

AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS

DIAKON LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries expresses continuing appreciation for our partnership with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and its congregations, as Diakon lives out its mission, through Many Hands and One Heart, to demonstrate God's command to love the neighbor through acts of service. Diakon maintains a nearly 140-year tradition of care for people of all ages, especially those with limited financial resources. In 2006, Diakon provided \$13.1 million in uncompensated care, including \$4.39 million within the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. The total represents an increase of more than \$1.5 million in organizational support for those with limited resources.

As part of its focus on continuum-of-care senior living communities, key to future services for older adults, Diakon commissioned market studies and developed local task groups to create master plans for each senior living campus, including **The Lutheran Home at Topton**, **Luther Crest** in Allentown, and **Pocono Lutheran Village**, East Stroudsburg. The master plans outline a phased expansion and renovation program for the various senior living communities; at year's end, Diakon announced the first phase of development would include new cottage-homes at four communities, including **The Lutheran Home at Topton**. In addition, homes were built throughout 2006 in **Southgate at Luther Crest**, with the first residents moving to the community in early 2007. The Luther Crest project also includes renovation of existing apartments and common areas, as well as construction of a wellness center. In addition, Diakon continues to operate **Lutherwood**, a rental-support senior housing community in Scranton.

In other developments, **Diakon Hospice Saint John** relocated its Pittston office to Honesdale, in response to client needs, and took steps to create a continuum of home-care services involving **Diakon Help at Home** within the Reading market served by the programs. **Diakon Adoption & Foster Care** served some 550 children and families, placing 29 children with permanent adoptive families and serving an additional 92 children and youths through foster care. The program took a number of innovative steps including training staff members in equine-assisted therapy, creating a family recruitment and development unit, and forming family-focused support groups. **Diakon Pregnancy Services** counseled 37 birth families, compared to 28 in 2005, placing four children through Diakon's adoption program. **Diakon Family Life Services – Northeastern Pennsylvania**

gained licensing approval to offer Girls on the Run programming in Lehigh County and received a Caron Foundation award for its employee assistance program.

During 2006, **RSVP for Lehigh, Carbon, and Northampton counties**, which Diakon sponsors, coordinated 827 volunteers who contributed 104,646 hours of service. The program has an Environmental Corps whose members monitor the waters of the Little Lehigh Watershed and Bushkill Watershed. In addition, RSVP has begun a pen pal program that matches students from The Lutheran Academy with senior "pen pals."

We thank God for the gifts of staff, volunteers, congregations, donors, and board members who, together, enabled us to touch the lives of thousands upon thousands of persons last year, including many within the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

Daun E. McKee, president/CEO

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA LUTHERAN CAMP CORPORATION (BEAR CREEK CAMP)

Bear Creek Camp and Conference Center is the year-round outdoor ministry of both the NE and SE Pennsylvania Synods of the ELCA. In our mission to provide opportunities for adventure and discovery within God's creation and within Christian community, we served 1,300 children through our summer church camp programs last year. Over 5,000 were impacted by our Nature Center, and retreat programs ministered to another 1,600 adults and children. Also, thousands used our two retreat facilities for programs of their own churches and groups.

Last fall, we contracted with a professional consultant to conduct a Feasibility Study among our constituency to determine the potential and scope of a future capital campaign. This campaign would likely include a new adult retreat center, upgrading of our current dining hall, improvements to roads and parking areas, and some additional renovations to existing facilities. We look forward to sharing further details, as we announce this capital campaign at the appropriate time.

Over \$70,000 of projects have been targeted in our Fix-It Up Campaign 2007. Churches, families and groups are being asked to adopt a project this year and recruit the necessary skilled workers to accomplish it. If your church is not already in-

volved, a complete listing of projects is available at www.bearcreekcamp.org.

Adequate funds have now been raised for the construction of the Sanctuary, a new outdoor chapel facility on the banks of Bear Creek. We hope to construct this new three-season building by the end of 2007 for use in worship, rainy day campfires, weddings, and much, much more.

Throughout this past year, we implemented a great deal of staff restructuring. Job descriptions were rewritten and new combinations of some positions were created. Two new positions we introduced this past year were a Youth Programs Manager and a Food and Housekeeping Services Manager. We believe our new staffing model will not only be more efficient, but it will also allow us to offer finer Christ-centered youth and adult programs for meeting the needs of our churches.

As we continue to partner with our churches to offer new programs, facilities and resources to families, we challenge all churches to give greater ongoing financial support through budgets and special gifts. And as costs continue to rise for offering this ministry, we need churches and individuals to stand with us in offering financial assistance to every family who desires a church camp experience for their children.

This year will be an exciting one, as we:

- clarify the details for a new Adult Retreat Center that will meet the needs of the churches of our synods,
- prepare for an upcoming capital campaign for many camp improvements,
- accomplish a multitude of facility facelifts and equipment replacements,
- construct the Sanctuary, the new outdoor chapel.

Thank you for being a partner with us in offering excellent outdoor ministry to the churches of eastern Pennsylvania.

Robert Stover, executive director

GOOD SHEPHERD HOME AND REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network continued to grow in the past year, expanding our services and geographic scope, and improving our facilities for the people we serve.

In October 2006, Good Shepherd dedicated its new south Allentown campus, which is the realiza-

tion of a vision to enhance the rehabilitation services available on Good Shepherd's main campus.

The centerpiece of the initiative, a 64,000-square-foot Health & Technology Center, consolidates the outpatient programs and services that were previously scattered throughout the campus. It houses Good Shepherd's state-of-the-art Harry C. Trexler Center for Assistive Technology, which puts the power of science to work for people with disabilities. Rehability, a unique store offering life-enhancing products and services, is located in the new facility, along with an accessible fitness center open to the public. A large, heated aqua-therapy pool, the Neurorehabilitation Program, the Pediatrics Program, orthopedic rehabilitation and more are also housed in the Health & Technology Center.

Outside the building, in the healing gardens that replaced a stretch of St. John Street, stands a sculpture of the Rev. Dr. Conrad W. Raker. This sculpture serves as the aesthetic center of the gardens and a homage to the man whose legacy guides the day-to-day activities of Good Shepherd.

In early 2007, Good Shepherd announced the creation of Good Shepherd Penn Partners, a joint venture formed with the University of Pennsylvania Health System (UPHS). The partnership, which will begin operations in 2008, will be the post-acute care provider for UPHS, offering inpatient, outpatient, long-term acute care and other rehabilitation services in the Philadelphia region. The partnership with UPHS will enhance access to expert rehabilitation care to patients in the Philadelphia region. Also, an affiliation with one of the country's most respected academic medical centers will help take Good Shepherd to the next level of care, research, education and recognition. This will benefit the organization and our patients, clients and residents in the Lehigh Valley region.

Good Shepherd now provides rehabilitation services at 30 sites throughout 7 counties in eastern Pennsylvania. While the organization grows and expands the number of people who benefit from its expert care, Good Shepherd continues to focus exclusively on providing the best rehabilitation care to the most people possible.

Last year Good Shepherd provided more than \$4.7 million in charitable care. Much of the charitable care was used to subsidize the Good Shepherd Pediatrics Program, focusing on children with developmental and physical disabilities, and the Work Services Division, which provides employment, job training and other services to persons with disabilities.

For more information on the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network, please call 1-888-44-REHAB (73422) or visit www.goodshepherdrehab.org.

Sally Gammon, president and CEO
Richard Drobnicki, chair, board of trustees

LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES, INC.

As the following report indicates, 2006 was a year of growth and change for LCS. New ministries were developed. Some long-time ministries were revised. New temporary, part-time staff members were added to enable LCS to respond better to local disasters that occurred in 2006. All of these things were done so that the agency can continue and expand upon its Legacy of Caring and Service as it celebrates the 35th Anniversary of its founding in 2007.

During 2006 LCS created a new cross-cultural workshop at San Martin de Porres Church in Allentown. In addition, two food pantry experiences were added to our traditional Workshops for Confirmands offerings. Also in 2006, LCS joined with the chaplain's office at St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem, to provide a "birth to death" workshop. 135 youth and 52 adults participated in this ministry during the year.

Since 1993 LCS has trained over 1000 lay people from 190 congregations in both the Northeastern and Southeastern Pennsylvania Synods in the theology and practice of distributing Holy Communion to the homebound and institutionalized. During 2006 LCS held four Lay Eucharistic Ministry training events across the NE Pa Synod and two in the SE Pa Synod.

In 2006 two new sites were added for the Marriage Preparedness Series, one in Brodheadsville and one in Plainfield Township. LCS provided this ministry to 97 couples in 2006.

Following a revision of the material and format, LCS began to develop sites for its six-week grief ministry, "**Journeys Through Grief**". This ministry for those stuck in their grief journey was held in Easton, East Penn, and Oley. All three locations will host seminars again in 2007. If you would be interested in beginning this ministry in your community, give LCS a call.

Discovering God's Vision for your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts was offered twice in 2006. This eight-hour course leads participants on a journey to discover their spiritual gifts and how God is calling them to use them for the good of the world and the church.

During 2006 LCS was able to support several congregations who use Herb Miller's *Consecration Sunday* program. LCS also has the ability to work with stewardship teams/committees to address a variety of local needs.

Once again LCS was proud to support Christmas Ingathering events. The Bethlehem-Easton Mission District event was held at Holy Trinity, Bethlehem. The Lehigh Mission District event was held at St. John, Emmaus. The Northern Lehigh Mission District event was held at St. John, Bath. This single ministry impacted the lives of literally thousands of individuals again in 2006.

LCS continues to offer its services for council retreats, leadership workshops and other specialized events. During 2006 the agency led one-day council workshops and a new ½ day offering for secretaries and administrative assistants. This latter ministry was well received and will be offered again in 2007 with a different theme and focus.

169 volunteers put in approximately 1500 hours of labor on 15 properties in 3 counties responding to flooding that followed heavy late June rains. Twelve counties of the fourteen that comprise the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod were declared federal disaster areas. LCS is at work in four of the counties through Long Term Recovery Committees and is responding to individual referrals from FEMA in other areas where such committees are not yet formed. A Disaster Preparedness Plan for the synod was developed and will be further fleshed out in 2007. Finally, in cooperation with Diakon, LCS sent 3 Camp Noah Teams (65 volunteers) to 3 locations on the Gulf Coast and co-sponsored a workshop on Pandemic.

David A. Newman, board chair
Dennis S. Ritter, president and CEO

THE LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT PHILADELPHIA

The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia is committed to preparing ordained and lay ministers of the Word as leaders for the mission of the Church in the world.

LTSP's Plan for 2007-2010

The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia is committed to serious strategic planning. During the past several years LTSP has revised its curriculum, established a Th.D. program, expanded the Theological Education for Emerging Ministry program (TEEM) to meet the growing need for ethnic specific leaders; constructed a

new Learning Center and launched a major advancement effort. To date more than \$25 million has been pledged or given in the comprehensive campaign towards a goal of \$30 million.

The primary goals of the current planning cycle reflect a natural evolution of these continuing strategies:

- The Brossman Learning Center will enhance our programs. This will include an increased focus on our multicultural future through development of our concentrations: The Black Church Concentration in the Urban Theological Institute, *El Instituto de Teología y Pastoral*, the Asian Concentration, and our Metro/Urban Concentration. We will also continue to expand our program in collaboration with Gettysburg Seminary to cultivate leaders for social ministry organizations, as well as courses, public lectures and conferences on major theological and religious issues in the region for all of God's people, especially through the Faith and Life Institute.
- We continue to have a commitment to providing increasingly skilled leadership for the Church, an initiative enhanced by the Connect Program funded by the Lilly Foundation and by our regional communication strategy.
- The LTSP Foundation Board and staff continue to focus on raising Capital Campaign funds to allow us to accelerate the satisfaction of debt requirements for the construction of the Brossman Learning Center. Nothing, not even a mortgage, can stand in the way of our mission to raise up leaders for the church.
- We will continue to lay out the initial plans for raising the necessary funds for the renovation of the Krauth Library.

The Capital Campaign

We are so grateful for the support of all our donors and friends. We are especially grateful for the increasing contributions to the Leadership Fund that directly supports our students and faculty. Despite the faithful support from synod budgets, LTSP is becoming increasingly dependent upon the regular giving of laypersons and congregations for the Leadership Fund. This current fiscal year, for example, ending June 30, 2007 we have to raise \$650,000 to meet the budget. We have received a \$300,000 challenge grant from the Thrivent for Lutherans Foundation for our students' involvement in the Philadelphia community, especially among the working poor, and have been challenged to raise another \$600,000 for the Brossman Center. This chal-

lenge could go a long way toward finishing the campaign.

The Th.D Program

Under the able leadership of Dr. Margaret Krych, the Th.D program continued this year with nine candidates. In fact, the whole graduate program, with increasing numbers in the DMin and STM programs is stronger than ever. Dr. Krych has announced her retirement in 2008. Her successor will have big shoes to fill!

Enrollment

We had another strong enrollment this academic year with 76 M.Div and MAR students from all over the nation and the world and about 35 new graduate students. About 50% of the new students are in their twenties. Students have been attracted to our new concentrations in Justice and Youth ministries. This past fall we said goodbye to the Rev. Richard Summy, who returned to serving a parish as the senior pastor at Atonement Lutheran Church in Wyomissing, PA after serving LTSP brilliantly as Director of Admissions.

Thank You

I thank God for you every time I reflect on all that God has accomplished at LTSP over the years. By God's grace and your constant support, we are a vibrant and lively community of learning and worship. I am overcome with an enormous sense of thankfulness to God that I am privileged to serve as President of this wonderful school. Thank you for this opportunity. God is good to us.

Addie J. Butler, chair, board of trustees
Philip D.W. Krey, president

MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

2006 was another strong year in the life of Muhlenberg College. Muhlenberg College continues to receive local, regional and national publicity on its academic, sports, arts and service learning programs, as well as articles on the results of research carried out by its faculty and students.

Construction was a theme on campus for another year. The Science Building addition was completed and renovations to the existing science buildings is very near completion. A Multi-Cultural house and Study Abroad office has been acquired and renovated, and a new Residence Hall is near completion.

The college prepared for the 50th anniversary of co-education at Muhlenberg in 2007. Two profes-

sors won Fulbright Awards, the College received a major gift for an ornithology center and endowed professorship, the Center for Ethics presented programs under the theme “Freedom Matters”, the nationally recognized magic program was very successful, the Community Service office won a national award, and President Helm received a five year contract extension.

Muhlenberg College's Admission efforts were record-setting once again. The College received 4,347 applications for freshman admission. The acceptance rate was 43.7%, and the freshman class numbered 615, the largest class in Muhlenberg history.

Religious Life is vital to the mission of Muhlenberg College. Students of many faith traditions find a supportive environment in which to practice, learn from one another and serve the surrounding community. Lutheran students have found a renewed energy for Lutheran Student Movement, attending a number of regional and national events. Religious Life continues to implement the recommendations of the recent Board of Observers report. The annual Advent Candlelight Carols service was a highlight of the year and collected over \$2200 for the Lehigh County Conference of Churches. Muhlenberg continues to host groups from congregations to many college events and facilities and is looking forward to hosting the synodwide Lutherans in Faith Together (LIFT) event in June 2007.

Through this exciting year, Muhlenberg College remains committed to the student experience through faculty teaching, community service, spiritual enrichment and public engagement opportunities. You can see more about Muhlenberg College at www.muhlenberg.edu.

Peyton R. Helm, president

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Forty-three member bodies (representing 20 Anabaptist, Anglican, Orthodox, Pentecostal, and Protestant communions) make up the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, gathering to:

- explore with one another the basis, barriers, and possibilities for visible unity;
- advocate for a just and humane society;
- provide pastoral care for truckers, travelers, and truck stop employees, for seasonal farm workers, and for persons at leisure;
- sponsor continuing education events for pastors.

Among the highlights from the past year of this common ministry are:

- making significant progress in redesigning the Council for a new era of ecumenism;
- receiving several small grants funding new dimensions of our public policy work;
- continuing the special initiative on global climate change; with Joy Bergey serving as Project Leader for Public Advocacy for the Pennsylvania Interfaith Climate Change Campaign; and
- witnessing on legislative issues through the Council's Public Advocacy Action Team. We were recognized by the governor for our efforts in support of raising the minimum wage. Visit www.pachurches.org for the latest issue of *The Ecu-Advocate* with updates and action alerts.

The Steering Committee continues its work configuring the Council for the future. Its challenge is to create a structure that both embodies the ecumenical commitments of its members and makes wise use of the resources—both personnel and financial—they provide. The new “basis statement,” together with a formal understanding of what it means to be a council of churches, provide the foundation for continued work.

While the Council thanks the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod for your past support of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, it continues to depend on you for:

- **Financial support**—Member church bodies to provide nearly seventy percent of the core budget income.
- **People**—The Council needs each church body to identify people willing to serve on program committees.
- **Prayers**—When you meet, include intercessions for the Council and its ministries in worship. Urge congregations to mention the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, as well as their own local ecumenical agency, in Sunday intercessions. Pray for fellow Council members regularly.
- **Promotion**—Visit the website (www.pachurches.org) and publicize its address; mention Council activities in your own church body communications; interpret the Council and its mission to congregations and clergy.

Thank you for helping your 42 ecumenical partners in Pennsylvania continue their witness for Christian unity and the common good of *all* God's people.

Gary Harke, executive director