

BETHANY OUTREACH CENTER
Annual Report for 2016



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2,000 households (1400 estimated unduplicated) took advantage of Bethany Programs in 2016
292 (unduplicated) volunteers supplied 8,000 hours to “make this happen” at Bethany

Special Volunteers included: The Barber Center, Behrend Cheerleaders, CC Center, Erie Insurance, Gannon University, Mercyhurst University and Perseus House.

Special Thanks go to Cornerstone Construction for delivering our food each week and the Saint Vincent Mobile Van for visiting us every other week.

PROGRAMS

- Food Pantry – 4,572 visits were made to our pantry by 1,944 unduplicated clients.
- Clothes Closet – 4,580 visits were made to our closet by 2,530 unduplicated clients and 44,888 pounds of clothing were donated this past year.
- Impact (After School Teen Program) for ages 14-18 is held every Wednesday 3:30 – 7:39 pm. 40 youth are registered with an average attendance of 20-25. This past year, we partnered with Erie Dawn to present a Family Night on the first Wednesday of each month. It has been so successful that we will be adding an additional day in this new year. Special speakers have made presentations each week, along with our regular programming,
- Storytime (Saturday Reading Program) was held in the Spring and Fall for youth ages 3-10. 18 families participated in the Spring Session and 16 families participated in the Fall Session. 73 books were distributed to the youth through Hooked on Books.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- The Saint Vincent Mobile Van visited the Food Pantry every other Wednesday.
- A Representative from Kathy Dahlkemper’s office helped pass out socks on Sock Day, March 2nd.
- \$591.75 was raised in our representation at Bon Ton’s annual fundraiser.
- Bethany was featured at the Lake Erie Cheer and Dance Championship at the Erie Insurance Arena in April. We received 71 boxes of cereal, \$661.78 was raised through 50/50’s and an additional \$500 was donated from Champion Cheer Central to meet a goal of over \$1,000.
- A Strawberry Festival for women was held in May, sponsored by Ameri-Health.
- Bethany participated in Erie Gives Day in August and raised \$6,184.
- After an opportunity to create puppets in September, Impact participated in the opening AmeriMasala parade celebration at the Tall Ships Festival.
- The Erie Federal Credit Union provided funds for Impact purchasing Back Packs filled with supplies.
- “Sole Search”, Bethany’s annual fund raiser on September 17th provided a net income of \$3,685.16.
- Flu shots, supplied by Life Works, were given to our clients in October.

Bethany Outreach Center, continued

- In November, 67 volunteers came to unload the truck and distribute the fixings for 200 turkey dinners. This special day was sponsored by Erie Insurance and Second Harvest. Volunteers included: Erie Insurance, Behrend Cheerleaders, Gannon University, Mercyhurst and Perseus House.
- Our annual Neighborhood Christmas Party was held on December 3rd, sponsored by Branch 49 of the Loyal Christian Benefit Association (LCBA)

CORPORATE MATCHES

Erie Indemnity (Erie Insurance), GE Community Foundation, Thrivent Choice Program

GRANTS AND GIFTS

Ameri-Health (bongo drums for our Impact), "Helping Today" Grant from the Erie Community Foundation for Impact, Church World Service CROP Hunger Walk, Erie Insurance, Women of the ELCA, Branch 49 of LCBA, Lord Corporation, Luther Memorial, Lord Good Neighbor Fund, Luther Memorial Church, Messiah Lutheran, Millcreek Kiwanis (food baskets), Morlin Incorporated, St. Mary's Auditorium, Slovak National Club, TANF (food grant for Impact), VASA, Wesleyville American Legion.

SOLE SEARCH EVENT SPONSORS

Bayfront Sheraton, Better Baked Foods, Country Fair, Doug Cornelius Insurance Agency, Erie General Tire, Erie Playhouse, Highmark, Kerr Tires, Life Changes Massage Therapy, M. E. Graffius Trucking, Mary Laver, Northwest Savings Bank, Presque Isle Downs, Inc., Shell Station at 6th and Parade, Wegmans, Ed and Carol Whitbred.



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