

THE *CURRENT* COMMENT

SUMMER -2023



413 S. 19th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17104 + (717) 230-9550 + www.ccuhb.org

A Journey of Perseverance

By Nick Mucci, Director of Development

For many of us walking across the stage at our high school graduation was the next predictable step in our lives. A step as sure and faithful as the steps that lead to your front door. Navigating tests, quizzes, and trends that change faster than any of us can keep up with might have produced roadblocks, but our footing mostly felt sure. We knew the step would be there. We would walk across that platform, diploma in hand with our minds on our summer adventures, summer jobs, or upcoming fall plans.

As Mya Elias walked across the platform, her mind didn't focus on what was ahead; but rather on what she felt beginning to fade into her rear-view. "I felt like I was walking out of my storm, slowly out of my storm. I was crying." Mya's journey across that stage at Middletown Area High School was not a planned journey. No high school student plans to have to fight through homelessness and shelter living in order to graduate.

Many students fit their schoolwork in around sports schedules, work, and family activities. They would ask themselves how they would fit it all in within the day. For Mya, just getting to school was a challenge sometimes. She would need to walk everywhere while she slept in different buildings and floated from house to house. Mya was undeterred by the challenges that faced her and her young son, A'vion. The two of them were left at the HELP Ministries office at CCU, homeless and in need of a push to keep going.

Mya said, "It felt like God brought me here." In the staff at the Help office, Mya found people willing to listen and willing to help; not focusing on how she found herself in this situation but on how they could support her through it and out of it. In Mya's words, she felt safe, like she was in good hands.

Kim Britton, Street Homeless Rapid Rehousing Case Manager with CCU, was there at the other end of the stage waiting to greet Mya as she graduated. In Mya, Kim sees someone filled with perseverance.

Kim says, "Mya knew what she wanted. She was open and focused. She did her homework to reach her goal. She had to persevere through some of the worst things." Sitting in Kim's lap as we talked was A'vion. A ball full of joy and curiosity, he would reach for the keys that lay on the table while smiling and laughing.



Mya holding A'vion after crossing the platform at her graduation from Middletown Area High School

Whatever he would grab would go straight to mouth, you would never be able to guess that he was teething. “I’m just thankful to see her and her son, happy and lucky and content. It shows he is in a safe place.”

Kim worked alongside Mya to transition her into a shelter and start working towards her goal of becoming an OBGYN. Mya is already working part-time as a Certified Nurses Assistant and is enrolled in HACC for the Spring semester of 2024.



Mya credits Kim as one who has given her strength to keep taking those next steps, to keep believing that she was coming out of the storm. Mya said Kim was like a mom to her, she kept her word and kept showing up. “I knew I wasn’t going through the storm alone,” Mya said. “I knew she was with me.”

Mya is motivated. She is motivated to take the next steps to find stability for herself, her son, and her daughter-to-be. She is also motivated to inspire and encourage others to not give up. “No matter what it looks like, you can get through it. It might be one of the processes that you have to go through. It’s hard. It’s a struggle. But keep going.”

Sometimes the next steps we need to take aren’t as sure as we had hoped. Sometimes the steps seem too far for us to take on our own. Sometimes all it takes is a little HELP for us to see the strength we possess and the way forward that God is laying out in front of us. I’m grateful to be a witness to the strength both Mya and Kim possess and I cannot wait to see how this journey continues to unfold!

Celebrating Steve Schwartz

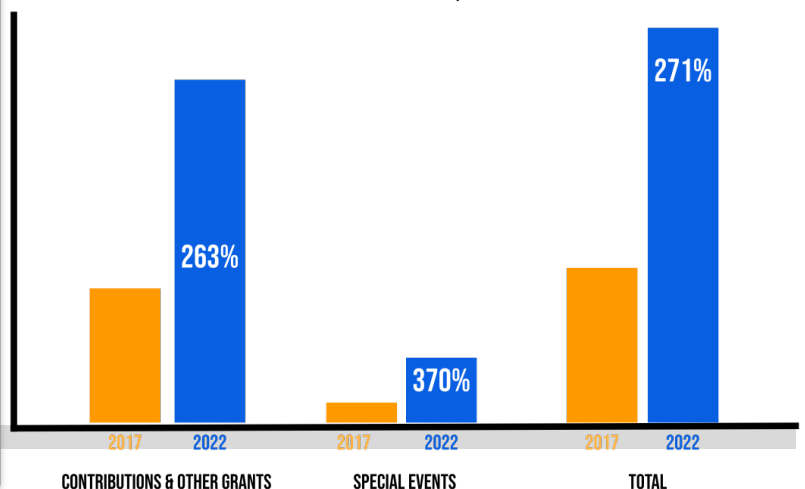
There are countless individuals in communities across the world who serve with passion, love, and consistency. Often these individuals don’t always know what kind of mark they are leaving on their communities or the organizations in which they are serving. Since 2017, Steve Schwartz served the Capital Area through Christian Churches United faithfully and with love. His work as the Director of Development has had a lasting impact on the faith community and on CCU’s ability to serve so many of our neighbors.

“Steve brought so much valuable experience, creativity and hard work to his role at CCU. He has a deep compassion for people in need as well as a passion for encouraging those with resources to give generously. From “50 Ways To Love Your Neighbor” to “Joy To The Burg”, he helped introduce so many people to the work of CCU and grew our impact in the community. His faithful service has truly made a difference in the lives of many people.” said Darrel Reinford, CCU’s Executive Director.

Steve, thank you for all you gave to CCU, may Christ continue to work through you in powerful ways at Hope Served!



UNDER STEVE’S LEADERSHIP, CCU FUNDS GREW!



2023 CCU Highmark Walk Results

May 2023—On May 20th, people from across the Harrisburg area gathered at the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community on the campus of Harrisburg Area Community College to benefit local health and human service agencies. CCU had 57 walkers making up 12 different teams. Together they raised **\$9,190 for our work helping our neighbors facing poverty, homelessness, and incarceration.** CCU’s Community Mobilization and Outreach Coordinator, Aisha Mobley, celebrated the event: “The event was a wonderful experience crowded with a vast array of people, all there to walk because they care about other people! How amazing it was to see and be a part of it!” **Let’s walk again next year!**



TOP WALK TEAMS

Team ShareYourLove.....	\$1,370
Team St. Michael.....	\$1,100
Inspired By God & Others-Messiah/ St. Peter's Lutheran, Halifax	\$1095
CHUMS on the Move.....	\$1020
Second Timers	\$1000
Help Highsteppers	\$895
Heart Sisters	\$610

TOP INDIVIDUAL WALKERS

Steve Schwartz	\$1370
Susan Wesley.....	\$1100
Pastor Nancy Brody	\$1095
Beth Bard.....	\$460
Sue Schmidt.....	\$400
Wendi Wright	\$400
Sally Lehman Hall	\$160

2023 HELP Ministries Golf Tournament Results

June 2023—For the 46th year, golfers gathered to have some fun while raising money for the work of HELP Ministries. Once again our tournament was at Sunset Golf Course in Middletown, and the course was wonderful. Our golfers were gifted with an absolutely picture-perfect day of golf as the weather could not have been better! We had 82 golfers participate this year, many who have made the Tournament part of their year, as well as some golfers who joined us for the first time. Congratulations Christ Presbyterian who won this year’s tournament!

Our 20 teams, 21 hole sponsors, 82 golfers, and numerous prize and auction item donors helped us raise over \$11,000 for HELP Ministries on June 5th. Thanks to everyone!

We look forward to having more of you join us next year!

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2nd Place – Unity Church

1st Place - Christ Presbyterian

3rd Place – Camp Hill Presbyterian

I WONDER HOW MANY CHURCHES AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS REALIZE THAT
COMMUNITY
 IS ONE OF THE GREATEST GIFTS THEY HAVE TO OFFER. - HENRI NOUWEN



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - BETH BARD

There is power in showing up! Beth Bard has been coming to the CCU offices weekly to support the Admin Team with items ranging from mailings to organization to proof-reading to planning events. In the transition from Steve Schwartz to Nick Mucci, Beth filled in the gap in maintaining records and handling receipts. "Working in grassroots Christian ministry, you don't always have resources you'd hope for. You are often overwhelmed with the work. Finding an administrative volunteer who can take the ball and run with projects, who you know will get things done, is a dream. Beth Bard getting involved at CCU a few years ago was a dream come true for me personally and for CCU as an organization." says Steve Schwartz.



"Every Wednesday Beth shows up with joy and a desire to be a part of the work that God is doing in and through CCU! I cannot express my gratitude enough for the spirit in which she serves!" said Nick Mucci, Director of Development.

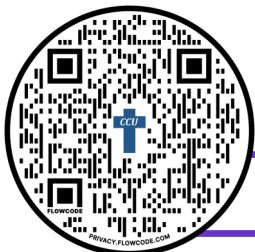
Here's to you, Beth! Thank you for serving. Thank you for *showing up!* There are many opportunities to volunteer with CCU, contact Aisha Mobely at amobley@ccuhbg.org if interested.

JOIN THE TEAM - CCU IS HIRING!

CCU has open P/T positions where we are seeking candidates for our Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven facility as a Supportive Service Assistant. The Safe Haven Supportive Service Assistant will provide direct supportive services for residents on assigned shifts.

We anticipate some additional openings in early September related to some additional grant funding for working with unsheltered individuals. If you don't currently get our e-news updates, visit our web-site to sign up! If

you or someone you know is interested in joining the team at CCU, please visit all our jobs postings on [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com) or send a cover letter and resume to jobs@ccuhbg.org.



Scan here for our Indeed.com page

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

◇ **SUSQUEHANNA HARBOR SAFE HAVEN**

There are multiple opportunities at SHSH to volunteer and serve. Whether you'd like to Adopt a Room, do some general upkeep or just show up to play Bingo or games with the men, consider rallying a small group or your Men's Ministry to come alongside the men of SHSH.

◇ **EVENT TEAM**

Every year we hold different events to raise awareness and funds for the work of CCU throughout the Tri-County Area. If you enjoy throwing parties or putting on events, we want to invite you to join one of our event teams!

◇ **WEB TEAM**

So much of our life happens online these days, CCU seeks to have a strong and consistent presence across social media as well as within our web-site.

◇ **FACILITIES TEAM**

CCU is fortunate to have two buildings they utilize for serving our community. As with all buildings, the need for routine and special maintenance exists. If you are one of the many handy-men or women out there who would be able to serve in this capacity, please reach out!

◇ **PRISON ACTION COMMITTEE**

Our PAC is in need of church hosts for monthly breakfasts for residents of transitional facilities. We are also in need of drivers for these breakfasts. We are also in need of experienced pastors/teachers to help lead Sunday afternoon services for members of County Work Release. Any who can lead music/singing/provide special music would also be appreciated.

For any of these opportunities, and to learn about others, contact Aisha Mobely, amobley@ccuhbg.org.

Help a Homeless Household Get a Fresh Start with a... **NEW APARTMENT WELCOME HOME KIT**

At CCU, when we help an individual or family obtain an apartment after being homeless, they typically start from scratch. You can help them have a fresh start with a new apartment Welcome Home Kit.

Part 1: Kitchen

- Kitchen trash can (approx. 11-13 gallon)
- One plastic dish pan
- One box of kitchen trash bags (13 gallon bags, 20 bags or more*)
- One bottle of dishwashing liquid**
- Kitchen paper towels (2 rolls or more*)
- Two kitchen handtowels/two kitchen dishcloths
- Broom, dustpan and brush
- One household mop

NOTE: If making a complete kit, place all items from Part 1 inside the Kitchen Trash Can for delivery.

Part 2: Bath and General Cleaning

- One laundry basket
- One cleaning bucket
- One spray bottle all purpose cleaner**
- One spray bottle bathroom cleaner**
- Two cleaning cloths/rags
- Toilet Bowl Brush
- Two bottles liquid hand soap**
- One box or bottle of Laundry Detergent

NOTE: If making a complete kit, place all items from Part 2 inside the Laundry Basket for delivery.

Part 3: First Aid and Toiletries

- One reusable shopping bag
- Toilet Tissue (6 regular rolls or 4 double rolls or more*)
- One box of Band-Aids (100 or more* count, variety pack)
OR first aid kit with Band-Aids
- One tube of first aid antibiotic ointment (like Neosporin or generic)
- One tube of toothpaste
- Four toothbrushes
- One bottle of general purpose shampoo**
- Bath soap (two bars or more*)

NOTE: If making a complete kit, place all items from Part 3 inside the Reusable Shopping Bag for delivery.

Tips

- A full kit typically costs \$100-\$120, sometimes less if using coupons, sales or buying generic. (Exception: generic Band-Aids aren't always good quality.)
- Combine with personal shopping to save money (i.e. buying 10 pack of bath soap for yourself? Donate 2 bars.)
- Work with friends or your group to do multiple kits, then you can buy bulk packs of many things and divide up.
- Or work with two additional friends, each taking one of the three sections to purchase, combining into one kit.
- Or feel free to do a drive for certain items and we'll combine with other group's donations. Contact us (info below) if you'd like to know our current greatest needs.



of the Tri-County Area

Deliver Kits To:

413 S. 19th Street
Harrisburg, PA 17104

Contact: Nick Mucci,
Director of Development
Phone: (717) 230-9550
Email: nmucci@ccuhbg.org
Web: www.ccuahbg.org

* OR MORE: When you see "or more," there is no pressure to buy "more." We need a general minimum to include in each kit. However, if a three pack of paper towels is on sale for cheaper than a two pack, go ahead and get the better deal.

** Please **DO NOT** deliver spray bottles/shampoo/pump bottles in large trash bags. They will roll open, spill, and ruin other items. Please ensure these bottles are upright such as in a box or laundry basket.

Christian Churches United is a 501(c)3 non-profit social service agency founded as a collaboration of area churches to help those facing homelessness, poverty and incarceration. These kits are designed to get a household through their first few days/weeks while they get established. They are not intended to fully outfit their apartment.

For questions about how you or your church group, civic group, co-workers, VBS or other group can collect Welcome Home Kits, or more information on our housing programs, contact Nick Mucci, Director of Development (info to the left).



WORSHIP ON THE WATER

Throughout the summer, individuals gather on the Pride of the Susquehanna for worship. Rev. Herb Bomberger began coordinating these services over 30 years ago and will be the minister for our final week this summer. “Each Sunday morning in summer, for one hour, the Pride becomes our “aquatic” cathedral—the only one in PA. and maybe the USA!” says Rev. Bomberger. It is a wonderful time of worship for all ages and serves as a wonderful reminder of the one-ness that Christ prayed for in John 17. With just a few weeks remaining in summer, we invite you to come worship on the water!



Macedonia Missionary Baptist hosted worship on 6.04.23



Brass Triumphant lead a time of Worship on 7.30.23



Young Callie (5) enjoying Worship on the River



Rev. Bomberger enjoying the sunshine on the upper deck



On warm days, enjoy worship inside the lower deck

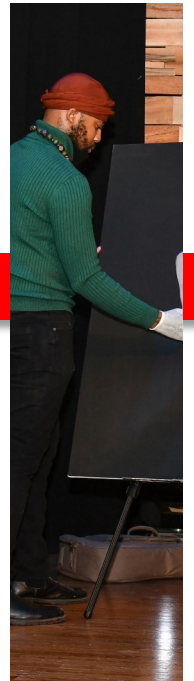


Scripture being read from Psalm 97

August 13th - West Shore Baptist Church | August 20th - Canaan’s Land Blue Grass Band | August 27th - Rev. Herb Bomberger

Each week a free-will offering is taken on the boat to help cover the costs for the Pride of Susquehanna and to support the work of Christian Churches United of the Tri-County Area. For questions about Summer of Worship, contact Laura Dalton, ldalton@ccuhbg.org

CHRISTIAN CHURCHES UNITED | CELEBRATION BANQUET | RED LION HOTEL
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 2023. 5:30 PM | TICKETS \$50



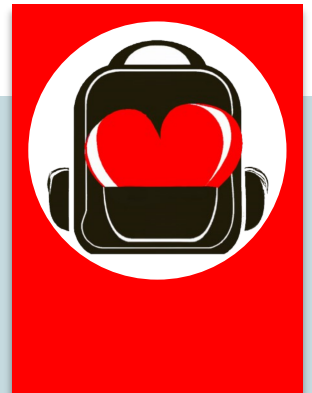
FEATURED SPEAKER:
REV. DERRICK JAMES

UNITED IN LOVE

Love for the Journey

Our Annual Benefit Dinner will invite us all to reflect on our place within one another's journey. Experience Live Music. Hear Stories of Transformation. Participate in a Silent Auction and a kick-off for Joy the to Burg 2023.

Registration Coming Soon!



In response to Christ's call to love our neighbors, Christian Churches United brings together local churches, community partners, and concerned neighbors to serve those facing homelessness, incarceration, and poverty through supportive programs and compassionate engagement. For ticket or sponsorship information contact Nick Mucci: nmucci@ccuhbg.org, 717.230.9550 www.UnitedinLoveBanquet.org



of the Tri-County Area

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UNITED IN LOVE

Love for the Journey



GUEST SPEAKER: REV. DERRICK JAMES

**Friday, Nov. 10th,
5:30pm
Red Lion Hotel
Tickets \$50**

(Tables & Sponsorships Available)
Register at
www.UnitedinLoveBanquet.org

You can attend and support CCU Programs:

UNITED IN LOVE PARTNER (\$1000)	TABLE SPONSOR w/ AD (\$600)	TABLE SPONSOR (\$400)
Half pg ad, logo displayed at event and on web-site, 8 tickets	Half pg ad, 8 tickets	8 tickets, name in program

United In Love Online Auction:
Nov. 1 to Nov. 10
Anyone can participate
Join: www.ccuahbg.org/auction

Questions? Contact
Nick Mucci
nmucci@ccuahbg.org
or (717) 230-9550

Annual Benefit Dinner Featuring
Live Music Testimonies Online Auction
Delicious Meal
Joy To The Burg 2023 Kickoff and More

SAVE THE DATE!

