

“I think God sent these children to me . . . or He sent me to them.” –Foster Parent



Imagine having no family . . . no one who will love you. To a child who has never had a loving family, the wait for a caring foster parent can seem like an eternity.

After raising their own three children, **Juliet Murphy** and her husband, Willie, decided to become foster parents. That was in 2004. Since then, they have cared for 15 foster children and adopted one!

“Being foster parents has been such a rewarding experience,” said Mrs. Murphy. “We are now in the process of adopting two more. We are truly blessed. Each child has his or her own personality and different needs.”

“I can’t say enough positive things about the staff at Volunteers of America. They have been great to work with and always so helpful,” expressed Mrs. Murphy.

Married for 36 years, the Murphys feel that you always have room for one more child in your life. They especially enjoy working with younger children, providing stability and guiding

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NBA legend to speak at Celebrity Dinner



*Courtesy of UCLA
Athletic Department*

Bill Walton, the former UCLA great and NBA legend, will be the featured speaker at the 7th Annual Volunteers of America Celebrity Dinner. The dinner will be held on Wednesday, May 12th at Genetti’s Hotel in Wilkes-Barre.

Mr. Walton was a two-time National Champion and a three-time NCAA Player of the Year as the leader of Coach John Wooden’s UCLA Bruins from 1972-74. He also earned Academic All-American

honors in each of those years as well and was named the US Best Amateur Athlete in 1973.

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Neidich to be honored at Tribute Dinner

Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania will honor Harrisburg entrepreneur **Doug Neidich** for outstanding service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at its inaugural Tribute Dinner.

The event will be held at the Hilton Harrisburg on Thursday, June 17 at 6:30 p.m. **Ralph S. Klinepeter, Jr.**, president of Pyramid Construction Services, Inc., will serve as the Dinner Chairman.

Proceeds from the Tribute Dinner will help Volunteers of America



*Honoree Doug Neidich,
chief executive officer,
GreenWorks Development*

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I asked for a cookie

First grader Hadleigh Glist wrote a mini-book with her drawing of two people standing by a table with cookies on it.

It said, "One day I asked my daddy for a cookie but my daddy didn't let me have a cookie. So I asked for a cookie but he didn't let me have a cookie. So I asked for a cookie but he didn't let me have a cookie. So I asked for a cookie. He let me have a cookie. The end."

Persistent. Tenacious. She had learned to ask until she got what she wanted. Whether her dad should have given her the cookie is a discussion for another day.

Because of your donations, you will read several examples of people who have been persistent and tenacious, like Joe, who was homeless, now has a job and is ready to move into his own apartment, and, like Karla who no longer needs heavy doses of medication.

Another example is the Murphys who have given every day and night to 15 foster children over the past six years. Foster parents, like the Murphys, have to be persistent and have a lot of love to give a child who has had a rough start in life.

The prophet Isaiah said, "Learn to do good; seek justice, reprove the ruthless, defend the orphan, plead for the widow."

Because of your support, Volunteers of America has been doing that, persistently and tenaciously, for the past 114 years.

A recent card from one of the adults we serve, complimenting Liz, one of our supportive living caseworkers, said, "It's because of people like Liz that makes me want to reach all the goals I set in order to get better in life!"

Like Hadleigh, you understand persistence and tenacity.

So, when you eat your next cookie, think of Joe, Karla, the Murphys, and others in this newsletter. Enjoy your cookie knowing the role you have played in their lives, and the 26,000 people we served last year.

Your contributions to Volunteers of America are critical now, and in the future, to people who are truly seeking help.

As you know, nothing feels better than helping your neighbors and your community. Your support is vitally important in making it possible for us to meet the needs we see every day, particularly in these challenging times.

Please donate today, and remember to include Volunteers of America in your will.



Alan R. Garner, President

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Children's Center Director
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Ruby Wilkosz
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Janice M. Barbus
Director, All of Us Care
jbarbus@voapa.org

You have given them a new start in life



When you donate to Volunteers of America Thrift Stores, you help people get beyond their immediate needs and rebuild their lives.

It's everyone's worst nightmare—losing your home to a fire, flood or other crisis. The physical, emotional, and spiritual toll can be devastating.

53%! That's not a faceless number—that is the increase in the number of people we helped in emergency situations in the last half of 2009.

The Volunteers of America **Emergency Services** program annually serves hundreds of people facing an emergency or crisis. Each year, we give thousands of dollars worth of clothing and furniture to those facing hard times at no cost to them.

The program is based in our Volunteers of America **Thrift Stores** on the Carlisle Pike in Mechanicsburg, and at 2550 Paxton Street in Harrisburg. These Stores are an important part of our work to help people in crisis, emergency or domestic upheaval.

Through the generosity of our Thrift Store donors, Volunteers of America is able to provide clothing, shoes, blankets, linens, towels, cookware, beds and furniture at no cost to the individuals and families experiencing tremendous challenges.

Got Stuff? You can help! Donations of gently used items are needed.

Every day, we see the impact that your gifts are making to restore lives. Drop off your donations at the Volunteers of America Stores, or **free pick-up** can be arranged by calling 717-766-2999 in Central PA or 570-829-5100 in Northeastern PA.



Your Legacy... plant the seeds for our community's future

Did you know you can include a bequest to Volunteers of America in your will or trust which may also bring you significant financial benefits?

- Your assets remain in your control during your lifetime.
- You can modify your bequest to address changing circumstances.
- You can direct your bequest to support a particular purpose or program.
- Your bequest will help underserved individuals have a better quality of life, strengthen families, and build communities.

To learn more about gifts that create a legacy, contact:

J. Patrick Serey, chief development & marketing officer and vice president, Southwestern region, 412-782-5344, pserey@voapa.org.

Jim Ingolio, director of mission advancement, 717-236-1770, jingolio@voapa.org



MAKE A DIFFERENCE
*rebuild lives and
strengthen communities*

**A homeless person...
a child in need...
seniors and veterans
who need affordable
housing.**

**You can make a difference
with a gift that keeps on
giving, for generations and
generations.**

Please contact Jim Ingolio at Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania at 717-236-1440 for information on ways to make a difference.

*Consult your tax advisor
regarding these types of gifts and
estate planning.*



give

Celebrity Dinner...continued from pg. 1

Mr. Walton was the number one pick in the 1974 NBA draft and won World Championships with the Portland Trailblazers in 1977 and with the Boston Celtics in 1986. He was the NBA Most Valuable Player in 1978. He was inducted in the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1993 and was named among the NBA's 50 greatest players of all-time in 1997.

Following his playing career, Walton was an award winning television analyst and appeared in a number of movies and commercials. In 2001, he was the inaugural inductee into the Grateful Dead Hall of Honor and in 2002 he received the NBA's Humanitarian Award.

"Bill Walton had an amazing playing career and his accomplishments off the court have been significant as well. Bill is a model of hardwork and achievement," said **Bill Jones**, vice president/chief operating officer of Volunteers of America of PA. "As a speaker, he is both entertaining and inspiring. We are looking forward to his appearance at our dinner."

In addition to the dinner, a VIP reception with Bill Walton is planned, as is a Silent Auction that will feature many Walton signed items and other sports memorabilia, including autographed items by Larry Bird, Joe Montana and others.

Another highlight of the dinner will be the presentation of the 2010 "Spirit of Youth" award. This year's honorees will be **Jack and Cece McCarthy** and attorney **Lee Piatt**. The McCarthy Tire Company has generously supported Volunteers of America over the years. Lee Piatt has been associated with Volunteers of America as a board member and in other leadership capacities for more than 23 years.

Tickets are \$100 for adults and \$50 for students when accompanied by an adult. There are also a very limited number of tickets available for the VIP reception. For more details on the event, please call 570-825-5261.

Tribute Dinner...continued from pg. 1

of Pennsylvania provide vital human services to serve the most vulnerable individuals and families in our communities. For reservations and sponsorship information, contact **Jim Ingolio**, director of mission advancement, at 717-236-1440 or jingolio@voapa.org.

Mr. Neidich is the chief executive officer of GreenWorks Development, a real estate development company engaged in building energy- and culturally-sustainable integrated communities in urban-revitalized areas in Central Pennsylvania. He is also President of Solarity, a firm involved in the development of thin-film organic photovoltaic cells.

Mr. Neidich serves on the board of Pinnacle Health System, the Pennsylvania Board of Trustees of the Nature Conservancy and the WITF board in Harrisburg. He also serves on the Board of Advisors of the Business Leadership School of the Harrisburg Area Community College and is a Trustee Emeritus of Harrisburg University.

In 2008, the Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC presented Mr. Neidich with the Entrepreneur of the Year Award which honors an individual for extraordinary achievement in developing a business concept, executing it, and continually innovating and driving business.

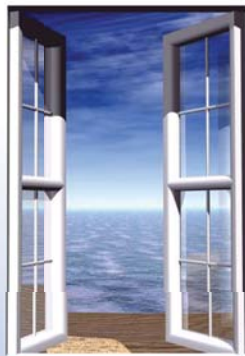


*Ralph S. Klinepeter, Jr.
Tribute Dinner chairman.*

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Call before June 1, 2010 to receive an ADDITIONAL \$25 OFF PER UNIT over current promotion.**

Moments of grace

While the economic seas have been stormy for most human service agencies, the financial picture is only one perspective of these challenging times. Another perspective includes our clients, our communities and those in need. We have seen a significant increase in the number of individuals and families needing services. All of our housing facilities are filled to capacity, the Volunteers of America **Children's Center** has maintained waiting lists, and we served a record number of clients in programs like **Dial-A-Driver**, **Caring Alternatives** and **Supported Living** to name a few.



As we reflect on all we are doing to deal with the impact of the economic crisis and the needs of those we serve, we are finding some very special and very real “moments of grace” among the challenges. To illustrate a few examples:

- Mary, a young girl who has been institutionalized nearly her whole life, tells us our **Hartman Home** has been the best place she has ever resided.
- Joe, a young man who had been chronically homeless and has lived in our **Manna House** over the past year, is now working full-time and ready to move to his own apartment.
- Danny, a child who has been in our **Foster Care** program for years has just been adopted.
- Karla, an adult who suffers from chronic mental illness, is on her road to recovery and no longer needs such heavy doses of medication.

• Kylee says, “Volunteers of America has been instrumental in my life and my family’s. My mother was helped by Volunteers of America’s **All of Us Care** program. They provided her with a computer...to do her homework while studying chemistry. She is now a chemist at R.J. Lee Group.”



Despite all the financial challenges, Volunteers of America is blessed with dedicated staff and loyal donors and volunteers who care. As a result, there are success stories in each program we offer. Volunteers of America continues to inspire hope and possibility in children, help the elderly and disabled live with safety and security, bring light to those who live in the darkness of homelessness or mental illness, and serve those most in need with dignity and compassion.

As we look back at our 114-year history, Volunteers of America has been through tough times before...two World Wars, the Great Depression, recessions and conflicts. Through it all, our ministry of service continues.

Looking forward, answering the call of service and justice will require us to navigate the rough economic waters ahead. With faith and support, there is no doubt that in the wake of these waters, we will continue to find opportunities to serve and as a result will continue to find *moments of grace*.

Want to spend less?

Check out our new low prices on thousands of items store wide!

Bargains in every aisle. Open daily.



Donations welcome – free home pick ups!

2550 Paxton St., Harrisburg
717-558-0400

Carlisle Pike at Silver Spring Rd., Mechanicsburg
717-766-2999

400 S. Main St., Wilkes-Barre
570-829-5100



Foster Parent...continued from pg. 1

them in the right direction. They believe that having raised their own children has helped them to be better foster parents.

“We love every moment with them—nurturing and teaching them. We do so many things together . . . we bake cookies, we go to church, we read Bible stories together. For us, it’s a learning experience with each child,” said Mrs. Murphy.

Won’t you open your heart and home and help a child get a second chance?

If you live in Southeastern Pennsylvania and would like to change the life of a child, call the Volunteers of America **Foster Care** program at 215-930-0129.

All you need is love

While the 1960's brought the Beatles and great social change to America, the 1970's brought a different "Fab Four" to Volunteers of America. For thousands of children and families ever since, the impact **Linda Heimpel, Dolores Swavely, Betty Druckenmiller** and **Jeanne Reese** have had has been life changing!

Photo by Theo Anderson



Linda Heimpel, Dolores Swavely, Betty Druckenmiller and Jeanne Reese

Between these four "rock stars", there are 143 years of service at the Volunteers of America **Children's Center** in the Lehigh Valley. To them, though, it has been a wonderful journey of love and friendship.

Linda, a group supervisor of the Pre-school program, will celebrate 40 years of service this September, while Dolores, the Center's director, is with the agency 36 years; Jeanne, the education coordinator, 35 years; and Betty, the program coordinator, has been with the Center for 32 years.

Each has a different and uniquely personal story to tell of how they came to work for Volunteers of America, but the reason they continue doing the critical work they do for as long as they have is the same . . . it's the kids! "It is not a job," Dolores explained, "it's the way we live."

Linda, Dolores, Betty and Jeanne are proud to be currently serving children of the children they served when they first started in the seventies. Over the decades, however, they have seen a great deal of change and challenge in childcare. The community, families, technologies, early childhood philosophies, funding and government regulations are among

many factors that are very different today compared to how it was thirty or forty years ago. What stays the same is the quality of service Volunteers of America provides which has at its core, the love and care for children.

The Children's Center is nationally accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The Center has also received the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's top rating for quality in the Keystone Stars Program and has been recognized by the United Way of the Lehigh Valley for outstanding quality.

These achievements are made possible through your generous support. Volunteers of America exhibits strong stewardship of your donor dollars through these and other dedicated staff members. There are eight additional staff members that all have at least ten years of service.

Linda, Dolores, Betty and Jeanne may not have any hit records, but they do share a common philosophy with the legendary Beatles . . . "All you need is love." For many Lehigh Valley children and families over the years, Volunteers of America's "Fab Four" will always be at the top of the charts!

PITTSBURGH **BUSINESSTIMES**

Pittsburgh staff among top women business leaders



Ruby Wilkosz, regional director, Volunteers of America's **Working Order** program, was recently named one of the top 25 Women in Business in Pittsburgh through the Business Women First program conducted by the Pittsburgh Business Times. The Working Order program is a business incubator that supports entrepreneurs with disabilities and other disadvantages.

Children's Center prepares young minds for success in school



Together, we can inspire young children to succeed in school.

The Board of Directors of the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley has recognized the Volunteers of America **Children's Center** in Allentown among its top supported agencies. The Children's Center received the "High Green" designation for "excellent program performance."

This commendation is based on the United Way's Results Based Accountability Model and is the United Way's highest rating.

Dolores Swavely, director of the Children's Center said, "We are very proud to be one of only 23 agencies to receive this level of recognition!"

Through the generous support from contributors like you, the Children's Center can give each child the opportunity for physical, social, emotional, intellectual, and creative growth. Your continued support helps to keep tuition and fees affordable for families in need. By keeping their children enrolled in daycare, the families can remain in the workforce.



Have you ever witnessed the spark that lights up a child's eyes when she has learned something new? You can help us inspire young minds. Consider volunteering at the Children's Center!

*To explore the opportunities, call **Dolores Swavely**, director, at 610-432-8352.*

Thank you, volunteers!

Members of the **Central Dauphin Rams Booster Club** worked hard as "Easter Bunny helpers" to fill 3,000 plastic eggs with candy for Volunteers of America's **74th annual Capitol Egg Hunt**. The spring event was a rousing success, thanks to the support of many adult and youth volunteers.



Photo by Bill Anderson

Volunteers of America earns highest ratings

You can contribute with confidence

You can feel good about the gifts you make to Volunteers of America because **88 cents of every dollar** spent goes to support vital community services for people in need. We take our stewardship — and your generosity — seriously. And we're not the only ones paying attention to our care and commitment.



Charity Navigator — America's premier independent charity evaluator working to guide intelligent giving, has given Volunteers of America its highest ranking.



The Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance, which strives to help donors give wisely, has evaluated Volunteers of America and determines it meets or exceeds the standards of charitable accountability.



The Volunteers of America Children's Center is accredited by the **National Association for the Education of Young Children**, and has received the **Keystone Stars** highest rating of Four Stars!

Please remember Volunteers of America in your will.

Our programs in Pennsylvania

Children, Youth & Families Programs

The Children's Center - Allentown 610-432-8352
Affordable childcare for children 13 months to 10 years old. Playgrounds for toddlers, pre-school and school-age children.

Foster Care - Philadelphia 215-930-0129
Foster and kinship homes provided for abused and neglected children from birth to age 18.

All of Us Care - Pittsburgh 412-782-5344
Program to prevent crime and substance abuse among children and youth ages 5-19.

Caring Alternatives - Wilkes-Barre 570-825-5261
Crisis pregnancy counseling, education and support services provided as an alternative to abortion.

Hartman Home - Wilkes-Barre 570-825-5261
Serves females ages 14-17 who have been severely traumatized through abuse, neglect and/or exploitation.

Community Enhancement Services

Books-to-You! - Statewide
In partnership with Scholastic, Inc., children's books are distributed free each year to underprivileged children.

Operation Backpack - Statewide 717-236-1440
New backpacks and school supplies are provided to underserved children to give them a jump start for a successful school year.

Emergency Services - Central PA 717-766-2999
Based on referrals from churches and social service agencies, program provides free clothing and furniture to individuals and families in emergency situations.

Toy Drive - Central PA 717-236-1440
Toys donated from businesses, organizations and individuals are given to underserved children at Christmas.

PA Workwear Program - Luzerne Co. 570-829-5100
Work appropriate clothing is provided to help individuals transitioning back into the workforce.

Action Team - Pittsburgh 412-782-5344
Volunteers of America teams up with Major League Baseball Players Trust to promote youth volunteering. Join an Action Team and get in on the action!

Thrift Stores

Clothing, furniture, appliances and household goods at traditional thrift store prices. Community encouraged to shop, donate items and volunteer. Proceeds provide financial support for our programs.

Harrisburg - 2550 Paxton St., 717-558-0400

Mechanicsburg - 675 Silver Spring Rd., 717-766-2999

Wilkes-Barre - 400 S. Main St., 570-829-5100

Elderly and Disabilities Programs

Working Order - Pittsburgh 412-782-5344
Supports entrepreneurship for individuals with disabilities and others seeking to be self-employed.

Dial-A-Driver - Wilkes-Barre and Wyoming Valley 570-825-5261

Specially equipped shuttle vans provide transportation for elderly citizens and people with disabilities to get to medical appointments, grocery shopping and other quality-of-life destinations.

Affordable Housing

For individuals and families living on limited incomes.

Family Apartments
Allentown - Family Apartments 610-432-8352
Apartments for low-income families.

Wilkes-Barre - Garrahan Street Residence 570-829-6542
For young adults ages 18-25 with limited incomes and who may be at risk for homelessness.

Elderly Apartments
For the elderly living on fixed incomes.

Harrisburg - Laurel Towers 717-233-1340
Wilkes-Barre - The Palmer House 570-829-6542

Special Needs Apartments
Independent living for adults with mental health issues designed to foster independence.

Harrisburg - Creekside Village 717-695-2826
Harrisburg - New Song Village 717-561-7270
Harrisburg - Third Street Apartments 717-236-1440
Wilkes-Barre - PlainsView Apartments 570-829-6542

Homeless Services

Manna House Apartments - Wilkes-Barre 570-825-0542
Transitional living program that serves homeless adults ages 18-25 to achieve independence and housing permanency.

Mental Health Services

Supported Living Program - Harrisburg 717-236-1440
Serving adults with severe mental illness in Dauphin County to promote recovery and improve or maintain independent living skills.