



YOUNG PEOPLE WHO CARE
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ANAWIM MINISTRIES

Fall Newsletter - 2023

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BETHANY RETREAT CENTER | LIFE LINE PREGNANCY SERVICES | DIRECT SERVICES | YOUTH PROGRAMS

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EMAIL US AT BETHANYRETREATCENTER@GMAIL.COM AND REQUEST AN EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Volunteers come near and far

Tish Donze - Volunteer Coordinator

Anawim Ministries has many amazing volunteers who help us with on-site projects, fundraising events, direct service ministry, sorting baby items for Life Line and much more. Our Blueberry Festival August 5th was a success due to 58 volunteers giving 469 hours of service. From January through August of this year, 97 volunteers have contributed 3,137 hours. For a small non-profit organization, this is significant, and we feel so blessed by these women, men and youth who share their time and talent to benefit others. Many travel quite a few miles to offer service. From Chicago, Pittsburgh, Erie, Rochester NY, Burlington NC, Harrisburg, Deptford NJ, and locally they come to assist our ministries and our staff in continuing the work begun by Sr. Threse 47 years ago.

Just an example: Recently we had a volunteer provide his drone expertise to take aerial video of our Center so we can use it to expand visual knowledge of our beautiful grounds for potential retreatants and others to see on social media. We will be able to use these videos for various promotion and educational related content in the near future but wouldn't be possible without someone willing to volunteer their time and skills.

As we wrap up 2023 and plan for 2024, there are several projects and events that could only happen through the dedication of volunteers. More now than ever, we ask for more people to lend a hand, share their knowledge, and help us reach our goals of serving others by graciously giving us some hours to be a volunteer. Please let us know if you would like to share your time or talent with us as we plan for a wonderful and rewarding 2024!



FROM THE DESK OF TISH

As of October 9th, I have taken a position in Pittsburgh at Kearn Spirituality Center, founded by the Sister's of Divine Providence, as Hospitality Manager. The travel from Pittsburgh to Frenchville, although lovely, is long and currently it makes sense to work closer to home. I have truly enjoyed meeting so many wonderful volunteers and getting to know you. I will stay in touch with Anawim Ministries and hope to see you at the Blueberry Festival next year.

Forging on to a new year

Crystal Biggans - Executive Director

Hello and happy Fall! As the leaves begin to show us the splendor of God's creation, I have been reflecting over the past year. I am very blessed to be working alongside an excellent group of people to further the mission of Anawim Ministries. Our biggest accomplishment thus far has been the expansion of not only the Life Line building, but the growing of its ministry. As we continue to see more and more people come through our doors, we have risen to the challenge and have worked tirelessly to meet their increasing needs. We have also held several successful retreats, allowing people to fill their cup, renew their spiritual well-being, and take in the essence of Bethany's healing atmosphere. Our social service, youth ministry, and adult volunteers have completed projects for local people that have quite literally changed their lives. We had a successful Blueberry Festival, bringing many familiar and new faces to our grounds, and educating them on our mission. Yes, God is good.

Just like any other organization, we also have our challenges. While our supporters and benefactors were very generous in helping us fund our Life Line expansion, material costs have increased significantly. Further, with Governor Shapiro essentially cutting our funding from the state budget, we have had to reach deep into our reserve coffers to complete this project. While we are fortunate to have the reserve funds, they are now significantly depleted. This has put on hold the replacement of much needed vehicles, tools, and equipment, and put a halt to other projects to enhance the aesthetics of our buildings and grounds. But we will not be defeated. We have met with several legislators and local officials, have scheduled several fundraising events, and have plans to continue doing so until we can get back to solid financial ground. We are relentless in our mission.

I am eternally grateful and ever humbled to be in the position of leading this amazing organization and its truly dedicated and unstoppable staff. I have faith that things will continue to improve day by day, and that 2024 will be an amazing and productive year for us all.

2023 YPWC Christmas Program

Young People Who Care Christmas program is designed to assist families with their needs. We focus on clothing and household needs rather than toys and games. Any financial donations we receive for this program assist us in purchasing items such as stoves, refrigerators, washing machines, tables and chairs, as well as beds.

The families that we assist are in need due to a variety of reasons; job loss, illness of wage earner, starting over after relocating, or decrease of work hours, among other reasons. Your support assists them in making it over a hump with hopes that they will be able to put their financial resources to household expenses.

If you would be interested in sponsoring a person or family, we would provide you with gift tags identifying the name and need for each person in the family. Please be sure this is attached to the wrapped package so that we know who each gift would go to. We will need to receive these gifts by December 12th in order to deliver them to the families in time for the holidays. Please call (814) 263-4177 if you are interested in the opportunity to share Christmas Hope!

Order your 2023 Anawim Ministries Christmas Ornament today!

\$15 each
 Plus tax & shipping

Makes a great gift!

To order, call us at 814.263.4855
 email us at
 bethanyretreatcenter@gmail.com
 or scan the QR code

Anawim Ministries would like to congratulate Ronda Stiles on her retirement and thank her for her devoted years of service to Life Line. Ronda will be spending more time with her family but will still work at Life Line as a volunteer. God Bless Ronda and her family.

Life Line making a difference both in service and structure

Angela Larson



Things at Life Line are growing, not only the expansion of the building, but the client visits as well as education for the staff. On October 17th through 20th, Angela went to a training seminar so she could become nationally certified in Car Seat Passenger Safety. Angela passed all her required testing and is now able to educate and help the parents install car seats into their vehicle so the child is safe.

On October 23rd, Life Line had an annually Real Alternative site monitoring visit. These visits are required to make sure the office is compliant in helping serve the needs of the clients. We are happy to report that the inspection went well and received a 100% compliance report. The expansion of the building is moving forward on schedule. To date, the expansion area is under roof with all the inside framing completed, windows and doors

installed, and exterior siding that wraps the entire building to give it a very clean and welcoming appearance. With the current rate of construction, the contractor stated that they should be completed with the addition by the beginning of the year.

Client visits for January 1, 2023 through October 15, 2023 are 762 which is a 78% increase from this time last year. With the additional room at the facility, increased community involvement, and additional services being offered, we plan to increase our client visits by at least 50% in 2024.



AUGUST 28, 2023



SEPTEMBER 18, 2023



OCTOBER 2, 2023



OCTOBER 23, 2023

Remembering Fr. Philip Billotte

"You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek" Hebrews 7:17

"Are you ready?" These are the words that Fr. Philip J. Billotte often challenged us with during his homilies at Sunday liturgies at Bethany. Fr. Phil himself was ready for his eternal reward as he went to his true home on the Feast of Corpus Christi, June 11, 2023. He was such a beautiful gift of presence and touched hundreds of lives during his priesthood. One person shared, "He was one of the most Christ-like people I've ever met." Another friend, stated, "I know of few (if any) who personified what it really meant to be a priest as much as he did. It was really a privilege to have known him." Fr. Phil died just shy of a few days of his 83rd birthday.



After his ordination to the priesthood on June 4, 1966 he served the people as an Associate Pastor and Pastor in the Rochester Diocese in New York. Taking an early retirement after a heart attack he moved back to his parents' homestead. How providential that Fr. Phil's boyhood home was located right next door to Bethany Retreat Center/YPWC. It was a natural evolution that he became a part of the community and retreat work at Bethany and YPWC. Besides serving sacramental needs he filled in for area priests and, for over 10 years volunteered at the Moshannon Valley Correctional Center, serving the incarcerated.

One of his favorite scripture passages was, "Whatever you do to the least of your brothers and sisters you have done to me." (Matthew 25:40) Yes, Fr. Phil you truly lived out your personal call to the priesthood and lived out the gospel, following our Lord Jesus. Thank You!

Making an impact in our community

Story of how Life Line makes a difference

We recently had a mother of 2 young children seek our services who was in an abusive relationship. We were able to empower her to make the decision to remove herself and her children from this situation. Because we could provide basic needs and goods for her children, she is not financially dependent and is reassured that she will be able to properly care for her children. Beyond that, we were able to help her make an appointment with a local agency to help her to become safe. We will continue to be there for her in times of need as she struggles to put her new life together and raise her children in a safe environment. However, we do not limit our care to only mothers. We have served people raising their grandchildren or other relatives, single fathers, foster parents, and more. Our interest is in providing for children in need. Last week, we were contacted by a woman who had just been awarded emergency custody of her infant grandchild. Due to the emergency nature of the situation, she did not have a car seat and did not immediately have the financial resources to purchase one. We were able to provide this grandmother with a car seat for the child and will continue to offer support for as long as needed. These are but two recent examples of how we utilize the generous donations of our benefactors to directly help those who find themselves in situations of great need.

Direct Care Services

Sr. Suzanne Thibault

Young People Who Care, the service outreach of Anawim Ministries, offers a Summer Service Program for teenagers and adults. This program gives participants the opportunity to be involved in social justice outreach in an environment of a Christian Community. This experience includes service to the poor of Clearfield County in Pennsylvania, community building, prayerful reflection of experience and personal processing time. The service program begins with a time for community building among the participants and an orientation period. This orientation includes presentations on: Young People Who Care and how the community that lives here has responded to the vision and challenge of the pastoral letter "This Land is Home to Me" since 1976; the ministries of YPWC and how, as a short-term volunteer, you are involved in these ministries.

Participants of this program are invited into a simple lifestyle in solidarity with the poor. This lifestyle includes home prepared meals, refrained use of modern conveniences, conservation of our natural resources through recycling, and attentiveness to each other's needs. The participants are engaged in a variety of ministries throughout their service time. If it is a weeklong experience, then volunteers have the opportunity to work with different people on a variety of jobs. Participants are directly involved with the daily activities of meal preparation, choice of recreation and planning evening reflection. The available weeks for 2024 are Sunday through Friday on the following dates: June 16, June 23, July 7, July 14, July 28. If this program is of interest to you, contact Sr. Suzanne Thibault at bethanyyouthcenter@gmail.com

HELP US CONTINUE TO HELP OTHERS

MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH DONATIONS

Anawim Ministries (Young People Who Care, inc.) is a Catholic grassroots ministry which is a religious nonprofit with 501c(3) status as a charitable organization

3 WAYS TO DONATE!

- 1 Call us at 814-263-4855 and donate over the phone
- 2 Scan the QR code below to the online donation link
- 3 Mail this form with your donation to us

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- Life Line Pregnancy & Infant Services
- Direct Services to those in need
- Bethany Adult Retreat Scholarships
- Christmas Program
- Youth Programs
- Where it is needed most



We extend congratulations to Sr. Ruth Ann, CA as she celebrates her 40th Anniversary of religious life as a member of the Anawim Community on December 8th, The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

