

## A New Home for NHCO's Millvale Satellite—At Last!

From Franklin Park to Natrona Heights, from Emsworth to Aspinwall, North Hills Community Outreach's board, staff and volunteers serve with compassion, effectiveness, professionalism, collaboration, a holistic approach, stewardship and vision.

NHCO is "People Helping People" in northern Allegheny County, working together to ensure that no one here is cold, hungry or forgotten. Toward that end, in 2000 we began planning and working to secure a site in Millvale that provides confidentiality, handicap accessibility and programming opportunities to help families in need from 23 communities along the northern bank of the Allegheny River.

We are excited to report that NHCO's space at the renovated and expanded Millvale Community Center is *almost* complete. All that's left to do is finish installing the phone and computer systems. We expect to move our Millvale Satellite there by the third week of October.

Volunteers gave 1,700 hours, and in-kind donations of goods and services have helped us to save more than \$100,000 on construction!

A special thank you to the leaders at the **Borough of Millvale**, for embracing our vision of a government/nonprofit partnership that will benefit thousands of families in need, and to the **St. Margaret Foundation**, for providing seed money to conduct a feasibility study and develop a sustainable business plan.

Even though construction is complete, fundraising is not. Donations are urgently needed to help us obtain a **\$240,000 Challenge Grant** from **The Kresge Foundation** to finish the campaign. Simply check the appropriate box on the donation slip on the backside of this newsletter.

Please join NHCO and the Borough of Millvale as we dedicate the new Millvale Community Center on **Sunday, December 10**, from 2-4 p.m. (there is *not* a Steelers game that day!). RSVPs are appreciated; please contact Wendy Gordon at 412-487-6316 or [wbgordon@nhco.org](mailto:wbgordon@nhco.org).

Mary Wetzel of Shaler, along with 16 other dedicated, regular volunteers, will be able to serve families in crisis from 23 communities more effectively at the new Millvale Satellite. Here, Mary completes critical data entry, enhancing our ability to provide professional, immediate help to neighbors in need.



### Recent Donations of Goods

- **Builder's Hardware** - door hardware
- **The Chadwick** - 250 banquet room chairs
- **Coveralls** - floor wax
- **Hampton Concrete Products** - concrete curbs for the parking lot
- **R.D. Bridges** - corner guards for the first floor
- **T.F. Coran** - fire extinguishers and cabinets
- **Toby Jurecko** - bathroom partitions
- **Wright Flooring** - vinyl tile and carpet

### Recent Donations of Services

- **Code.sys** - reviewed construction plans
- **Elk Heating and Air Conditioning** - additional labor for HVAC installation
- **Kussler Masonry** - design and installation of 174 commemorative bricks
- **Palmieri Construction** - helped us save over \$1,000 on sidewalk installation labor
- **Storexpress** - storage space

### Recent Volunteer Efforts

- **Rich McClure** of St. Paul's UMC refinished the tile floors.
- **Memorial Park Presbyterian's Butler Small Group** painted five offices.
- **MEDRAD** employees spent a Day of Caring painting our volunteer workroom, reception area and hallways, and installing ceiling tiles.
- Volunteers who have devoted countless hours of time and energy: **Wayne Skelley, Ted Meinert, Galen and Barbara Anderson, Gary Brandenberger, Paul Garrett, Chuck Egan, Rob Webber and Jeff Howe**

### Why We Need This Expansion

More families asked for and received help at the Millvale Satellite last year than at Allison Park and North Boroughs combined!

- **3,611** families in crisis, hardship and poverty from 23 communities received compassionate, effective and holistic services at the Millvale Satellite (up 29% from previous year)
- **541** families were enrolled in Duquesne Light Customer Assistance Program
- **123** families received **\$31,915** for emergency housing assistance, utility help and/or necessary prescriptions

# The Connector

*The Connector* is published three times per year and mailed to 14,000 local addresses.

The printing costs are generously underwritten by **Dollar Bank**.

We'd love to find a business or other organization to underwrite the postage costs. Can you help?

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](mailto:help@nhco.org).

## Main Office

1975 Ferguson Road  
Allison Park, PA 15101-3235  
412-487-6316

## Millvale Satellite

416 Lincoln Avenue (within days!)  
Pittsburgh, PA 15209  
412-821-0904

## North Boroughs Satellite

Allegheny General Hospital,  
Suburban Campus (Bellevue)  
100 South Jackson Avenue, 2 South  
Pittsburgh, PA 15202-3428  
412-307-0069

## Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 9 AM - 4 PM  
(Other times by appointment)

email: [help@nhco.org](mailto:help@nhco.org)

website: [www.nhco.org](http://www.nhco.org)

**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.

**Fay Morgan, Executive Director**  
[fpmorgan@nhco.org](mailto:fpmorgan@nhco.org)

**Wendy Gordon, Editor**  
[wbgordon@nhco.org](mailto:wbgordon@nhco.org)

## Consolidation Means More Effective Services

In October 1997, we opened our North Boroughs Satellite in donated space at **Emanuel's Evangelical Lutheran** in Bellevue. In September 2000, as community needs increased and programs expanded, we opened another office on the sixth floor of **Allegheny General Hospital, Suburban Campus** (formerly Suburban General) in donated space. And in July 2004, we relocated our North Boroughs Food Pantry to the second floor of the hospital.

It has been our goal for some time to consolidate our North Boroughs Satellites into one location in order to be more effective, but there has never been a suitable, affordable facility available. Until now! We recently moved all of our North Boroughs services to the second floor of the hospital and signed a seven-year lease with AGH-Suburban Campus at a price of \$0 a year!

Programs offered at the North Boroughs Satellite include holistic case management, crisis assistance, food pantry, Faith in Action volunteer caregiving and youth leadership.

We will hold a holiday open house on **Wednesday, December 6**, from 2-6 p.m. Please stop by our offices at AGH-Suburban Campus, second floor, to get a firsthand look at our North Boroughs Satellite in action!

Special thanks to **Leah Laffey** at AGH-Suburban Campus for the new space and to **Rev. Phillip Martin** and Emanuel's for providing a home for our services for the last nine years. We value these partnerships and look forward to continuing to work together to serve neighbors in need in Avalon, Bellevue, Emsworth, Ben Avon and other communities along the northern banks of the Ohio River.

## Mentoring Program Makes a Big Impact

Year two of our **Compassion Allegheny** program recently wrapped up. NHCO mentored 11 smaller faith- and community-based organizations in board, staff, program and resource development, based on best practices in our field. Partners in this effort included **KEYGroup**, **Duquesne University's Nonprofit Leadership Institute**, **Holy Family Institute** and the **Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management**.

The primary purpose of Compassion Allegheny is to help organizations increase their effectiveness, expand their ability to provide social services, diversify their funding sources and create strong collaborations.

Through Compassion Allegheny, NHCO extends its mission to other parts of the county by working with the faith- and community-based groups located there. Funding comes from a \$260,000 Compassion Capital Fund grant from the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**.

Some program highlights from this year include:

- \$65,000 in capacity-building mini-grants and technical assistance valued at \$15,000 each awarded to 11 grassroots organizations across Allegheny County
- Additional technical assistance provided to 20 other organizations
- 50 hours of group training provided to 37 organizations
- 11 organizations received refurbished laptop computers, four received office furniture from **Coldwell Banker**, four received desktop computers through **Northmont Presbyterian**, and four received color laser printers from the **Hillman Corporation**

**Congratulations to the 11 main participants:** Allegheny Youth Development, Bethesda Presbyterian, Diakonia Ministries, Faith in Action at Sewickley Valley YMCA, Hilltop Health Ministries Consortium, Lighthouse Memorial Christian Center, New Hope for Neighborhood Renewal, North Suburban Adult Services, Sojourner House MOMS, Sonshine Christian Center and Wesley AME Charities.

This is the second year of a three-year project; new organizations will be invited to apply for year three very soon. Watch the papers for an announcement or contact Keith Caldwell at 412-487-6306 or [kjcdwell@nhco.org](mailto:kjcdwell@nhco.org).

*"You have given us all hope for the future by empowering us to shed the burdens of self-doubt, insufficiency and incompetence and by teaching us to reach for the moon." Donna Smallwood, executive director of Diakonia Ministries, serving Homewood-Brushton*

## “Sharing Projects” Relieve Many Burdens

The start of a new school year, colder weather and upcoming holidays can all be burdensome to a struggling family. That’s where NHCO’s seasonal sharing projects come in.

**Back-to-School**—In August, 588 children returned to school with brand new backpacks filled with age-appropriate school supplies. Special thanks to longtime lead volunteer **Rosemary Prager**. Some extra special collections worth noting:

- **American Eagle Outfitters** and the **Pittsburgh Presbytery** each donated 40 new backpacks.
- At their joint birthday party, 8-year-old St. Sebastian students **Lillia Smyers** and **Mary Sieminski** collected \$200 worth of backpacks and supplies in lieu of receiving gifts.
- **Choice Chiropractic** gave free adjustments to patients in exchange for school supplies.
- **Dutihl, Memorial Park** and **Orchard Hill** churches each donated over 100 backpacks.
- **Holy Spirit** donated its cafeteria space for distribution in Millvale and **Northminster Presbyterian** donated space for distribution in the North Boroughs.

**Winter Coats**—On October 20, we will hold our annual free winter coat shop, where hundreds of low-income families are invited to shop for gently worn coats that have been donated to us. Children’s and adult extra-large sizes are usually in high demand and low supply. We are accepting clean coats and financial contributions until October 19. To help finance the project, on Monday, October 23, from 10-4 at NHCO Allison Park, the public can purchase remaining coats, most for under \$5. Any coats still leftover will be given to shelters, pantries and other social service agencies for distribution. Thanks to **SAM (Store and Move)** for donating a temporary storage unit for the coats.

**Turkey on Every Table**—Every family deserves a Thanksgiving dinner that nourishes the body and spirit, and we expect to provide that for about 600 families this year. Now through November 20, we are collecting grocery

certificates, stuffing mix, instant mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, pie crust mix, “easy” pumpkin pie mix, evaporated milk, muffin mix, turkey gravy mix and napkins. Special thanks to lead volunteers **Jean Fitzgerald** and **Jean Kirk**, who are also leading the coat shop this year.

### Sharing Holiday Warmth—

Approximately 450 families will receive the gifts of heat, light and nourishment this December. With \$75 in utility and food credits, families are able to budget funds for holiday spending, allowing them the dignity of purchasing their own gifts for their children and loved ones. Donations are urgently needed and appreciated. Special thanks to lead volunteer **Sandy Danahey**.

To donate, volunteer or learn more about any of these projects, contact Judy Murchak at 412-487-6316 or [jamurchak@nhco.org](mailto:jamurchak@nhco.org).

## The Flood of 2004 ... Work Continues

It is now two years after the flood caused by Hurricane Ivan, and many people, especially the elderly and those with disabilities, still need help getting back on their feet. In 2005-06, NHCO provided follow-up outreach services to 849 flood victims; 374 were senior citizens, 13 were adults with disabilities.

Two major areas of continuing concern for the flood victims were rusting electrical boxes and moldy basements. We recently collaborated with the **Millvale Assistance Team** to provide certified electricians, who replaced 13 electrical boxes at a reduced rate. We also worked with **M.A.T., PA Christian Endeavor, Hosanna Industries** and local volunteers to clean out, scrub down and “Thoroseal” 20 basements.

The value of these volunteer hours is estimated at \$16,700!

**How did we do with our overall flood relief efforts?** In order to assess how we as an organization and as a community responded to the flood, NHCO contracted with **Cornerstone Evaluation Associates** to survey 135 households, 30 businesses and 10 partnering organizations. Survey results are posted on our website.

(Hint: we did well!)

nhco.org  
Search word:  
“flood relief”

## Community Responds to Plea for Food

Summer is typically a slow time for donations to our food pantries. School’s out, civic groups don’t always meet, and people go on vacation.

When our shelves became a little too bare for comfort this past August, we issued a plea for food donations through the media and congregation bulletins.

The community responded quickly and with great generosity. In the three weeks that followed our plea for help, we received about \$10,000 worth of food and \$880 in financial donations.

The shelves are stocked again and we thank everyone who gave. Special thanks to these groups that contributed especially large food donations: **Ingomar UMC, Evergreen UMC, Vincentian Academy, Ross**

**Township, American Eagle Foundation and Hoboken Presbyterian.**

Want to organize a food drive? Visit our website for a few tips!

nhco.org  
Search word:  
“collect”

A Bellevue boy takes his new backpack for a stroll.



## Self-Sufficiency at the Heart of our Programs for Neighbors in Need

Each year, the **Community Action Association of Pennsylvania Self-Sufficiency Awards** recognize the significant accomplishments of individuals who move themselves toward economic self-sufficiency with the assistance of community programs such as NHCO.

Since 2000, we have nominated four case management program participants for this award; Beth from Leetsdale is our fourth winner. We are proud of her accomplishments and would like to share her story with you.

Beth was referred to NHCO for employment and housing assistance in 2002 by **United Way**. She was facing a sheriff's sale on her home; the utilities were in the termination stage; she was involved in an unhealthy relationship; she didn't have any child care for her daughter; and she was in need of counseling to deal with all the new challenges she faced.

NHCO's case management program, which is designed to move individuals towards self-sufficiency over time and is funded by the **Allegheny County Department of**

**Human Services**, made Beth aware of all of the options for help available to her and allowed her to make the choices that would affect her life. The goals that were set each year were not NHCO's goals; they were Beth's goals. We gave Beth encouragement and walked alongside her for the long haul. By utilizing NHCO's many services – emergency food, school supplies, Spring Share baskets, Thanksgiving dinners, and utility and food credits during the holidays, Beth was able to stretch her funds in order to pay her bills.

"I try not to think where I would have ended up without the help and assistance from NHCO," Beth says. "I probably would be on the streets, which is where my ex-boyfriend is now. It was a struggle, to say the least, to get out and let go of the abusive relationship. It was hard to see when I was in the middle of it all. But I always knew in my heart that I could get my life back if I just had someone to believe in me! With NHCO's help and support, I am gainfully employed, have a new vehicle, have been living in a

small house for four years and have been paying my bills on time. This has all happened because (service coordinator) Melissa had faith in me as a person, mother and friend.

"Thank you seems to not be enough. **I have a life to look forward to now**, a positive outlook and the ability to roll with life's ups and downs. I have learned to believe in myself and know there are people who believe in me.

"Self sufficiency means that **I am responsible for myself and my family**, being able to support us and soon being able to help others and give back to someone less fortunate who is where I was five years ago. It was a long hard emotional road but I am fortunate to have had help and guidance from NHCO. I am proud of what I have accomplished and have learned to put my pride aside and ask for help...and it was there always!"

Beth and Melissa will travel to Harrisburg later this month where Beth will receive her award, including a \$200 savings bond.

## Avalon Woman Learns to Save; Purchases Safe, Reliable Car

When Nancy first came to NHCO to utilize the food pantry and seasonal sharing projects, buying a car was probably not the first thing on her mind. But when the Avalon resident learned about **Family Savings Accounts (FSA)**, she decided to sign up, with the goal of purchasing a reliable car upon completion of the program.

The basic premise of the program is this: Participants save up to \$2,000 over a period of two years, and NHCO matches the amount saved (funding is provided by the **Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development**). Each saver designates a specific savings goal: car or house purchase, home repairs, small business start-up or higher education for self or dependent. Savers must also complete eight hours of financial literacy training, either through NHCO-sponsored workshops or on-line training courses. Finally, they must attend additional workshops geared toward their goal. Nancy fulfilled this requirement by participating in AARP's Mature Driving course, which will also lower her car insurance premium.

Nancy was able to reach her savings goal in 13 months. She traded in her 11-year-old car and used the \$2,000 she saved plus \$2,000 in matching funds to put a down payment on a Ford Focus.

There are 15 slots available for interested savers who meet income guidelines. Contact Harriet Gibbs at 412-487-6316 or [hjgibbs@nhco.org](mailto:hjgibbs@nhco.org).



Nancy is one of 41 local individuals to "graduate" from the Family Savings Accounts program since its inception four years ago.



Congratulations to FSA lead volunteer **Marleen Kasbee**, a 2006 *Post-Gazette* Community Champion!



NHCO volunteer and Faith in Action care receiver **Debbie Jermalowski** works from home while recovering from a bicycle accident.

## When a Volunteer Needs Help

West View resident and volunteer **Debbie Jermalowski** learned of NHCO during the 2004 flood that ravaged much of our service area. Since becoming a volunteer, she has delivered Easter baskets to the frail elderly, rung bells for our Salvation Army kettles fundraiser, and delivered food from NHCO's North Boroughs Food Pantry to two elderly women who are homebound.

Debbie never expected to need the services of NHCO, but she also never anticipated fracturing her knee while riding her bike. In her own words:

"I would like to express my **gratitude to NHCO and the Faith in Action program** for their support during a very difficult time in my life.

"I didn't know how I was going to get to the bedroom on the second floor. (Faith in Action coordinator) Sue offered me the use of a roll-out bed they had in storage, and a volunteer delivered and set up the bed for me. We also discussed my fears of falling in the bathtub; again, **NHCO came through** and a volunteer installed a grab bar in my tub.

"Even though these needs may seem so insignificant to some, they have meant the world to me! I never thought that I would ever have to use the services of NHCO. It is so encouraging knowing that an organization exists that we can go to that will help us in so many different ways.

"I hope that the community will continue to support NHCO both financially and through its many volunteers. Without these services, the quality of life of so many people would be extremely diminished. Thank you, NHCO, for all that you do, and thank you to all the dedicated volunteers!"

During Debbie's first few weeks of recuperation, she still single-handedly completed two bulk mailings for NHCO. Our motto of **People Helping People** has never been more true.

For more on the Faith in Action program, see page 6.

## Pole Building Would Increase Community Auto's Capacity

Since its inception in 2002, **Community Auto** has received 154 donated vehicles. Many of these were scrapped for parts; some were sold at auction. Thirty-three of them have been repaired, inspected and sold well-below retail value to low-income individuals who need safe, reliable transportation for work and family needs.

Community Auto, in partnership with NHCO, could increase the number of cars sold to low-income workers if we had more space to repair the cars. Right now, there is only have one garage bay for repair work. Funding for a pole building (garage) is being sought. If you'd like to help with the pole building or donate a vehicle, contact Randy Murchak at 724-443-8300 or [rjmurchak@nhco.org](mailto:rjmurchak@nhco.org).

## Opportunities to Help Others

We always welcome volunteers with any and all interests and talents. Our most pressing need in the coming months is for giftwrappers at Northway Mall, bellringers at Shoppers' Choice, Faith in Action volunteer caregivers for the frail elderly and adults with physical disabilities, and drivers and dispatchers for our Free Rides for Seniors bus that runs along Freeport Road.

Want to help? Attend one of our orientations or contact Ginny Giles at 412-487-6316 or [vmgiles@nhco.org](mailto:vmgiles@nhco.org).

- October 19, 7 p.m., Allison Park
- November 2, 10 a.m., the NEW Millvale Satellite!
- January 11, 10 a.m., Allison Park
- February 6, 10 a.m., AGH-Suburban Campus

Volunteer attorneys are needed for NHCO's **Ask the Attorney** program, which provides free legal consultations on noncriminal matters. Divorce, custody and financial problems (bankruptcy, lease issues) are the most common concerns. Lawyers who wish to volunteer—even for just a few hours per year—should contact Harriet Gibbs at 412-487-6316 or [hgzgibbs@nhco.org](mailto:hgzgibbs@nhco.org).

Volunteer **Jim Loscar** teaches **Ali Full** the basics of data entry. Ali is the daughter of **Renee Full**, a longtime volunteer who makes sure donors are thanked in a timely manner. NHCO invites individuals of all ages and abilities to give their time and talents to help their neighbors in need.



## NHCO to Lead FIA Project

The **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** awarded a grant to Faith in Action (FIA)/Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers (IVC) of the Alleghenies in western PA. The \$75,000 grant was awarded as part of the Foundation's Collaborative Grant Program, designed to bring together regional groups of existing FIA caregiving programs in a common effort to help those in need. The FIA grant will be administered by NHCO and used for general operating expenses, volunteer recruitment and training.

**NHCO has operated a Faith in Action program since 1994** when The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation gave us our first grant. We are excited to collaborate with these other Faith in Action groups to help spread the word about FIA, share resources, and recruit more volunteers. All this towards the goal of helping frail elderly and those with long-term health issues remain safe and independent in their homes.

The participating Faith in Action programs include:

- Erie Health Ministries
- FIA (Sewickley Valley YMCA)
- FIA Ministries (Johnstown)
- Indiana County CareNet
- IVC of Fayette
- IVC of Southwestern PA
- Laurel Area IVC
- NHCO (Hartwood, Northwest Tier, North Boroughs and North Hills programs)
- Washington County FIA

FIA volunteers come from churches, synagogues, mosques and other houses of worship, as well as the community at-large. These volunteers help those in need with many everyday activities, such as picking up groceries or providing a ride to the doctor. Some also perform home safety checks, make friendly visits or provide telephone reassurance.

"This grant will help all of the Faith in Action programs that are a part of FIA/IVC of the Alleghenies continue to serve their neighbors in need and, in fact, will increase their capacity to serve even more people," says Thomas Brown, national director of Faith in Action. NHCO is pleased to lead this regional effort.

Volunteers are always needed in northern Allegheny County to help frail elderly and adults with physical disabilities remain safe and independent in their homes. If you need help or want to help others through Faith in Action, contact Cathy Pschirer at 412-307-0069 or [clpschirer@nhco.org](mailto:clpschirer@nhco.org).

## Be a Quitter!

NHCO's **Tobacco Free North** program will sponsor an eight-week "Freedom from Smoking" class later this fall. Dates and location to be determined. If you are ready to quit for good, contact Nicole Davis at 412-821-0904 or [nmdavis@nhco.org](mailto:nmdavis@nhco.org). Participants will receive vouchers for free nicotine patches to make quitting a little bit easier on the wallet.



**Sandra Miller** of Millvale has her eyes examined by **Dr. Cichon of Mission Vision**, an organization dedicated to providing healthcare services to people in need around the world. This summer, 35 individuals received free vision screenings at NHCO and free eyeglasses, when needed. Thanks also to **Scott & Christie & Associates, Good Looks Eyeware, GLE LAB Services, Dr. Chris Carver** and **Stephanie Sciuillio** for their help with the project.

## Thumbs Up!

- The **Northern Allegheny County Chamber of Commerce** selected NHCO as the beneficiary of its Inaugural Chamber Gala on October 13. The **Wexford Plaza Merchant Association** selected NHCO as the beneficiary of fundraisers to be held throughout the year. And **Federated Investors** has chosen us to benefit from their holiday party this year. Thanks to all!
- During all Steelers and Monday night football games (first half only), the **Little Brown Jug** in Millvale will have a \$2 wing buffet with all proceeds benefitting NHCO.
- **Jiffy Lube** in Aspinwall is providing free oil changes for the Free Rides for Seniors bus for one year.
- "Jeans Day" at **Tri Rivers Surgical Associates Orthopedic Practice** resulted in a \$174 donation to NHCO. **ESB Bank** employees held a similar fundraiser that brought in \$250.
- The **Feinstein Family Fund** donated \$447 to our food pantries as part of the \$1 Million Feinstein Challenge. Thanks to everyone who donated food during March and April, helping us to obtain these funds.
- Children at **St. Paul's UMC Vacation Bible School** held a car wash and raised \$62 for NHCO.
- Volunteers **Will Sauereisen** and **John Ferguson** help us communicate by delivering interoffice mail every week.
- Shaler seniors **Kurt Hackimer** and **Casey Rakowski** organized a spaghetti dinner at Glenshaw Valley Presbyterian that raised \$701 for our food pantries.
- The **St. Paul's Players** donated two performances of *The Foreigner* for this year's Dessert Theatre. Forty volunteers helped, 93 businesses participated, and 220 people attended to help raise more than \$8,700.

## Teen Philanthropists Award \$50,000 to Fifteen Groups

Five recent high school graduates served as summer interns through a \$75,000 grant made possible by **The Heinz Endowments**. After an orientation to the entire organization, each intern was assigned to serve in a specific NHCO program—food pantry, Millvale expansion, Faith in Action, Free Rides for Seniors and Community Auto. The interns also were trained in grantmaking and awarded \$50,000 in subgrants to 15 other groups and nonprofit organizations that serve people in need, in line with NHCO's mission. Thank you to our interns:

- **Mike Zerega**, a Central Catholic graduate attending the Scholars Program for International Business at Ohio State University;
- **Jessica Slean**, a Deer Lakes graduate now at St. Mary's College on a soccer scholarship and studying business administration;
- **John Bojarski**, a Shaler graduate attending the School of Pharmacy at Duquesne University;
- **Christina Binz**, a Shaler graduate now at Penn State University, College of Communications; and
- **Elaine Healy**, a North Allegheny graduate attending Ohio University to study photography.

The youth evaluated 71 proposals for community impact and awarded the following grants in August:

- **Calvert Memorial Presbyterian** - Afterschool program for children in grades K-6 - \$5,000
- **Camp Guyasuta** - Boy Scouts of America - Additional equipment for Challenge Course - \$1,500
- **Catholic Youth Association of Pittsburgh** - 15 camperships for children ages 7-14 from low-income families - \$3,400
- **Diakonia Ministries** - 2007 summer youth program - \$4,716
- **Glade Run Lutheran Services** - SAIL program - Furniture and household supplies for five apartments for older teens - \$2,539
- **HEARTH** - Monthly activities and programs for kids and teens; volunteerism program for teens - \$5,000
- **Hope Hospice** - Educational materials for making end-of-life decisions - \$2,500



Interns Elaine Healy, Christina Binz, Mike Zerega and John Bojarski (not pictured, Jessica Slean) learned the fundamentals of human service ministry and grantmaking at NHCO this summer through a Heinz Endowments grant.

- **Mt. Alvernia High** - Breast cancer shawl project - \$450
- **Nazareth Housing Services** - Furnace checks for seniors and homeowners with disabilities - \$4,000
- **North Hills Youth Ministry Counseling Center** - Families in Transition scholarships for low-income families - \$4,000
- **Northside Common Ministries** - Database software - \$3,395
- **Shaler-Ross Meals-on-Wheels** - Commercial refrigerator - \$3,500
- **SIDS of PA** - Cribs and educational materials - \$2,500
- **Union Aid Society** - Clothing, school supplies and winter coats for 60 families - \$4,500
- **Veterans Leadership Program Operation Back Home** - Support for families of deployed military - \$3,000

*"Thank you so much for providing me with such a unique opportunity with NHCO this summer. It was a blast and a great learning experience!"*  
Elaine Healy

For more information about youth leadership opportunities at NHCO, contact Susan Rohm at 412-307-0069 or [shrohm@nhco.org](mailto:shrohm@nhco.org).



## Twelve Katrina Victims Receive Free Cars

NHCO has been awarded \$31,754 from the **Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund-Pittsburgh of The Pittsburgh Foundation**. With these funds, NHCO will provide 12 displaced families who relocated here with safe and reliable vehicles to use for work, school, health and other family needs.

The cars will be purchased from **Community Auto**, NHCO's partnering organization that accepts donated cars, repairs them and sells them well below retail value to local low-income families.

All vehicles provided to hurricane victims will be matched to meet their unique needs based on an in-depth interview. Each vehicle will have a valid, current inspection sticker. All taxes will be paid, as will the title transfer fees and new registration fees. The families will receive a one-year AAA membership, a full tank of gas and a three-month/4,500 miles limited drive train warranty.

Pictured left are Hurricane Katrina victims Lloyd and Darline, the first recipients and proud new owners of a 1994 Buick LeSabre.

## PLEASE ACCEPT MY GIFT TO FORWARD NHCO'S MISSION!

nhco.org  
Search word:  
"donate  
online"

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (in case of questions) \_\_\_\_\_

### GIFT AMOUNT & PAYMENT METHOD

\$35  \$70  \$100  \$250  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed.

MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_

Visa # \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### OPTIONAL

Apply my gift to the **Kresge Challenge** to receive **\$240,000 for the Millvale Satellite Expansion!**

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.

F06NEWS

## Wish List Priorities

- Windowless air-conditioner to protect equipment in our server room
- Paper plates and cups
- 2007 datebooks
- Supplies for new Millvale Satellite
  - Floor mats for under desk chairs
  - Copy paper
  - Message carousels
  - Manila/pendaflex file folders
  - Pens (blue, black and red), paper clips, tape dispensers
  - Bulletin boards
  - Office Max/Office Depot gift cards

nhco.org  
Search word:  
"wish list"

To donate, contact Dianne Buirge at 412-487-6316 or [dmbuirge@nhco.org](mailto:dmbuirge@nhco.org). For a complete wish list, visit [www.nhco.org](http://www.nhco.org).

## Alternative Ways to Help

It may still be possible to have a **brick engraved** with your name, logo or sentiment at the new Millvale Community Center. We are looking into the possibility of a commemorative brick wall just inside the building. If you missed out on the brick sidewalk campaign and are interested in this potential opportunity, email your name and phone number to Wendy Gordon at [wbgordon@nhco.org](mailto:wbgordon@nhco.org) so that we can better ascertain community support for this project. We will contact you if and when the project goes forward.

Does your workplace conduct a **United Way** campaign? If so, please consider designating NHCO this year. Our code is 2357; for federal employees, our code is 9036. You can also designate Community Auto; the code is 1528691.

Do you like to search the Internet? Next time you need to find something on the web, go to **www.goodsearch.com**. Type in "NHCO" in the "I'm supporting" box, and from then on, every time you search NHCO gets a penny. To put it in perspective, if 100 supporters conduct two searches per day, NHCO will receive \$730 a year! We know we have thousands of supporters, so this could mean big (easy) money to help more neighbors in need. So get searching!

A charitable donation to NHCO can play a valuable role in your **financial and tax strategies**. Gifts of appreciated property, charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts and retirement plan assets all offer unique giving opportunities that benefit the donor as well as the long-term future of NHCO. For more information, talk to your tax advisor or contact Fay Morgan at 412-487-6316 or [fpmorgan@nhco.org](mailto:fpmorgan@nhco.org).

### NORTH HILLS COMMUNITY OUTREACH

1975 Ferguson Road  
Allison Park, PA 15101-3235

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Allison Park, PA  
Permit No. 154