



Newsletter

Community Help Mission

December 2013

Edition 4, Volume 1

Content

Assistance Provided - November 2013 (thru 11/20)

- Messages from the Office
- Number in Household - 11
- Monies Distributed - \$ 1,039.46

FROM THE DESK OF PAT.....

Greetings to all and if I don't get another opportunity, allow me to take this time to wish each and every one of you a Very Merry Christmas and only the Happiest of things for your New Year.

I have several things to share with you:

1. We want to welcome Wendi Lance to our staff. Wendi has come aboard this month and brings with her a lot of experience that I am sure will be very helpful to all of us. She has worked in Ashland through her church and other community agencies helping people much as we do here in Loudonville with the CHM. She is a very caring and outgoing person and I know all of you will enjoy working with her. She also works for Coldwell Banker as a Sales Associate Realtor. Wendi lives in Loudonville and is very familiar with all the things that are happening in Loudonville and Perrysville.
2. We have a custodian who has been very helpful to us this past year. He has put in and taken out the air condition. He sat up tables & chairs for our staff meeting and is always very kind & joyful about helping us in any way he can. I think it would be a very kind thing if each of us could bring a small gift of Christmas goodies to be given to Bob. Let's aim for December 18th.
Bring your goodies to the office by December 18th and I will see that he get them.
3. Now-- A note on the lighter side.. all of us from time to time have Senior moments. It happens to the best of us. If you have one of these events on a day when you were scheduled for the office.... It's OK!.. Life goes on. Just call me and let me know that you are alright! I will fully understand, because I have at one time or another done the same thing. Just Call Me When you can.

Blessings & Peace,
Pat

FROM THE DESK OF DIANE.....

Ho, ho Happy Holidays! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all! The holiday season brings a special opportunity to recognize and thank God for all He has given us throughout the year. The nature of our work especially brings that into focus for us. I am so very proud of CHM, and of the work done by each of you. Each of you is a true Blessing.

SAFETY PLAN . . .

Some of the more colorful clients who have graced our office recently have brought safety issues to mind. At no time do I believe any of you have been in danger in the office, but it is always better to have a safety plan in place before we need one. I want staff to feel safe, and I want staff to actually be safe.

Option # 1: If a client becomes "pushy," it is fair to say, "If you want our help, this is not the approach that will get you a good result. Let's start over." This works more often than not.

Option #2: If a client continues to be testy, you may opt to say, "We seem to have a conflict here. Perhaps you would like to talk to someone else." This gives the client a chance to reconsider his attitude.

Option #3: Ask the client to leave the office and come back another day, after he/she has taken the time to regain composure.

Final Option: If all else fails, or if the client enters the office in a very disruptive manner, the staff person closest to the door is to immediately step outside and call 911.

Our safety plan was developed in concert with the Loudonville Police Department. They have assured me that they are ready to support our work in any way that they can. Along these same lines, I have been in touch with both the Loudonville and the Perrysville Police Departments to assist me with risk assessments regarding clients you have called to my attention. I have discussed specific action plans for certain clients with Pastor Pat. I have invited officers from both departments to drop in the office for a cup of coffee anytime we are open.

My hesitation in discussing a safety plan is that sometimes the conversation alone creates anxiety that did not exist before I brought it up. Let me again assure you that, after two years in business, we have never actually needed to implement a safety plan. It is common knowledge that we keep no cash in the office. The checkbook does not even stay in the office. Pastor Pat is an experienced office manager, and she is a woman who can stand her ground. In fact each of you brings a unique strength to the situation. As a team, you are pretty much unstoppable! God Bless!

WHIFFS FROM THE KITCHEN . . .

The Bake It-Take It Christmas Cookie Workshop will be firing up the oven on December 12 with CHM's Head Cook Patty Hunter. Cookie students will bake and decorate Christmas cookies to take home. Participants will also receive cookie cutters to take home.

We are planning one cooking class per month, using our Food Stamp Friendly Cookbook for recipes. Participants will prepare an entree and a salad out of the cookbook, and then share lunch together.

This piece of our operation is funded by the Ashland County Community Foundation's Women's Fund.

EDUCATION CORNER . . .

Pastor Kathy Adams is working with Safe Haven to make domestic violence and rape crisis services more accessible to our community. Safe Haven will be recruiting and training volunteer advocates to support victim/survivors, and to help them access legal and other professional services and shelters to meet their needs. Stay tuned for the recruitment drive!

NEWS FROM THE SALVATION ARMY . . .

Our collaboration with The Salvation Army is up and running . . . and running quite well. They operate during our office hours, using our staff to spend their money on clients that we share. Our own Pastor Pat Reiter is their office manager, our Janice Taylor is their treasurer, and our Karen Motz is heading up their kettle drive this holiday season.