



The Neighborhood Center  
Of The United Methodist Church

THE GOOD

# NEIGHBOR

THE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Serving the Harrisburg community since 1910 with educational, cultural, social service, basic needs, leadership, and recreational programs.



FALL 2020

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## WE BELIEVE IN STRENGTHENING LIVES AND OUR COMMUNITY

The Neighborhood Center is pleased to announce the disbursement of our two scholarships, the Towanda Acey Scholarship and the Welliver Scholarship. These scholarships were a help to families and students in need.

We highlighted Towanda Acey's legacy this year. Our Towanda Scholarship continues her legacy by offering financial assistance to high school graduates and current college students. This scholarship helps to alleviate the cost of books, tuition, and college expenses.

Our Welliver Scholarship allows the Center to assist families. In 2020, we helped nine families with the costs associated with child-care. We look forward to continuing this effort so that families can afford to go to work and school.





# LET'S BUILD IT

## WHAT EVERY- ONE HAD TO SAY ABOUT FAMILY NIGHT

Woodshop class with Evolve has added additional hands-on opportunities for our students to learn a trade. Evolve Training Corps provides classes bi-weekly on Tuesday and Thursday. In this six-week course, students receive instruction on plumbing and carpentry. The completion of the course is celebrated with a pizza party and completion certificate.

Some students have moved on to apprenticeships with local businesses. We are maximizing our space and occupying our woodshop room, which was previously used for storage. This program is being renewed to further offer these vocational employment skills to our students and the community.

It's a hit! We are excited to say our family nights had the opportunity to service seventeen families and over thirty-three students. Kids of all ages enjoyed free fun, arts and crafts, and a variety of activities. Social distancing measures were in full effect. We provided to-go dinner platters, and masks were required.

**BETTER LIVES.**

**BETTER COMMUNITY.**

**BETTER HARRISBURG.**

To support our efforts, please consider donating to the Center today! Neighborhood Center is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. Donations to our mission can be claimed as a deduction on your tax return.

**PAYPAL**

<https://bit.ly/donatencumc>

### **What's in your stocking?**

It is that time of year again. Our Holiday Drive and Angel Tree Xmas Giveaway are well underway. Our goal is to help families not only celebrate but to also ease the stress of the season.

Holiday Drive offers us an opportunity to provide families with Christmas gifts, food and clothing, hats, coats, and even a hot meal. Practice social distancing and other CoVid-19 standards with Santa's helpers and drive-thru to provide gifts and dinner packages on December 19, 2020.

We are excited to have a Christmas giveaway as well. The Angel Tree Christmas Giveaway provides each child with four to five gifts, stocking stuffers, educational tools, toys, coats, and

**The  
Neighborhood  
Center  
represents its  
name and is a  
place where all  
are welcome...**

gloves.

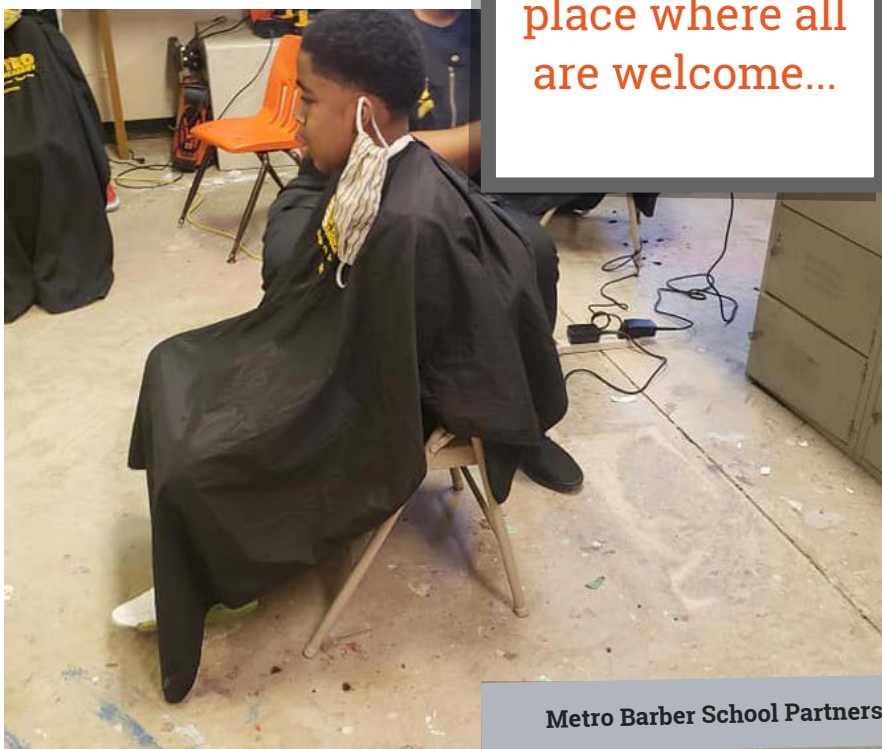
### **Grandparents are important!**

Grandparents Involved from The Start (GIFTS) is a collaboration/partnership to service grandparents of the neighborhood center. We provide resources, fresh produce, and even Christmas for one grandparent with custody of three children.

On Tuesdays at 11 AM, a table is setup outside of the Center to offer products and fresh vegetables for patrons of the neighborhood center and the surrounding community.

### **Snip, Snip**

The Metro Barber School Partnership collaboration has allowed the Center to extend barber services to our families. In conjunction with the Barber School, the Center provides its students with biweekly haircuts. As the program evolves, this collaboration will include entrepreneurial development, life skills, and financial literacy for students interested in this profession



**Metro Barber School Partners**

# WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings,

2020 has been a year of unpredictable events. Covid-19 has devastated the world. Throughout these difficult times, the Neighborhood Center UMC has continued to uplift and revitalize the community. For 110 years, the Center has remained a vital resource in the Harrisburg area for low-income families, women, and children. We take great pride in honoring the tradition and mission of the United Methodist Church.

The Neighborhood Center, UMC, took significant measures in providing a safe and secure facility for our families and employees. The Center for Disease Control's (CDC) recommendations and requirements were implemented before reopening on June 15, 2020, for the Summer Adventure Program. Thanks to many of our partners and donors, we could secure hundreds of masks, cleaning supplies, and disinfectants. We purchased hand sanitizer and bleach in large quantities.

No-touch thermometers were placed at the entrance and throughout the building to monitor students, staff, and visitors' temperature. Classrooms have been structured to provide social distancing but allowing for person-to-person interaction. At this time, we are excited to say that we have not had a single case of the coronavirus. Our students and staff understand that we must all take responsibility for reducing the transmission of COVID-19.

During these difficult times, we want to make the community aware of the services provided by the Neighborhood Center UMC. Our Elder Share Program provides elders with food from the PA Food Bank, The Caring Closet – lightly used and new clothing for children and adults, and professional

clothing too! We have partnered with Evolve Training – students are given free instruction and practice in the fundamentals of carpentry, plumbing, and electricity. Metropolitan Barber School has volunteered to equip students with the skills to become licensed barbers and beauticians. We

encourage the community to take advantage of our free services.

As the new Executive Director, I genuinely believe that the Neighborhood Center should represent its name. The Center should be a place where all are welcome. We do not want to disregard or discourage anyone! Everyone is important to us! We empathize with you during tough times. We want you to know that our doors will remain open to serve you! We believe in "Better Lives, Better Community, Better Harrisburg!"

We urge the community to wear masks, disinfect, clean regularly, and continue to social distance. Please stay safe and enjoy the holidays!

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**Gary Fallings, Director**

