

LEND A HAND ANNUAL REPORT – 2013

This year has been a very busy year for Lend A Hand (LAH).

LAH has been very involved in New Jersey and their recovery from Superstorm Sandy. Beginning with our initial visit when several members of our steering committee first met some people from Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church (PPPC) through this past November, we have visited that location 13 times.

In December 2012 our initial volunteer group of 9 people stayed at the church for a successful week of work. Since then, LAH has taken 11 additional trips to the church and has done recovery work throughout the Ocean County area. We have had over 280 volunteers travel with us over that period.

Additionally, Lend A Hand has continued their relationship with two local colleges. A group of students from Elizabethtown College traveled with some "aunts and uncles" from LAH to Arabi, Louisiana in January and to New Jersey in October. In total, forty-seven E-town students participated. Thirty-two students from Lebanon Valley College joined LAH on a trip to New Jersey in March. A special thanks goes to George Elliott for coordinating our efforts with these colleges.

We have also been stewards of the funds that were given to us to use directly to help the people in New Jersey with their recovery. Through the efforts of PPC, LAH was able to help set up the Hands Up Grant program. This program is operated by the deacons of the church. Vouchers of up to \$1,000 have been awarded to any family that applies and is found in need. These vouchers can then be redeemed at local small businesses for building supplies, appliances, furniture, etc. At this point, LAH has provided \$30,000 for the program.

Thanks to donations that have come from individuals and churches, we have been able to offer those volunteers, who have traveled once with us to New Jersey, a \$50 discount on any return trip. We will continue this discount as long as we can financially.

Lend A Hand has been honored twice during this past year. In May, LAH was honored by Elizabethtown College with their 2013 Distinguished Community Partner Award and in December, the Peace Advocates of the Presbytery of Carlisle awarded us with the 2013 Peacemaking Award.

Also, we ended our local recovery effort, which began with the 2011 flooding here. Our Harrisburg area operations ended in 2012, but the Lebanon County efforts continued until Sept. of this year. Thanks to Don Beatty for heading our efforts there.

One other major change has taken place with the organization during this past year. Bill Bauer, our office manager for many years, decided to step down from the position at the end of March, but will remain a member of the committee. Bill was responsible for organizing our efforts in Mississippi, Iowa, Tennessee and our initial efforts in New Jersey, to name just a few of the places LAH has been while he was in the office. Bill also worked tirelessly during our local recovery from Irene and Lee in 2011 and 2012. Jim Davis, who has been a member of the steering committee for the past four years, is his replacement.