

# The Conference Connection

*Empowering Communities Together*

## FY 25/26 Statistics (YTD)

**46,027**

Meals Served

**950**

Assessments Completed For  
Rental Assistance

**411**

New Individuals  
Enrolled In Daybreak

**8,956**

Bus Tickets Handed Out

## More Access. More Support. More Hope.

We are proud to share that on January 6, 2026, Nick Miller, Peter Schweyer, and Michael Schlossberg announced a \$50,000 state grant awarded to the Lehigh Conference of Churches to expand services at our Daybreak Center. Each year, Daybreak serves approximately 1,400 individuals, with nearly 65% experiencing homelessness. This critical investment will allow us to extend our operations beyond our current weekday schedule, increasing access to meals, case management, and essential support for our most vulnerable neighbors.

Thanks to this funding, we are excited to announce that the Daybreak Center will open on Saturdays for the first time in our history. Expanding to weekend hours ensures that individuals who are working during the week and families navigating difficult circumstances have greater access to life-changing resources.

## 2026 PIT Count

Over a span of two days, January 22–23, more than 22 volunteers, including public officials, agency representatives, Conference employees, and community volunteers, conducted hundreds of surveys as part of the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count.

In last year's count, 124 individuals were identified as unsheltered. In the 2026 count, that number rose to 153—an increase of 29 individuals, or approximately 23%.

The Point-in-Time Count measures the number of sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. HUD requires Continuums of Care (CoCs) to conduct an annual count of individuals staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and Safe Havens.





## Everyday Essentials Drive

We're excited to launch a new donation initiative this April called "Everyday Essentials Drive". Throughout April, we will be collecting new **adult bras, underwear, and socks**; items that are among the most urgently needed by individuals experiencing street homelessness, yet are rarely donated. Undergarments are a basic daily necessity, but many of our neighbors do not have reliable access to clean replacements.

Through this spring drive, we hope to provide dignity, comfort, and essential support to individuals in our community facing homelessness. For donation inquiries or to learn more about how you can get involved, please contact Amarelis Rodriguez at [arodriguez@lehighchurches.org](mailto:arodriguez@lehighchurches.org).

## 2026 Back-2-School Drive

The Conference is thrilled to host our 4th Annual Back-2-School Supplies Drive, kicking off in June and running through early August. Once again, we will be collecting backpacks, pencils, pencil cases, erasers, glue sticks, and folders to help students gear up for the 2026-2027 school season. Be on the lookout for the official announcement in late May!

## Volunteer Spotlight

### *Calvary Moravian Church*

For the past four years, Calvary Moravian Church has supported the Conference Kitchen with two volunteer groups totaling 10 dedicated volunteers. Calvary's efforts are supported by Bethlehem Area Moravian Food Ministry and Edgeboro Moravian Church in Bethlehem. We are incredibly grateful for their continued support!

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!



### 2026 "Weather Alert Bag" Statistic

**\$5,920**

In-Kind Food Donation Value

### 2026 "On A Roll" Drive Statistic

**3,105**

Toilet Paper Rolls Collected





## Giving That Transforms Lives

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.

Last year, Gianforte's support was instrumental in providing more than 60,000 meals to the community, engaging 380 unhoused individuals through street outreach, and enabling over 650 individuals to access essential services at our drop-in center in 2025.



**Join The Edward M. Gianforte  
Leadership Giving Society**

Learn More at:  
[www.lehighchurches.org/gianforte](http://www.lehighchurches.org/gianforte)

## Gianforte Leadership Giving Society: Class of 2025

Adam & Dottie Keller  
Fulton & Patricia Brown  
Bob & Anne Marie McCarty  
Cynthia Blaschak  
Donald & Kelli Elsenbaumer  
Edward & Joyce Zinn  
Jill Gentilotti  
John & Marie Maly  
Juan & Judith Albornoz  
Malcolm West  
Pat & Sandy Corpora  
Rev. Dr. Christine Nelson  
Tim & Sue Bingham

Kathleen Matthews  
Thomas & Gloria Power  
William & Elizabeth Geiger  
Barry Kessler  
Kathy Stagl  
Andy & Pam Weiss  
Anthony & Jojo Muir  
Jim Harding  
Dennis & Nancy Giangiulio  
Ed & Anne Miller  
Gail Marsella  
John & Jenny Kems  
John Long

Marc & Joann Basist  
Michael & Jeanette Brown  
Phyllis Kempf  
Rob & Sue Pizer Yoder  
Anonymous (Allentown)  
Terry & Margaret Kennedy  
Thomas Chryst  
William & Yvonne Reimold  
Richard & Barbara Hjorth  
Steven & Kimberly O'Shall  
Charles & Ruth Marcon  
Gary & Kelly Carney





## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual NASBRA Event

We're excited to announce the 9th Annual Nazareth Adult Soap Box Racing Association event, set for Saturday, June 6th, 2026! 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, 2026, unless the maximum of 54 registered cars is achieved. The registration fee is \$60.

Practice runs from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on race day, with the race starting at noon. Double elimination will decide the winners. All team members must sign a waiver on race day in order to participate.

NASBRA has been run by the Lehigh Conference of Churches since 2022. Proceeds benefit the homeless and homeless prevention. [www.lehighchurches.org](http://www.lehighchurches.org).

### RACER REGISTRATION



### BECOME A SPONSOR

