



# THE HELPING HAND

## COMMUNITY CARES NEWSLETTER

### A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Homelessness is often the most visible sign of a much larger housing crisis, but it is also a place where compassion, action, and community partnership can change lives. Across the country, more families, seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, and working individuals are facing housing instability as rents rise and financial margins shrink. In Pennsylvania, the homelessness response system is making a real difference — 11,859 Pennsylvanians moved into permanent housing in 2024. At the same time, 30,536 people entered homelessness, showing that more of our neighbors are reaching crisis faster than the system can stabilize them. Here in Cumberland County, that need is close to home as our community grows, our population ages, and too many households struggle to keep up with the cost of housing. Community CARES stands in that gap with shelter, resources, and supportive services for individuals and families who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. As the walk-in access site for Coordinated Entry in Cumberland County, we help neighbors connect to assessment, prevention, emergency services, housing resources, and supportive care. Shelter can be lifesaving, but our mission is about more than a bed for the night. It is about helping people regain dignity, rebuild stability, and move from crisis toward housing and hope. The need is urgent, but the opportunity is powerful. Every meal, every volunteer hour, every financial gift, every landlord partnership, and every act of advocacy helps create a pathway back to stability. Together, we can prevent homelessness before it starts, support emergency shelter when crisis cannot be avoided, and protect the housing resources that help people stay

housed. Community CARES cannot do this alone — but with a caring community beside us, we can be more than shelter. We can be prevention, stability, compassion, and hope for neighbors who need us most.

### LOVE AND JOY

Beth Kempf  
Executive Director



Scan the QR code to partner with us today

### Board Update

Liane McCorry is CARES newest Board Member. Liane is a tax litigation attorney at a Cumberland County law firm. Prior to practicing law, she served 12 years in the United States Army as a paralegal in the JAG Corps, including a deployment to Iraq. Throughout her career, Liane has advocated for individuals facing difficult circumstances. Liane serves on the CARES Board in the Events and Community Relations role. She was inspired to join CARES because of its dedication to meeting individuals where they are and providing the resources, support, and pathways necessary to move toward stability and independence.

“My own life experiences have shown me how challenging it can be to find your footing at times, and they’ve shaped a strong desire to give back by supporting others who may need encouragement, resources, and helping hand to get get back on their feet.”



## HOOPS AND MADNESS FOR CARES

March was a busy month for CARES. Throughout the entire month, CARES participated in the Partnership for Better Health's Match Madness. Individual donors and various churches and organizations helped us raise over \$126,000. Thank you to everyone who donated to CARES in March along with the Partnership for Better Health and M&T Charitable Foundation.

Steve Crowley, a friend of CARES, organized the first HOOPS-4-CARES on Saturday, March 21. This 40+ basketball tournament was a fun afternoon at the Stuart Center. Between sponsorships and participants, Hoops 4 CARES raised over \$8000 for CARES. If you want to plan a micro-fundraiser for CARES, please reach out to Erik Larson at [el Larson@morthanshelter.org](mailto:el Larson@morthanshelter.org).



SAVE THE DATE:  
CARES Celebration 11/5/26



Read about Kayla Snyder's capstone project that resulted in over 700 books and more for our Family Shelter in the Shippensburg News Chronicle. [here](#).

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Bingo

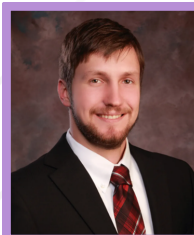
"I have BINGO" has been shouted out loud at our Resource Center on a monthly basis. With scraps of paper and Dickinson student homemade cards, our community has come together to provide a few moments of fun and prizes for our clients. SPY Students, Dickinson's Change Makers, LCBC, and the War College's Spouses have all hosted Bingo nights at the Resource Center. Thanks to a donor from the War College, we now have a real bingo game. If you are interested in hosting a Bingo night at the RC, reach out Sherry Collins at [scollins@morehanshelter.org](mailto:scollins@morehanshelter.org)



## QCD DISCUSSION

On Wednesday 3/18, Community CARES hosted a Free Educational event focused on Charitable Giving and Estate Planning. This virtual discussion was to educate our donors on alternative ways to give and support those in need. The talk was held in partnership with several local professionals who are experts in their field. Thank you so much to Tom Drexler and Stephanie Beaty from [Alliance Financial](#) and Attorney Alex Otto of [Barley Snyder](#) law firm!!!

## QCD FINANCIAL DISCUSSION



[WWW.MORETHANSHELTER.ORG](http://WWW.MORETHANSHELTER.ORG)



REST REASSURANCE RESOURCES



Like many of the neighbors we serve, DB never imagined he would experience homelessness. A veteran — part of 9% of the people served by Community CARES who are veterans — DB had shared a home with his partner for 38 years when life changed suddenly. When his partner became ill, DB became her caregiver. As the crisis deepened, he lost his job and eventually found himself grieving the loss of his companion, his income, and the home he had known.

Many people enter homelessness already carrying trauma, grief, fear, and uncertainty, making it difficult to know what steps to take next. During an overwhelming time, Community CARES became the front door to help DB begin navigating a path forward. Our Case Management team worked with him to understand his needs and connect him with services, That support gave DB time, stability, and the opportunity to begin rebuilding after crisis.

Within a month, DB moved into his own apartment. Before leaving, he shared his gratitude for CARES and for the support that helped him move from crisis back to stability. DB’s story is a reminder that homelessness can happen quickly, but with the right resources, compassionate support, and a community that cares, hope can also begin again.



Vibrant and LCBC at Spring Garden.

Our Spring Garden Men and Women’s Shelter is almost complete. Churches like the Meeting House, LCBC and Vibrant, helped to paint walls and shelves . Be on the lookout for tours and our **GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION**. Our campaign still needs YOUR help, if you are interested, contact Erik Larson at [el Larson@morethanshelter.org](mailto:el Larson@morethanshelter.org). More info at [www.morethanshelter.org/mosaic](http://www.morethanshelter.org/mosaic)

**“Every act of compassion becomes part of someone’s path home.”**

MEET THE TEAM

**ERIK LARSON**  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



Let’s give a warm welcome to Erick Larson, the new Development Director!!!

Erik has a background in Project Management and has PA Liquor Control Board and played basketball for McDaniel College. Erik and his family live in Camp Hill, has coached basketball for 20 years, and is currently the JV Head Coach at Trinity High School. Please feel free to reach out with an introduction through email.



[ELarson@morethanshelter.org](mailto:ELarson@morethanshelter.org)

2026 **I truly CARE** SPONSOR

Community CARES is a proud partner of UNITED WAY Carlsle and Cumberland County

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 7/10/26 - Golf Tournament (Eagles Crossing 8a Shotgun Start)
- Donor Club Picnic - DATE TBD
- Grand Opening of Men and Women's Shelter: DATE TBC
- 09/20/26- Volunteer Appreciation/Training
- 11/5/26 - Community CARES Celebration
- 02/27/27-Coldest Night of the Year

Additional details at our website:  
[www.morethanshelter.org](http://www.morethanshelter.org)



*Golf Tournament* **2026**

**FRI - JULY 10**  
**8AM START**

Eagles Crossing Golf Club  
501 Conodoguinet Ave, Carlisle, PA 17015

Single Golfer - \$100 / \$90 \*  
Foursome - \$400 / \$360 \*

\*Early Bird registration prices end June 30th!



COMMUNITY CARES  
More than shelter

Want sponsorship info?  
Head over to  
[morethanshelter.org/golf](http://morethanshelter.org/golf)  
today!!!!

**[WWW.MORETHANSHELTER.ORG/GOLF](http://WWW.MORETHANSHELTER.ORG/GOLF)**

Scan QR code to register or head to our website!

[WWW.MORETHANSHELTER.ORG](http://WWW.MORETHANSHELTER.ORG)

● **REST REASSURANCE RESOURCES** ●