



Schuylkill United Way

## Helping Other People Everyday

9 North Centre Street, Suite 301  
Pottsville, PA 17901  
Phone: 570.622.6421

Schuylkill News of H.O.P.E.

2023 2nd Quarter Newsletter

### Captain Jason B. Jones Memorial Day of Caring



The Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation Camp was prepped for summer campers by over 150 volunteers.



Blue Mountain Elementary WEST students placed flags on veterans' graves in Cressona.



Schuylkill Community Action replacing tiles in the kids' rooms at Schuylkill YMCA.



Lowes Distribution #961 built new shelving units at Nurse-Family Partnership in Pottsville.



EMD Electronics did various jobs in Tamaqua - including cleaning up at Child Development, inc.



Geisinger/St. Luke's Hospital was one of many groups that lent a hand at Avenues.

600 volunteers painted, organized, cleaned, constructed, cooked, and in various other ways strengthened our Schuylkill County community during the annual SUW Captain Jason B. Jones Memorial Day of Caring.

Each and every person made a difference. It was an inspiring way to honor Captain Jones and spread hope here at home - thank you!





Schuylkill United Way

## Captain Jason B. Jones Memorial Day of Caring

*Thank you!*



### Serving at Avenues in Pottsville:

Geisigner/St. Luke's and St. Luke's Hospital - Miners Campus, Hydro, Mid-Penn Bank, UGI

### Serving at Boy Scouts - Hawk Mountain camp:

Access Services, Evans Network of Companies, Hydro, M&T Bank, NEPA Inclusive, PPL, St. Joseph Center for Special Learning, Schuylkill Conservation District, Schuylkill Indivisibles, Veterans Multi-Service Center, Servants to All, Service Access Management, Wegmans, Williamson, Friedberg, & Jones, friends & family of the SUW Staff, and the parents, family, and friends of Captain Jason B. Jones.

### Serving at Child Development, Inc (Mahanoy City):

Highwood USA

### Serving at Child Development, Inc (Pottsville):

Dacus family, EMD Electronics, Pottsville Rotary

### Serving at Child Development, Inc (Fountain Springs):

Schuylkill Area Community Foundation

### Serving at Child Development, Inc (Tamaqua):

EMD Electronics

### Serving at Nurse Family Partnership:

Lowe's Regional Distribution Center #961

### Serving at Orwigsburg Borough:

Blue Mountain High School, CACL, Schuylkill Indivisibles

### Serving at Salvation Army - Pottsville Corp:

Hidden River Credit Union

### Serving at Schuylkill HOPE Center:

Mrs. T's Pierogies/Ateeco

### Serving at Schuylkill YMCA:

D'Atillio family, Schuylkill Community Action, Northeast PA Manufacturers & Employee Council

### Serving at Tamaqua Area Adult Day Care Center:

EMD Electronics

### Serving Tamaqua with a major trash clean up:

St. Luke's Hospital - Miners Campus, EMD Electronics \*The work in Tamaqua could not have been accomplished without the efforts made by: Tamaqua SOS Save Our Station, Tamaqua Borough, Hope & Coffee, Tamaqua Historical Society.



**M&T Bank employees tackled some landscaping at the Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation Camp.**



**PPL and Wegmans employees got the job done at Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation.**





**THANK YOU!**

**Businesses \* Schools \* Non-Profits \* Friends & Family**





**A special part of our Day of Caring** are the letter writing campaigns organized by schools, libraries, and other groups throughout the county.

*This year, we collected 2,452 letters!!*

Big thanks to everyone who wrote a letter of support to our first responders and our deployed military. Our friends at Operation Gratitude ensure your messages bring hope and encouragement to those who sacrifice so much for us.



Dear Hero,

I want to thank you for your service. You gave us your time, energy, and love. There are so many things that you did and we are forever grateful. I will never fully understand what you went through but I do recognize, appreciate, and honor each and every sacrifice you made for our country. You truly are so brave in all you do. I would like to say thank you very much for your service. Thank you.

From,  
P.L.



**The following schools and organizations wrote letters for this year:**

Blue Mountain  
Gillingham Charter School  
Minersville  
North Schuylkill  
Pottsville

Schuylkill Haven  
St. Clair

St. Joseph Center  
Schuylkill I.U. #29

Schuylkill Technology Center - South

Tamaqua  
Tri-Valley

Child Development, Inc.  
Open Door Project (Pine Grove)

Orwigsburg Public Library

Luther Ridge at Seiders Hill  
Providence Place (Pine Grove)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



**MAY 10, 2024**

SUW Capt. Jason B. Jones Memorial Day of Caring





## A LETTER OF SUPPORT...

We are both saddened and excited for Dr. Gregory Koons as he transitions to a new position outside of Schuylkill County.

Mostly though we are grateful for the time and effort he gave to Schuylkill United Way and our community.

Please read his letter of support and join us in wishing him and his family all the best!



*Specializing in educational solutions for lifelong learners*

Gregory S. Koons, Ed.D.  
*Executive Director*

May 16, 2023

Kelly Malone, Executive Director  
Schuylkill United Way  
9 North Centre Street, Suite 301  
Pottsville, PA 17901

Mrs. Malone,

I am writing this letter of recommendation in support of Schuylkill United Way (SUW) for the numerous contributions to our school community in Schuylkill County. As an education administrator, I have witnessed the benefits of your organization first hand. Specific highlights include the High School Football Challenge, the Nurse's Pantry program, and Stuff the Bus, to mention a few.

I also serve as a proud board member for SUW and Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce. As a proud board member, I have also served in the capacity of 2024 SUW Campaign Chair. The leadership team is stellar and is always there to lend a helping hand. They live the mission of Helping Other People Everyday (H.O.P.E.).

As I continue my leadership journey, I recently accepted a position as the Executive Director of Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit (CLIU) in Schnecksville, PA. In this new capacity, I plan on continuing the mission of helping others. Ironically, the current mission for the CLIU is "Helping Children Learn".

I'm very thankful for the experience and friendships that I have attained during my time in Schuylkill County.

The SUW has my highest recommendation.

Please contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Gregory S. Koons

P.O. BOX 130, 17 MAPLE AVENUE, MAR LIN, PA 17951-0130 • (570) 544-9131 • FAX (570) 544-2169  
"We are an Equal Rights and Opportunity Intermediate Unit."

### SAVE THE DATE

#### CAMPAIGN KICK OFF BREAKFAST

Friday, September 8

St. Nick's Hall  
8:30am

### SAVE THE DATE

#### PACESETTERS RECEPTION

Thursday, October 20

Arrow Studio & Events  
5:30pm - 7:30 pm  
\*Only for Pacesetters\*

### SAVE THE DATE

#### APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

Friday, November 10

St. Nick's Hall  
8:30am



## \$20,000 raised at our spring Golf Tournament!

You did it again! For the second year in a row, \$20,000 was raised at our spring golf tournament thanks to the many golfers, volunteers, and sponsors. This would not be possible without the great efforts of our coordinators and volunteer Board members, Mr. Charles Ladd, IV & Mr. Chris Cohoon.

*The SUW staff, Partner Agencies, and Board say, THANK YOU!*







## ALL 14 SCHUYLKILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAMS ARE COMPETING !!!

Tuesday, June 20

**FREE  
ADMISSION!**

Competition begins at 5pm

North Schuylkill High School

Ghosh Orthodontics Field at Spartan Stadium



T-shirts \$10

Hats \$20



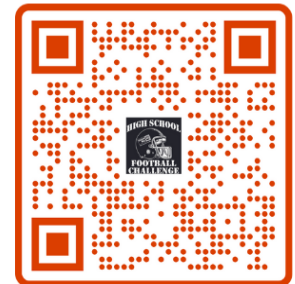
### NEW this year...

- 🏈 We are going back to only two (2) rounds vs. the three rounds we had last year.
- 🏈 The sled push is moving to the main field and will be a two-man sled vs. the five-man sled we used in the past.
- 🏈 **A Dunk Tank!!** Thank you to our volunteers who will be sitting to raise money for our Nurse's Pantry and other SUW initiatives. Those volunteers include:  
Claire Alfree (WNEP-16), Joseph Drasdis, III (Drasdis & Son, Pottsville), Beth Kaczmarczyk (Shenandoah Valley), Ken Roseberry (North Schuylkill), Nick Sajone (North Schuylkill), and Dr. Stephen Toth (Tamaqua).

**THREE (3) THROWS AT THE DUNK TANK WILL BE \$5.**

### Food Trucks

- \*Trish's Treats
- \*Havin' a Meltdown
- \*Sughr Cupcakes
- \*La Casita
- \*Appetite Satisfaction
- \*By the Fire



Our Partner Agencies & Sponsors will be on site with games, information, and give aways !

"To date we have served over 2000 students... your program is **greatly needed and appreciated!**"  
Schuylkill County School Nurse

The High School Football Challenge is a free, family friendly event.

Thanks to our corporate sponsors, the Challenge is a major fundraiser for our initiatives, including the Nurse's Pantry. This vital program can now be found in every school district in our county.

**Thank you for supporting the Challenge!**

"In a time of uncertainty and stress, your contributions have **made a difference!!**"  
Schuylkill County School Nurse



# Meet ALICE

**A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed

In May, a new report was released by United Way of Pennsylvania, through United for ALICE® regarding ALICE (formerly known as the "working poor"). ALICE stands for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed.

This report points out that 1.4 million Pennsylvania households are **working and earning more than the federal poverty level, but still cannot afford basic needs like housing, childcare and food.**

With the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) as the primary way for policymakers and local stakeholders to gauge the extent of financial hardship in their communities, a huge portion of struggling households go unrecognized.

You can read the full report, ALICE in the Crosscurrents: COVID and Financial Hardship in Pennsylvania, at: <https://unitedforalice.org/pennsylvania>. One exceptional feature of this tool is that we can see data not only for Pennsylvania, but for our county and our townships, boroughs, and cities.

So, who is ALICE in Schuylkill County?

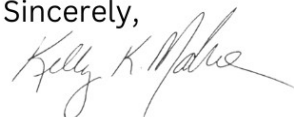
Of the total 58,212 households in Schuylkill County:

- 16,090 (or 28%) are ALICE households
- 7,184 (or 12%) of households in our county are below the poverty line (based on the FPL)

Thus, a combined 40% of our households were economically fragile or in danger when these numbers were compiled.

In the coming months, Schuylkill United Way looks forward to having community discussions about how we can work together to eliminate the barriers to financial stability for ALICE. Stay tuned!

Sincerely,



Kelly K. Malone



Your business can  
help collect for...



## You've got options.



Your business or organization can host a collection box (provided by & picked up by SUW!) for customers/visitors to drop off donations.



Your company can host an internal school supply drive.



Contact Christine Johnson for more information:

(570) 622-6421 | [dircomrel@schuylkillunitedway.org](mailto:dircomrel@schuylkillunitedway.org)

## The whole month of July!

Look for the collection boxes during the whole month of July to drop off your donated supplies!







## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES @ OUR PARTNER AGENCIES!



**Be a Mentor!** BIGS (Big Impact Group of Schuylkill County) has school-based mentoring opportunities at the following schools: North Schuylkill, Pottsville, Tamaqua, Tri-Valley, Schuylkill Haven, Mahanoy Area, Blue Mountain, & Pine Grove. Call: (570) 622-0174 | [www.bigschuylkillcounty.org](http://www.bigschuylkillcounty.org)



POTTSVILLE CORPS

**Share your musical gifts** with the Salvation Army in Pottsville! Do you play or teach guitar, ukulele, dance, drama or drums? We are in need of volunteer teachers. Please contact Lt. Derek Barrett at 570-622-5252 or email [Derek.Barrett@use.SalvationArmy.org](mailto:Derek.Barrett@use.SalvationArmy.org)



**Indoor & Outdoor opportunities** at the Schuylkill HOPE Center! From sorting donations to some yard work, every day is different when you do what's needed to make someone's day better. Call: (570) 622-3991 | [www.schopecenter.org](http://www.schopecenter.org)



**Tour the County** while distributing flyers and resources for SARCC! SARCC needs reliable volunteers to distribute their materials to libraries, schools, and other public places (grocery stores, coffee shops, etc.). Call: (570) 628-2965 | [www.sarccheals.org](http://www.sarccheals.org)



**TAMAQUA AREA  
ADULT DAY  
CARE CENTER**



**Play BINGO, golf, do crafts, or share your favorite game** with the folks at Tamaqua Area Adult Day Care Center! From board games to cards, exercise activities or simply sharing a conversation, your friends in Tamaqua will surely enjoy your company. Call: (570) 668-6556



**MEET ALL OF OUR PARTNER AGENCIES AT THE  
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL CHALLENGE ON 6/20!**





# PARTNER AGENCY DIRECTORY

**American Red Cross**

Chief Professional Officer: Peter Brown

Phone: (610) 375-4383

**Avenues/Founded as UCP in 1952**

Chief Professional Officer: Peter Keitsock

Phone: (570) 622-7920

**Big Impact Group of Schuylkill County**

Chief Professional Officer: Doug Allen

Phone: (570) 622-0174

**Boy Scouts of America/Hawk Mtn. Council**

Interim Chief Professional Officer: Duane Crouse

Phone: (610) 926-3406

**Child Development, Inc.**

Chief Professional Officer: Mary Ann Devlin

Phone: (570) 544-8959

**Northeast PA Manufacturers & Employers  
Council, YES Northeast Certificate Program**

Chief Professional Officer: Courtney Fasnacht

Phone: (570) 622-0940

**Nurse-Family Partnership**

Chief Professional Officer: Jillian Marcalus

Phone: (484) 772-2360

**The Salvation Army -Pottsville Corp**

Chief Professional Officer: Lts: Betty Ellen & Derek Barrett

Phone: (570) 622-5252

**SARCC of Lebanon & Schuylkill Counties**

Chief Professional Officer: Ali Perrotto

Phone: (570) 628-2965

**Schuylkill County Society for Crippled Children**

Chief Professional Officer: Sharon Kimmel

Phone: (570) 622-7170

**Schuylkill Wellness Services**

Chief Professional Officer: Carolyn Bazik

Phone: (570) 622-3980

**Schuylkill HOPE Center for Victims of Domestic Violence**

Chief Professional Officer: Rick Wojciechowsky

Phone: (570) 622-3991

**Schuylkill YMCA**

Chief Professional Officer: Amanda Karenda

Phone: (570) 622-7850

**Tamaqua Area Adult Day Care Center**

Chief Professional Officer: Colleen Killian

Phone: (570) 668-6556

**Tamaqua Area Meals on Wheels**

Chief Professional Officer: Samantha Gibbons

Phone: (570) 449-8271

Thank you for  
spreading H.O.P.E.!

HELPING  
OTHER  
PEOPLE  
EVERYDAY

[www.SchuylkillUnitedWay.org](http://www.SchuylkillUnitedWay.org)







Schuylkill United Way

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Change Service Requested

NON PROFIT

US POSTAGE

**PAID**

POTTSVILLE PA

PERMIT NO. 430



# Help is three numbers away.

## 211

### NON-EMERGENCIES

- Food
- Housing
- Utility Assistance
- Healthcare Services
- Transportation
- Legal Services
- Counseling

## 988

### SUICIDE AND CRISIS

- Thoughts of Suicide
- Mental Health Crisis
- Substance Use Crisis
- Emotional Distress
- Veterans Crisis

## 911

### EMERGENCIES

- Medical
- Fire
- Crime
- Abduction
- Domestic Violence
- Impaired Driving
- Suspicious Activities

*Our second quarter Schuylkill News of H.O.P.E. is proudly sponsored by Lehigh Valley Hospital—Schuylkill.*