

Giving Thanks This Thanksgiving

For the 43rd year, UNC staff and volunteers distributed a full Thanksgiving meal to families with children. Volunteers from the Upper Valley Project Hope Committee gathered at Russell Park in Carbondale on Monday, Nov. 20 to distribute bags to families waiting in their cars nearby. The following day, nearly 250 people from a variety of organizations donated their time to distribute food to families in Scranton from the St. Mary's Center. UNC was able to provide for more than 1,200 families, a feat which would not be possible without the support of our community.

At UNC, our primary goal is to build a stronger community for all. Ensuring that families are able to make holiday memories in their own homes with their children is one of the ways we work together to make our community stronger. Thank you to all who have joined with UNC to invest in making our community stronger, one neighbor at a time.



Thanks for Your Generosity!



Dempsey Uniform and Linen Supply collected close to 1500 pounds of food from a company food drive to benefit UNC's Angel's Attic.



The teams at the Wyoming Seminary Lower School are committed to community service. The Blue Team collected three boxes and three bags of coats to donate to UNC's Angels Attic, just in time for the winter weather to arrive.



Students at Holy Cross presented UNC with a check after collecting monetary donations to support the Thanksgiving Food Basket Program.



Fall
2017

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The theme of this issue of UNC News is quite obviously and appropriately “giving thanks.” We have wrapped up our Thanksgiving program and we are preparing for the Christmas season. During this time of year it is heartening to see the outpouring of generosity from so many in the community. There are many families with children who would not have been able to sit down together on Thanksgiving Day to share a traditional meal without the Feed-a-Friend program. In addition, as Christmas approaches we are preparing for our annual Christmas Toy Program which will provide a toy that Mom and Dad can put under the tree to be opened on Christmas morning. These are families that literally live paycheck to paycheck and find this time of year especially difficult as they try to provide all the extras costs that the Holiday season brings. It is your generosity that makes these programs possible.



Michael Hanley

Before we know it, the holidays will be over, and we face a new and uncertain year as developments in Washington continue to pressure our families and jeopardize our work. The massive corporate tax cuts threaten our housing development work, which depends on the availability of tax credits. With the reduction in rates, there will be less credits in the market to build and rehab homes and rejuvenate neighborhoods, as we have done so successfully in Southside. The inability to itemize contributions will also affect community donations that we depend on to support our programs, such as our crisis services, senior centers and community-based youth programs. Some things in the tax bill are still unknowns but on initial review, it is setting off alarm bells. There is already talk in Washington of cuts in social programs to alleviate the federal deficit caused in part by this tax bill.

As an agency that has been privileged to serve our community since 1923, we have weathered difficult times in the past and I have faith we will make it through these times as well. For now we will continue to be thankful for our generous community and wish each and every one of you a Happy Holiday Season.



South Side Farmers Market Moves Indoors



Just because chilly weather is here doesn't mean the South Side Farmers Market is closed for the season. The market has moved off the street and into 509 Cedar Avenue. Come visit the only year-round farmers market in Scranton, and keep warm with a new vendor: Black and Brass Coffee Co. from Honesdale, PA offers three varieties of coffee and more.

Relaxation and Grounding at Camp Kelly



In an effort to expand programming, Camp Kelly hosted Melissa Jennings Ayurvedic Treatments and Leigh Ann Jennings Massage Therapy for their Relaxation and Grounding event on October 28. Participants enjoyed a calm and relaxing Saturday, which included participating in yoga, extended shavasana, grounding, mindfulness practice, and silent hiking.

AROUND THE AGENCY

Lehigh Coal and Navigation Building

Construction has wrapped up on the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Building! Over the course of 2017, UNCCDC has completely renovated most facades of the building. Residential apartments received newly painted walls, new flooring, and completely renovated kitchens and bathrooms. The exterior of the building was completely refaced as well, with new windows and signage on the front of the building. The community room, elevator, and common areas were also updated. The residents of the building are excited about the renovations to their apartments and that construction is now complete in Jim Thorpe.



Let the good times roll!
at
United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA
18th Annual
Party Gras

Music by the East End Vipers
Dining
Dancing
Gambling
Fortune telling
Feathered masks
Beads galore!

6:00 p.m. – February 9, 2018
Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel

The poster has a black background with a colorful, swirling pattern on the left and right sides. At the top is a gold fleur-de-lis. Below it is the text "Let the good times roll!" in a cursive font. Underneath is "at United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA 18th Annual" in a bold, sans-serif font. The main title "Party Gras" is in a large, stylized, cursive font. Below the title is a list of activities: "Music by the East End Vipers", "Dining", "Dancing", "Gambling", "Fortune telling", "Feathered masks", and "Beads galore!". At the bottom is the date and location: "6:00 p.m. – February 9, 2018 Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel". A purple and yellow masquerade mask is shown in the bottom right corner.

Holiday Toy Store

Every year, UNC gives away gifts for needy families hoping to make the holidays special for their children. On Dec. 20, UNC will set up a free “toy store” at the Progressive Child Care Center at 414 Olive St. from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Families that we serve throughout the year through our various programs can choose a gift and a stocking stuffer for their children. The following day, UNC opens its doors at 10 a.m. to all needy families in Lackawanna County to choose a brand new gift for their children. Gifts are for newborns to 12 year olds. In 2016, UNC distributed 1400 toys to more than 500 families. We hope to be as successful this year in spreading holiday cheer.





UNC NEWS

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Chocoholic Frolic



UNC's 13th Annual Chocoholic Frolic had another successful year. Attendees were able to sample tasty treats from a 12 vendors, combining a variety of foods, flavors, and textures. The sweet and savory combinations were a particular crowd-pleaser. The proceeds of the event raised funds for UNC's free adult literacy and English as a Second Language education programs.

9th Annual Ethnic Carol Sing



UNC's 9th Annual Ethnic Carol Sing highlighted the ethnic traditions of residents of the Scranton area. Families were invited to come before the performance to create holiday crafts with their children. The show included performances of holiday music, songs, poetry, and dances, which were enjoyed by all. The performers showcased holiday traditions from Peru, Nepal, Mexico, and many more.