

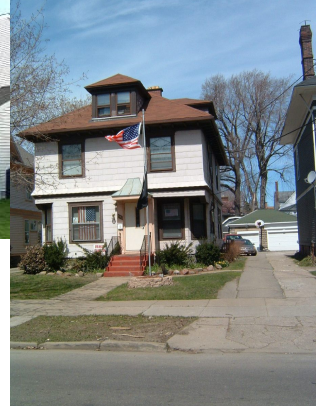
**Erie United  
Methodist  
Alliance**

[www.euma-erie.org](http://www.euma-erie.org)

# Helping Hands

FALL 2009 NEWSLETTER

*Helping hands to meet the needs of those less fortunate with compassion and dignity.*



**GOD IS SEEING US  
THROUGH**

- ⇒ 121 years of ongoing ministry to at risk people.
  - ⇒ Ongoing struggle for financial stability encounters PA state budget impasse with devastating results.
  - ⇒ Federal funds held in Harrisburg decrease monthly income by \$25,000 per month.
  - ⇒ Northwest Savings Bank graciously loans EUMA funding for two months against future receipt of HUD reimbursements.
  - ⇒ Board makes gut wrenching decisions to reduce salaries, reduce hours and benefits, discontinue some positions.
  - ⇒ Outstanding bills mount as only absolute necessities are paid.
  - ⇒ Erie identified as poorest city in PA (1 in 4 persons live below poverty line).
  - ⇒ EUMA employees work tirelessly under extremely difficult circumstances.
  - ⇒ Successful Ride for The Refuge nets record profits; offers hope.
  - ⇒ Generous financial contributor offers to match donations 2 to 1 up to Ten Thousand Dollars.
  - ⇒ Board members make plea for financial help—people of faith respond.
- ◆ Personal checks written
  - ◆ Special offerings received
  - ◆ Personal checks written
  - ◆ Special dinners held
  - ◆ Mission committees make extra disbursements
  - ◆ Personal checks written
  - ◆ People of faith show great compassion—large and small donations begin to stem the tide

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**BOARD  
OF  
DIRECTORS**

Rev. Darrell Greenawalt  
President

Rev. Pat Lenox  
Vice-President

Susan Travis  
Secretary

James Garlick  
Treasurer

Viki Bloomer  
Rev. Jeffrey Bobin  
Julie Davis  
Janet Douthett  
Gail Fees  
Rev. Frank Hodges  
Dr. J. Donald Lasher  
Rev. Rich Pearson  
Nels Sandberg  
Rev. Andrew Spore  
Rev. Mary Stewart  
Rev. Michelle Wobrak  
Harold Yannayon

Rev. Patricia Harbison  
District Superintendent

Cheryl Davis  
Executive Director

**Continued from page 1:**

- ⇒ Celebration—October payrolls met without federal funds or additional loans from Northwest Savings Bank.
- ⇒ Federal funds finally received.
- ⇒ Serious financial crisis helped but not resolved with release of HUD funds.
- ⇒ Board of Directors to begin arduous task of establishing long-range stability plan.

- ◆ Recognize need for professional Development Director.
- ◆ Recognize need for a Volunteer Coordinator.
- ◆ Recognize need to infuse 150 Thousand Dollars before end of the year to prevent return to crisis state.
- ◆ Recognize need for a capital fund-raising campaign and broader donor base.
- ◆ Recognize need to increase focus of ministry by establishing a women's shelter knowing that adequate beds are not available for single women.
- ◆ Recognize need to reduce staff stress by reinstating payroll and benefit reductions.
- ◆ Recognize need to praise God for blessing our ministry and guiding us in ways to keep the doors open.

Please take a moment and pray with us:

*Father God, we are so very grateful for the way you have been providing and will continue to provide for this ministry to those in need. Grant your ongoing wisdom to the staff, Board of Directors and supporters as we all strive to offer grace and love in a world of hurt. Help us to be your hands and your feet in the tasks you call us to do. In the name of Jesus. Amen.*



**YOU HOLD THE KEY MISSION GALA**

The Western PA Conference is focusing on six ministries that serve the needy. The Alliance is blessed to be one of those ministries. On Saturday, November 21st caring people will gather in Cranberry Township for an evening of fellowship, food, inspiration and an opportunity to offer financial support. Tony Norman, writer and columnist for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, will be the guest speaker. If you are interested in attending, call Cheryl Davis at (814) 456-8073 immediately.

### GIFT WRAPPING AT THE MALL

Employees of The Alliance have initiated a fundraiser at the Millcreek Mall. Starting Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> through Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> employees and supporters of The Alliance will be wrapping gifts for tips from 9am to 10 pm. We're appealing to friends of The Alliance including United Methodist Women's groups to volunteer for a three hour shift. Wrapping paper and tape will be provided, we just need people power. Shoppers who use the gift wrapping service are asked to give a donation to The Alliance. Even if you can't volunteer, remember that we will wrap your gifts too while we educate the public about our ministries. Contact Nicole at [nicolen@euma-erie.org](mailto:nicolen@euma-erie.org) or call 814-456-8073 to sign up for your shift.

### What Do YOU Need for Christmas?

How many times are you asked that question and your reply is, "I don't know" or "I don't need anything"? Perhaps you would like to consider asking for or buying cubits as Christmas gifts. As God instructed Noah to build the ark using cubits, we've calculated that 46,200 \$5.00 cubits are needed to financially secure this ministry. A gift of one cubit or multiple cubits will be honored with a gift card sent to the designated recipient and a tax donation acknowledgement sent to the giver. During this Christmas season we would like to thank you for supporting us. In recognition of donations of 20 cubits or more (\$100.00 or greater), you will receive a beautiful "house" pin (sample shown—each one is different) created by Lucinda Yates, a former homeless woman. Visit [www.lucinda.com](http://www.lucinda.com) to view her work and read her personal story. With a donation of 50 cubits or greater (\$250.00 or more), you will receive 2 beautiful lapel "house" pins, one for yourself and one will be sent to the recipient. For business owners cubits also make great corporate gifts and we'll provide the cards and pins. Celebrate the birth of Christ by helping those in need.



### FUNDRAISING NIGHT WITH THE ERIE BAYHAWKS

The Erie United Methodist Alliance is teaming up with the Erie Bayhawks basketball team for their home opener game.

Come to the Louis J. Tullio Arena on Saturday, December 12 at 7:00 PM to see the Bayhawks in action for the first time in Erie this season. Specially discounted tickets will be available through Sean Peebles at 790-5600 - \$10.00 for a Main level seat and \$8.00 for a Corner/End Zone seat. The Alliance will receive at least \$3.00 from the sale of each ticket. More information is available on our website at [www.euma-erie.org](http://www.euma-erie.org). Mark your calendars now!

### TRAVELING CRAFT BOUTIQUE

Our traveling Holiday Boutique stocked with small handmade gifts is willing to come to your church on a Sunday morning. Viki Bloomer and Gail Fees will set up the store before Sunday morning and come and pack it up on Monday. You just need someone to "run the store". All items are donated and have been priced. 100% of all sales will benefit The Alliance. Contact Gail Fees at (814)774-9055 or [gfees@verizon.net](mailto:gfees@verizon.net) to make arrangements.



### ERIE PLAYHOUSE OFFERS NIGHT TO ALLIANCE

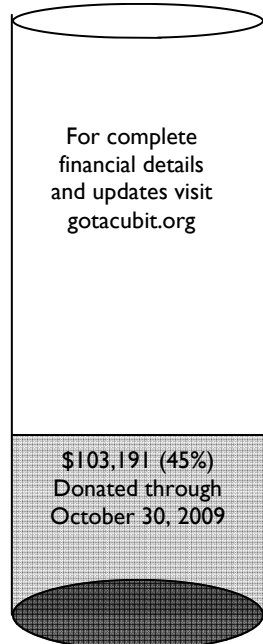
The Erie Playhouse has offered a special production of Disney's High School Musical 2, Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm as a benefit for the EUMA. Tickets for the production will be \$20.00 per person. We will have 434 tickets available for sale. Plan now to invite friends and family to what promises to be a special night. Light refreshments will be served at intermission to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Refuge. A ticket to the production would make a wonderful Christmas gift. Ticket sale information will soon be on our website ([www.euma-erie.org](http://www.euma-erie.org)) or call (814)456-8073.

## HELP US SAVE MONEY

If you previously requested to receive our newsletter by email but received it on paper, please let Lee Ann know at [leeanna@euma-erie.org](mailto:leeanna@euma-erie.org). We updated our database and are worried that we might have lost some of our email contacts. If you wish to be added to our email list, please let Lee Ann know.

**EUMA Fiscal Year**  
**7-1-2009**  
**through**  
**6-30-2010**

Cubits & Donations  
 Needed \$231,270



## RIDE FOR THE REFUGE SETS NEW RECORDS

Gloomy, rainy weather greeted 260 riders in Albion and Shade's Beach early Labor Day morning but spirits were bright as the ride began. A few minutes later the sun appeared and the ride was beautiful. A record number of riders raised over \$15,550 besting the previous record by more than \$3500. All riders were treated to snacks and picnic foods. Thanks to all, volunteers and riders, who made this day a special event for those served by The Refuge.

## ANNUAL MEETING CELEBRATES 25 YEARS AT THE REFUGE



Our fall meeting on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> will be a celebration of the 25 years United Methodists have helped families at The Refuge. The festivities will begin at 3pm. We will hear from individuals who have been clients at The Refuge and learn how their lives have been changed because we offered a helping hand. A light meal will be provided. Plan to do some Christmas shopping at The Refuge Holiday Boutique which offers many small handmade gifts that have been donated. 100% of sales will benefit the ministries of The Alliance. In an attempt to be at a central location of the Erie-Meadville District, the meeting will be at Saegertown UMC. Plan now to attend and make reservations at [www.euma-erie.org](http://www.euma-erie.org) or call the Alliance office at (814)456-8073.

## LUNCH PROGRAM AT SAN JUAN UMC

A new ministry has recently been opened at San Juan UMC in cooperation with the Erie City Mission. Free lunches are being served weekdays from 11:30 to 1:00 pm. Attendance is averaging 30 persons per day and growing with the colder weather. If you are interested in volunteering to serve lunch, please call RoseMarie Lackey (814)452-4421 ext 22.

**WE'RE SORRY....**We didn't thank Wesley UMC for printing the Summer Helping Hands newsletter and would like to acknowledge them now. Thank You! We always appreciate cost cutting assistance. Any church willing to print the newsletter should contact the EUMA office.

## BOARD RETREAT AT FINDLEY LAKE

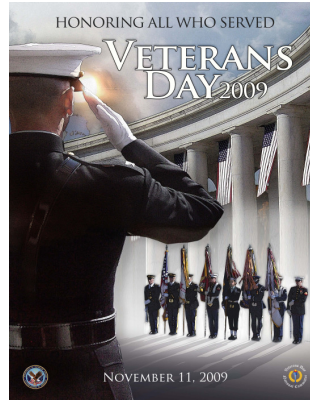
The Board of Directors will meet for a full day of strategic planning with Dick Dickert, a retired business executive from Latrobe. Experienced in leading boards of directors in strategic planning and creative problem solving, Dick is donating his time and Board members are responsible for their own expenses. Please pray that God will be present and our efforts will be useful for the Kingdom.

**WINTER NEEDS FOR OUR CLIENTS**

PROJECT HOPE OUTREACH NEEDS - men's coats (L-2XL), hats, gloves, new socks, small hand sanitizers, small packs tissues  
THE REFUGE NEEDS – infant & children's cough medicine, paper towels, Ziploc baggies (quart & gallon), tissues  
LIBERTY HOUSE NEEDS – men's hats and gloves, tissues  
CHILDREN'S NEEDS – new book bags, volunteers to care for children during parent's Life Skill classes (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday mornings)

**THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS DINNERS**

As the holidays approach, we are looking for individuals or groups who are willing to provide holiday dinner ingredients for 4 individual families, a 7 family setting and dinners for 10 men at Liberty House. If you can help with any of these meals, please call the EUMA Office at (814)456-8073.



**HELP US HONOR OUR VETERANS**

We are looking for a group to provide a special dinner on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11 for our men at Liberty House who have all honorably served our country. A time of fellowship and perhaps a brief program of appreciation would be enjoyed. Please call Devin at (814) 874-3687 if your group feels called to be a part of this special day.

**CHRISTMAS CUPBOARD TO PROVIDE CLIENT GIFTS**

We're excited to announce the opening of a Christmas Cupboard to provide gifts on Christmas day to all the residents of our shelters. It has become increasingly difficult to ask for families or individuals to be sponsored as they are often no longer with us when Christmas arrives. With a well stocked Christmas Cupboard, individualized gifts can be selected for each mom, dad, child and veteran living in our shelters. A list of suggested gifts to fill our cupboard is listed below. If you are willing to provide any of these gifts for the clients at The Refuge, Hope House, and Liberty House , please contact Melissa at [melissat@euma-erie.org](mailto:melissat@euma-erie.org) or (814)454-6088.

**Adults**

- Movie gift cards
- Photo collage frames
- Gift Cards (grocery store, department store, gas cards)
- Towel Sets
- Small appliances and clock radios
- Personal care items (razors, bath and body sets, scented soap)
- Journals
- Address books
- Daily Planners
- Clock radio
- Inspirational books
- Wall pictures
- Watches
- Socks
- Fast Food gift cards
- New Dish Sets
- New Silverware Sets

**Children**

- Socks
- Fast Food gift cards
- Movie gift cards
- Handheld games
- "G" Movies (DVD)
- Popular toys like: Elmo, Dora, Thomas the Train, etc.
- Baby dolls
- Barbie dolls
- Books, variety of age stages
- Action Figures
- Store Gift Cards
- Learning games





**Erie United Methodist Alliance**

1033 East 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie, PA 16504

<http://www.euma-erie.org>

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**ERIE UNITED METHODIST ALLIANCE MINISTRIES**

<u>PROJECT HOPE- OUTREACH</u> 1033 E. 26th St. Erie, PA 16504 (814)456-5670 On the street ministry for the homeless	<u>THE REFUGE</u> 1027 E. 26th St. Erie, PA 16504 (814)454-6088 Emergency shelter for mom, dad, and kids	<u>HOPE HOUSE</u> 1033 E. 26th St. Erie, PA 16504 (814)456-8073 Long range housing with life skills training for families	<u>LIBERTY HOUSE</u> 550 W. 7th St. Erie, PA 16502 (814)874-3687 Long range housing with life skills training for veterans	<u>RAINBOW CONNECTION</u> 1516 Buffalo Rd. Erie, PA 16510 (814)453-4080 A thrift store offering necessities at low prices or free
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