

# The Conference Connection

*Empowering Communities Together*

## 2024 Notable Statistics

**77,000**

Meals Served

**2,238**

Assessments Completed For  
Rental Assistance

**806**

New Individuals Enrolled In Daybreak

**27,264**

Bus Tickets Handed Out

## Embracing The Journey

Julia came to The Conference after experiencing a challenging time. After spending four years at her last job, the company unexpectedly filed for bankruptcy, completely turning her life upside down. Feeling defeated and uncertain about what to do next, Julia was handed a card from a kind stranger offering a glimmer of hope. The card was for an AARP program, and though she had little left to lose, she decided to give it a chance. Following through with the process, Julia was soon placed at The Lehigh Conference of Churches.

Julia excelled in every aspect of her role, and just one year later, The Conference offered her a position as the Daybreak receptionist. Reflecting on her journey, Julia said, “I have found my passion—helping others who are in similar situations to what mine once was. This process was incredibly hard, but I truly believe this is my long-term career and where I’m meant to be. I’m so thankful for the Conference and AARP for giving me the opportunity to get back on my feet.”

## 2025 PIT Count

On January 23rd, over 30 volunteers—including public officials, agency representatives, Conference employees, and community volunteers conducted 140 surveys in the annual Point-in-Time Count (PIT). The Point-in-Time Count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. HUD requires that CoCs conduct an annual count of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. CoCs also must conduct a count of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness every other year (odd numbered years). Each count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally.







## Meet Our New Community Engagement Coordinator

Hello! I'm Amarelis, the Community Engagement Coordinator at the Conference. In this role, I oversee donation initiatives, manage the volunteer program, handle social media accounts, and actively engage with the community by networking and organizing resource tables.

My passion for nonprofit work comes from a deep desire to give back, and since joining the Conference, I've discovered the sense of purpose I had been seeking.

Outside of work, I'm happily married and enjoy spending time with my two hairless cats, crafting, and sharing a special bond with my fraternal twin sister (despite people saying we look alike!). I'm excited to continue making a meaningful impact through my work at the Conference.

### 2025 "Weather Alert Bag" Statistic

**\$2,700**

In-Kind Food Donation Value

### 2025 "On A Roll" Toilet Paper Drive Statistic

**1,910**

Toilet Paper Rolls Collected

## Volunteer Spotlight

### Transformation Church

Transformation Church of Allentown has been a cornerstone of support for the Conference Kitchen for over a decade. If you're interested in partnering with us to bring a consistent group of volunteers on a monthly basis, we'd love to hear from you!

Opportunities are available for breakfast, lunch, and dinner shifts. Contact Amarelis at [arodriguez@lehighchurches.org](mailto:arodriguez@lehighchurches.org) to learn more and get involved today!





## Edward M. Gianforte Leadership Giving Society

Dr. Edward M. Gianforte, a medical microbiologist and radiologist, became the largest individual donor in the 70-year history of the Lehigh Conference of Churches. Following his passing in 2013, Dr. Gianforte, who had no previous association with the Conference, bequeathed \$700,000, sustaining the Conference's kitchen for over a decade. His extraordinary generosity over nearly a decade inspires us to honor his memory by encouraging others to emulate his spirit of giving.

The Gianforte Leadership Giving Society honors individuals, families, and organizations who lead by example through their annual gift of \$1,000 or more to the Conference.

### 2024/25 Member Commitments

Adam & Dottie Keller  
Andy & Pam Weiss  
Anonymous (Allentown)  
Anthony & Jojo Muir  
Bob and Anne Marie McCarty  
Brennie Morgan  
Cynthia Blaschak  
Dennis & Nancy Giangiulio  
Donald & Kelli Elsenbaumer  
Ed & Anne Miller  
Edward & Joyce Zinn  
Gail Marsella  
Gary & Kelly Carney  
John & Jenny Kemps  
John & Marie Maly  
John Long  
Ken & Barbara Carlson

Marc & Joann Basist  
Malcom West  
Michael & Jeanette Brown  
Pat & Sandy Corpora  
Phyllis Kempf  
Rev. Dr. Christine Nelson  
Bob & Sue Pizor Yoder  
Robert Stevens & Janet Boyd  
Robert Walden  
Ron & Sharron Sheppard  
Dr. Scott Gradwell  
Terry and Margaret Kennedy  
Thomas & Gloria Power  
Thomas Chryst  
William & Elizabeth Geiger  
William & Yvonne Reimold



*"You have not lived today until you  
have done something for someone  
who can never repay you."*

*-John Bunyan*

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# Upcoming Conference Events & Initiatives



## NASBRA

We're excited to announce the 8th Annual Nazareth Adult Soap Box Racing Association event, set for Saturday, June 7th, 2025! This year, we're bringing back the thrill of gravity-powered racing on West Prospect Street with even more excitement and fun for all involved. Registration ends May 24, 2025, visit [NASBRA.com](http://NASBRA.com) to enter a car and view sponsorship details for this event!



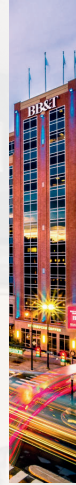
## 2025 Campbell Lecture

Established by The Lehigh Conference of Churches in 1990 and held annually since 1993, this lecture series aims to inform and educate member congregations and the general public on the significance of Christian unity and its potential to address society's challenges. The 2025 lecture series is scheduled to take place in April. You can visit our events page for updates and more details as they become available.



## Juneteenth Celebration

In June, the Conference hosts an annual Juneteenth celebration. This event invites the community to come together for an educational and engaging experience, featuring Juneteenth history, free food, games, activities, and more. Stay tuned for the announcement of the specific date, time, and additional details as June draws near!



## Connections & Conversations

Join us on May 15th for a fun evening at Fegley's Allentown Brew Works! Doors open at 5:00 PM, followed by an exciting evening of networking with professionals from across the Lehigh Valley. You'll have the chance to connect with industry leaders and hear from Executive Director Abigail Goldfarb as she shares how The Conference is addressing hunger and homelessness in our community. Enjoy a buffet dinner, expand your network, and enter to win exciting giveaways. Learn more and register today!



## 3rd Annual: Back 2 School Drive

The Conference is thrilled to host our 3rd Annual Back-to-School Supplies Drive, kicking off in June and running through early August. We're collecting backpacks, pencils, pencil cases, erasers, glue sticks, folders, and other essentials to help students gear up for the 2025-2026 school season.

All supplies will be distributed in August at our Back-to-School Bash! To learn how you can donate, contact Amarelis at [arodriguez@lehighchurches.org](mailto:arodriguez@lehighchurches.org). Thank you for supporting the students in our community!



**For More Details, Visit:**  
[www.lehighchurches.org](http://www.lehighchurches.org)

**TOP  
WORK  
PLACES  
2025**

**THE MORNING CALL**