

2025-26

ANNUAL
REPORT



The Lehigh
CONFERENCE
of CHURCHES

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sometimes, resilience is simply staying the course. It's not always about inspiration or triumph. More often, it's a quiet necessity—continuing on because survival demands it.

Maybe that sounds jaded, but this year has tested my patience in profound ways. I've watched harmful behavior excused. I've seen division intentionally sown between those with power and those without. I've seen those who have so much gather even more, while those with the least somehow end up with less. And I have heard people insist that this is the way things should be—that some deserve their hardship.

On some days, resilience is simply getting out of bed and doing the work all over again for the sake of those who depend on you.

The work of the Lehigh Conference of Churches is deeply inspiring. Yet I cannot claim that we are solving all the problems our community faces, or even that our work is fully understood and appreciated. Organizations like ours remain underfunded and underrecognized. Despite serving more than 75,000 meals annually, welcoming 3,500 individuals through our drop-in center, and providing \$4.5 million in assistance to our community, we remain largely unknown to the public. And while we take pride in serving those who are living in deep poverty, we continually apply temporary fixes to problems that require far bigger change.

It takes a remarkable group of people to show up every day and commit themselves to helping others. I am deeply grateful for the 50 staff members who come to work each day to support people who too often feel forgotten or discarded. Their resilience is contagious, and I am continually honored to stand in the trenches with each of them.

This has been an extraordinarily difficult year for anyone who is not a billionaire. I am grateful that we can help.

I only wish we didn't have to.

Abigail Goldfarb
Executive Director



The week of
Christmas
2025, Johnny
sent me the
message, he
would get
the keys
Dec. 28th.



AMAZON
WISHLIST



MAKE A
DONATION



JOHNNY'S "CHRISTMAS MIRACLE"

Johnny lived homeless for 3+ years down by the Jordan Creek and was told he no longer could be in his home. Johnny is a 57-yearold veteran that has been stuck on his veteran benefits for years and has learned to live off little. Johnny and the outreach team had many interactions through these 3 years, from safety checks during the snowstorms or assisting him with food and survival supplies or even just to deliver a neighborly "hello." Johnny was offered veteran programs through outreach team and Conference Housing programs. However, nothing seemed to fit Johnny's needs and he struggled to develop the full trust that it takes to get someone from the streets to what we know as traditional housing.

During this mass eviction of Jordan Creek, the Outreach team kept coming by and one late September day the outreach team convinced him to fill out his Allentown Housing application together. 2.5 months later, a letter appeared in Daybreak stating, "his name has arrived at the top of the waiting list." Johnny and the outreach team worked towards gathering his verifying documents and nervously awaited approval for the unit. The week of Christmas 2025, Johnny sent me the message, he would get the keys Dec. 28th.

Despite the hot and cold relationship or surrounding elements that forced his hand, Johnny and the outreach team kept up with each other through the years. They cared for one another. Through many text messages of gratitude or a picture of his New Years celebration, Johnny will remain a success story and, as he said, a Christmas Miracle.

The conference was able to secure a **\$50,000 grant** to expand services to include serving breakfast and lunch on Saturdays.



With the support of our dedicated staff, volunteers, and community partners, we proudly served more than 70,000 meals, furthering our mission to nourish both body and community.

With the help of state reps Nick Miller, Pete Schweyer, and Mike Schlossberg, the conference was able to secure a \$50,000 grant to expand services to include serving breakfast and lunch on Saturdays.

CONFERENCE KITCHEN



Recognizing that food insecurity extends beyond individual experiences and persists even when our building is closed, we began distributing pantry bags to ensure continued access to essential meals.

This fiscal year, the Conference welcomed new additions to our kitchen team (pictured below): Dylan Andrews, Food Service Assistant; Mark Hussett, Kitchen Supervisor; and Zekay Hamoui, Kitchen Assistant.

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



PATHWAYS

2,272 households

turned to us for rental and utility support—helping families stay housed, safe, and stable when it mattered most.

11 team members

earned SOAR certification, strengthening our ability to connect individuals experiencing—or at risk of—homelessness with critical disability income and long-term stability.

We directed \$2.9 million

toward rental assistance, making a significant investment in preventing homelessness across our community.

Through 5,007 Lyft rides,

we helped individuals access essential medical care, mental health services, and employment—removing transportation barriers and keeping people connected to opportunity.

BY THE NUMBERS

**FISCAL
2025-2026**



DAYBREAK

Case Management Service was provided 1,749 times in the 2025 calendar year. 264 of these instances were related to coordinating health care. 64% percent of the individuals who engaged in case management reported experiencing homelessness. 85% of the participants receiving case management selfreport living with a disability.

3,931

Active
Daybreak
Members

613

New Members

6

Full-time
Daybreak Staff

PROJECTS

DETAILS

OUTCOME

Member Meetings

Once a month meetings with members & staff 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 fiscal 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.

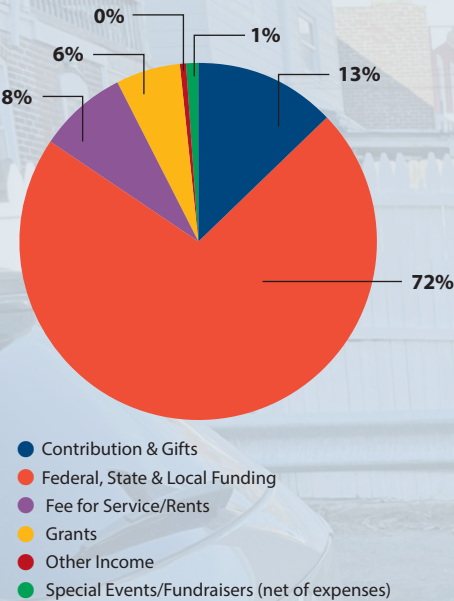
Notable accomplishments this year include:

- Enrolling 322 individuals for advanced assistance
- Serving as a mobile 211 site, connecting people directly to critical resources
- Providing services at the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter
- Partnering weekly with Valley Health Partners Street Medicine to deliver housing and healthcare
- Provided warm hands to intensive case managers in encampments. In addition, we added a certified recovery specialist to our outreach team.
- Supported individuals during encampment closures by helping them secure safe alternative placements and assisting with the relocation of their belongings.

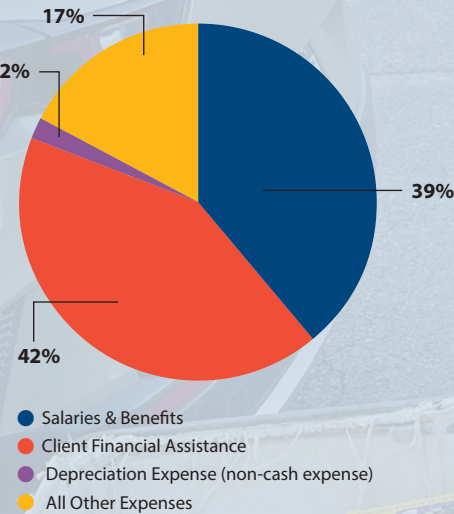
**It's not just
about services,
it's about
showing up.
Because when
we meet people
where they are,
we help them
move forward.**

2026 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2024-2025 Audited Income



2024-2025 Audited Expenses



Type	2024-2025 Audited Income	2023-2024 Audited Income	% Increase/Decrease
Contribution & Gifts	\$990,487	\$756,612	30%
Federal, State & Local Funding	5,465,452	5,463,780	0%
Fee for Service/Rents	633,335	839,419	-25%
Grants	490,615	375,527	31%
Other Income	25,403	61,713	-59%
Special Events/Fundraisers (net of expenses)	39,938	1,968	1929%
Total Income	\$7,645,230	\$7,512,020	2%
Type	2024-2025 Audited Income	2023-2024 Audited Income	% Increase/Decrease
Salaries & Benefits	\$3,097,218	\$2,954,725	5%
Client Financial Assistance	3,334,775	3,365,259	-1%
Depreciation Expense (non-cash expense)	123,237	121,296	2%
All Other Expenses	1,354,322	974,592	39%
Total Expenses	\$7,909,552	\$7,415,872	7%
Changes from Operations	(\$263,322)	\$96,148	

CONFERENCE BOARD & STAFF

STAFF

Sarah Alvarez

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Dylan Andrews

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**Protection of the Blessed
Virgin Mary**



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Betty Jo Richards

Service Electric Cable TV, Inc.

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St. John Evan Lutheran - Emmaus

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**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran
Church Whitehall**

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St. John's UCC - Coopersburg

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**

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Sylvia Perkin Perpetual Charitable Trust

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St. James

Emmanuel UCC

Grace UCC

MALV

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Transformation Church

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Faith Pres

St. Timothy's

The Barn

Grace Lutheran

Asbury Church

St. Annes Episcopal

Redeemer

Valor Foundation

GXO Organization

Service Electric

Jolie Girgis

Geri Bodnar

Nancy Christman

Janey Zimmerman

Andy Baranek

Shari Calabrese

Kristen Bryant



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

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

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 Church
St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Grace Episcopal Church
St. John's UCC - Fogelsville
St. John's UCC - Nazareth
Ebenezer UCC Women of the Church
Church of the Manger UCC
Penn Northeast Conf. - UCC
Phoebe Ministries