

Family shares the value of giving

On a cold winter day, the front door of our office opened and in walked a couple whose warm smiles made us forget the outside chill. It was **Betty** and **Carl Stump**, a couple who have financially supported the work of Volunteers of America through personal donations for many years—and they had a great idea.

Carl explained that two of their grandchildren had upcoming birthdays and he and Betty had been discussing what to give them. They determined that the boys, ages 10 and 13, really didn't need any more "stuff."

Carl explained, "We want to give them something special, something they will remember long after the novelty of 'new stuff' wears off. We decided to donate to Volunteers of America in honor of our two grandsons. At first, the boys might be disappointed at not receiving an actual gift, but we hope that upon reflection, they will appreciate the thought."

So our office sent a personalized birthday card to each of the Stump's grandsons to let them know we received the donations in their honor. Included in each card was a true story about a child who is helped through a Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania program.



Carl Stump (right) and Betty Stump (center) with their son Glenn (left) and several grandchildren. The Stumps have honored each of their grandchildren with a gift to Volunteers of America.

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Children's Center Receives New School Bus



Smiley, the mascot of Hatfield Quality Meats, greeted youngsters and staff upon arrival of the new bus. Hatfield Quality Meats contributed \$25,000 toward the purchase.

You may have heard the loud cheers from The Children's Center when the new school bus arrived. It was an occasion worth celebrating!

The new 42-passenger bus replaces an aging 11-year-old bus. The bus is critical for the children's education because it is used to transport school-age children to and from their schools.

We are deeply grateful to the major donors who contributed toward the bus purchase: **Hatfield Quality Meats, PNC Bank, Sovereign Bank, Just Born, Mr. & Mrs. David Hoffman, Alan Kunsman Roofing & Siding**, as well as our parents, staff & friends.

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From the President



Alan R. Garner

Impact

Reading a book this past week about nonprofits, I have been reminded about the various ways we, and others, measure the success of the work we do.

For example, our almost 200 apartments are reviewed for how well we manage and maintain them.

Our child development center is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Our foster care program and our residential program for adolescent girls are licensed and reviewed by various standards and entities.

Our accounting and financial records are fully audited according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

These various reviews, licenses and accreditations are all important to a variety of people, including us.

Still, there are other indicators that really show the impact Volunteers of America has on those we serve . . .

I remember walking down the street in Wilkes-Barre when a driver pulled over to talk and say thank you. As a teenager he had been in one of our group homes there.

There was the lady in Central Pennsylvania in her mid-30s who told us "Thank you—the Volunteers of America toy party was my Christmas when I was a child."

In the Lehigh Valley there is a young child at the Volunteers of America Children's Center. Her mom will tell you how appreciative she is for what the Children's Center did for her as a child. And that she wants her daughter to have the same experiences and opportunities.

There is the elderly gentleman living in another state who called me to express his thanks for Volunteers of America providing for his mother, himself, and his sister when they lived in Pittsburgh in the 1930s.

Success on paper is important—but what ultimately counts is the impact in the lives of all we serve.

In Psalm 82 David writes, "Vindicate the weak and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and destitute. Rescue the weak and needy; Deliver them..."

Some people can't imagine doing what we do. We can't imagine not doing it. It is only because of you, those who provide the donations and other resources, that we can serve the less fortunate.

Your gift in the enclosed envelope will provide help, hope and compassion to your neighbors in need. Thank you for being a part of this great ministry of service.

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Legacy Society - Discover The Benefits Of Giving Wisely

The **Ballington and Maud Booth Legacy Society** is named for the visionary couple who founded Volunteers of America in 1896 with a promise to “go wherever we are needed, and do whatever comes to hand” to serve people in need.

In over a century of work, millions of lives have been changed by the mission begun by these two visionaries, who worked tirelessly to help others experience the joy of believing in themselves.

Forward-looking, creative, and flexible in meeting human needs, today's Volunteers of America is one of the nation's largest and most comprehensive human service charities. It is also recognized as one of the best and most efficient charitable organizations in America.

You know Volunteers of America as a vital member of your community. We are your neighbors, helping individuals and families in need. Thanks to your generous support, we're making a lasting difference.

A legacy gift to Volunteers of America is a promise to the future of your community that can also bring immediate rewards to people in need and to you. You will feel the joy that comes with giving. You will experience a new peace of mind knowing others will share in the blessings that have come to you over a lifetime. In addition, some forms of legacy giving may offer you significant tax savings and other financial benefits.

A Legacy to Volunteers of America is a gift to your community's future, bringing peace of mind today, and the promise of hope for lifetimes to come.



Become a member

Membership in this prestigious society is extended to those dedicated donors who have made a life income gift or bequest to Volunteers of America.

To learn more about creating your lasting Legacy, contact:
Volunteers of America

James D. Ingolio, Director of Mission Advancement
(717) 236-1440 or E-mail: jingolio@voapa.org



Family shares the value of giving *continued from Page 1*

To the delight of Betty and Carl, when the boys received their cards they were surprised and excited. They immediately called their grandparents to express their thanks for reminding them about how great it feels to help someone else. They relayed the stories in their cards and felt that they had personally helped change that person's life for the better.

With such a positive response, Betty and Carl sent us the names and dates of their other grandchildren who all received similar cards, each with its own special story.

The needs of our world may change—but they will not diminish, and the generosity of our children and their children will continue to make this world a place worth living.



Ronald McDonald House

Thanks to a \$3,000 grant from **Ronald McDonald House Charities**, our Caring Alternatives pantry will be replenished with essential supplies such as baby formula, diapers, car seats, maternity clothes, baby clothes and baby furniture. Pictured from right to left are: **Ronald McDonald**; **Holvy West**, McDonald's Corporation; **Pat Stella**, local McDonald's owner/operator; **Tammy Oeller**, McDonald's supervisor; **Bill Jones**, Volunteers of America vice president/chief operating officer; and **Sandy Hearst**, McDonald's manager.

Toy Drive brings smiles to needy children

Hundreds of needy children in Central PA experienced the excitement and joy of receiving a Christmas present, thanks to the generosity of caring businesses, churches, organizations, families and individuals who donated to the annual Volunteers of America Toy Drive.

More than 3,000 new toys, as well as monetary donations were contributed for underserved children in Dauphin, Cumberland and Perry Counties. The annual Toy Drive, a Volunteers of America tradition in Central PA for more than 80 years, begins each year in the fall. Toys were collected in our colorful chimney boxes. In addition, a party held in conjunction with **Hope Worldwide** provided an afternoon of food and fun for more than 500 children.

“Once again, we were blessed by a multitude of individuals, businesses, and others who opened their hearts to share with the children,” noted **Alan Garner**, president. “This year we helped more than 1,000 children who would otherwise not have much of a happy holiday.”

Volunteers of America thanks all of the businesses, organizations and individuals who did a tremendous job in making the season a little brighter for deserving children.

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Creating alternative work opportunities through entrepreneurship

Marlene Krout is one of the many ambitious entrepreneurs who is fulfilling her dream of continuing her design career. She has proven her skills in the fast-paced Pittsburgh dot.com industry, but was sidetracked by a serious automobile accident. With the assistance of Working Order, a program of Volunteers of America, Marlene has been able to triumph over the obstacles and create meaningful employment by opening her own business.

Working Order is an innovative and leading small business incubator, helping people with disabilities and others seeking to be self-employed and fulfill their dreams.

Volunteers of America has received a two-year grant from the **Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council** to develop a statewide network to create, promote and maintain entrepreneurial opportunities for individuals with developmental and acquired disabilities.

This project will provide the groundwork for raising awareness about individuals with disabilities who are entrepreneurs, and educate the public to the potential benefits these individuals will bring to our marketplace.

“Our objective is to support meaningful work through entrepreneurship and community partnerships,” said **Alan Garner**, president and CEO of Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania. “This important project is about bringing entrepreneurial and small business opportunities to people with disabilities as well as



Marlene Krout designs creative marketing and advertising campaign materials from her home-based office.

striving to eliminate or address the external barriers that may prevent someone from succeeding as an entrepreneur.”

To complement the project, **The Foundation for Enhancing Communities**, based in Harrisburg, has provided a grant to identify and catalog available Central Pennsylvania resources to help adults with disabilities to establish their own businesses. This directory will encompass referral sources for all disabilities as well as other challenges to self-employment.

IBM donated a Young Explorer (pictured at left) to the Volunteers of America Children's Center. The Young Explorer is a “kid friendly” learning station loaded with award-winning educational software. Within minutes after set up, the children were exploring and learning!



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We at Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania appreciate the generous contributions from our many donors—individuals, organizations, businesses, corporations, community groups, churches, and foundations. We look forward to working with our donors to make a meaningful, lasting difference for children, youth at risk, the elderly, the homeless, and people with disabilities.

Listed on the following pages are the donors who made gifts of \$25 or more between May 1, 2007 and August 31, 2007. If an error has been made, please accept our apology and call us at (717) 236-1440 to correct our records.

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Deuteronomy 15:11 - For the poor will never cease to be in the land; therefore I command you saying, 'You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land.'

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Mr. Dave Rowan
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Mr. D. Michael Walton
Irene Walton
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Mrs. Lois E. Warfield
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Mr. Ernest Weiss
Ms. Janet M. West
Mr. & Mrs. Chester C. Westfall, Jr.
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Rev. John M. Whallon
Dorothy B. Wheeler
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Ms. Kathryn Yordy
Mrs. Pat Yuda
Mrs. Reva Zarembo
Mrs. Jean Zeigler
Mr. George Zerance
Miss Mary Zook
Max & Betty Zorzi

Thrift Store turns donations into hope and promise

Did you know that the Volunteers of America Thrift Store assists people in emergency situations? Nearly every week we help people who have lost their home from fire or other disasters.

When the Porter family lost their home and personal belongings to a fire, they were devastated. It was nearly a total loss—most of their possessions were burned or damaged by smoke and water. Because of their strong faith and a supportive church community, the Porters were able to start rebuilding.

“Our minister directed us to the Volunteers of America Emergency Services Program,” said Mrs. Porter. “We contacted the Thrift Store and were able to pick out bedding, linens, and some furniture to get back on our feet.”

“People in crisis are referred to us by social workers, churches, and other sources,” said **Alan R. Garner**, president of Volunteers of America. “We learn what is needed and issue a voucher for people to come to our Thrift Store to select what they need.”

According to Thrift Store manager **Dave Garlinger**, thousands of dollars worth of free clothing, furniture, beds, and appliances are provided to approximately 2,000 individuals and families in crisis each year. This outreach of compassion is made possible through generous donations from area residents and businesses.

“We turn donated items into hope and promise for people in

need,” Garlinger said. “Our Thrift Store is 100-percent supported by donations from the community.”

To help ease the burden for families faced with hardship, the Thrift Store is seeking gently used clothing, bedding and furniture donations to help support the organization’s Emergency Services program.

Donated items also generate revenue for our children’s development center, adoption services, affordable housing for adults diagnosed with chronic mental illness, transportation for the elderly and disabled who have no other means of getting to their appointments, supportive living counseling for adults with severe mental illness, and other services.

In particular, the Thrift Store is seeking mattresses, winter clothing, sofas, dining room sets, bedroom furnishings, cookware, electronics, appliances, new toys, as well as hand and power tools. Items must be in resalable condition. Donations are tax-deductible at their fair market value.

Located on the Carlisle Pike at Silver Spring Road in Mechanicsburg, the Thrift Store is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday Noon to 5 p.m.

As a convenience, we offer a free pick-up service at your home or business in most of the Central Pennsylvania region. Call our donation pick-up line at (717) 766-2999 to schedule a time.



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