

# Connellsville Area Community Ministries

## About Us

Connellsville Area Community Ministries is an extension of the church to all hurting people needing support in life's development and the struggle to obtain justice and a healthful life grounded in God's love.



Welcome to the Connellsville Area Community Ministries Newsletter! The CACM Newsletter will be published online the last Tuesday of every month. It will highlight activities and services that were provided during the month, as well as providing information on upcoming events for the next month.

May 31, 2016

## Jack Love—Jefferson Award Recipient



Jack Love, at the Heinz History Center, after receiving the Jefferson Award.

Jack Love has been a volunteer in the food pantry at Connellsville Area Community Ministries for 21 years. When Jack began his service he was sorting donated food in the food pantry. Now he serves as the Food Pantry Supply Manager. The food pantry at Connellsville Area Community Ministries serves over 400 families a month and is the largest food pantry in Fayette County. Jack ensures that all of the paperwork is complete to order more food, takes inventory when the deliveries arrive, and ensures the food pantry is well stocked on days that it is open to the public.

This May Jack was one of 50 recipients of a Jefferson Award for the Pittsburgh Area. The Jefferson Awards were started in 1972 by former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Senators Sam Beard and Robert Taft Jr. The award honors individuals for their contributions through public and community service. The Pittsburgh Area Awards are sponsored by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, BNY Mellon, and Highmark.

## Quick Facts:

### **Crisis Assistance (April 2016)**

19 Families - \$1,869.63

### **Food Pantry (May 2016)**

392 Families Served

### **Medical Equipment Distributed (May 2016)**

14 Families Served

### **Volunteer hours (May 2016)**

995 hours Served

Hebrews 13:16  
Do not neglect to  
do good and  
share what you  
have, for such  
sacrifices are  
pleasing to God

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## All About Circles

Circles in the Connellsville Area provides different levels of support for individuals and families. Circles is a way that a local community can bring more people, resources, and influences to solve their local poverty-related problems. There is a shared vision and a commitment to making a positive difference in the community. Circles is willing to help as long as an individual or family meets the following primary criteria:

- Lives at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines
- At least 18 years of age
- Able to speak and read English
- Able to attend weekly classes or meetings ( one night per week for 2 hours)
- Motivated (interested in learning, setting goals & applying new ideas)
- Willing to build intentional relationships with others
- Family supports and encourages involvement in Circles
- If history of alcohol/addiction, has been in recovery for at least the past 6 months
- Stable (not currently homeless or dealing with domestic abuse)

If you have any questions or you would like to join Circles please contact Melissa Dickinson at [Circles@connmin.org](mailto:Circles@connmin.org).



Recent Circles graduates: (left to right) Shawna, Tanisha, Jordan, Robin and Pam with Circles Coach, Melissa

## **Volunteer Spotlight: Andrea Swan**



### **How did you hear about volunteering for the Ministries?**

“I went to a Ladies Luncheon at Albright United Methodist Church and Chip was the speaker. I felt like he was speaking to me. He said that the Ministry was in need of volunteers in the office and I thought that I could answer the phone. My husband, Bill, also volunteered here for a few years before I came along and he would always come home and say how rewarding it was to work here. “

### **What was your first day like here?**

“Overwhelming. It became easier as time went on.”

### **What is the most rewarding part of volunteering here?**

“At the end of the day feeling that you did something that mattered. I feel good that I was able to help people, it’s very rewarding. I taught for 36 years and since teaching is such a rewarding profession I wanted to continue that feeling.”

### **What advice would you give to someone who is thinking about volunteering?**

“You have to pay it forward in life, whether that is with time or health. Connellsville Area Community Ministries is the ideal place to do so. It’s a wonderful environment.”

### **Do you have a favorite memory since volunteering here?**

“Getting to know everyone and making friends.”

Connellsville Area Community Ministries offers a wide variety of service opportunities and we are always accepting new volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Rita Smith at 724.626.1120 or via email at [rita@connmin.org](mailto:rita@connmin.org).

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**Connellsville Area  
Community Ministries**



## STAFF

Chip Rowan  
Executive Director

Cris McDonough  
Assistant to the Director

Sharon Wilson  
Care & Share Supervisor

Rhonda Lonce  
Assistant Care & Share Supervisor

Amber Preston  
Community Outreach Advocate

Rita Smith  
Volunteer in Ministries Coordinator

Melissa Dickinson  
Circles Coach

Jack Love  
Food Pantry Supply Manager

In 2014 the Ministry opened an eBay store. If unusual or valuable items are donated, they are listed on eBay for a higher price than they would be in the Boutique. To view our current listings please visit [www.connminn.org /shop](http://www.connminn.org/shop). If you have any questions please contact Doug Fisher at 724-626-1120.

## Upcoming Events!

**Bedding Sale: June 13—18**

**Book sale: June 23—29**

**Food pantry days:  
June 2, 4, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21**

**The Ministry will be CLOSED  
Saturday, July 2  
and Monday, July 4**