



We rise by lifting others

# MISSION NEWS

Serving Montour County and Surrounding Neighbors

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Thank you for making our favorite moments of 2023 possible, and for being a part of this incredible community. Because of our church friends, generous community members, schools and other local organizations, we were able to provide:

- Over 300 winter coats for kids without one.
- Clothing to over 700 individuals in need.
- 6,000 food bags for students in the Danville Area School District experiencing food insecurity.
- 18 beds for students in the Danville Area School District who did not have their own bed to sleep in.
- Daily hygiene products to 355 individuals in need.
- 8 students in the Danville Area School District and Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech with educational/tuition assistance, camp enrollment, sports uniforms and curriculum work attire.
- 14 adults with skills to improve their economic reality.
- 30 individuals in need of crisis financial assistance.

So that we can continue to help those in need, we hope you will make a contribution and help our work continue to impact the community we serve. Because we are registered as a 501(c3) your donation is tax deductible.

Checks can be mailed to:  
The Good Samaritan Mission  
PO Box 114  
Danville, PA, 17821

With great gratitude,

Carin Wharton  
Executive Director



Scan this QR code to make a secure online donation.

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 Columbia Montour Vo-Tech.

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# PROGRAM NEWS

## WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS



Clare Charlton is the first co-op student in the history of Good Sam! A senior at Danville High School, Clare is learning about the seven programs our mission offers as well as coordinating all social media postings. She has been a huge asset to us!

When the opportunity was presented to Clare, she jumped at it. "My grandma and mom have both volunteered here and I heard the mission was doing new things".

Clare plans to study business and marketing in college and says the mission offers the perfect opportunity for her, as it offers both business and nonprofit experience. "I get to see what they do here and how things are run, but I also get the experience of volunteering". Clare is also a member of the Young Samaritans, now an official club of the Danville Area High School. "I look forward to helping my friends understand what the mission does and encourage them to volunteer".



To the volunteers who gave their time, to the may community members who provided financial support and to the organizations who held food drives to make this year's Danville Feed A Friend Thanksgiving food giveaway a huge success. With your help, we were able to feed nearly 500 families this year and raised \$6,000 to support this program.



"The circle" is at the start of the event to count off how many volunteers came to help. This year we had over 100!

## Thank You!

**To all 83 Good Sam volunteers who continue to serve across all seven of our programs. You are the backbone to our mission and this work couldn't be done without you!**

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## YOU RISE BY GIVING TO OTHERS

The Good Samaritan Mission created a program called ConneXtions. This is a program that seeks ways to bridge the gap in human services. Within this program is a 12-week course designed for participants to explore the impact poverty has had on them, investigate their economic realities, complete a self assessment of their life and make plans to build their own resources. This free class for low income individuals is held annually in the fall.

We have had two graduating classes in 2022 and 2023. This is the story of two amazing ladies, Joan Klinger and Denise Kennedy.



"I was so happy I joined this class. I got to meet other people and talk about different things each week. A big thing I learned in the Getting Ahead program is how to better manage my money. I didn't know it wasn't a good idea to purchase something from a rent to own type of place. I paid three times more than what the item was worth, and it took me so long to pay it off. I also had several mail order catalogue accounts that were high interest. Once I paid off one of the bills, I took that money and put it towards another bill until that one was paid off. I did the same for the remaining accounts and now I don't have any more high interest accounts and it feels good to have paid these things off. I also formed friendships in this class. This class really did change my life" - **Joan Klinger**.



"What have I learned from this? I have learned to use a lot of different resources in my community, to help me become more financially secure, through proper budgeting and saving plans. It made me very aware of how some of my values and beliefs had somehow gone by the wayside and to regroup and stand firm in both of them. I learned that there are a lot of people in the same "boat" in various different ways and how they cope. In this class, we could discuss and help each other. It also made me aware of the way I speak to people, not so much as in voice but also in body language. I also learned to figure out where my time goes and manage it better" - **Denise Kennedy**

Denise had such great interest in the program that she is going on to become a certified facilitator of Getting Ahead.

We were very blessed by Christ Memorial Episcopal Church in Danville this year who hosted all 12 sessions plus our graduation ceremony and provided several meals and donations to the program. We also received meals from St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Danville and CARA—Cultural and Religious Alliance. St. Paul's in Bloomsburg also provided meals and donations to the program. **If you would to contribute to this program, please mail checks (note Getting Ahead in the memo line) to:**

The Good Samaritan Mission  
PO Box 114  
Danville PA 17821

**To sign up to make a meal for the 2024 fall session or for more information about this program, call 570-275-2500, option 5.**