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BEAR CREEK CAMP



BEAR CREEK CAMP

Explore, celebrate & grow in God's creation!

Greetings from Bear Creek Camp, the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry for the Southeast and Northeast Pennsylvania Synods of the ELCA.

Thank you Southeast PA Synod and congregations for your ongoing support of the ministry at Bear Creek Camp. We are grateful to work in partnership with each of you and to be an extension of your ministries.

In the Summer of 2021, we were excited to be able to return to residential camp ministry for youth and families. We made many adjustments across all aspects of our programs to care for the health and safety of our community. In doing so, we rediscovered the value of small group programming, we reemphasized the role of our young adult summer staff as facilitators and mentors, we reinvented new ways to carry out the community building that makes time apart at camp so meaningful. With intentionally reduced cabin capacities, we were able to welcome 654 youth and family campers to camp with nearly 40% of those campers experiencing camp for the first time. We had our largest year ever for serving our local community through our Nature Day Camp Programs with 208 participants throughout the summer. 41 young adult leaders followed the call to serve as camp staff and experienced what it means to live in and create intentional Christian community.

Your financial and prayerful support of Bear Creek Camp as a synod and as individual congregations is vital to our success, especially in a year of such greatly reduced revenue. Your investment is just that – an investment. Research shows that youth that attend a Christian camp, experience measurable change in their commitment to personal faith, their desire to participate in

faith practices in their home, and their sense that being a part of a faith community like a church is important to their life. These self-described changes aren't just being felt the week after a camper comes home from camp but continue six months after a camp experience. We are building up young people and leaders to be active members of our synod's congregations to strengthen the church and the world. Thank you for joining us in this mission.

Throughout the year, we host groups and events including youth and confirmation retreats, men's and women's retreats, work groups, school field trips, disaster relief trainings, family reunions, and more. The amount of lives that are positively impacted directly and indirectly through a Bear Creek Camp experience is overwhelming!

When I think of each of the people and families behind the numbers above, I think of the good that is happening in the world because of them. Bear Creek Camp is an amplifier—an opportunity to expand and grow upon the work of the congregation and the family in making a positive difference at a time when that is needed more than ever.

Please continue to pray for Bear Creek Camp as together we explore, celebrate and grow in God's creation.

Respectfully submitted,
Collin Grooms
Executive Director

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



Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries and Diakon Child, Family & Community Ministries offer a range of services for people of all ages. Within the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, these programs include adoption and foster care including kinship care and services for medically fragile children; family preservation and reunification services designed to prevent out-of-home placements of children; and Diakon Youth Services community-based programming for young people at risk of not achieving success in society. In addition, Diakon separately manages Pennsylvania's Statewide Adoption & Permanency Network, which means we play a role in nearly all public adoptions. Diakon's mission is to demonstrate God's command to love the neighbor through acts of service, in response to God's love in Jesus Christ. In 2021, Diakon provided \$19.8 million in benevolent care to people in need, including over \$2.5 million within the synod.

GEMMA SERVICES



SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT, 2021

Guided by the vision of a world in which children, youth, and families feel valued and have the tools to realize their highest potential, Gemma Services’ mission is to change lives by transforming hope into action for children, youth, and families facing emotional and behavioral challenges. With three locations in Greater Philadelphia, Gemma assists more than 3,000 youth and families each year through mental health child welfare, prevention, and education programs to help vulnerable members of our communities to heal from traumas, learn important skills, and reach for bright futures.

Gemma was formed in 2019 by the merger of two long-standing Philadelphia-area nonprofits: Silver Springs – Martin Luther School and the Village. Both were founded in the 1800s as orphanages and evolved to meet growing needs in their communities. Uniting to become one organization now known as Gemma Services enabled each to continue its vital work while expanding its continuum of care. Gemma Services represents a combined 300+ years of service to vulnerable and at-risk youth and families in the Greater Philadelphia Region and surrounding counties.

Gemma’s programs include: a psychiatric Residential Treatment Program in Plymouth Meeting for children ages six to fourteen with significant mental health challenges, many of whom have experienced trauma; Martin Luther School, a K-12th grade special education school in Plymouth Meeting for students from our residential program and also those referred by over 40 area school districts; and Community Based Programs that include Foster Family Care, Adoption, Outpatient Behavioral Health, Intensive Behavioral Health (“wrap around”) Services, Applied Behavioral Analysis Services for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Family-Based Mental Health Services, a Family Empowerment Center, and In-Home Prevention Services.

Residential Treatment Program – During FY 20/21, the Residential Treatment (RT) Program on our Plymouth Meeting campus served 107 boys and girls ages six through 14. Many of the children and youth we serve have experienced traumas such as physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, abandonment, multiple foster home placements, and other extremely difficult

circumstances such as poverty, domestic violence, parental mental illness or drug addiction. Our skilled and trained staff members embrace a trauma-informed approach to assist children and youth heal from the aftereffects of their traumas, learn skills to help them better manage feelings and behaviors, and reach for stable and bright futures.

The RT Program provides therapeutic living environments that include individualized treatment, supervision, care, and nurturing for children and youth 24/7/365. Our approach includes an outcome-oriented treatment, psychiatric evaluations and medication management as necessary, trauma-informed therapies, case management, behavior management, and health care. All services are provided with the valued participation of biological, adoptive, and/or foster families. While in our care, we provide for the children's clothing, mental health, and physical health needs. Additionally, our programs include therapeutic activities programming to ensure that the children experience joy and opportunities for creative expression.

Community Based Programs – Our Community Based Programs provide Outpatient Mental Health Services; Foster Family Care; Adoption services; Intensive Behavioral Health Services in a child's home or school; a Family Empowerment Center, and other in-home prevention services to help children and families avoid crises. These programs are provided from our Philadelphia offices in Mt. Airy and Southwest Philadelphia. During FY 20/21, our Community Based Programs served 1,795 children and families and/or caregivers.

Services include:

- **Treatment Foster Care** provided for children from Bucks, Delaware, Lancaster, Montgomery, Northern Chester, and Philadelphia Counties who cannot reside in their own homes presently. Foster families provide compassionate care in a loving home environment to address the needs of children with emotional and behavioral challenges to help them heal and flourish.
- The **Host Home Program** was developed to provide treatment and a safe and supportive home environment for children ages 4 through 18 who are dealing with serious emotional and behavioral issues. Eligible children and teens are placed in family homes with specially trained host parents who use individualized plans to meet each child's needs, with the goal of alleviating the pain, distress, and disruption in their lives while building resiliency and stability.
- **Adoption & Permanency Services** are provided for children and adolescents who have experienced loss, separation, abuse, neglect, and other trauma. These services are for children who have been placed in homes of foster or kinship families because their legal families currently are unable to provide the care they need.
- **Outpatient Mental Health Services** are offered that include individual therapy, family therapy, and medication management for children and teens, ages 4 to 21. Credentialed therapists use evidenced-based practices including Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) and Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) in working with children and teens. Our team of clinicians is dedicated to the progress and healing of those we serve.
- **Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS)** provide intensive support in home and school settings for children, youth, and young adults up to age 21 experiencing serious emotional or behavioral issues or skill deficits. Our IBHS program is designed to give

each child the tools they need to face challenges with a greater sense of strength and resilience and improve overall behavioral functioning.

- Our **Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)** program is based on the science of learning and behavior and involves the process of implementing basic behavioral interventions to create meaningful behavior changes. ABA services are typically provided to children, youth, or young adults diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum and include assessments and 1:1 interventions to help them improve their behavioral, social, communication, and adaptive skills.
- **Family Based Mental Health Services** is an intensive, evidenced-based, and family focused approach to support children, adolescents, and their families. The primary goal of Family Based Services is to assist families with maintaining their child in the home and to keep families intact, rather than an “out of home” placement of the child. Family Based provides intensive individual and family therapy, as well as case management support in a family’s home and community by a two-person team.
- Our **Prevention Services** include our Family Empowerment Center and In Home Protective Services. The goal of these programs is to support children and families to overcome challenges, strengthen community supports, and prevent further involvement with the child welfare system.

Martin Luther School – During FY 20/21, Martin Luther School, located on our Plymouth Meeting campus, served 224 students K-8th grade students. A Pennsylvania Department of Education Approved Private School that is licensed as a Private Academic School, Martin Luther School provides an individualized educational program to meet the needs of children whose emotional and behavioral difficulties are disrupt their ability to succeed academically in a mainstream school setting. Students are referred from their public or charter schools, and also from the Gemma Services’ Residential Treatment Program. Each child has an Individual Educational Plan that identifies their instructional needs and specific accommodations needed. Martin Luther School is located on a beautiful 35-acre campus and facilities include a gymnasium, outdoor recreational facilities, a library, computer lab with technology instruction, reading tutoring, art and music programming, and the full range of academic instruction. We are pleased to share that Martin Luther School was granted an expanded license to provide education for students up to 12th grade and welcomed the first class of 9th graders in September 2021.

Your Partnership: More than 50 Lutheran congregations of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod actively support Gemma Services in our efforts to meet the needs of the vulnerable and at-risk children and families we serve. We are grateful for these generous and supportive partners. Relationships with congregations of other denominations, individual friends and supporters, community groups, and philanthropic foundations combine to comprise a mosaic of support that demonstrates “fervent love is an action.” Gemma Services is proud of our founding (as Silver Springs – Martin Luther School) as a Lutheran Social Ministry Organization and pleased to share that Kristen Gay, Ph.D., President and CEO of Gemma Services serves on the board of Lutheran Services in America.

To learn more about our programs, please visit www.gemmaservices.org. When it is safe to do so, if you would like to schedule a visit and tour, please contact Lynn Unipan, MSW, CFRE, Chief Development Officer, at (610) 825-4440 x3206 or Lunipan@gemmaservices.org.

Thank you for partnering with us to help hope shine for vulnerable children, youth, and families!

GOOD SHEPHERD REHABILITATION NETWORK

March 2021 to February 2022

Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network is a broadly recognized, not-for-profit rehabilitation leader committed to transforming lives through expertise, innovation and compassion. Good Shepherd provides an exceptional patient experience for people of all ages and stages by developing leading-edge solutions, often for complex medical situations; serving as a test site for the newest rehabilitation technologies; and inspiring hope in all we do.

Headquartered in Allentown, Pennsylvania, Good Shepherd traces its pioneering spirit for innovation and compassionate care to its founding family, The Rev. John “Papa” Raker and D. Estella “Mama” Raker. In 1908, the Rakers opened the Good Shepherd Home to care for children with disabilities and senior citizens, filling an unmet community need — and setting the stage for Good Shepherd’s continued growth as a rehabilitation groundbreaker.

Good Shepherd also partners with Penn Medicine to provide rehabilitation and specialty services in the greater Philadelphia area and New Jersey through a joint venture called Good Shepherd Penn Partners (GSPP).

Significant 2021-22 accomplishments included:

- In September 2021, Good Shepherd broke ground in Center Valley, Pennsylvania, on a state-of-the-art, 76-bed inpatient rehabilitation hospital that will revolutionize treatment and recovery options for people with complex medical conditions, such as stroke, spinal cord injury, brain injury and other serious injuries or illnesses. Nationally, only a handful of new rehabilitation hospitals are built each year. Expected to open in 2023, the new hospital will feature the Experience Center, a first-of-its-kind space that gives people with disabilities and other mobility challenges an environment to explore the latest advancements in 3D printing, robotics, wearables, artificial intelligence and smart home and personal assistance devices to promote healing and independence and make people’s lives better.
- *Newsweek* magazine named Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital in Allentown as one of the nation’s “Best Physical Rehabilitation Centers 2021.” Good Shepherd ranked fifth overall in Pennsylvania, and the best in the Lehigh Valley. *Newsweek* also named the

Penn Institute for Rehabilitation Medicine among the nation's "Best Physical Rehabilitation Centers 2021." Staffed by GSPP employees, the Penn Institute for Rehabilitation Medicine ranked fourth overall in Pennsylvania for inpatient rehabilitation.

- Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network added three leaders to its senior leadership team. Astrid Gonzalez Parrilla, OTD, MBA, FACHE, is Senior Vice President of Clinical Operations, overseeing adult and pediatric inpatient rehabilitation hospitals, long-term acute care, home health, long-term care and admissions. Jeanne Dzurenko, MPH, BSN, RN, NEA-BC, is Senior Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer, overseeing nursing, patient safety, respiratory therapy, pharmacy, infection prevention, quality and regulatory compliance, education, wound care, staffing and float pool. Karen Long, BS, PTA, is Vice President of Operations for Outpatient Therapy, overseeing outpatient operations, MS Wellness Program and Good Shepherd's outpatient contracts with regional assisted living facilities.
- Good Shepherd Pediatrics acquired additional sizes of the Trexo Plus robotic gait training technology that helps children from age one to their late teens relearn how to walk or perhaps even walk for the first time in their lives. With six total devices, Good Shepherd is the only pediatric rehabilitation provider in the United States to offer all three sizes (small, medium and large) for both inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation settings. To view the technology in action, visit GoodShepherdRehab.org/technology/trexo-plus.
- Amid a pandemic, Good Shepherd Home – Bethlehem and Good Shepherd Home - Raker Center in Allentown both received successful, deficiency-free surveys from the Pennsylvania Department of Health. It was Good Shepherd Home – Bethlehem's fifth straight year of deficiency-free surveys.
- The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) re-accredited Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital in Allentown, as well as its inpatient Pediatric Unit in Bethlehem, for a period of three years for six total inpatient rehabilitation programs. Additionally, CARF reaccredited the Penn Institute for Rehabilitation Medicine for three years for five total inpatient rehabilitation programs. CARF accreditation is the gold standard for rehabilitation providers.

Your continued support allows Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network to further our mission of compassion and recovery and to honor the legacy of our founders, the Raker family. On behalf of every Good Shepherd Trustee and Associate, thank you.

KENCREST

KenCrest Report to the SEPA Synod Assembly – Spring 2022

Founded in 1905, KenCrest provides early learning services to children and families in Philadelphia and community-based supports to people with developmental or intellectual disabilities and their families throughout the age continuum—from newborns to senior adults—in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Connecticut. KenCrest’s services and supports include early intervention, early learning programming, personal supports, community living with specialties in medically complexed diagnoses, Lifesharing, nursing and clinical supports, community participation programs, and employment options. KenCrest serves over 12,500 people per year with a dedicated staff of over 2,100 employees.

KenCrest is proud to announce some senior leadership changes that took place since our last report:

- Pam Schuessler, Chief Operating Officer (COO) retired this year after 45 years of service. Pam started as a substitute teacher in our Early Learning program and rose through the organization during her career. She leaves behind an impressive legacy of advocacy for the people KenCrest supports and oversaw many major milestones of growth and change during her time at KenCrest, for which we are truly grateful.
- Aurora Kripa was hired as the new COO and took the reins in January 2022. Aurora came to KenCrest as a consultant in November 2018 and took on the role of Chief Human Resources Officer at the organization in June 2019. Prior to joining KenCrest she served as Chief Executive Officer of JEVS (Jewish Employment and Vocational Services) at Home.
- James O’Connor replaced Aurora Kripa as the Chief Human Resource Officer in January 2022. Jim previously served as the Vice President of Human Resources and Compliance for JEVS Human Services. He joins our team with over 20 years of experience in the human services industry.
- Jeffrey Dubnow was hired as the new Chief Development Officer in July 2022 after the retirement of Frank Guthridge. Jeff comes to KenCrest after many years of experience at Jefferson Health and Chimes Family of Services in Maryland.

While still navigating the effects of the pandemic, KenCrest continued to move forward with developing a new, three-year strategic plan. Diverse perspectives from staff at every level of KenCrest were incorporated into the new strategic plan, as well as input from the individuals and families we support. In October 2021, the Board of Directors approved the new strategic plan, which affirmed our values, and continued to build on the direction that was established with the last plan. The prior themes of Innovation and Strategic Growth are integrated into our work; and with a committed focus on *alignment* and *interdependence*, we built the **2021 Strategic Plan around these three guiding themes:**

- **Social Responsibility:** This cornerstone will focus on two factors: authentic inclusion and achievement. *Authentic inclusion* means that we are committed to pursuing only those activities that empower people with disabilities to organically connect with their greater

community and enjoy life. Recognizing that each of us is gifted, our *achievement* goal means that we work to discover that giftedness in individuals with disabilities and then bring that into action in daily life; when this happens, burdens are lifted, and we are more likely to be able to meet everyone's needs.

- **Economic Accountability:** Our goal is to keep our administrative costs in check by continuous innovation and process efficiency. We have learned through the pandemic that we need to rethink and reduce our use of office space, and potentially use the reduction in office space expenses to fund the technology which helps drive our operational efficiency. We look to the future in anticipation at a paradigm shift away from fee-for-service in favor of value-based payments (Managed Care or MCOs).
- **Workforce:** Our industry was facing a staffing crisis prior to the pandemic, which has now only made our situation more dire. We will have a major focus on things related to workforce, in an effort to better understand our options, try new staffing approaches, and reach higher to become the preferred place to work in our markets. We also need to deeply understand how to get staff to enter and stay employed at KenCrest. Retention and recruitment efforts will depend on internal data collection. Our improvements in this area is important for continued financial viability of our services.

Our continued focus as we move through our new plan will be in the following areas:

- **Extending services to where we found community need, especially in the area of behavioral health all ages, and extending services for ages 5-21.** Both areas will require additional advocacy to have services covered for individuals in their plans, as well as creating internal processes to accept private insurance for these services.
- **Complete the shift from center-based day services to meaningful, (and funded) community-based services.** There is a state mandate for these center-based programs to close in March of next year (2023), and our decision to permanently close the traditional day programs in March 2020 accelerated our shift from these settings in favor of a more thoroughly integrated community-based experiences for the people we serve. KenCrest is on the forefront of a new way to deliver these types of services that is more in alignment with our mission and values or radical inclusion.
- **Focus on Innovation** and making a strategic financial investment to address unique challenges within our industry. Staff at all levels and external stakeholders are asked for innovative ideas to enhance our services through our [New Business Ideas](#) program. KenCrest continues to innovate
- **Grow strategically** in the areas of Lifesharing, Employment, Homes for Medically Fragile, and increasing the use of Enabling Technology across all areas. These were identified as the largest growth opportunity in our best-in-class models. KenCrest is already a Tech First accredited organization which means we promote the integration of technology in reaching maximum independence for each individual.
- **Continued measurement and data collection:** A focus on data collection and tracking outcomes is so important for our continued financial viability, especially as we face down the implementation of Managed Care, and the trend away from fee-for-service towards value-based payments.
- **Attention to recruitment / retention** as stated above as related to Workforce.

For more information about our programs, events, and how you can support our mission, visit www.KenCrest.org. To read our most recent magazine, [*Possibilities*](#), [click here](#).

LIBERTY LUTHERAN

Section E, Addendum 1

LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICE

Section E, Addendum 2

SANCTUARY VILLAGE



Report for March 2021 – February 2022

Accomplishments for moving our tiny house village project forward are summarized below.

To be built at 7979 State Road in Philadelphia.

I. Property

- Start of site and building plans
- Signing up engineers (geotech, civil, etc) and their completing their surveys
- Architectural survey of site and shared building
- Final plan for site
- Submitted preliminary building plan
- Submitted initial zoning application
- Submitted plan for variance to Board of Building Standards

II. Fundraising

In 2021, with the COVID-19 pandemic going strong, we had to get creative to come up with fundraisers. Some were held via Zoom, some were live, some were a combination of the two, or allowed people to get involved where they live. Here is a list of what we had going on.

March: Board member Serena Sellers' Jenga challenge

April: Temple Lutheran, Havertown – Jenga challenge

July: Board member Cathy Farrell's beer tasting

September: Soles for Souls shoe drive with Funds2Orgs

October: Restaurants for Roofs; thanks to Buffalo Wild Wings (King of Prussia), Iron Hill Brewery (Ardmore), Chipotle (Ardmore) and Bertucci's.

November: Board member Hazelita Hayes' concert

December: Alternative Gift Market

As of the end of 2021, Sanctuary Village raised more than \$207,000 in grants, \$84,000 in donations, and \$37,000 from our fundraisers. As of early 2022, we have also been awarded very generous grants from The Curaterra Foundation and ELCA World Hunger (Big Dream grant), among others (all of our supporters are listed on our website, www.tinyhousecommunity.org). We would like to thank the churches in our Synod who have been supporting us with grants or donations:

- Christ Lutheran Church, Kulpville
- Christ Lutheran Church, Oreland
- Little Zion Lutheran Church, Telford
- Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Yardley
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Glenside
- The Welcome Church
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale
- Temple Lutheran Church, Havertown
- and the SEPA Lutheran Synod Forward Together In Faith Fund

SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

Section E, Addendum 3

THE WELCOME CHURCH

When I think of The Welcome Church, I think of the popular South African Ubuntu saying, "I am because you are." Being a "church without walls" means many things. It means we have no building of our own, so we depend upon shared space for when we want to meet inside. It also means that there are no barriers to become a part of our community; we take our name very seriously. In addition, being a "church without walls" and especially because most of our folks

are experiencing economic poverty, we are acutely aware of our dependency upon one another for survival.

This awareness is a gift; not only has it allowed us to be in relationship with so many congregations in our synod and the wider church, but it has also allowed many of us to knock down the walls that have often separated those who are housed from the unhoused. Never has our need for one another become more apparent than during these past two years; and yet, in spite of a world-wide pandemic, The Welcome Church has continued to thrive, feeding one another in body, mind, and spirit. It is our joy to share some highlights from this past year. We are because you are!

We fed our bodies:

With the hundreds (thousands?) of snack bags that have been put together by congregations across denominations and distributed in our walks around the city by the pastors, Welcome Church leaders, and many of you

With the coffee hours hosted by Lutherans, Presbyterians, Methodists and others in safe take-away bags packed into our Welcome Wagon and rolled around the Parkway

With the beautiful lunches prepared by Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion, Jackie, Fran, Micki and other folks from within our Welcome Church community

With pizza provided by Mixx for our women's gatherings in their Center City Restaurant

With our Welcome Table, funded by individual donations, a Hunger grant, and other Mission partners

With the making and delivery of dinners for The Well, our shelter for women done in partnership with Bethesda Project, with spill-over to some of the shelters of Bethesda Project for men.

We fed our minds:

With a book discussion of Bishop Michael Curry's book "Love is the Way" made available to anyone interested in reading the book

With the distribution of information related to COVID-19, the vaccine, and where to go for help

With the discussion of difficult subjects like racism, immigration, and other injustices

With ongoing connections to advocacy work around voters' rights, just wages, and the introduction of the Poor People's Campaign

With the development of a Resource led by our art director, Rachel Guwra which will include recipes, art projects, Bible studies and other Welcome Church resources shaped by our two women's groups

With new insights and ideas brought to us by interns and other students

We fed our spirits:

With Sunday worship twice monthly on the Parkway with the distribution of communion

With our weekly Bible study, prayer, and communion held on church steps and in the narthex of Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion

With online written Bible Studies offering questions for reflection

With Zoom meetings of intercongregational Bible Studies and of the Women's Group of The Welcome Church

With individual pastoral visits, online as well as in person during weekly walks through the city

With the development of Welcome Art and the making and distribution of art kits on the street, in The Well and shared in other shelters

With a Welcome Art Show at Ardmore Presbyterian Church and featuring a number of our Welcome Church artists who not only displayed but also sold their beautiful works of art

With the addition of Episcopal Seminary Graduate, Pauli Reese and Presbyterian Minister, the Reverend Peter Ahn to our unpaid clergy team

With Peter's introduction of guitar to our Sunday worship

With the provision of Equine Therapy for our residents of The Well made possible by a grant from the Presbytery of Phila. and our matching funds

And we fed one another:

With participation on the Board of Sanctuary Village

With participation and representation in a number of advocacy groups and committees including the Homeless justice network of the ELCA, the "Vulnerable Congregations" Committee of the ELCA, Homeless Memorial Day, and speaking wherever we can to raise awareness around housing and food insecurity

An ongoing partnership with Bethesda Project and the women of The Well

With the awarding of our "I Have A Dream" grant to Hephatha Lutheran Church in Milwaukee for their work towards lead-free water

And in the works:

A group for couples' living on the street

Weekly art, writing, and discussion groups to be held at Arch Street UMC

Eucharistic Street Ministers

And only God knows what else...

We are because you are...and for this we give thanks to each of you and to God!

Pastor Violet Little

Pastor Schaunel Steinnagel

The Welcome Church