

# MISSION NEWS

Serving Montour County and Surrounding Neighbors

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Founded in 1995, The Good Samaritan Mission is the only faith-based charitable organization offering free services to adults and children in need residing in Montour County and surrounding areas. The mission continues to grow offering free clothing, food for kids, beds for kids, hygiene products, crisis financial assistance, adult education workshops and educational assistance for students in the DASD and the Columbia Montour Vocational Technical School.

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Dear Good Samaritan Mission Friends,

"We were robbed" are words I could never imagine hearing. I will never forget that morning when I walked up to the mission to find volunteers, Maggie and Bev, trying to make sense of what happened when they arrived just a few minutes earlier. The next hour revealed the reality that we were robbed.

We discovered the break-in occurred through our Hygiene Program door. We followed the trail of glass and disarray into the front office where everything was turned upside down. The contents of cabinets were overturned, papers and supplies were everywhere. A laptop, cash donation box and petty cash box was taken. We felt so violated and unsafe. We kept asking these questions—how could someone do this? how could someone rob a charitable mission who serves people in need? They could have easily walked into the mission and asked for help.

Once the robbery made the news, the community support was overwhelming. We received so many phone calls and personal visits offering support for what had just happened to Good Sam. An anonymous note was taped to the door the next day that read "The Good Samaritan Mission helps those in need, so the Danville Community will stand behind you and help the mission in need". I was very humbled by this act of kindness. We are so thankful for the outpouring support from the community and the generosity we received. Thank you to the Danville Police Department for their service during this time.

So, even though we experienced something awful, in turn, we experienced something amazing out of it.

Our support goes out to the churches who also walked this same journey of loss.

In closing, if you knew Sandy O'Rourke, she would be praying for the two individuals who committed this crime. I continue to do just that.

Carin

**Romans 8:28**

# PROGRAM NEWS

## WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS



Bigger Opportunities is Good Sam's newest program and was created to meet the educational needs of students in the Danville School District and surrounding areas. This program's main goal is to ensure that at-risk young people we help today, will be the ones breaking or preventing the cycle of generational poverty tomorrow. We believe that education holds the key to a better future and that every young mind should be allowed to dream big no matter their background. We want to be a source of hope to those in a disadvantaged situation and be part of their journey of having a career and a better life.

### Services Include:

- Fees for dual enrollment classes at Lackawanna College
- Fees for ACE credits and STEM Program at Bloomsburg University
- Application fees
- Apprenticeship enrollment fees
- Purchase of kits for vocational training
- Purchase of books and supplies to attend a training program
- Enrollment fee for summer/after school approved activities
- Scholarships

If you would like to provide financial support to this program, secure online donations can be made on our website or checks can be mailed to:

The Good Samaritan Mission  
PO Box 114  
Danville, PA, 17821

*Please note TBOP in the memo line*

thebiggeropportunitiesgsm@gmail.com  
570-275-2500 x 9

[www.gsmdanville.org](http://www.gsmdanville.org)



## YOU RISE BY GIVING TO OTHERS



Thank you to volunteers, community members and friends who supported Good Sam in this year's Raise the Region online fundraiser. Your generosity helped us to raise nearly \$6,000. Funds were used to replace the garage door in the Many

Hands Helping Others area of our building. This program supports K-12 students in the DASD experiencing food insecurity. Bags are prepared weekly and sent home with students in need to provide additional nutritional support over the weekends and extended breaks from school.



Although the weather did not cooperate this year, we are thankful for the successful basket raffle fundraiser held in the garage at Good Sam. Thank you to all the volunteers and community members who donated a basket for our raffle. We raised \$2,200 for our mission programs!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In order to reach more people in need, we need to extend our hours. Join our volunteer team! Shifts are available on Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday from 9-Noon, Noon-2pm, and 4-6pm for client check in/out and the Donation Center. Call 570-275-2500 x 10 for more info.

## DONATIONS

We are currently accepting spring/summer clothing, bathing suits, purses, belts, shoes, bedding and towels. We are in need of men's shoes size 11, 12, and 13. Clothing Store and Donation Center hours are Tues/Wed/Thurs from 9am to 2pm.