

Reports of Social Ministry Organizations

DIAKON LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES & DIAKON CHILD, FAMILY & COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Diakon celebrates our partnership with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and its congregations as we live out our mission to demonstrate God's command to love our neighbor through acts of service. Through Many Hands, guided by One Heart, Diakon maintains a nearly 150-year tradition of care for people of all ages, especially those with limited financial resources. In 2014, Diakon provided \$16.23 million in benevolent care, including more than \$1.6 million within the synod.

Twining Village, a Diakon Lutheran Senior Living Community in Holland, Bucks County, continued to renovate and expand its accommodations, opening 12 new two-bedroom/two-bathroom apartments called The Washington. The community also began an aquatic therapy program and a resident-to-resident caring ministry initiative. **Manatawny Manor** in Pottstown continued with internal renovations to enhance its offer and, eventually, expand short-term term rehabilitation services. **Diakon Adult Day Services at Manatawny** continued to offer daytime care for those living at home or with a relative, helping 49 older adults and their families.

Based in Media, **Diakon Youth Services' Bridge Program** serves youths in Delaware, Chester, and Lancaster counties. The program aids at-risk youths ages 11 to 18 by providing accountability-focused counseling and monitoring programs to prevent out-of-home placement. Participants frequently are served by the **Weekend Alternative Program**, located at the **Diakon Wilderness Center**, Boiling Springs. In 2014, the Bridge Program's community service activities included Darby's clean-up-the-streets effort and more than 1,000 hours of aid to the Aston Community Center. In all, Diakon's programs for adjudicated youths served 444 teens from within the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod's territory. An additional young-adults component served nine young adults from Bucks County; those who successfully complete the program can have their felony charges reduced or eliminated.

Diakon Kathryn's Klotset maintained connections with partners throughout Pennsylvania, including in this region. The Baltimore-based warehouse program solicits and stores corporately donated personal-care items for pick-up by shelters and other non-profits, which in turn distribute the goods, free of charge to recipients, to people in need in the community. The program, which served approximately 200,000 people, was supported by \$254,000 in Diakon subsidy.

Other services aiding those in the area include **Diakon Adoption & Foster Care**. In addition, as prime contractor for the **Statewide Adoption & Permanency Network**, Diakon helps to coordinate all public adoptions within the synod's five-county area; the number of children and families within the synod's territory served through SWAN amounted to more than 6,800.

We thank God for the gifts of staff, volunteers, congregations, donors, and board members who, together, enabled us to directly serve nearly 70,000 people last year, including more than 9,500 within the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

Mark T. Pile, MSHA, MSW
President/CEO

GOOD SHEPHERD REHABILITATION NETWORK

We are proud to report that, over the past year, Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network has executed its mission by providing innovative and outstanding care throughout the Lehigh Valley and beyond. Last year Good Shepherd (including Good Shepherd Penn Partners, our joint venture with Penn Medicine in Philadelphia) served more than 60,000 men, women and children recovering from injury or illness. We provided services at 57 locations, including 36 in the greater Lehigh Valley and 21 in the Philadelphia area.

We fulfilled our Core Values – compassionate care, excellent service and community partnership – in many ways. Highlights from the past year include:

- The opening of a newly renovated, 4,000-square-foot-suite on the second floor of the Health & Technology Center in Allentown, which allowed for expansion of many services that focus on performance, function and recovery, including locomotor (movement) training, Pilates rehabilitation, women’s health, oncology rehabilitation, vision therapy, vestibular (balance) rehabilitation and Neuro-IFRAH (an integrated therapy program for people affected by lesions of the brain stem and higher).
- Due to the above renovation, Good Shepherd’s Assistive Technology & Mobility Services Department moved to the newly renovated Edwards Center, which offers a larger area for the Wheelchair Clinic.
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- Other facility additions and upgrades included the opening of a new physical therapy site in Forks Township and the renovation and expansion of Good Shepherd Physical Therapy – East Greenville, which included the addition of a new warm-water therapy pool.
- The GSRH Pediatric Unit in Bethlehem, the region’s only inpatient rehabilitation facility for children, celebrated its fifth birthday. The unit introduced new programs that include:
 - A recovery program for infants and toddlers who have experienced non-accidental injury (NAI) or physical abuse and neglect
 - A treatment program for infants who are born with drug dependence and who require inpatient care to address complex medical needs.
- The Good Shepherd Physician Group welcomed a new Division Medical Officer and Vice President of Medical Affairs, Sandeep Singh, M.D., who specializes in spinal cord injury rehabilitation, as well as new physicians with expertise in brain injury rehabilitation, stroke, musculoskeletal medicine, electrodiagnostic medicine (EMGs), non-interventional pain management and spasticity management.
- The Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital began using tele-health services for inpatients following off-site neurosurgery. The tele-health initiative allows for post-surgical follow-up appointments via two-way, secure HD video conferencing and reduces the number of times patients must be transported off-site and increases their comfort level. Good Shepherd also uses tele-health services for speech therapy and infectious disease appointments.

- During the 2014 fiscal year, 97 percent of patients at the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital in Allentown reported they are “likely to recommend” Good Shepherd to others, according to the Press Ganey survey.
- The Good Shepherd Specialty Hospital, a long-term acute care hospital in Bethlehem, had better outcomes than similar facilities both regionally and nationally, with a higher rate of liberation from mechanical ventilation and shorter length of stay.
- Good Shepherd continues to be a leader in using technologies to help patients reach their full potential:
 - Good Shepherd received its third Ekso bionic exoskeleton, a device that helps people with paralysis stand up and walk. Patients at Good Shepherd marked a milestone this past year, reaching 1,000,000 steps, more than any other facility in the world.
 - Good Shepherd was the first in the region to offer the AlterG antigravity treadmill, which uses a lifting force to allow people with lower extremity conditions to walk or run at 20 to 100 percent of their body weight.
 - Good Shepherd was the first rehabilitation facility on the East Coast and the third in the country to debut the Bertec Balance Advantage system, which uses virtual reality to evaluate and treat people with sensory processing and balance disorders.
 - Good Shepherd received both the adult and pediatric ZeroG systems, which use a ceiling track and body harness to partially support body weight and reduce fall risk. This technology helps patients undergoing rehabilitation for conditions such as paralysis, stroke, cerebral palsy and amputation.
 - Good Shepherd was the first in the region to offer the ProtoKinetics Zeno Walkway, a state-of-the-art gait and balance analysis system.
- Good Shepherd and its employees take an active role in the community, making a positive impact through volunteer service, fundraising and by offering a variety of free community programs:
 - Good Shepherd employees raised more than \$53,000 for the United Way and thousands of dollars for charitable organizations by participating in the March for Babies, Autism Walk, MDA Muscle Walk, MS Walk and MS City to Shore Bike Ride.
 - Associates who have been designated Community Liaisons serve on the boards or as committee members of more than a dozen community organizations.
 - Free community programs this past year included soccer clinics for children with disabilities held at Soccerfest in Bethlehem during the World Cup and a stroke risk screening for adults at the Allentown Campus.
- Good Shepherd’s long-term care homes received rankings of five stars overall in U.S. News & World Report’s Best Nursing Homes for the fourth year in a row.

Thank you for your support, which is vital in helping Good Shepherd continue its mission and the legacy of our founders, the Raker family.

*John Kristel, MBA, MPT, President and CEO
David G. DeCampli, MS, Chair, Board of Trustees*

The Services of Liberty Lutheran

*Artman, The Becoming Center, Liberty at Home, Liberty Hospice,
Lutheran Children and Family Service, Lutheran Congregational Services,
The Hearth at Drexel (formerly the Mary J. Drexel Home), Paul's Run Retirement
Community,
The Village at Penn State and West Philadelphia Senior Center*

Synod Assembly Report 2015

Liberty Lutheran faithfully provides vital resources for individuals and families facing life-changing situations, from the earliest stages of life through the many stages of aging.

Together, we are saying “Yes” to God’s baptismal call to serve our neighbors alongside the congregations of eastern and central Pennsylvania to make a vital difference.

Saying “Yes” to service at Christmastime

On behalf of SEPA Synod, Liberty Lutheran managed the **2014 Christmas Ingatherings in Southeastern PA and three Northeastern PA mission districts**. SEPA congregations donated gifts, kits, food, quilts, work gloves, socks and toiletries valued at more than \$94,000! Because of your generosity, approximately 1,000 children served by **Lutheran Children and Family Service** received a Christmas gift. Residents at local institutions throughout the Philadelphia area received personal care kits. Socks and travel-sized toiletries were sent to ministries for the homeless. Food pantries in local Lutheran churches received non-perishable food items. And people all over the world received quilts and care kits through your donations to **Lutheran World Relief**.

It was also our pleasure to distribute copies of our **2014 Advent Devotional Booklet** to all congregations in Southeastern and Northeastern Pennsylvania synods. This resource is full of stories and reflections about how we radiate the grace of God through the ministries of Liberty Lutheran.

Saying “Yes” to service with Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response – Eastern Pennsylvania (LDR-EPA,) a ministry of Lutheran Congregational Services and Liberty Lutheran, works with congregational leaders in response to disasters affecting the community. LDR-EPA began our Disaster Spiritual Partners program, supported by a grant from ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response. We trained a group of Disaster Spiritual Partners to accompany communities with support and guidance so that the local congregation can take a leadership role in the healing of the community. This past year, we

accompanied and supported congregations responding to shooting incidents and large-scale fire devastation so that they could bear the presence of God with their neighbors in a time of need.

Saying “Yes” to service with you to serve newly arrived refugees

Lutheran Children and Family Service accompanies newly-arrived refugees in the Philadelphia, Lancaster and Allentown areas. Volunteers groups from congregations in all three areas support families and individuals in their transition to the United States, often after years of living in a refugee camp.

An ecumenical group of churches, led by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Fairview Village, is weaving a strong web of resources for refugees arriving from the Republic of the Congo. Together, they provide more resources and assistance than any one congregation could.

Saying “Yes” to service with you to serve those in need in the community

Lutheran Congregational Services’ Share Our Surplus Network joined in service with **The Philadelphia Diaper Bank** to provide disposable diapers through our networks of non-profit and congregational food pantries. This partnership continues to help fill the gaps of assistance programs that do not provide for diapers, laundry detergent or cleaning supplies. Many congregations have already jumped at the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people in need by collecting any size disposable diapers and wipes.

Lutheran Congregational Services received an ELCA Hunger grant in partnership with members of the hunger coalition in Easton, PA. The grant supports programs which combat hunger beyond food relief by teaching healthy, economical cooking skills to food pantry patrons. Participants in the program not only prepared healthy meals but also took home new soup pots, measuring cups, cutting boards and knives. We are actively seeking ways congregations can partner with their communities using their available resources which often include great cooks and well-equipped kitchens.

Saying “Yes” to service with you through congregational programs and resources

Lutheran Congregational Services continues to offer educational opportunities to congregations including Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training, Journeys through Grief, and our Marriage Preparation Series. We are pleased to offer leadership workshops and retreats according to the needs and interests of the congregation. This year, we offered, **Reconciling Grief: Shining the Light on Silent Suffering**, workshop for congregational members exploring how we all support those who are grieving in our community.

Saying “Yes” to service with you through senior communities and services

Liberty Lutheran is responding to the changing needs of older adults by developing an integrated approach to senior care services. By listening to our customers and investigating trends, Liberty is transforming all of its senior communities to “households”- a new model of care. Liberty is blessed with the more than 100 volunteers who said “Yes to Service” and provided many hours of support and friendship with our seniors.

Liberty at Home offers home care support and private duty services throughout Southeastern PA. As a Medicare Certified Home Health agency, it also provides clinical services such as nursing, physical, occupational and speech therapies. Liberty at Home celebrates its new partnership with the Lutheran Community at Telford. This faith-based partnership signifies our mutual Lutheran heritage and commitment to providing compassionate, comprehensive care for older adults. In 2014, Liberty added Hospice to our continuum of care, a service that respects and responds to the unique differences in lifestyle, values and wishes for those we serve.

Over the past several years, **Artman** and **Paul's Run** staff have been implementing the new approach to care for senior residents. Now after many meetings with architects, construction companies, and state regulatory agencies, a detailed renovation plan will transform these communities from the traditional medical model of care to the "household" model of care.

This winter, Artman's extensive renovations began and include the existing skilled nursing unit, a new concierge rehabilitation center and memory support household. All personal care areas will also be transformed. Completion of the project is expected in Spring of 2016.

The historic **Mary J. Drexel Home** has announced its name change to "**The Hearth at Drexel**". The name change represents a new approach to senior living, and the opening of a state-of-the-art Assisted Living Community. Opened in June, The Hearth represents a new approach to Assisted Living and features the shared warmth of households and the opportunity for residents to share their meals and conversation with neighbors around the dining table. Each of the "households" are fully equipped and beautifully furnished to enhance the daily lives of our residents.

This year, residents living at **The Village at Penn State (VPS,)** a University- Based Retirement Community, located in State College, PA, have been planning for the future. Since VPS joined the Liberty Family, staff have been planning for the future needs of the residents. As these plans evolved, resident feedback helped to shape the building and improvement plans for the future. As a result, building has begun for the new Personal Care Household projected to be completed by fall of 2015.

Saying "Yes" to service together WITH YOU!

We are honored to steward the generosity of congregations and individuals who support our work. Together, we make a vital difference in the lives of the most vulnerable among us. To further explore how we can help build your congregational capacity to serve the most vulnerable among us, contact the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Phelps Ollikainen, Executive Director of Lutheran Congregational Services, at 215.859.3779 or jollikainen@libertylutheran.org.

In Christ,

Luanne B. Fisher, PhD. CEO/President
Liberty Lutheran



Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania

2014 Report to the Synod

Dear Partners in Christ,

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania is a shared ministry of seven Pennsylvania synods, the ELCA Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, and Pennsylvania ELCA agencies and institutions. Through LAMPa, Lutherans around the state voice their faith convictions in the public arena on behalf of the poor and the vulnerable while seeking to create greater justice in the commonwealth.

LAMPa has been in ministry with you this year in congregational advocacy education, and provided resources and support to your efforts addressing hunger, poverty, immigration, child abuse and care for creation. We are thankful for the support of your Policy Council representatives, The Rev. Jennifer Ollikainen, Mr. Bob Fisher and the leadership of Bishop Burkat.

LAMPa advocacy takes place through direct contacts in Harrisburg and involving the LAMPa network in email and call-in advocacy, offering testimony, writing letters to the editors and district visits. The impact of LAMPa advocacy in 2013 includes:

- **Feeding the Hungry** through increasing funding for the State Food Purchase Program (SFPP) in the state budget. SFPP supports local food pantries, providing cash grants to counties for the purchase and distribution of food to low income families.
- **Feeding the Hungry** by involving local congregations and leaders in expanding the school breakfast program in their districts, making sure more kids start the day right.
- **Addressing Poverty** through supporting a legislative initiative to study the roots of poverty in the Commonwealth with the aim of creating policies that enable Pennsylvanians to thrive.
- **Increasing affordable housing** through the State Housing Trust Fund to create jobs, strengthen communities and prevent homelessness.
- **Welcoming the stranger** by starting a state-wide Lutheran Immigration Leadership Circle, with efforts focused on passing the state Dream Act and creating a ministry to those held in immigrant detention facilities around the state.
- **Working to halt a predatory lending bill** against an all-out effort to lift Pennsylvania's 24% interest cap on short-term lending to allow rates of up to 360% APR.

The LAMPa staff also engaged synods, youth assemblies, congregation and conference groups in education on hunger and poverty and the biblical call to serve and do justice. We would be glad to come to you to lead a program, preach, teach or lead a simulation called “Hunger 101”. Connect with us at www.lutheranadvocacypa.org, Twitter @LAMPaADVOCACY and Facebook (www.facebook.com/LAMPaAdvocacy).

In Christ,

The Rev. Amy E. Reumann, Director; Tracey DePasquale, Associate Director; The Rev. Paul Lubold, Advocacy Developer



Lutheran Charities 2014 Report

In October 2014, Lutheran Charities launched into a new era of vital ministry in our region, newly re-formed and revitalized. Over the past 2 years, Lutheran Charities was in an incubation period to discern how to best come together in faith to strengthen the work of our Lutheran Social Ministry Organizations in Southeastern PA, building awareness and resources.

Here in our region, we have some of the oldest, proudest, and most robust Lutheran charitable organizations of anywhere in the country – serving over 100,000 people in Southeastern PA each year! Their combined impact is staggering and the difference they make in people's lives is amazing. It is a story that needs to be told. And these organizations need **our help** to do this extraordinary work. So, this past October, this new era of *Lutheran Charities* was born.

On October 1, 2014, I was called as the new Executive Director of *Lutheran Charities*. Since then, I have had the opportunity of visiting congregations across our synod – joining them for worship, adult forums, Lenten dinners, and special events – spreading the amazing story of what our Lutheran service ministries are doing both nationally and locally. I have been privileged to preach, teach, pray, and visit with folks from every county of they synod listening for how each and every congregation has a heart for service. It has truly been an amazing blessing. And already it is clear this new movement is gaining strength by your generosity.

2014 has proven to be a pivotal year for *Lutheran Charities*. Through your generous support and the support of our congregations, it was our second most successful year in over a decade in the amount of funds we were able to raise to support the vital work of our Social Ministry Organizations. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, our education and awareness-building campaigns are in full swing – and the story of our very own Lutheran Social Ministry Organizations is being heard far and wide by more and more people each day.

Thank *YOU* for being a part of the bright new future for Lutheran Social Ministry in our region. Their story is also our story, and a central way in which our Lutheran Church is living out its Gospel calling each day. I invite you to continue to *join me* in the bold new future God is shaping for us as Lutherans through the work we do across this region. ***Thank You*** for being partners on this journey.

I am available to visit with you or your congregation to discover how we can make a difference together through Lutheran social ministry. You can contact me at lutherancharities1@gmail.com or call me at (855) 323-HOPE.

Your Partner in Mission,



Rev. Bradley R. Burke
Executive Director, Lutheran Charities



SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT, 2015

Motivated by Christ's Love and command to extend that Love, Silver Springs – Martin Luther School (Silver Springs) was founded in 1869 as an orphanage and today Silver Springs provides educational, residential, and community based mental health services that promote resilience, stability and bright futures for children, and families, who face steep challenges. Through trauma-informed care, Silver Springs helps children to manage overwhelming memories, feelings and behavior problems caused by the frightening and sad things that have happened to them.

In Fiscal Year 2013/2014 **Silver Springs provided services to more than 1,361 children and their families** from Philadelphia, its surrounding counties, the State of Delaware, and more than 40 area- school districts. All programs have a strong mental health component that brings an opportunity for trauma recovery and healing to children who range in age from day-old infants to college students, and families of all ages, in a child-centered, family-focused ministry. Silver Springs is non-denominational with regard to who is served.

Residential Treatment Program – During FY 13/14, the Residential Treatment (RT) Program served **120** boys and girls, ages 6-14 (and **72** families/caregivers) with serious emotional and behavioral health issues. The RT Program provides a therapeutic living environment that includes individualized treatment, supervision, care, and nurturing for children on a 24-hour-a-day basis through outcome-oriented treatment, psychiatric evaluation, trauma informed therapy, case management, behavior management and health care. Available therapies include individual, family, group, a highly structured milieu, counseling, behavioral and medication. Children participate in recreational activities and interact if they desire with a Lutheran Vicar on staff available to advise the children. All services are provided with the valued participation of biological, adoptive and/or foster families.

Community Based Programs –During FY2013/2014, our Community Based Programs served **253** children, ranging in age from birth to 21 years old, and **301** foster and/or biological parents. Children in Foster Family Care benefit from community placements that address their emotional, behavioral, medical, social and developmental needs. The Program offers structured home living with foster parents trained to provide for the specific, identified needs of each child. Case management, various clinical therapies and outreach services are extended to each child’s foster family and biological family. Children are encouraged to participate in specialized summer experiences depending upon their individual, educational, medical and/or emotional needs.

Through community based Behavioral Health Rehabilitative Services, Silver Springs provides Mobile Therapy, Behavior Specialist Consultants and Therapeutic Staff Support services that include individual and family therapy for children in home, school and community settings, assessment of a child’s behavior in these settings, consultation, one to one supervision, modeling, coaching and support to children based on a behavioral plan.

During FY 2013/2014, our Community Based Programs began offering office-based Outpatient Mental Health Services at two sites (in Plymouth Meeting and Philadelphia) to provide mental health treatment for children and families in the community. This program helps children (and families) ages two to 18 years old achieve and maintain emotional and behavioral stability.

Martin Luther School – During FY 2013/2014, Martin Luther School served **225** students and **185** caregivers. A Pennsylvania Department of Education “Approved Private School,” Martin Luther School provides an individualized educational program designed to meet the needs of emotionally disturbed students, students with autism or PDD, and intellectually disabled students in grades K-8, and also to provide elementary education for grades 1-6. Students are referred to Martin Luther School from public school districts and the Silver Springs RT Program. In addition to academic, social, and emotional deficits, many students attending Martin Luther School have significant learning disabilities. Individual Educational Plans identify their instructional needs. School facilities include a gymnasium, outdoor recreational

facilities, a library, technology instruction, tutoring in reading and mathematics, an art room and a music room.

Family Resource Services (FRS) – Family Resource Services, which served **47** clients and **49** alumni last year, was created in 1998 to formalize Silver Springs’ commitment to providing a continuum of care that begins whenever a child/family first enters one of our programs and remains available as long as each child/family wishes. Assisting children and their families to access critical services in their own communities, as well as providing direct financial assistance when able, FRS represents Silver Springs’ focused response, on a case-by case basis, to those extenuating circumstances that can debilitate a family and jeopardize the well-being of a child.

FRS assists children and their families to obtain emergency food supplies, enroll in housing programs, qualify for assistance with utilities and enroll in GED classes and secondary education programs. Most often, services fall into the areas of case management, direct assistance, college scholarships, finding affordable housing and locating jobs.

Your Partnership: More than 50 Lutheran congregations of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod actively assist Silver Springs in meeting the needs of a challenging population. We are grateful for these generous and supportive partners. Relationships with congregations of other denominations, community groups, and philanthropic organizations extend a mosaic of funding that demonstrates “fervent love is an action.”

To learn more about our programs, please visit www.silver-springs.org. If you would like to schedule a visit and tour of our campus, please contact Jessica Brookstein, Development Director, at (610) 825-4440 EXT. 286 or jbrookstein@silver-springs.org.

Thank you for partnering with us to help vulnerable children heal, hope and reach for a brighter future.

Kristen E.M. Gay, Ph.D., President/CEO

