats were spread on a tarp and hanging out of bags. A young mother had her children choosing new gear. I wondered what the price was. The women replied, “Fill a bag for \$1.” What? That’s right - \$1 a bag. When asked for more bags, the homeowner asked why the NGA member wanted four bags. On learning our cause, she donated her remaining 116 hats and mittens for \$4. She was SO happy to be a part of our mission as she closed her craft fair endeavors.



We used to have a branch president whose motto was “Them that fits ‘em, gits ‘em.” When shopping for yourself and family members, remember “them” on your sprees. You can have an enormous positive impact on our needy neighbors by helping them fit in society.

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### Great Items at Great Prices!

We have a dedicated team of volunteers who are always on the lookout for current-style, good-quality clothes and linens at rock bottom sale prices. If you’d like to help us find good buys and remarkable sales, contact Doris at 215-355-0198.

<b>Suggested Maximum Prices</b>			
Underwear	\$1	Towels	\$2
Socks	\$0.50	T-Shirts	\$2
Sheets Sets	\$10	Sweats	\$3
Jackets	\$15	Blankets	\$4
Washcloths	\$0.30	Hats/Gloves	\$1

# 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Auction

**Saturday – March 23, 2019**

9am – 4pm (Doors Open at 8:30am)

Antiques and Early Attic, Linens, Jewelry, Depression Glass, Coverlets, Ephemera, Old Toys and Dolls, Vintage Clothing, Pottery, Household/Kitchen Items, Local Memorabilia, Musical Instruments Old Photos, Old and Modern Books, Small Furniture, Old Sheet Music and Magazines, Tools, Collectibles, Military Items, Frames, Handwork, Prints and Paintings, and Much Much More...

North & Southampton Reformed Church  
1380 Bristol Road, Churchville, PA 18966

Homemade Refreshments and Lunch Available

Sponsored by the Southampton Branch of NGA  
Volunteer 501(c)(3) Charity Since 1938

All proceeds buy new clothes for neighbors in need

Items accepted March 17 from 1:30-3pm only



M. Trembath, President  
7 Kay Drive  
Churchville, PA 18966

## Contact Us



Our branch website:  
[www.ngasouthamptonbranch.org](http://www.ngasouthamptonbranch.org)

Our email address:  
[nga.southampton@gmail.com](mailto:nga.southampton@gmail.com)

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.