



The Lehigh
CONFERENCE
of CHURCHES



Annual Report

24
25

The Lehigh Conference of Churches

A letter from our Executive Director

In 2025, as of this publication, eleven lives have been lost—to the elements, to addiction, and to poor health. Each of them might still be with us today had they been housed.

The Conference remains a steady presence in lives marked by uncertainty—where each day brings the question of whether there will be food to eat or a safe place to sleep. While we cannot always solve every problem for those who come through our doors, we strive to offer something just as vital: purpose, love, and the enduring truth that hope is real.

This work is the honor of my lifetime.

I am deeply thankful to every agency and stakeholder who stands with us as we dismantle the barriers poverty puts in people's paths. I am especially grateful to our Board of Directors—whose investment is likely far more than they expected—for their unwavering commitment to justice and community change.

In today's political climate, this work will only grow more difficult. We will continue to lose people. We will carry broken hearts. Yet, may the pages ahead remind us that victory is still possible—so long as we resist the urge to give up or give in.

May we stand strong. May we stand together.

Abby Goldfarb



Year Highlights

Summer Highlight

We proudly presented the 7th Annual Nazareth Adult Soapbox Racing Derby, a high-speed fundraiser benefiting the Conference. With over 25 racers and hundreds of spectators, it was an afternoon full of fun, friendly competition, and community spirit

Winter Highlight

Thanks to the generosity of local companies, churches, organizations, and caring individuals, our toilet paper drive was a huge success—collecting nearly 2,000 rolls! These donations will help ensure that those in need have access to this essential item.

Autumn Highlight

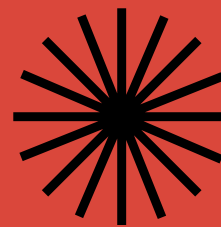
During the seven impactful days of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, more than 500 individuals joined us for a series of meaningful events. Highlights included a Keynote Breakfast with Lehigh Valley city mayors, a hands-on Community Day with our Street Outreach team, and a special 70th Anniversary Gala honoring the Conference's humble beginnings and lasting impact

Spring Highlight

The City of Allentown Commission on Homelessness, chaired by the Conference, led and continues to lead the Jordan Creek Recycling and Garbage Program—an ongoing effort to keep homeless encampments clear of trash and hazardous materials. This initiative plays a vital role in ensuring these spaces remain safer and more livable for those who call them home.



Gala Celebrating 70 Years!



2024 marked the 70th anniversary of the Conference—a milestone that invited both reflection and renewed commitment. As we honor our founders and the countless individuals who have shaped the Conference over the decades, we also embrace the future, with a continued dedication to serving those in need while staying true to our mission.

In November, we commemorated this momentous occasion with a heartfelt gala, bringing together current and former employees, board members, volunteers, supporters, and friends who share our vision. During the evening, we had the privilege of recognizing two extraordinary long-time volunteers, Geri Bodnar and Elizabeth Benke, whose unwavering dedication continues to inspire us all.

With every story shared and every life touched, we are reminded that the heart of this Conference has always been its people. As we step into the future, we carry with us the spirit of those who came before us, and the hope of all those we've yet to serve. Thank you for walking this path with us—for your compassion, your commitment, and your belief in what we can achieve together.



Conference Kitchen



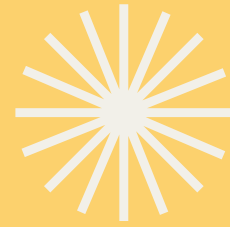
We proudly served over **77,000 meals**, advancing our mission to nourish both body and community. Our efforts extended far beyond daily meals—here are a few key highlights from the past year:

- We provided special meals in honor of significant occasions including Juneteenth, Hispanic Heritage Month, a Back to School event, Thanksgiving, our Easton picnic, and Christmas, among others—strengthening our community through shared traditions.
- At the NASBRA Soapbox Race, we raised over \$3,000 through food sales, thanks to the generous support of attendees and volunteers.
- We were honored to receive food insecurity grants from the cities of Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton, enabling us to expand our reach and resources for those in need.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to serving with compassion, dignity, and purpose.



Pathways



In our ongoing efforts to support our community, we've made some important strides:

- 2,272 households were assessed for rental and/or utility assistance, helping families obtain or stay safe and stable in their homes.
- 11 team members became certified in SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery)—a nationally recognized model that helps individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness access disability income benefits.
- We invested \$3.5M in rental assistance as part of our homelessness prevention work.
- To help individuals maintain access to medical and mental health care, as well as employment, we provided 2,695 LYFT rides—bridging the gap between need and access.

Together, these efforts reflect our commitment to meeting people where they are and supporting their journey to stability and wellness.



Daybreak

"When I had nowhere to go, Daybreak gave me a safe place to rest. The hot meals made me feel warm and like people cared. Now I have hope, and that means everything to me."

-Daybreak Member

3,462

Active Daybreak members

806

New members

5

Full-time Daybreak staff

Projects

Details

Outcome

Member Meetings

Once a month meetings with members & staff for members to share ideas, concerns & feelings.

- Better communication with members & staff
- Staff are better aware of member needs & wants
- Fosters a better "family-like" atmosphere.

Interventions

Staff-led, safe & private space centered around empathy.

- Increased safety and well-being of members
- Members are able to seek help to prevent overdose
- Recovery vs. incarceration

Outings

Foster opportunities for connection and collaboration among members, as well as between members and staff

- Allows for shared experiences with enhance connections
- Gives members an opportunity to try something they haven't had the means
- Provides members with something positive to anticipate





Street Outreach



Over the past year, our Outreach Team has been out in the community—under bridges, in homeless encampments, and on the streets—connecting with individuals experiencing homelessness right where they are. Through trust-building and consistent engagement, our team makes it easier for folks to access the services they need.

Alongside meaningful conversations, we provide essentials like hot breakfasts and coffee, propane, tents, and sleeping bags—items that meet immediate needs and help us build trust. In addition to basic needs, we also assist with transportation to medical appointments, offer a secure mailing address for official correspondence, and support individuals in navigating benefits enrollment.

Notable accomplishments this year include:

- Enrolling 406 individuals for advanced assistance
- Serving as a mobile 211 site, connecting people directly to critical resources
- Providing winter services at the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter
- Partnering weekly with Valley Health Partners Street Medicine to deliver housing and healthcare
- Organizing three community clean-up days near Jordan Park in collaboration with the Allentown Homeless Commission

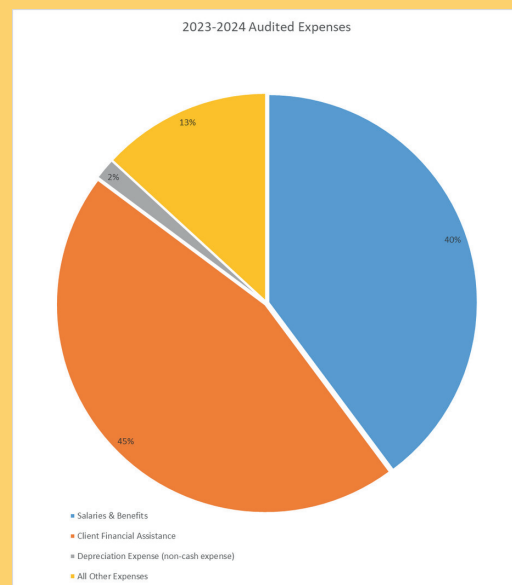
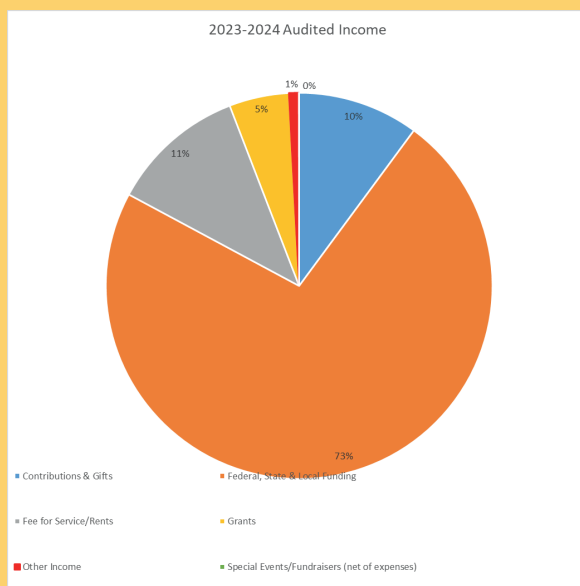
It's not just about services—it's about showing up. Because when we meet people where they are, we help them move forward.



Finances



	2023-2024	2022-2023	
Type	Audited Income	Audited Income	% Increase/Decrease)
Contributions & Gifts	\$759,612	\$467,322	63%
Federal, State & Local Funding	5,463,780	4,551,452	20%
Fee for Service/Rents	849,419	853,717	1%
Grants	375,527	334,732	12%
Other Income	61,713	101,489	-39%
Special Events/Fundraisers (net of expenses)	1,968	(7,597)	126%
Total Income	\$7,512,020	\$6,301,115	19%
Type	2023-2024 Audited Expenses	2022-2023 Audited Expenses	% Increase/Decrease)
Salaries & Benefits	\$2,954,725	\$2,599,531	14%
Client Financial Assistance	3,365,259	2,667,814	26%
Depreciation Expense (non-cash expense)	121,296	119,080	2%
All Other Expenses	974,592	1,055,849	-8%
Total Expenses	\$7,415,872	\$6,442,274	15%
Changes from Operations	\$96,148	(\$141,159)	



Staff and Board of the Conference



Staff

Ricardo Ali
Sarah Alvarez
Maria Alvelo-Nunez
Corey Arner
Deanne Best
Genesis Bruncai
Elvis Cabral
Christopher Clayton
Joannie Colon
Maryeryt Diaz
Ebony Dickerson
Shay Ferreira
Francisco Figueroa
Lindsey Froilan
Abigail Goldfarb
Zekay Hamoui

Tamika Hollis
Mark Hussett
Sasha James
Sierra Jones
Riley Kreuzer
Julie Lane
Maria Lopez
Kendra Loyd
Adriana Madera
Tyler Martin
Samuel Martinez
Tammy Martinez
Bridget McArthur
Shawn Militis
Christopher Moran
Allison Moretz

Elly Nieves
Rigoberto Nieves
Marina Patterson
Andrinel Rijo
Christine Rinker
Jonathan Robles
Amarelis Rodriguez
Courtney Sensinger
Aaliyah Smith
Peg Sterner
Gladys Swoyer
Khalil Tawwab
Petra VanBrunt
David Watson
Tammy Yura

Board

Katie Albarelli
Pstr. Yvette Hailey
Jim Harding
Leslie Hernandez
Joseph Kemmerling
Rev. Paul Knappenberger
Gail Marsella
Kimberly Metz
Rev. Dr. Kevin Nadolski
Israel Olivieri
Kelly O'Shea Carney
Alden Roberts
Waldo Santana
Pam Weiss
Malcolm West



We'd like to thank all our donors and volunteers for their generous support



Asbury United Methodist Church

Marc Basist

Elizabeth Benke

James Berger

Cynthia Blaschak

Michael P Brown

Edward Burkhard

Calvary Baptist Church – Allentown

Calvary Moravian Church Jerusalem Western Salisbury Church

Kenneth Carlson

Christ Church UCC Schoenersville

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Church of the Good Shepherd UCC

Church of the Manger UCC

Church World Service/CROP

Charles Colson

Blair Couch

William Dorney

David Dunbar

Donald Elsenbaumer

Episcopal Ch of the Mediator

Estate of Diane Lee Valois

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

Faith Presbyterian Church of Emmaus

Faith United Church of Christ – Center Valley

First Church of Christ Scientist

First Pres. Church of Allentown

Richard Focht

Charles Gehring

William Geiger,

Good Shepherd UCC

Grace Lutheran Church – Macungie

Grace UCC

Handyman's Shop, Inc.

James Henry

Frances Heussman

Richard Hjorth

Andy Hobbie

Hommer Foundation

Patrick Houghton

Catherine Jaendl-Leuthe

Jordan UCC

Barbara Kapcala

Adam Keller

Phyllis Kempf

John Kamps

Terrence Kennedy

Fred Kutteroff

David Leber

Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting

Lehigh Valley Health Network

John Long

Lutheran Ch of the Holy Spirit

Charlie Marcon

Gail Marsella

Edwin Miller

Ken Mohr

Brennie Morgan

Nativity Lutheran Church

Christine Nelson

New Goshenhoppen UCC

Shirley Nylund

Penn Northeast Conference – UC

J. Scott Pidcock

Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Redeemer Lutheran Church
 William Reimold
 Betty Jo Richards
 Service Electric Cable TV, Inc.
 Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
 Solomon's United Church of Christ
 St. James Lutheran Church of Coopersburg
 St. John Evan Lutheran – Emmaus
 St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Fogelsville
 St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Whitehall
 St. John's UCC – Coopersburg
 St. John's UCC – Fullerton
 St. John's UCC – Laurys Station
 St. John's UCC Allentown
 St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church
 St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
 St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
 St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church
 Kathryn Stagl
 Thomas Stephens
 Sylvia Perkin Perpetual Charitable Trust
 The Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation
 The Pidcock Company
 David Torrey
 UCC Greenawalds

Union United Church of Christ – Neffs
 Sheri Utt
 Robert Walden
 Ezra and June Wenner
 Malcolm West
 Peter Yeakel
 BineingYen
 Ziegels Lutheran Congregation

Kitchen Volunteers

Calvary Moravian
 Greenwall UCC
 St. Paul UCC
 Good Shephard Alburtis
 Life Church
 St. James
 Emmanuel UCC
 Grace UCC
 Heidelberg UCC
 MALV
 Beth– El/KI Sister
 Rotary Club
 Transformation Church
 First Pres
 Faith Pres
 St. Timothy's
 The Barn
 Grace Lutheran
 Asbury Church
 St. Annes Episcopal
 Redeemer
 Valor Foundation
 Jolie Girgis
 Douglas Reed
 Geri Bodnar
 Nancy Christman
 Jane Zimmerman
 Andy Baranek
 Shari Calabrese



Member Churches

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Whitehall
Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church
First Presbyterian Church of Allentown
Zion's United Church of Christ of Allentown
Grace UCC
Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Fogelsville
St. John's UCC – Fullerton
Grace Lutheran Church – Macungie
St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church
Calvary Baptist Church – Allentown
Emmanuel UCC – Allentown
Nativity Lutheran Church
Union United Church of Christ – Neffs
St. John's UCC Allentown
Christ Church UCC Schoenersville
St. Paul's Lutheran Church Breinigsville
Asbury United Methodist Church
Jordan UCC
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Episcopal Church of the Mediator
UCC Greenawalds
The Cathedral Church of St. Catharine of Siena
Salem UCC – Catasauqua

St. John's UCC – Coopersburg
Jordan Evangelical Lutheran Church
Vision Misionera Ministries
Faith Presbyterian Church of Emmaus
St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church
The Barn
Solomon's United Church of Christ
Jerusalem Western Salisbury Church
St. John Evan Lutheran – Emmaus
First Church of Christ Scientist
St. Mark's Lutheran
St. John's UCC – Laurys Station
Calvary Moravian Church
Union Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. James Lutheran Church of Coopersburg
Ziegels Lutheran Congregation
Good Shepherd UCC
Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit
Faith United Church of Christ – Center Valley
St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church
St John's Lutheran Coplay
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Union Baptist Church
Old Zionsville UCC
Weisenberg Lutheran Church
Church of the Good Shepherd UCC
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Ch.
St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Ch.
Grace Episcopal Church
St. John's UCC – Fogelsville
St. John's UCC – Nazareth
Ebenezer UCC Women of the Ch.
Church of the Manger UCC
Penn Northeast Conf. – UCC
Phoebe Ministries

