

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Social Ministry Report
April, 2010

The Social Ministry Committee meets quarterly (February, May, August and November) but the work of volunteers to support local social ministries goes on continuously. There has been limited response to our recent attempts to recruit coordinators for ministries currently supported by Trinity's operating budget but without much, if any, involvement from Trinity members. We are continuing to review each ministry to determine where the interests of our congregation will lead us into the future in serving the needy of central Pennsylvania.

The monthly Second Saturday project teams continue to provide a small group of Trinity volunteers to assist with worthwhile community needs and we definitely need more helpers to participate in this! Several committee representatives are meeting with New Hope Ministries on April 12th to continue our exploration of a possible major emphasis at Trinity for this ministry in 2011. New Hope is substantially increasing its presence on the West Shore with the opening of its new Trindle Road facility.

Each month one of the ministries supported both by Trinity disciples and with budgeted funds will be highlighted. This "interpretation" of our ministry outreach to the congregation will include an article in the *Trinity Parish*, report to Council and first floor bulletin board in the hallway leading to the church library. During the month of April the featured ministry is the DELTA Community; Lorraine Graybill is the Trinity coordinator of this outreach.

Last year, DELTA Community celebrated its 20th anniversary of providing services of transitional housing and self sufficiency training for homeless single mothers and fathers and their children in the Greater Harrisburg Area. The DELTA program is growing through their new affiliation with the Gaudenzia Foundation and offers volunteers an opportunity to share with others in need.

As in prior years, through the Social Ministry Committee's Giving Tree project last year, 25 generous Trinity friends donated gift cards to help extend the Christmas season for DELTA families. We received many thank you notes telling how those small gifts made a big difference to the parents and children. Recipients reminded us that these gifts were a reminder that a caring faith community is near and supports them in their struggles.

Trinity volunteers will have another opportunity to participate in this important Social Ministry activity by supporting DELTA's Family Night Out program on Monday, April 12 and again Monday, September 13. Volunteers wishing to share genuine hospitality are needed to help prepare and transport food to a church in Harrisburg, serve dinner and provide child care during their educational program. Providing just one evening meal can be the first step in moving families from survival to personal change.

Families in our community grow stronger with support, fellowship and prayer of Trinity members. If you'd like to participate in either DELTA Night Out program this year, please contact Lorraine Graybill at 763-4183.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Bonsall, Chair