



Light Lines

A publication of United Methodist Christians in Partnership

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

SEPTEMBER 2016

ILLUMINATING

Community Day Camp

In July LUMINA and **New Creation UMC** partnered to provide an enriching and exciting day camp experience for children ages 6 to 12. **Lorraine**

Finding the Light of Jesus in the Darker Places of Life

Gutierrez of NCUMC led in staff recruiting and building concerns. **Volunteers** from 11 other churches also served in some way:

Grandview, Lancaster First, Faith, Mountville St. Paul's, Quarryville Memorial, Terre Hill St. Paul's, Ross Street, Ephrata Hope, Covenant, Lititz, and Peach Bottom Mt. Zion.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who made this program possible! Under the guidance of artist **Megan Nelson** and her assistant **Sue Grimm-Mattox**, children fashioned candle holders out of clay, tried their hand at acrylic painting and face painting, and created glow-in-the-dark t-shirts.

Joseph Torres, Matthew Lynch, and OJ Ramos led the children in wild water games (it was VERY hot!) and cooperative relays. **Joanne Foss** shared videos and written stories about children who had to deal with adversity, and helped our children raise enough money for our mission project—the gift of a goat, through Heifer International. **Jezerel Gutierrez** and her assistants **Rachel, Matthew, and Isaiah Lynch** created memorable and interactive Bible lessons, including a walk across water (a non-Newtonian fluid mixture of water and cornstarch) and an inspiring shadow-play of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

Thank you to those men and women who cared for our children and guided them from station to station:

Glenn Hough, Ashley Lynch, John Hostetter, Cheryl Zegers, Anne Griswold, Connie Brown, and Nidia Gonzalez. Thanks to our administration ladies **Judy Ramos** and **Minerva Alicea,**

and to our transportation men **Johnny Ramos** and **Glenn Hough.** A special shout out of appreciation goes to the **kitchen team from Faith UMC,** led by **Mary Helder** and **Linda Woodward.** They took the reins at short notice when our other kitchen leader needed to step down. They did a fantastic job!



"Walking on water" at Community Day Camp



LEFT: Wild water games at New Creation UMC



RIGHT: Painting clay creations this summer

Our Vision for Lancaster and beyond: All persons restored to the vital and productive lives which God intended.



Our Mission: to share the love of God by equipping and encouraging people who experience poverty and hardship.

God's **BRIGHT** Chefs

In keeping with the LUMINA theme of Light, God's Chefs is now **Bright Chefs!**

This August LUMINA paid staff enjoyed a unique opportunity to spend time in the kitchen with some special children at the **Catholic Charities Intensive Day Treatment Center** in Lancaster City. Bright Chefs instructor, **Sue Grimm-Mattox**, taught two cooking/nutrition courses at the center—one for elementary ages and one for middle school youth. Administrative Assistant **Melissa Artz** and Executive Director **Correen Russo** helped.

All together, 24 young chefs graduated from the Bright Chefs program after learning basic measuring, kitchen safety, and nutrition. Over the course of a week, the chefs created such yummys as breakfast muffins, fruit salad, taco chicken, and peach-sicles. They bravely tried some foods they never had before.

Have you ever eaten a dragon fruit? These chefs can tell you how it tastes and how it's used.

LUMINA is grateful for this new partnership in summer programming. For the current school year there are two additional partnerships in the talking phase, with **Bright Side Community Center** and **The Mix at Arbor Place**. These partnerships will help us introduce healthy and fun cooking to children from at least two elementary schools we have not before been able to reach.

Bright Chefs has an ongoing need for dependable **kitchen assistants**. If you can help prep, cook, and wash up from **3:00 PM to 5:30 PM** on a weekday, please give us a call: **394-8412**. Volunteers will need copies of their clearances.

BRILLIANT Fundraiser

Our **Night of Light dinner and silent auction** fundraiser in March was a brilliant success, thanks to the friends of LUMINA and the congregation of **Columbia UMC**. Columbia's cooks made sure we all were well fed on delicious roast beef and stuffed chicken breasts.

A galaxy of tiny white lights surrounded the items up for bid, including original works by local well-known artists, summer art classes at PA College of Art & Design, sports memorabilia, and gift certificates to local restaurants.

Robin Work and her friends put on a delightful concert of gospel, jazz, and humorous music. It really was a fun evening!

Our Night of Light raised over \$4,500 for LUMINA.

SPOTLIGHT on School Uniforms

The poverty level of families with children in city schools is over 90%. Since the start of Lancaster City schools on August 29, the School Uniform Clothing Bank has filled at least 200 requests for uniforms. Already we are **out of items** in some sizes: **shirts size 8 and 10; boys' pants sizes 8, 10, 12, 14; and girls' pants size 12, 14, 16**. According to LUMINA Board member **Vicki Perella**, "Last year the SUB provided two uniforms each to 1,000 students. Each year, at least \$5,000 is needed in order to meet the need for uniforms." **Please consider making a donation this month! Clothing donations** can be dropped off at the LUMINA office (call first 394-8412) or at Pearl St. UMC Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to noon. **Checks** should be made payable to "School Uniform Clothing Bank" and mailed to Pearl St. UMC, 133 Pearl St., Lancaster, PA 17602. **Credit card donations** specified for the SUCB may be made on our website luminaoutreach.org.

The **FLAME** of Friendship

LUMINA assisted two recently resettled refugee families by answering a plea from Lancaster First UMC for household items.

We gave the families small electric appliances, mixing bowls, a variety of kitchen implements, and dish towels out of our Super Cupboard stock. We were happy to share and help offer our new neighbors a warm welcome.

The Professional Clothing Bank is seeking additional volunteers! Choose from a Tuesday morning or Thursday afternoon for only two hours. Call 394-8412 for more info.

Volunteers Needed



AGLOW**With Appreciation for Donations**

LUMINA could not provide decent clothing, new cooking utensils, healthful foods, sleeping bags, Bibles, or enriching programs without the **support of MANY friends!** Here is just a sampling of the ways people have helped recently:

- * The **Optimist Club** donated 10 reams of **copy paper**.
- * Supporters gave the **Professional Clothing Bank** approximately **2,200 items** since March.
- * **School uniforms** were donated through Boscov's "Christmas in July" and "Back to School" designated giving programs.
- * More than \$3,500 was given in memorial offerings honoring **Rick Beittel, Jr.**, kind-hearted member of Lancaster First UMC, and friend of LUMINA.

- * **Clergy and lay leaders** collected an offering of over \$700 to go toward Camper Care at the South West District Conference.
- * **Teaching materials** were donated by **St. Paul's UMC in Elizabethtown**.
- * Several boxes of **school supplies** were donated by an anonymous source. Was it you? Please tell us—we would like to acknowledge your gift properly!
- * **Kitchen supplies** were donated by congregation of **West Willow UMC**.
- * **Small toys and stuffed animals** were collected by **Ephrata First UMC** and given to the Kids' Night program as **birthday presents** for the children.

SUNNY**Summer Camp**

This past June Executive Director Correen Russo was invited to speak at the Eastern PA Annual Conference on behalf of Gretna Glen Camp. Over the past twenty years, LUMINA and Gretna Glen have partnered in sending **more than 500 at-risk children and youth** from the Lancaster area to a free week of summer residence camp. This year **29** campers chosen from LUMINA outreach programs attended Gretna Glen on a full scholarship. These scholarships were funded by **LUMINA, Leola UMC, Otterbein UMW, and the Raab Foundation at Gretna Glen**.

Through the **Camper Care** program, LUMINA sought out individuals or groups to sponsor each of these 29 young people, through **both a financial gift and a promise of correspondence** while the child is at camp. At Annual Conference Correen set up a LUMINA ministry table in the exhibition hall, with the hope of finding the last eight sponsors we needed. By the end of the first day, every last camper had a sponsor!

The money the sponsors donated provided each child with a **sleeping bag, large duffel bag, Bible, flashlight, beach towel, sun screen, insect repellent, pen, notebook, water bottle, carabiner, and a ditty bag filled with toiletries**. The donation also covered a **portion of the child's camp registration,**

LUMINA Board member Rev. Rick Rimert (right) received Camper Care sleeping bags and other gear at a discount from Coleman manager Mike Saraka.



as well as an **allowance for the camp store**.

Sponsors sent their campers 4 to 6 messages in care of LUMINA before camp, so Gretna counselors could hand them out one at a time during the week. **Children loved receiving their sponsor's cards and letters each day of camp!** In a thank you note to one sponsor, a teen camper wrote, "I had such a great time there. I learned so much and had so much fun! I think I want to be a camp counselor some day."



Did you stop by LUMINA's table at Annual Conference? We gave out water bottles with our new logo on them.



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SHINY New Camp Scholarship Endowment

Honoring Bishop Peggy Johnson

This past spring **Dr. Christopher Kurien**, EPAC Director of Connectional Ministries, chose LUMINA to be one of two groups to benefit from the proceeds of advertisement sales for the **North East Jurisdictional Conference** souvenir booklet. He also named LUMINA as the recipient of the offering taken at the NEJ memorial service. From the money collected, Dr. Kurien presented LUMINA with a Camp Scholarship Endowment of **over \$11,000**, in honor of Bishop Peggy Johnson's service to the EPAC. This very generous gift will increase LUMINA's capacity to send many more children to camp in the years to come! **Thank you to Dr. Kurien, and to all who gave!** May this mission continue to bring honor to our bishop and glory to God!



Campers from Otterbein's Kids' Night program were excited to receive their camping gear in July!

"LUMINA Light Lines"

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NOTICE: If you have received this newsletter in error, or no longer wish to be on our mailing list, please notify us by phone or email. Thank you!

You can reach LUMINA with your requests, donations, suggestions or other information by contacting:

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