

NHCO's Food Pantries are "People Helping People"

North Hills Community Outreach adds innovative programs to address unmet community needs and help local low-income individuals and families become self-sufficient. However, the basic human need of **hunger remains the number two reason people seek help from NHCO** (utility assistance is number one), with 1,577 families seeking assistance at our two food pantries in 2004-05.

"John" from Ohio Township is a single father of one child. He was employed in retail but wasn't making enough to make ends meet.

Recognizing his limitations, John came to NHCO for help. Utilizing our North Boroughs Food Pantry allowed John to free up some of his funds to pay his bills. He also took another job and sought counseling for himself and his child. After several months of receiving supplemental food and emotional support at NHCO, John is back on his feet and no longer requires our services.

We are able to help John and other people in need because people like you open your hearts to donate food, funds and grocery certificates throughout the year (\$422,585 worth was distributed last year).

Every single donation is important. Here are several unique ideas and extraordinary efforts from the past few months:

- **American Eagle** employees in Warrendale donated 72 turkeys, 48 hams and eight large boxes of food for the holidays.
- An annual collection by **Treesdale Homeowners Association** resulted in 4,000 pounds of food.
- **Providence Heights Alpha School** student council president **Megan Bookser** organized a drive that brought in \$650 worth of food.
- For his senior project, Shaler Area High student **Paul Manno** collected \$463 in food and donations at Giant Eagle on Route 8.
- Students at **Bellevue Elementary** collected \$716.71 in coins over a one-week period. The top three classes won pizza parties.
- Students at **Shaler Area Middle** donated 164 complete Thanksgiving dinners for our Turkey on Every Table project. They also collected \$465 in gift cards, \$100 in donations and a \$500 donation from **Sam's Club**.
- **Emily Winkler** of McCandless collected \$400 in food and donations for her confirmation project.

Pantry Items Currently Needed

- Baked beans
 - Canned tuna
 - Canned vegetables & fruits
 - Cereal
 - Crackers (*any kind*)
 - Macaroni and cheese
 - Pasta (*1 lb. boxes or bags*)
 - Peanut butter & jelly
 - Soup (*except tomato*)
 - Spaghetti sauce
 - Tea bags
- **Trinity Evangelical Lutheran** in Avalon donated half of the proceeds from its annual Apple Blossom Festival to the North Boroughs Food Pantry. Combined with a matching grant from **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans**, the donation totaled \$1,959.
- If you are inspired, please conduct your own food drive to help your neighbors in need. Borrow the great ideas from the individuals and groups mentioned above or consider one of the following:
- Host a birthday or holiday party and invite your guests to bring a food item or monetary donation instead of or in addition to a gift. Bring the donation over as a family to see how it helps others.
 - Schools and other groups can "charge" a non-perishable food item for entrance to a dance, concert, etc.
 - Sunday School classes and youth groups can conduct a food collection and then bring it over to the pantry to see where it goes and who it helps.

All food pantry donations received between March 1-April 30 qualify for matching funds through the **Feinstein Foundation \$1 Million Giveaway**. To learn more, contact Natalie Klaum at 412-487-6316 or naklaum@nhco.org.



Members of Shaler Cub Scout Pack #157 (plus a supportive sister!) collected food for our pantry and learned how their help makes a difference.

Pictured front row l-r: Steven Albright, Michael Phillips, Jack Albright

Back row l-r: Jarrod Chairamonte-Henry, Paul Zalakar, Danny Ireland, Robbie Phillips, Nellie Phillips

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You can help us save postage and printing costs by signing up to receive the newsletter electronically. Also, please let us know if you are receiving more than one copy.

Send any address corrections or other comments regarding *The Connector* to help@nhco.org.

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Office Hours

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(Other times by appointment)

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Mission: North Hills Community Outreach is an interfaith nonprofit organization that addresses the spiritual, emotional, physical and material needs of people in crisis, hardship and poverty.

Vision: Northern Allegheny County is a community where everyone shares with their neighbors in hardship and no one is cold, hungry or forgotten.

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Construction Underway on Millvale Satellite Expansion Project

After delaying the project a full year due to our flood assistance efforts, we are pleased to report that construction has begun on the Millvale Satellite Expansion. In collaboration with the **Borough of Millvale**, we are expanding and renovating the existing Millvale Community Center and will move our Millvale Satellite there upon completion later this year.

The new site offers increased space for programming, better confidentiality and handicap accessibility.

Despite rising construction and fuel costs over the past year, we have held our construction costs to the original estimate. **Landau Building Company** appreciates our core value of stewardship and is working with us to incorporate value engineering, donated goods and volunteers.

Please visit www.nhco.org/msec.htm often for ongoing updates and photographs, an itemized list of donated materials requested, volunteer needs, floorplans, special acknowledgments and a bricks campaign order form.

To donate materials, contact Don Breitbarth at 412-821-0904 or dbbreitbarth@nhco.org. **To volunteer**, contact Ginny Giles at 412-487-6316 or vmgiles@nhco.org. **To donate funds** (\$800,000 still needed), please send a check to NHCO, 1975 Ferguson Road, Allison Park, PA 15101 with "Millvale Expansion" on the memo line. We truly appreciate every gift!

Assisting with the ceremonial groundbreaking on December 10 are Jim Porter, President of Millvale Borough Council; Jim Radock, RSSC Architecture; Shirley McIlvried, NHCO Board Emeritus and longtime Millvale Satellite volunteer; Steve Bishop, Landau Building Company; Maria Christina, NHCO Millvale Manager; and Jim Burn, Allegheny County Council.



There's still time to participate in our

Bricks Campaign

and make an impression that will last a lifetime. Honor the memory of a loved one, celebrate an anniversary or promote your business with a laser-engraved brick. Prices range from \$55-\$325. Download an order form at www.nhco.org/msec.htm or call Wendy Gordon at 412-487-6316.

Thumbs Up!

The generosity of our community has been overwhelming during the past few months. Thank you to everyone who contributed funds, goods and/or time to help our neighbors in need. We wish we had room to list every single one!

- For the second year in a row, **Mercy Hospital** employees provided cheer for low-income families during the holidays. This year they provided 97 bags of toys, clothes and other gifts for 35 local families.
- Twelve-year-old **Ricky Bentzel** collected 63 winter coats for a project at Marshall Middle.
- Not only did **Bill Anders** of Richland donate a much needed printer to Community Auto, but he also went the extra mile by delivering and installing it.
- **Morreale Chiropractic** collected 80 bags of food from patients and also donated 80 gift cards for our Thanksgiving sharing project.
- Volunteer **Cathy Pelusi** delivered three vanloads of food and school supplies valued at \$1,500, donated by the now closed **\$1.00 Super Store** in McIntyre Square.
- The **Spirit of Christmas** at **Bob's Garage** in Blawnox provided nearly \$10,000 worth of grocery store certificates and toys for 53 local families in need.
- **RSSC Architecture** employees dressed up for a Halloween fundraiser and donated \$135.
- **Glenshaw Community Girl Scouts** held a snowball dance and collected \$300 worth of stocking stuffers for neighbors in need.
- **Vicky Frey** of **Amazing Face** donated \$388 she raised through various promotions.
- **Jim Loscar** of McCandless provided much needed year-end data entry assistance by volunteering every day during the last week of December.
- **Ingomar United Methodist** gave \$1,000 from a collection held at the musical production of *Another Christmas Story*.
- **Corazon Consulting** employees, vendors and President **Jackie Johnson** donated \$1,700 from their holiday party.
- **Freestyle Hair Body and Soul Salon** in Shaler donated \$1,000 from a holiday open house and auction.
- **Carl Knoblock** of the U.S. Small Business Administration secured a donation of six Pentium III computers from **Babylon Industries**. The computers were donated to participants in NHCO's Family Savings Accounts program.
- President **Alfred Thomson** and employees of **Thomson Properties** donated \$405 in lieu of a holiday gift exchange.
- Free Rides for Seniors volunteer driver **Tom Cramer** and his daughter **Cynthia Lackey** gave \$5 Panera gift certificates to bus riders during the holidays.
- Employees at **Marshall's** in the Northway Mall purchased and donated \$337 in new clothes and toys with funds they collected during monthly lunches, bake sales and other creative fundraisers held throughout the year.
- The **Meinert Family** donated \$900 in lieu of purchasing gifts for each other.
- The band **No Excuse** raised \$600 in food and donations by playing a benefit concert at the **Little Brown Jug** in Millvale, which also donated delicious gourmet appetizers for two recent NHCO events.



Shaler Area students D.J. Peiuso and Josh Klugh helped to organize the Millvale Holiday Giveaway for their senior project.

Holiday Help for Flood Victims

As part of our promise to walk alongside victims of the September 2004 flood until they are back on their feet, we sponsored holiday giveaways for Millvale, Sharpsburg and Etna residents. A collaborative effort with **Network of Hope**, **Etna Team for Neighborhood Assistance**, **Millvale Assistance Team**, the **Borough of Millvale** and **Hosanna Industries**, the project provided 800 gently worn winter coats and more than \$70,000 in gift certificates to major retailers and local businesses affected by the flood.

This last part is the most important as it is a win-win-win situation, benefiting the flooded families AND businesses AND promoting economic recovery for the community as a whole.

Approximately **550 flooded families** received holiday help in December.

Here is an excerpt from a beautiful thank you letter sent to us from an Etna flood victim:

"The holiday gift certificates really helped as did the gift card from Sears. It certainly was the PERFECT time of year to receive a 'helping hand' (as in your logo - no pun intended!).

I was especially impressed and grateful that the \$10 certificates were for local businesses, the same businesses that were just as affected by that most devastating of tragedies!

People helping people...that IS what North Hills Community Outreach is all about!

May God bless each and every one of you for all of your time, efforts, diligence, concern, and most importantly, your love for us as your 'brothers' and 'sisters!'

I pray that your generosity will be returned to you one-hundred-fold in 2006!"



Alex Oltmanns, Stephanie Bost, Micah Wright and Maria Mercuri are developing their leadership skills through our Youth Philanthropy Project.

Four Teenagers Lead New Youth Philanthropy Project

Thanks to a \$16,000 grant from **The Heinz Endowments**, NHCO has implemented a new youth philanthropy project. Four local teenagers were hired as part-time Assistant Youth Leadership Coordinators to recruit local youth groups and organizations and assist them in developing community projects and fundraisers in support of NHCO's mission. The project will culminate in monetary awards that the teens will grant to up to eight youth groups to help them fulfill their project goals.

Eleven ambitious and compassionate teenagers applied and underwent a formal interview to give them an idea of what job hunting is like in the "real world." NHCO welcomes the successful candidates:

- **Stephanie Bost**, North Allegheny junior
- **Maria Mercuri**, Deer Lakes senior
- **Alex Oltmanns**, Sewickley Academy junior
- **Micah Wright**, Hampton junior

This project is just one component of NHCO's growing youth leadership program. Children and youth are welcome to volunteer for any number of our programs, including the food pantries and Faith in Action. NHCO is also a great place to complete senior projects or community service requirements.

Youth can make a true difference. **Avonworth National Honor Society** students have been volunteering at the North Boroughs Food Pantry two evenings a month since last October. So far, 12 students have logged more than 45 volunteer hours at the pantry while providing an invaluable service to our pantry patrons. Many thanks to these tremendous volunteers!

For more information about NHCO's Youth Leadership Program, contact Susan Rohm at 412-307-0069 or shrohmn@nhco.org.

Families Receive Help through Seasonal Sharing Projects

Turkey on Every Table—643 families received a complete and nourishing Thanksgiving dinner. Special thanks to lead volunteers **Jane** and **Tom Furar**.

Sharing Holiday Warmth—477 families received \$75 in utility and grocery store credits, allowing them to budget some funds for holiday spending for their loved ones. Special thanks to lead volunteers **Sandy Danahey** and **Sandy Cessar**. Thanks also to **Jay Fairbrother**, owner of **Magoo's Bar & Bistro**, for sponsoring a wonderful donor appreciation luncheon for those who contributed to Sharing Holiday Warmth.

"Thank you so very much for the grocery cards. God bless all those who gave and the angels who work at the food pantry, the kind volunteers who help us carry out our food. They all work so hard and deserve so much praise." (Bellevue)

Toy Shop—Special thanks to lead volunteer **Karen Boujoukos** for organizing the project, which provided new toys for 336 families.

Spring Share—Financial contributions and donations of grocery store certificates, candy and complete Easter baskets are requested by April 13. We expect to help between 400-500 families this year.

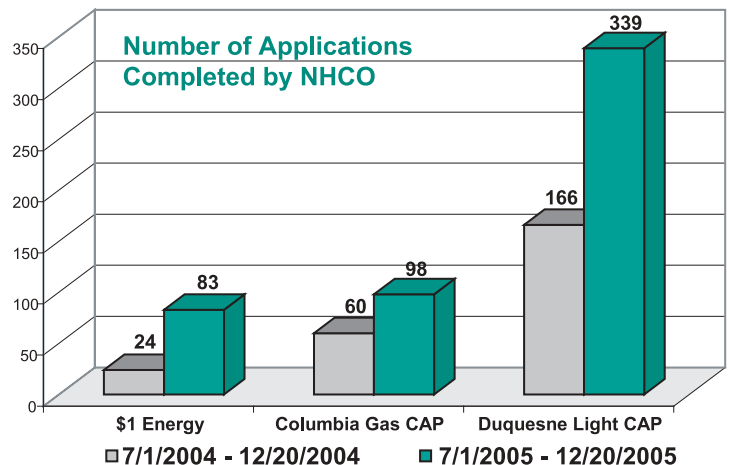
To get involved with any of these projects, please contact Judy Murchak at 412-487-6316 or jamurchak@nhco.org.

Requests for Utility Help Rise

The top reason people seek help at NHCO is to prevent utility shut-offs or restore service. With rising heating costs this winter, we've already seen a significant increase in the number of people needing assistance.

From July through mid-December, we paid \$14,330 to utility companies to help with bills, compared to \$8,348 in the same time period in 2004. We've enrolled 437 families in utility Customer Assistance Programs (CAP). Additionally, we've helped 83 low-income individuals complete \$1 Energy applications, resulting in \$32,688 in heating grants for them.

For information on utility help, contact Petrina Sichak at 412-821-0904 or pzsichak@nhco.org.



Raising Funds to Help Others

Our top priority at NHCO is helping local families in poverty, hardship and crisis. To the greatest extent possible, we do not spend our resources on fundraising. In fact, last year **91% of our expenditures went directly to help those in need**. When we do fundraising projects we always utilize our talented and dedicated volunteers to get the work done.

Here's a summary of our recent activities that raised much needed funds to ensure that no one in northern Allegheny County is cold, hungry or forgotten.

Gift Wrap

\$3,858 in donations was raised by 210 volunteer who wrapped 1,500 gifts at Northway Mall and Borders. Proceeds benefit ten local food pantries, including our own two pantries. Thank you to **Northway Mall** and **Borders** for donating wrapping paper and supplies and to **Ruth Graham** and **Rozanne McCall** for leading the project.

Salvation Army Kettles

\$3,419.76 was raised in 89 hours by 90 volunteers in front of **Shoppers' Choice** in Duncan Manor Plaza. As a service unit of the Salvation Army, NHCO will receive 90% of the money raised by our volunteers to help neighbors in need. Special thanks to the **AAUW North Hills-McKnight Branch**, **North Allegheny Intermediate Key Club** and McCandless **Cub Scout Pack #329** for covering a full day or more. Thanks also to the extraordinary effort put forth by employees of **Citizens Bank** on Mt. Royal Boulevard, especially star bellringers **Patrick Kennedy** and **Sarah Jochim**.

Fall Phone Campaign

Thank you to the 376 donors who contributed more than \$48,000 (as of January 13) during the recent fall phone campaign. We value the opportunity to speak with our major contributors and let them know how much we appreciate each and every gift. Thanks also to our volunteer callers and mailers:

Teresa Amelio	Lois Grillette	Jan Peischl
Bud Baker	Jean Kirk	Elisa Qtaishat
Claudia Brazet	Delores Kirschbaum	Melia Starek
Clemmy Brodsky	Donna Lodovici	Judy Szalajda
Lynda Byrnes	Judy McDowell-Daniel	Dolly Verbanac
Sandy Cessar	Brigida Mertz	Diane Viscusi
Mary Churchill	Michelle McKernan	Deborah Wells
Judy Dillon	Jean Muth	Mary Wetzal
George Donges	Leah Myers	Marian Wilson
Aileen Drosendahl	Wenly Nelson	Pearl Wirth
Jan Eicher	Rhea Nicotra	Althea Worthy
Ruth Graham		

End of the Year Gifts

Thank you to our dedicated and detail-oriented volunteers, especially **Renee Full**, **Jan Peischl**, **Cindy Healy** and **Ruth Graham**, who worked so hard to get all of our year-end thank-you letters out before the postage rates increased in January! Thanks as well to the **792 individual donors** who marked "no acknowledgment necessary" on their gift in 2005, resulting in a **savings of \$400** in printing and postage costs. This amount allows us to help three more local families in hardship keep the heat on this winter.

Support Groups

Unless noted, groups meet at NHCO Allison Park. Holidays may conflict with regular meeting schedules; verify dates with Harriet Gibbs at 412-487-6316 or h zgibbs@nhco.org.

- Alzheimers/Dementia (for caregivers): Every second Tuesday, 7 PM
- Young Widows/Widowers: Every first Thursday, 7 PM, King's Restaurant in Wexford
- Bereavement: Every first Monday, 2 PM
- Life Limiting Illnesses (for caregivers): Every second Thursday, 6 PM

Volunteer Orientation

This one-hour session offers an overview of services and volunteer opportunities and is suitable for both current and prospective volunteers ages 14 and up. Space is limited, and these sessions are becoming increasingly popular. Contact Ginny Giles at 412-487-6316 or vmgiles@nhco.org to attend.

- March 8, 10 AM, AGH-Suburban Campus
- April 6, 10 AM, Allison Park
- May 9, 10 AM, Millvale Satellite
- June 8, 7 PM, AGH-Suburban Campus

Faith in Action Training

Contact Cathy Pschirer by March 10 at 412-307-0069 or clpschirer@nhco.org to attend one of the following training sessions for Faith in Action-Hartwood and Free Rides for Seniors: **March 14**, 10 AM, at Waterworks Panera; **March 30**, 10 AM, at Fox Chapel Presbyterian.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Free Rides for Seniors drivers
- Receptionists, clerical and data entry (will train!)
- Outreach aides
- Faith in Action volunteers to assist frail elderly
- Lead volunteer for Dessert Theatre benefit in July
- Unload, sort and distribute citrus on February 24-25
- Phone campaign callers and mailers (April)
- Bulk mailings on May 2-3 and June 6
- Install drywall and ceiling tiles; paint (for Millvale Satellite expansion project - volunteers needed May through September)

Contact Ginny Giles at 412-487-6316 or vmgiles@nhco.org for more information.

Speakers Bureau Training

Speakers bureau volunteers should be enthusiastic about NHCO's mission and comfortable speaking in front of people. The next training will take place on **Thursday, March 23**, from 4:00-5:30 p.m. We especially need volunteers who are available during the day and on Sunday mornings. Contact Wendy Gordon at 412-487-6316 or wbgordon@nhco.org to attend.

Senior Citizens Rely on NHCO Volunteers



FAITH
IN ACTION

Faith in Action, NHCO's program to provide nonmedical assistance to our area's frail seniors, is in dire need of caring volunteers. There are no special skills required, just the desire to be a friend to an older neighbor in need.

Volunteers drive seniors to the doctor and other appointments, grocery store, beauty salon and other errands. Some perform home safety checks and light chores. Sometimes volunteers just call or visit to prevent feelings of isolation. Volunteers can give as little or as much time as they wish. Some choose to be matched one-on-one with a certain care recipient; others sign up to be called on an as-needed basis for transportation.

Volunteer bus drivers and dispatchers are also urgently needed for **Free Rides for Seniors**, the 14-passenger bus that provides complimentary transportation for senior citizens along Freeport Road on weekdays from 10:00-4:00. Drivers need to be at least 25 years old with a valid drivers' license (a special license is NOT required). See page five for upcoming trainings.

From May through December, 4,679 rides were given to 223 unduplicated riders! Volunteers gave 1,138 hours to make it happen. Free Rides for Seniors operates in cooperation with the **St. Margaret Foundation**.

To volunteer or learn more, contact Cathy Pschirer at 412-307-0069 or clpschirer@nhco.org.

Savings Program Successes & Statistics

Saving is a key to economic independence and stability. NHCO's **Family Savings Accounts** program provides a dollar-for-dollar match (up to \$2,000) for low-income persons saving for a car purchase, home repair or purchase, business start-up or higher education. Thanks to volunteer **Marleen Kasbee** for recently putting together an encouraging newsletter for FSA savers who may be saving for the first time. Thanks also to our cooperating banks: **West View Savings Bank, Citizens Bank, Fidelity Bank** and **National City Bank**.

- There are currently 52 savers in the program; another 27 individuals have graduated and received their money
- 89 women and 23 men have enrolled; 73 have children living with them
- 72 have been employed; the rest are students, retirees, homemakers, unemployed or have disabilities
- 223 other NHCO services were provided to support the savers
- Savings deposited by FSA savers: **\$130,056**

FSA is funded by the **PA Department of Community and Economic Development**, which allows us to have a certain number of participants each year. Please contact Harriet Gibbs at 412-487-6316 or hrgibbs@nhco.org if you or someone you know qualifies for the Family Savings Accounts program.

Kick the Habit

NHCO's **Tobacco Free North** program is designed to help low-income individuals, pregnant women and at-risk youth stop using tobacco and/or prevent them from ever starting. If you or someone you love could benefit from our resources or if you'd like someone to speak to your school, congregation or business, contact Nicole Davis at 412-821-0904 or nmdavis@nhco.org. Ask her about our special incentive program that rewards pregnant women who quit smoking.



Brian and Kim Hart are thrilled to finally have their own car, which they purchased from Community Auto in January.

Community Auto Program in High Gear

Kim and Brian Hart live with their two young children in McKeesport, where public transportation is sparse. They both attend CCAC—Kim for art therapy, Brian for hotel and restaurant management. Brian also works to support his family.

Until a few weeks ago, the Hart family had to rely on a public bus to get around. "Waiting out in the cold with the kids has been rough," says Brian. Kim adds that "the worst part is the foul language our kids are subjected to on the bus."

The Harts were referred to **Community Auto** by the McKeesport Regional Service Center. With grants from the Department of Welfare and SPOC, the Harts recently purchased a 1996 Saturn SL2 for \$2,173 from Community Auto. This price included all taxes, title transfers, registration, a AAA membership and a full tank of gas!

The nonprofit Community Auto, located in Richland Township, partners with NHCO and just received its dealer's license last June. So far, 14 vehicles have been repaired, refurbished and sold to low-income workers.

Thanks to **Tom Henry Chevrolet, Parkwood Presbyterian, Jay Evans** and **John Ciccone** for helping to launch Community Auto.

Vehicles not suitable for low-income families (gas guzzlers, won't pass inspection, etc.) are sold with proceeds used to fix more suitable cars. Thanks to **Quickdrop** in McIntyre Square for helping us to sell these vehicles on ebay.

To donate a vehicle or learn more about Community Auto, contact Randy Murchak at 724-443-8300 or rjmurchak@nhco.org.

Mentoring Program Participants Selected

In the second year of **Compassion Allegheny**, NHCO and its partners, **KEYGroup**, **Duquesne University's Nonprofit Leadership Institute**, **Holy Family Institute**, and the **Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management** will provide technical assistance in board, staff, program and resource development to eleven faith- and community-based organizations.

The goal is to help organizations increase effectiveness, enhance their ability to provide human services, diversify funding sources and create collaborations. The value of the technical assistance is approximately \$15,000 per organization. The organizations may also receive a monetary sub-award of \$3,000-\$9,000 to further carry out their capacity-building endeavors.

Funding for this project comes from a \$260,000 Compassion Capital Fund grant from the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**.

Pictured below are leaders from the selected organizations. In the first row (l-r):

- Brian Foltz, **Allegheny Youth Development** – serves at-risk youth in Marshall-Shadeland (Northside)
- Eugene Blackwell, **Bethesda Presbyterian Church** – serves seniors and at-risk youth in Homewood
- Donna Smallwood, **Diakonia Ministries** – serves low-income families and at-risk youth in Homewood-Brushton
- Ann Berger, **Faith in Action at Sewickley Valley YMCA** – serves frail elderly in northwest Allegheny County
- Rev. Sue Hutchins, **Hilltop Health Ministries Consortium** – serves seniors and at-risk youth in the Hilltop Community (Allentown, Beltzhoover, Arlington, Knoxville, Mt. Oliver)

In the second row (l-r):

- Rev. Maurice Trent, **Lighthouse Memorial Christian Center** – serves at-risk youth in St. Clair Village, Beltzhoover, Allentown, Carrick and Arlington
- Dr. Rodger Woodworth, **New Hope for Neighborhood Renewal** – serves at-risk youth in Marshall-Shadeland (Northside)
- Paul Cusick, **North Suburban Adult Services** – serves seniors in Bellevue, Avalon, Ben Avon, Emsworth and West View
- Ann Crawford, **Sojourner House MOMS** – serves women with addictions and their families in Allegheny County
- Leonarda Themelaras, **Sonshine Christian Center** – serves young children and at-risk youth in Wilkinsburg
- Rev. Calvin Cash, **Wesley AME Charities** – serves seniors and low-income families in the Hill District and Herron Avenue Corridor

This is the second year of a three-year project; new organizations will be invited to apply for one additional cycle. For more information, contact Keith Caldwell at 412-307-0069 or kjcdwell@nhco.org.



Upcoming Events Help Local Families in Hardship

February 28, 8:00 p.m.: Part of the proceeds from this evening's **Diva Series** performance will benefit NHCO. NHCO is a charity partner of this innovative event, which takes place at **Blue** in Duncan Manor Plaza, featuring a different genre and local artist each Tuesday evening. Visit www.bluedining.com or call owner **Jay Fairbrother** at 412-369-9050 to learn more.

May 11: The fifth annual **Mini-Masters Miniature Golf Tournament** to benefit NHCO's North Boroughs Satellite and Food Pantry will take place at RMU Island Sports Center on Neville Island.

The fun begins at 3:30 p.m. and includes a round of golf, silent auction and a buffet dinner. Prices for tournament participation, program advertisements and other sponsorships range from \$25 to \$200. More substantial corporate sponsorships are available as well.

Contact Diane Hutchins at 412-307-0069 or dmhutchins@nhco.org for details.

September 11-17: **84 Lumber Golf Classic** at Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort. Advance tickets at a discounted price are already available for this world class golf tournament. Tickets are \$15 each or \$50 for four (regular price is \$25 each).

NHCO receives 100% of the ticket price and is also eligible to receive bonus pool funds based on the number of tickets redeemed at the gate. Special thanks to **Bill Snyder** and **MEDRAD** employees for being our biggest supporter last year with 85 tickets purchased!

Contact Kerry Mink at 412-487-6316 or kamink@nhco.org to purchase your tickets today.

Please accept my gift to forward NHCO's mission!

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone (in case of questions) _____

GIFT AMOUNT & PAYMENT METHOD

\$35 \$70 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____

Check enclosed.

MasterCard # _____

Visa # _____

Expires _____

Signature _____

OPTIONAL

Save postage! No acknowledgment necessary.

This is my first financial gift to NHCO.

Please contact me about volunteering.

Please contact me about including NHCO in my will.

This gift is:

in honor of in memory of in celebration of

Please notify:

NHCO is an IRS-approved 501(c)3 organization.

Your donation qualifies as a charitable deduction.

W06NEWS

Wish List Priorities

- HP laser printers (not inkjet, please)
- Portable tv/vcr combination unit (2)
- Electric garage door opener
- Commercial entry floor mats

To donate, contact Dianne Buirge at 412-487-6316 or dmbuirge@nhco.org. For a complete wish list, visit www.nhco.org/wishlist.htm.

Green Points

NHCO needs and greatly appreciates donations of **Shop 'n Save Green Points**. To sign up, call 1-800-435-5674 or visit your local Shop 'n Save. Our account number is **420069597639**. Thanks!

Helping Katrina Survivors

Dozens of Hurricane Katrina survivors relocated to the Pittsburgh area, some permanently but most temporarily. NHCO is well-equipped to help people who have gone through natural disasters and has assisted 42 families so far with housing, food, clothing, transportation, referrals to other resources and emotional support. One woman now living in Imperial wrote this thank you letter, which demonstrates that something as small as a piece of furniture can make a big difference for someone who has lost everything.

"Thank you for all you have done for me and other Katrina evacuees. I'm so glad that there are people like you. You have touched my heart. The sofa and loveseat made me so happy! It's beautiful and so comfortable. Happy New Year!"

Tax Credits Available for Businesses

The PA Department of Community and Economic Development provides tax credits to businesses that donate to approved nonprofit community organizations via the Neighborhood Assistance Program. **Fifty percent of the donation may be used as a tax credit by the contributing business.** NHCO has been approved to receive up to \$10,000 in donations through this program. Thanks to **MEDRAD, West View Savings Bank, Sky Bank** and **AUMA Actuators** for donating. All donations must be received by June 30, 2006. For more information, contact Kerry Mink at 412-487-6316 or kamink@nhco.org.

Save 39 Cents

You can make a secure donation with your credit card online by visiting www.nhco.org and clicking on the **Network for Good** logo on the left-hand side of your screen.



1975 Ferguson Road
Allison Park, PA 15101-3235

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