

Bountiful Blessings News

The official newsletter of Bountiful Blessingssm

Summer 2009



Message from the President

To borrow a phrase from a friend, Pastor Jerry Todd, God is good – all the time! All the time – God is good!

There is nothing more heart-warming than to watch our Lord and Savior at work in the various communities where we have sites.

Bountiful Blessings is a vision given by God. He designed the program and how it operates. As we transition from a regional to a national program, we will continue to follow His lead, His guidance and His direction.

In this transitional phase, I am confident that we will continue to see God's miracles before our very eyes. We will see those miracles in the faces of the people we serve, in the eyes of the volunteers and through the hearts of the churches and communities. This miracle takes place in the transformation of lives as the recipients, volunteers and churches mesh together in unconditional love.

Thank you to each host site that has answered the call to be a Bountiful Blessings location within your community.



Bountiful Harvest

Many sites offer a Bountiful Harvest Session, where produce from home gardens are distributed to families in need. If your garden has yielded more than your family can consume, why not share your bounty with others?



Bountiful Blessings participated in WITF TV's Coming of Age event in May. The informational event was for non-profit and not for profit organizations to learn how to Harness Boomer Power in recruiting and utilizing the baby boomer generation as volunteers.



When doing a search on the Internet, go to the Good Search web site powered by Yahoo. If you name Bountiful Blessings as your charity, BB will receive money for each Internet search done.

www.goodsearch.com

Be sure to bookmark Good Search as your search engine of choice.

Thank You!

Bountiful Blessings wants to thank the following groups, organizations and businesses for their generosity and support:

- ...Old Dominion Trucking
- ...Bread of Life Outreach
- ...Bethesda Mission
- ...Mission Central
- ...Trinity Lutheran Church in Camp Hill, PA
- ...Shop n Save - Bethel Park PA
- ...Wal-Mart Super Center - Coal Twp. PA
- ...Pepsi – Pottsville , PA
- ...Wal-Mart Super Center - Mechanicsburg, PA
- ...St Timothy Lutheran Church – Camp Hill
- ...Charlton UMC Founders – Harrisburg, PA
- ...Grace Lutheran Church – Highland Park
- ...Gettysburg UMC
- ...Gettysburg College, students, staff, fraternities & sororities
- ...St. John's Lutheran Church – Westminster, MD
- ...Alpha Delta Kappa Alumni
- ...Isaac's Restaurant – West Shore Plaza
- ...Thrivent Financial
- ...Executive Books
- ...Presbyterian Homes Inc.
- ...Trinity Lutheran Church – Mechanicsburg
- ...Calvary UMC – Lemoyne
- ...Capital Area Christian Church - Mechanicsburg

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Touching a heart

This purpose of this segment of the Bountiful Blessings News is to share some of the stories of the recipients who have been touched by the BB program.

Bountiful Blessings is about so much more than bath tissue, toothpaste and cleaning products. It's about offering encouragement, hope, and a means for someone's self confidence to grow.

All I need is diapers

Recently, a man walked in to one of the BB sites with 3 children in tow. In talking with him, we learned that he had lost his job as an executive chef and had relocated to the area where one of our sites is located.

He also shared that he was a single dad. His children were ages 1, 2 and 5.

The man stated that he did not need any personal care items. "I have plenty," he said. "I am in desperate need of diapers."

He explained that his one year old had come down with an intestinal virus and he had used all the diapers he had on hand. When asked if he

was out of diapers, he shared that for the last day or so – he had been using plastic trash bags on his youngest son, as a means of "getting by."

Diapers are a precious commodity at all of our sites. They are something that is rarely donated in through drives. And, because of their expense – we are limited with the amount we can offer.

Fortunately, we had the size in stock that the man needed for his one year old.

A razor can make a difference

Not long ago, at one of the BB sites in the Pittsburgh area, a man who received was so excited because the site had disposable razors. He shared that now he can shave and go for a job interview that was scheduled for later that week.

A book for good behavior

A 12 year old boy came regularly with his mother to receive at one of our sites.

We learned that this young man loved books. We also learned, from his mother, that he has behavioral issues and learning disabilities.

Through interacting with both the mom and the son – we learned that they both love to serve others.

We also learned, between BB sessions this young man would have violent verbal and behavioral outbursts.

Within a few sessions, the site staff had befriended the young man. And, the site staff made the young man an offer. If he would not lash out at his mother during the next 2 weeks, they would give him some newer books to read.

At the next BB session, we learned that the young man had fewer outbursts than in the recent past. Again, the staff made the same offer: a book for good behavior.

Soon, the teen's mom was coming to the sessions telling us how proud she was of her son because he was not having any out of control episodes.

Even the young man's case workers were amazed – and came to a session to meet our staff. They expressed their amazement at how well the book for behaving deal had worked.

Now, the young man volunteers occasionally at sessions alongside other teens, helping carry items to the recipient's cars, stocking shelves and keeping the site tidy.

Coming Soon

The following BB site will be opening soon:

Harrisburg City of Refuge
Harrisburg, PA

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Summer 2009



BB on FB

Do you have a Facebook account? If so, why not join the Bountiful Blessings Facebook Cause?

BB events and happenings as well as announcements are posted on our Facebook page.



Nationwide

Once again, Bountiful Blessings was asked to participate in a Non-Profit Fair held by Nationwide Insurance at their Harrisburg, PA service center. The event is held to promote volunteerism among the insurance company's employees. The fair also promotes Walk Nationwide, an annual event where employees raise money through pledges to participate in the company's walk. The money raised by each walker goes to their designated charity.



Remember Bountiful Blessings as part of your will or trust. For more information please contact the Bountiful Blessings office at 717-802-1222

Shamokin Site has a New Location

The Shamokin Bountiful Blessings site has relocated its Open Arms Outreach Center. The new site is located at the corner of Lincoln & Grant Streets in Coal Township, PA. The hours of the BB sessions will remain the same – 1st and 3rd Friday of every month from 6PM to 8PM.

Interested in Conducting a Drive?



Are you:

...interested in conducting a goods drive at your church, place of employment or in your neighborhood

...wanting to teach your scout group, school group or Sunday School Class about servant hood

It's easy, fun and rewarding. AND, you are making a difference in the lives of a family who has fallen on hard times.

Contact our office, and a staff member will offer their advice and expertise on how to do a non-food drive.

Wish List for the upcoming season

As the fall approaches, we, at Bountiful Blessings, are preparing for our "Back To School" session at our full service sites. These sessions are when we distribute school supplies to the children of recipient families.

We are currently collecting the following:

- Single subject tablets
- Pencils and Pens
- Erasers
- Loose leaf paper
- 2 pocket folders
- Crayons

Note: for safety reasons we cannot accept sharp scissors, protractors, etc.

New Sites

Bountiful Blessings is in the discussion stage with several new sites.

We are also looking to expand, adding additional sites in Pennsylvania and Maryland. If you know of a church with a heart for outreach, we would be happy to meet with them and share what we do as well as the impact Bountiful Blessings has on the community and the church. Feel free to e-mail us with the name and phone number of the church clergy, and the person in charge of outreach.

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Contributions

Make checks payable to Bountiful Blessings Inc.

Please send your donations to Bountiful Blessings P.O. Box 299 Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Speaking of Bountiful Blessings

To schedule someone from Bountiful Blessings to speak to your church group, scout troop, civic organization or school – simply call our office at 717-802-1222

The difference we are making

Bountiful Blessings by the numbers

Number of sites - 11

Number of families served per month through the Bountiful Blessings program
310

Number of items distributed through the BB sites
5,393



Warehouse News

We are excited to share the news that our warehouse space has grown! The square footage we use has been doubled thanks to the generosity of PHI.

Thank you to the Men's Bible Study Group at Trinity Lutheran Church in Camp Hill who spent 2 Saturdays building shelves to enable us to utilize the height of the warehouse.



GETTYSBURG COLLEGE CYCLING CLUB 2009

The first ever Bountiful Blessings 5K turned out to be a great event. The event was organized and operated by a group of students from Gettysburg College. The weather cooperated, the volunteers were ambitious and excited, and the fund raiser was a success.

We are hoping to make the BB 5K on the Gettysburg College Campus an annual spring time event.



Truck Fund

We are in need of a box truck or large van. The pick up truck, currently being used to deliver items to the BB sites has 200,000 miles on it. If you, or someone you know has a box truck or van, that is inspected and in good running condition, please contact the BB office at 717-802-1222.

We have set up a "truck fund" to cover the costs of maintaining a delivery truck. To contribute to this fund, please mark in the memo line of your check "truck fund".

In Memory of Ron Vogel

We were saddened to hear that a dear friend to Bountiful Blessings, Ron Vogel has passed away after battling a lengthy illness.

Ron and his wife, Elaine were active in conducting drives at their home church, Grace Lutheran – Highland Park. Ron delighted in doing the drives each month.

There is comfort in knowing that Ron has won his battle against cancer and is in a place where there is no pain and suffering.

Bountiful Blessings, Inc. P.O. Box 299 Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717-802-1222 www.bountifulblessingsinc.org

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BB Golf Outing

Mark your calendar! Friday October 2nd will be the Bountiful Blessings Golf Outing. The golf event will be held at Mayapple Golf Links in Carlisle.

Entry fees as well as more information will be posted on the Bountiful Blessings web site soon.



Bountiful Blessings had a table at the Career Link Job Fair held at Harrisburg's Farm Show complex. More than 2,000 people attended the job fair.

The job fair was great exposure for Bountiful Blessings. Those who worked the information table were able to promote the BB sites in both Dauphin and Cumberland Counties.

Congratulations Trevor Harlacher *Bountiful Blessings Scholarship Teen*



Trevor has been active in assisting in the operation of the Lemoyne BB site for the past 2 years. He has also done support work in conducting drives for the Lemoyne site.

As part of his participation in the BB Scholarship Program, Trevor had to read 8 books from a pre-selected list on personal and leadership development. He did book reports on 4 of the books he read.

Trevor graduated from Cedar Cliff High School and is very active in roller hockey. In fact, he has played in several semi-professional roller hockey games.



Bountiful Blessings Office

Visit Bountiful Blessingssm on the web at:

www.bountifulblessingsinc.org

Upcoming Events

Bountiful Blessings is scheduled to participate in the following events:

- Hampden Twp. Creekview Family Fun Night
- Munhall Boro Community Days
- Williamstown Community Fair
- United Way Day of Caring
- Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Day
- BB Golf Outing

If you would like Bountiful Blessings to have a booth or table at your community's fair, festival or job fair – please contact our office.

Bountiful Blessings Board of Directors

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