

AGAPE *recollections*

Love From Above To Our Community

Homeless Forum Focuses on Solutions

Spotlight on Community

Thank Goodness Rita Crossed the Pond

Rita E. Inklovich attended Fryerns High School, in Basildon, Essex, England. She graduated in top ten of her class, with Honors. Rita then went on to attend the prestigious University of London, in... you guessed it, London, England where she majored in Accounting & Business.

From there, Rita crossed the pond known as the Atlantic Ocean to attend Shippensburg University's 3 year Institute of Municipal Clerks. She went on to serve as a Township Manager in Pine Grove Township, PA and as a Municipal Secretary / Treasurer in Greenwood Township. She was also a successful restaurateur, and has held various other positions of responsibility during her career.

Since 1999 though, Rita has been diligently working as the Executive Director for the American Red Cross in Bloomsburg, PA.

As "our" Executive Director, Rita has done a superb job. Despite recent staff cuts, she has been responsible for the implementation of all Red Cross programs including Disaster Relief Services, Blood Collection, Armed Forces Emergency Services, Health and Safety Training, Meals-on-Wheels and many other community services. Rita works closely with many volunteers and organizations. She is responsible for all fund-raising; grant writing; special events; and membership drives.

Rita was proudly selected to serve on the State Service Council of Pennsylvania, which sets policy procedures and provides guidance to all Red Cross chapters throughout PA. We are honored to have Rita on our side.

Rita E. Inklovich
Executive Director
of the Red Cross
Bloomsburg, PA
Chapter



Gary Clarke Addresses Audience & Homelessness Panel at This Year's NPAAH Forum

NPAAH, The Northeast Pennsylvania Alliance Against Homelessness, held its annual Open Forum at Bloomsburg High School on November 12th of 2009. The annual conference provides valuable information regarding homelessness in our area, and what is currently being done to combat the problem.

For many years retired BU emeritus professors **Gary Clarke** and **Walter Brasch**, (publisher of Spectrum Magazine), have been spearheading efforts to promote this educational forum and raise the consciousness of people in our area.

Homelessness has a direct effect on our area, regardless of whether or not the homeless individuals are home grown or transient. The lecture was followed by a roundtable discussion between public officials, community residents and several of the homeless currently in our area who were invited to attend.

The Alliance Against Homelessness office is located in Room 223 of the Warren Student Service Center at Bloomsburg University. Their phone number is 389-5437 and their website can be found at: http://organizations.bloomu.edu/end_homelessness/index.html



From Left to Right: Commissioner David Kovach, Eileen Chapman, Brandi Furman, Spectrum Magazine, Commissioner William Soberick and Commissioner Chris Young present a proclamation recognizing Homeless Awareness Week.

Our Daily Bread is Beginning to Rise

We have been moving forward and planning to start a Daily Bread Meal program to supplement other food programs in our area like Wesley's Saturday Community Friendship meal and Good Shepard's Tuesday meals. By serving a lunch meal from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. a couple of times during the week, and possibility increasing this program to five days a week, depending on the need, we hope to make food and regular fellowship available to those who need it.

Thanks to some help from Columbia County, we now are installing the former Trinity

Reformed UCC's 10 burner gas stove, stove hood, convection oven, and three sink combination. We've also received donations of a small dishwasher, two refrigerators, two freezers and kitchen cupboards and counters.

We even have food promised once we get up and running. We're still looking for heavy duty cookware. So, keep us in mind if you would like to volunteer for a particular day of the week or week of the month to prepare, serve, or clean-up or do it all. We also invite groups as volunteers. God accepts volunteers to do His work for whenever and however He calls.

It's Tough to Measure Your Generosity

Julianne Finerty initiated a clothing drive at AGAPE. During the 2 - Day clothing give away, in November AGAPE served 703 clients who received 291 coats, 956 tops, 518 pants, trousers & slacks.

Julianne Finerty, from St Luke's Lutheran Church, collected and gave AGAPE 175 winter coats and **Lapel's Dry Cleaning** service cleaned most of them for her. More clothing drives are being planned now.



Dean Shultz Was One of Our Many Volunteers and Helped Hand Out a Lot of Clothing.

Special Thanks to:



From Left to Right: Christie Finerty and Her Daughter Julianne Finerty. Julianne collected over 100 winter coats which initiated the winter clothing give-away.



Our Vital Statistics

With just five months under our belt we have just completed our end of year reports and AGAPE served as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ to 313 clients (204 families and 109 individuals). AGAPE was privileged and honored to provide to those 313 clients with the following:

Item Description	Estimated Value
• Used Appliances	\$3,055.00
• Bedding	\$1,257.00
• Clothing Valued	\$1,734.00
• Diapers	\$314.00
• Emergency Food	\$1,193.00
• Furniture	\$11,106.00
• Household Items	\$1,241.90
• Lodging	\$165.00
• Medical Assistance	\$500.00
• Rent	\$1,215.00
• Transportation	\$788.17
• Utilities	\$578.87
• Miscellaneous Assistance	\$200.00
TOTAL	\$23,347.94

Overall churches, church organizations, individuals, and a few other organizations donated \$61,527.61 and our expenses were \$49,867.78. Even more amazing is the blessing of our volunteers who gave us a total of 5,173.5 hours of their time in service to the Lord's work.



Kathryn's Closet a Lutheran Diaconal Ministry gave AGAPE, for distribution to those in need, 12 bottles of clorox bleach; 216 bottles of fabric softener; 144 pars of soap, 60 rolls of quilted northern toilet paper at grand total of \$45, 673.14. We distributed these items at the time of the Columbia County Food Pantry distribution and also to the local food cupboards for their distribution.

We also were privileged to receive a grant from Columbia County United Way. Kathryn's Closet, a Lutheran Diaconal Ministry in Baltimore, MD, graciously gave us \$46,000.00 in material goods that we have distributed through the local Columbia County Food Bank and food cupboards. We pray donations continue in spite of the hard economic times. It's through those donations that AGAPE has been able to show God's Love.