



Keystone Opportunity Center

Providing Help • Offering Hope

Serving the Indian Valley, North Penn and Pennridge Communities with a comprehensive continuum of social services since 1970



Students at Salford Hills Elementary School tend their community garden and donated to Keystone's pantry.

Food Pantry Serves Record Numbers Through Summer

According to Keystone's Food Pantry Coordinator, Cindy Dembrosky, the summer months were busier than ever with record numbers using the pantry services. "In July, we served 257 households and August brought in 249," she said. "We were very blessed by the abundant community contributions, especially the variety and quantity of fresh garden produce," she added.

The pantry provided different garden-friendly recipes for families to try. "One mother called me after she went home with lots of zucchini and a 'Zucchini Crisps' recipe. She made the crisps and told me her two-year old loved them and she was going to make another batch," said Dembrosky.

Thanks to community donations of kid-friendly food items and fun "Giggle Bags" provided by students at Salford Hills Elementary School, the pantry was able to provide additional bags for families with children through mid-August. "That was such a help during the summer months when families have no meals provided at school," remarked Dembrosky.

Cash Donations Needed at Food Pantry

While the food donations have helped keep the shelves stocked, the expense of running the pantry continues to be a concern. Interested community members may make cash contributions as well as food donations to keep Keystone food assistance program strong and healthy.

Community Volunteers- Keystone's Most Valuable Resource

You Can Be Part of Keystone's Volunteer Team

If you can answer "Yes" to any of these questions, contact the Keystone Volunteer Coordinator to find out how you can join our volunteer team.

Do you:

- Need something fun to fill your time?
- Want to be involved in your community?
- Have a skill or passion you'd like to share?
- Feel called to give back or help others?

Keystone has many varied opportunities for volunteers of all ages and skill levels to make a difference for local families and individuals needing assistance with housing, education and food. Here are a few examples of how you can help:

Tutor- work with students on language and literacy skills, math, or general education

Food Pantry Assistant- help sort, shelve and pack food

Property Maintenance- work on Keystone affordable housing units doing general repair, painting or yard work

Moving Helpers- assist with clients moving into and out of housing units- use of truck a plus

Events Team- serve on Events Planning committee or volunteer to help at special community events and fund-raisers. If you are a "people person" we need you

Office Assistant- Receptionist and computer skills required to fill in as needed

Promotion Assistant- Help distribute community event promotional flyers, posters and materials

Advocacy Team Leader- Help communicate important information to community and contact appropriate leaders to advocate for action regarding housing, education and hunger issues

Board member- Become a community advocate and leader on the Keystone board

Contact the Keystone Volunteer Coordinator at 215-723-5430 or go online www.keystoneopportunity.org to fill out a volunteer application and join the team.



Food Pantry volunteers Tal and Charlotte Kramer help weigh in a donation from the Souderton Mennonite Church vacation Bible School program.

Tutor Training Scheduled for October 5

A free tutor training session for interested volunteers will be offered by Keystone on Saturday, October 5 from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m. The session will be conducted by Tutors of Literacy in the Commonwealth.

- For volunteers interested in tutoring students in English as a Second Language, GED, or Adult Basic skills such as reading and math. A college degree is required by the State of PA for funded tutoring programs
- Registration deadline—Monday, September 16. Contact Patrice Karcher at the Keystone Office 215-723-5430 ext. 117.



IHN Welcomes Back Montgomery Square United Methodist Church

After several years of absence from the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) hosting team, Montgomery Square United Methodist Church of North Wales has returned eager to help as a host for the Upper Bucks shelter network.

While their new church was under construction, the congregation was unable to provide a host facility for the homeless shelter program. Eager to share their new facilities with those in need, they will be participating once again as a host church in 2014 and beyond.

With Montgomery Square hosting, the IHN needs only two more host congregations to fill both the Indian Valley and Upper Bucks networks for 12 months. Any interested congregations should contact IHN Director, Sue Zomberg-215-723-5430, about hosting.



Participants Needed to Fill Keystone Houses With Love

Imagine a warm, cozy place to stay sheltered from the cold winter weather and lonely dark nights. That's what many Keystone housing clients have to do—imagine—because for them, a place to call home is just a dream.



Help us fulfill their dreams of living in a place where they feel safe and secure in their future by filling one of the Keystone "House Filled with Love" collection boxes.

Imagine what Keystone could do if the community would fill 1,000 boxes with \$50 or more before the end of this year. Boxes are available for all ages, groups or individuals. There are many creative ways to fill them:

- share your birthday cash
- take along for Halloween visits
- challenge family members to contribute
- distribute in Sunday School classes, youth groups or community children's clubs
- host a "House-warming" and ask guests to contribute
- clean your house of loose change and place in the box

Filled boxes should be returned to Keystone Opportunity Center before December 20, 2013.

"A House Filled With Love" collection boxes are available at the Keystone office—104 Main Street, Souderton. Stop by to pick up boxes to share.

Harbor House Neighbors Partner With Keystone

When Mark Medvesky moved his law office into the Harbor House early in August,



Attorney Mark Medvesky (right) and law clerk Douglas Wortman (left) moved into the first floor Harbor House office in early August.

Medvesky Law

15 Harbor Place, Souderton, PA 18964
215-660-3170 • medveskylaw.com

he filled the final piece of the two-year community project to refurbish and reuse the historic brick building located on Harbor Place in Souderton.

The project, under the direction of Keystone Opportunity Center, began with a partnership with Univest Corporation, owner of the building. Univest agreed to rent the facility to Keystone at a reduced rate in exchange for having their building renovated by community volunteers and supervised by the nonprofit organization. The second floor, three-bedroom apartment was completed early this year and is being used by Keystone as an affordable, permanent housing unit for

clients in its housing program.

The renovations on the first floor office space were completed early this summer and Medvesky was eager to become its first tenant. A retired Air Force veteran, the attorney hopes to grow his general practice close to home and build positive relationships in the local community. He lives with his wife and two children in Harleysville.

While Medvesky's office will provide a varied of legal services, his interests include serving veterans and focusing on immigration law. Recognizing Keystone's work with immigrants, he has offered his services to the organization and hopes to work closely with Keystone staff and clients.

New Grants and Operations Coordinator Joins Keystone Staff

Keystone welcomed Kenneth D. Smith as its new Grants and Operations Coordinator in early July in the midst of a busy grant writing season. He didn't hesitate to tackle the job using his years of experience in both corporate and nonprofit areas. "Keystone has many great programs to support the community. I hope to find ways to continue to fund them," he said.

Originally from Plymouth Meeting, PA, Smith graduated from Norristown Area High School. He has a degree in Communication with business focus from Michigan State University and a graduate degree from Columbus International University.



Smith has spent the last 30 years involved in business and ministry both in the U.S. and abroad helping organizations better use available resources to strengthen and grow.

Smith remarked, "After living overseas for many years, it's nice to be back helping to make a difference close to home." He lives in Perkasie with his wife and youngest of four sons.

“Learning Never Stops” at Keystone



As the school year begins at Keystone, more than 325 adult students will participate in free classes offered in English as a Second Language, GED and Civics. More than 35 families will participate in the Family Literacy program geared for pre-schoolers and their parents. At Keystone the learning never stops

for willing students. Here is one Family Literacy class member’s story as written for a class assignment:

When I came to this country with very little English I understood that life wasn’t going to be as easy as I thought. Therefore, I understood the best way for me was to learn and be part of the new culture I had chosen.

I studied English and soon I was helping others who needed help. I also understood that I needed to improve my skills because learning never stops.

Currently I am attending Family Literacy classes through Keystone Opportunity Center. I have found lovely, caring, funny and professional people who are willing to help me not only improve my language skills, but myself and family life. They give me the tools to succeed while I help others, my family and myself.

Thanks to Family Literacy, I have improved my English skills and gained the confidence to be successful. That is why I have set my next goal which is to take “Bridging the Gap” classes provided by Nationalities Service Center that will help me become a Medical Interpreter. This will open up the world for me in a different way.

Thank you, Keystone Opportunity Center, Family Literacy program and especially all my teachers who believe in me and have pushed me to go for my dreams.—Maria (Ecuador)

PHOTO: Congratulations to Maria, who became a Certified Medical Interpreter soon after writing her story.

Read more Family Literacy student stories at keystoneopportunity.org/familyliteracystories



Keystone Staff Recognized for United Way Giving



Keystone Development Officer Brenda Oelschlager and Executive Director Rich Aichele (photo above) accepted the North Penn United Way Community Award for Best Contributor Participation for a company under 100 employees with 100% employee participation in the 2013 United Way campaign. Keystone receives funding from the United Way for several community programs.

As the new NPUW Campaign gets underway, think about ways your place of employment might be able to help Keystone.

- If you donate to the United Way at work, designate Keystone Opportunity Center as the recipient of your contribution.
- Invite a Keystone representative to share with your organization.
- Suggest that your workplace participate in the United Way “Day of Caring” to volunteer at Keystone.
- Encourage other employees to contribute to the campaign.

What could you “LIVE WITHOUT” for a year?

Many of the people serving at Keystone live their lives “without” many of the things others take for granted.

Without affordable housing, without a car, without enough food, without a high school diploma, without language skills, without household necessities, without full time work, without adequate public transportation, without heat, without a network of family and community support, without life skills necessary to manage on their own.

Consider living without \$10 a month(or more) by making a recurring donation for one year online. Your contribution will be matched with grant funds to provide necessary resources for Keystone as we work to help community members live better lives with confidence, security and hope.

Take the “Living Without” Challenge and commit to making one year of monthly payments online at www.keystoneopportunity.org—DONATE. It’s a simple way to make a difference for a Keystone family or individual. Tell us about your experience “Living Without” as the year continues and we’ll be glad to share your stories with others.

Keystone Opportunity Center

SOUP SALE

Proceeds from Keystone’s **Soup Sale** will benefit our client families in many ways. Order online at www.keystoneopportunity.org/soupsale. Pick up your order at the Keystone Office on Monday, November 11, 1-6 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, but priority will be given to on-line orders

- Beef Barley
- Country Vegetable Ham & Bean
- Chicken Noodle

\$5.00 per quart



Keystone Opportunity Center

P.O. Box 64183, Souderton, PA 18964

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SAVE THESE DATES

Be a part of Keystone's fun community events. Bring your family and friends along to help support the mission of Keystone Opportunity Center.

Check www.keystoneopportunity.org for registration forms, tickets and more information.

DARING DIVE FOR DOLLARS - Oct. 5th - Keystone Executive Director Rich Aichele will skydive at the Pennridge Airport at 9:00 a.m. to raise funds for the organization. You can purchase tickets to watch or send him a "Good Luck" donation online.

CROP WALK - Oct. 13th - Partner with Keystone and Generations Senior Center for the new 5-mile Walk for Hunger. The Walk begins 1:00 p.m. at Souderton Mennonite Church. Bring a long your food donation for Keystone's pantry.

PUTTLE TOURNAMENT - Oct. 24th - Sponsored by the Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce, Puttle is an exciting an exciting combination of golf and bowling skills for friendly competition. Tournament includes teams of four. Join the fun at Indian Valley Country Club from 6:00-8:00p.m. and play to benefit Keystone.

SLEEP OUT FOR HOMELESSNESS - Nov. 8th & 9th - Spend the night outside to experience what life on the streets is like for many homeless people. Event will be held Friday at St. John's Lutheran Church, Quakertown and Saturday at Zion Mennonite Church, Cherry Lane, Souderton. Check Keystone's website for details.

HUNGER AWARENESS SOUP SALE - Nov. 11th
Place your orders online now for a quick, easy, healthy meal. Homemade soup will be available for pick up at the Keystone office from 1-6 p.m. on November 11.

BOY SCOUT FOOD DRIVE - Nov. 16
Watch for notification from local scout troops about neighborhood pick ups. Donation may also be delivered to Keystone's pantry warehouse between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at 142 Main Street in Souderton.

New Website Provides Easy Access to Keystone Information

Over the summer, Keystone redesigned its website to make it more user-friendly and current. While keeping up with the latest technology is not always easy, it is becoming the most cost effective way for non-profit service organizations like Keystone to communicate with their supporters and potential clients. We invite you to take a virtual tour of our new site and learn more about the people we serve, the impact we make and ways you can partner with us in our mission to make our community a better place to live and work and grow. We'll share stories of struggles and success, offer opportunities to volunteer, and solicit your help to find the resources required to meet the increased needs we face every day.

As we try to be good stewards of our limited resources, we will be shifting to more electronic communication media. You'll be able to view the newsletter on the web site or receive it via

email by subscribing on the web site. When you subscribe you will be added to our email communications list and receive updates about Keystone events and activities. You will also be helping us save on postage and printing.

Subscribe now at keystoneopportunity.org



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Administration Offices located at
104 Main Street in Souderton
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Fax: 215-799-0739
www.keystoneopportunity.org

E. Richard Aichele, III - Executive Director
Brenda Oelschlager - Development Officer,
Newsletter Editor
Leinbach Design - Newsletter Design & Layout

Please call or email us at office@keystoneopp.org to add to or delete names from our mailing list.



If you are a Facebook user, please be sure to share our posts with your friends and family. The more people who know about Keystone the more help we can provide!

Keystone Opportunity Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community organization, donations to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. The official registration and financial information of Keystone Opportunity Center may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling toll free, within PA: 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



Keystone Opportunity Center

The mission of Keystone Opportunity Center is to help community members in need by offering a comprehensive array of social services that educates, encourages and empowers them to become self-sufficient.