

## “Thank you for giving me a new start in life”

*Your support helps provide safe, affordable housing for Lisa and others*

From the moment **Lisa** opened the door to her new apartment at **Creekside Village**, she knew she had found “home.” After living in a group residence for eight years, she was ready to walk across the threshold to a new life. “I’m very excited to be living on my own now,” she shared. Her voice conveys a newfound confidence. “Creekside Village is much nicer than where I was living. It’s a beautiful place . . . and peaceful. I can get on with my life without worrying about the stress I was dealing with.”

Previous chapters in Lisa’s life were painful, including a stay in the hospital after being diagnosed with a mental illness. Yet she was determined to completely recover and turn her life around.

Her warm smile reveals her courage and strength. “I have a good job, working at a store for three years now. But finding an affordable place to live on my own was very difficult. So getting an apartment at Creekside was one of my big goals. Now, I’m going to try to go back to school and get my diploma.”

Lisa is especially grateful for the help from her Volunteers of America Supportive Living caseworker. “I appreciate all that **Gwen** does to help me—through thick and thin.



She helped me apply for this apartment, worked with me on my goals, and be more independent. It’s been life changing!”

Our newest affordable housing project is Creekside Village, comprised of 14 garden-style apartments in five buildings, and on-site laundry facilities.

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## Operation Backpack: preparing children for school

**Your gifts have made a difference**



As the new school year gets underway, deserving children in Pennsylvania are returning to class with the hope for a better tomorrow.

Through the generosity of individuals, businesses and community groups, Volunteers of America’s **Operation Backpack** campaign continues to distribute filled backpacks to benefit children in need. Many of them are homeless, living in foster care, or come from families that are barely managing to keep body and soul together in these challenging economic times.

While most children begin the school year with new clothes, new shoes and a new, well-stocked backpack, many disadvantaged youngsters go back

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## Board of Directors

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## *But, it isn't finished yet . . .*

Have you ever had to admit things didn't go as you planned? Responding to a request from the president of our national office, I agreed to make a gift for our outgoing national board chair. While presenting him with a small chest of drawers for collectibles, I had to tell him, "But, it isn't finished yet."

Moments later, after thanking our retiring national president for his work also, I surprised him with a similar chest – and had to tell him, "But, it isn't finished yet."

Then, a colleague held up a sketch of a stained glass window that would hang in our national office to honor him for his work. She added her thanks and said, "But, it isn't finished yet."

Another colleague observed, "That is just like our work, our ministry of service. It is not finished yet."

He is right. The work of Volunteers of America is not finished. Mark quotes Jesus as saying, "The poor you will always have with you . . ."

Since 1896 the Volunteers of America staff and volunteers have been serving the poor and those in need – in partnership with people like you.

Thanks to you, and many like you, your gifts of money, investments, time, and talents are the keys to the changed lives of those we serve together. But, it is not finished yet.

As you know, this economy is the worst most of us have ever experienced. Volunteers of America is on the front line. Every day, people like you donate time, money, cars, clothing and other thrift store items to be used in helping others.

As you read through this newsletter, look at all the names of individuals, organizations, and companies who come together to serve those in need.

Read about Lisa and her excitement to be living in Creekside Village, our newest affordable housing complex.

Take a look at the Operation Backpack sponsors. Check out all the sponsors who support the work of Volunteers of America through the Celebrity Dinner and Tribute Dinner; and all the other articles of people helping people.

Providing help and hope to the most vulnerable people among us – because you care. But, it isn't finished yet.



Alan R. Garner  
President

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# Business community helps rebuild lives



*Tribute Dinner Honoree Doug Neidich and his wife Nadine. Receiving a standing ovation from the assembled business leaders, friends and family, Mr. Neidich received a beautiful award from Volunteers of America.*

Harrisburg entrepreneur **Doug Neidich** was honored for outstanding service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania's inaugural Tribute Dinner. With the support of many of the region's leading companies, the fundraising gala raised \$59,500 for critical human services for the most vulnerable individuals and families in our communities.

Dinner Chairman **Ralph S. Klinepeter, Jr.**, president of **Pyramid Construction Services, Inc.**, said, "Through the strong support of the committee members and many area businesses, Volunteers of America can assist more people

who need foster care, child care, emergency services, after school programs, affordable housing and other essential services."

Mr. Neidich is the CEO of **GreenWorks Development**, a real estate development company engaged in building energy- and culturally-sustainable integrated communities in urban-revitalized areas in Central Pennsylvania.

Thank you to the Patrons and Sponsors that helped us honor Mr. Neidich and his outstanding service to the region and beyond!

## Patrons

Central Penn Business Journal  
Gannett Fleming  
GreenWorks Development, LLC  
LeTort Group

McClure Company  
Pyramid Construction Services, Inc.  
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## Sponsors

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*Thank you for giving...continued from pg. 1*

Developed, owned and managed by Volunteers of America, the apartments were recently built for adults with mental health issues, some of whom might have physical disabilities as well. The impetus for these new apartments has been the shortage of safe, decent, affordable housing for people with special needs, often preventing them from meeting their other basic needs, such as nutrition and healthcare.

Through Volunteers of America's **Supportive Living Program**, residents are given the opportunity to make life choices, hence empowering them to achieve personal goals and thrive in the community, as well as their own lives. Our caseworkers instill hope to promote recovery and support each resident in their recovery journey.

Her new apartment, along with the Supportive Living services, allows Lisa to maintain the independent life that

she so treasures. Through the generosity of individuals, businesses, foundations, faith congregations and others, our organization can address the mental, physical, spiritual and social well-being of those we serve.

Sincere thanks to our major funding sources for the strong support to the Creekside Village project: **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Federal Home Loan Bank, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Dauphin County Department of Community and Economic Development, Dauphin County Mental Health/Mental Retardation** program, **Donald B. & Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation**, and the **Josiah W. & Bessie H. Kline Foundation**.

# He will never forget his next Christmas . . . because *you* cared

*Toy Drive collection sites are needed*

Ready or not, the holidays are coming! One of the great traditions of the Christmas holiday season is the annual Volunteers of America **Holiday Toy Drive**.

This year, our organization expects to provide new, unwrapped toys to more than 800 children, from infants through age 15, who would otherwise not have much of a happy holidays.

You can help us give the gift of love to children in need. Volunteers of America is seeking individuals, businesses, community groups, schools, and faith congregations to help collect new, unwrapped toys.

“It’s amazing how much joy a single toy can bring to a child’s life,” according to **Alan Garner**, president of Volunteers of America. “For more than 100 years, the



Volunteers of America Toy Drive has brought hope to children who desperately needed it.

“The current economic crisis has created hardship for many disadvantaged families. Families that have never before needed help are asking us for toys so their children will have brighter holidays,” Garner expressed.

Businesses or organizations wishing to be a toy collection site should call Volunteers of America at 717-236-1440.

You can participate by donating toys in the Volunteers of America toy collection box at locations throughout Dauphin and Cumberland Counties. Toys can also be dropped off at the Volunteer of America offices listed on page 2 of this newsletter. Monetary donations are also needed to support the toy drive.

## Champions for change: board aims to expand services

Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania has elected a new slate of board officers. **Madhukar B. Rao, Ph.D.**, lead research engineer at **Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.**, in Allentown, is the new chair of the board. Rao has been involved with the organization for more than 20 years.

Serving with Dr. Rao are **D. Tyler Gourley**, Director, Development for Renewable Manufacturing Gateway in Pittsburgh, vice chair; **William A. Rockwood**, of Mechanicsburg, treasurer; and **Michael F. Consedine, Esq.**, a partner with **Saul Ewing, LLP** in Harrisburg, secretary.

Under the direction of these officers, the board of directors is taking a strategic approach to effectively and efficiently serve the most vulnerable people among us.



*Madhukar B. Rao, Ph.D.*



*D. Tyler Gourley*

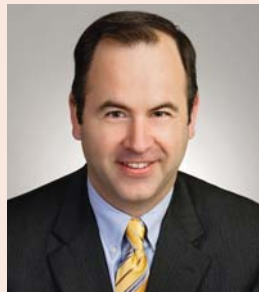


*William A. Rockwood*

“We are very fortunate to have Maud, Ty, Bill and Mike lead our exceptional board,” said **Alan Garner**, president of Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania. “Their vision and experience will help our organization to expand services to the greatest number of those in need, while adapting to new challenges and opportunities.”

**Michael D. Hoffner, CPA**, a partner with **McKonly & Asbury, LLP** in Harrisburg, and **Catherine D. Shafer**, president of **cds creative** in Edwardsville, are the newest members of the board of directors.

“We are excited about the additions to our board of directors,” said Garner. “The expertise and energy Mike and Catherine bring to the board are great assets.”



*Michael A. Consedine, Esq.*



*Michael D. Hoffner, CPA*



*Catherine D. Shafer*

# Pittsburgh Action Team Recognized for Volunteer Service

Volunteers of America and the **Major League Baseball Players Trust** teamed up to encourage high school students to volunteer in their communities through Action Teams across the country. The **Pittsburgh Action Team** comprised of youth from Fox Chapel Area and Shaler Area School Districts were recently honored at PNC Park for their service in Allegheny County.



From left, Alimpon Sinha, Noah Rosen, Meg O'Sell, Hannah Parks, Dan Salmon, Stephanie Mitana, Kimberly Antosz, All of Us Care Director Jan Barbus, with Joel Hanrahan and Ross Olendorf of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

## Youngsters' lives enriched Dedication celebrates new Computer Center

The **Volunteers of America Computer Center** at its **All of Us Care** program was recently dedicated to the children and youth of the Lower Allegheny Valley.

The Dedication brought together the children who are served with donors, volunteers, staff and local dignitaries in celebration of the Center which provides a safe and enriching environment for at-risk children and youth to play and learn.

**Pittsburgh Pirates Joel Hanrahan** and **Ross Olendorf** attended the event and participated in the celebration, playing computer games with the kids and unveiling the plaque to honor the donors who made the expansion of the center possible.



Tierra Foster and Sandra Ott look intently at Joel Hanrahan as he cuts the cake and Ross Olendorf looks on along with the other children and youth of the Volunteers of America Computer Center.

The **Major League Baseball Players Trust** and **PNC Foundation** were the largest contributors to this expansion. Other major donors were **Computer Fellows, DSF Charitable Foundation, Dorseyville Middle School Student Body, Estelle S.**

**Campbell Charitable Foundation, Fox Chapel District Association, Jack Williams, J. Caridi Painting and Finishing, John Schneider, John Smith, The Earl Knudsen Charitable Foundation, and Thompson Electrical Construction.**

## 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.



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!



## How you can save money while helping others Look nifty. Shop thrifty!

Whether you are looking for name-brand clothing, household goods, appliances or furniture, you will find a large selection of quality merchandise at our thrift stores. More than 2,000 new items are added to the floor each day.

If you are trying to stay in fashion without breaking your budget, our stores offer contemporary styles for every member of your family.

Check out our new low prices on thousands of items storewide! Eighty percent of all items are \$1.99 or less.

Don't miss the **End-of-Month Sale!** EVERYTHING in the store is half-price the last Wednesday of each month! Thursdays are **Dollar Days**—select ten or more clothing items for \$1 each!



You will find bargains in every aisle. Kids love our clothes—and moms love our prices! We offer racks and racks of clothing for children, teens, men and women.

Located in Harrisburg, Mechanicsburg and Wilkes-Barre, the stores are completely supported by donations from the community. Every purchase benefits vital local programs that serve children and youth, individuals with disabilities, the elderly and others.

**Got too much STUFF? Drop off your donations at the store nearest you. Your gift may be tax deductible.**

**We offer free home pickups! In Central PA, call 717-766-2999. In Greater Wyoming Valley PA, call 570-829-5100.**

## Community leaders recognized at Celebrity Dinner



*Pictured from left are Bill Jones, vice president/chief operating officer of Volunteers of America, Mr. & Mrs. Jack McCarthy, Bill Walton, Atty. Lee Piatt and Dr. Patrick Kerrigan.*

The **7th Annual Volunteers of America Celebrity Dinner** held in Wilkes-Barre was a great success and a tremendous benefit to our many programs and services. **Bill Walton**, the former UCLA great and NBA legend, entertained and inspired the crowd of more than 400 people with stories of his collegiate and professional careers as well as his ability to overcome the pain of a lifetime of injuries and surgeries.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the 2010 **“Spirit of Youth”** award to **Jack and Cece McCarthy** and **Attorney Lee Piatt**. The McCarthy's and Attorney Piatt have long embraced and generously supported the mission of Volunteers of America in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Volunteers of America is most grateful for the support of those who attended the event as well as the major sponsors which included **McCarthy Tire Company, Mohegan Sun, FOX 56, WBRE-TV** and **WYOU-TV, The Blackhorse Foundation, The Tambur Family Foundation, Sundance Vacations, Mericle Commercial Real Estate Services, Dr. Patrick Kerrigan** and **Independent Graphics.**

### Additional Sponsors

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
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| Geisinger Health System                     | Wachovia Bank/Wells Fargo          |
| Golden Technologies                         | Wyoming Valley Health Care Systems |
| Hoegen & Associates, P. C.                  |                                    |

## New services keep people safe

Core to the mission of Volunteers of America is “reaching and uplifting” those in need. In Luzerne County, Volunteers of America is doing even more “reaching and uplifting” with two new programs.

In May, Volunteers of America began the **Master Leasing Program** in partnership with the Luzerne County Mental Health Court. The program will provide rental assistance for safe and affordable housing to adults referred to us by the Mental Health Court. This is an innovative approach to help individuals with mental illness experiencing legal challenges find housing that meets their needs and supports their recovery.

The Master Leasing Program enables individuals to live independently with stability and easy access to basic necessities.



Additionally, in July, Volunteers of America started the **Supporting Stronger Families** program. This program will work with families with children, ages birth to five years old, to help keep

the children from being placed in foster care.

This program, requested by Luzerne County Children & Youth, will leverage a federal grant secured through the support of **U. S. Senator Arlen Specter**. It is a unique approach and partnership to prevent child abuse and out of home placements. Supporting Stronger Families will provide education, support and direct assistance to at-risk families.

*Disadvantaged children...continued from pg. 1*

to school without the supplies they need. Yet studies show that when children are prepared for school, they are more likely to get better grades.

**Special thanks** to our 2010 Operation Backpack sponsors: **Armada Supply Chain Solutions, Capital BlueCross, Norfolk Southern-Harrisburg Division,**

## Dial-A-Driver provides vital transportation

Last year Dial-A-Driver experienced a 67% growth in the number of people served. Two more vans are needed. With your help, \$20,000 must be raised to match the funding required for the purchase of two new vans.

Since 1973 Dial-A-Driver has been providing transportation to the elderly and those with disabilities to doctor's visits, therapeutic appointments, grocery shopping and other critical quality of life destinations.

“We will need to raise the \$20,000 to meet the match funding required,” said **Bill Jones**, vice president of Volunteers of America. You can help by calling Bill at 570-825-5261.



In Luzerne County and throughout the Commonwealth, Volunteers of America will continue to “reach and uplift”. After all, it is our mission and we are thankful to those who help support it.

**Cumberland Valley Motors, Unity Church of Harrisburg, Hoffer Properties, HydroWorx,** and a local family foundation!

The donations of new school supplies, backpacks and monetary contributions have given many youngsters a solid start toward academic success.

# Please remember Volunteers of America in your will.

## Your gifts support 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.

**Supporting Stronger Families - Luzerne Co.** 570-825-5261  
Assists families with children, ages birth to five, that may be at risk of out of home placements.

### 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

**Master Leasing Program - Luzerne Co.** 570-825-5261  
Offers rental housing assistance program for individuals referred by Luzerne County Mental Health Court.

### 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

**Supportive 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.