



Hearts and Hands Helping Seniors Laurel Area Faith in Action



2024—2025



Newsletter

Introducing Hearts and Hands Helping Seniors A New Name for a Stronger Future

Since 2001, our mission has been clear: to provide compassionate, personalized support that empowers local seniors to live confidently, age well, and stay connected to the heart of their community. While our name has changed to **Hearts and Hands Helping Seniors—LAIVC**, our dedication to this mission remains steadfast.

This name represents not a shift in our purpose but a reinforcement of who we are. It highlights the core of our work—uniting hearts and hands to create a meaningful difference for seniors in our community. Whether through a reassuring telephone call to ensure a recipient hears a friendly voice instead of a telemarketer, a grocery shopping trip that keeps cupboards full without high delivery fees, or transportation to medical appointments that keeps vital healthcare within reach, we are here to provide access to essential services and serve as a connector to valuable resources throughout our community.

The Impact We're Making Together

In 2023, our programs achieved remarkable milestones:

- **305 Recipients served**
- **212 Volunteers mobilized**
- **9,835 Volunteer hours contributed**
- **4,902 Services provided**

These numbers tell a story of compassion, dedication, and community—one we are committed to growing. With your help, we can ensure these numbers continue to rise, allowing us to touch more lives and expand our impact across the community.

How You Can Help

The biggest way you can support our mission is by keeping your eyes and ears open for opportunities to connect us with those in need or those who can help. Whether it's hearing a parishioner at church mention they need assistance with grocery shopping, meeting a student looking for meaningful volunteer opportunities, or identifying a local foundation offering grants or funding, every connection helps us fulfill our mission.

A Vision for the Future

Our new name aligns with our vision: **Compassionate Hearts, Connecting Hands, Creating Hope**. It reflects our values—compassion, integrity, generosity, and inclusivity—and underscores our promise to meet the evolving needs of seniors in our community.

Together, we can ensure that every senior feels supported, valued, and connected. Thank you for standing with us as we embrace this exciting new chapter.

Giving Thanks for Wonderful Gala

Our hearts were overflowing after an incredible Giving Thanks Gala on November 15th! We are so grateful to everyone who made this special evening at Live Casino Pittsburgh a success. Your support for **Laurel Area Faith in Action – Hearts and Hands Helping Seniors** means everything to us! We can't wait for next year...

Special Thanks to:

Our Sponsors:

Silver Sponsors: Kathy Bartolomucci, Lesco Federal Credit Union, Quatrini Law Group, and Valley School of Ligonier

Bronze Sponsors: Linda & Robert McDowell, Metz Culinary Management, Inc., Robindale Energy, and Second Half Coach Wealth Management

Sherry Miller Photography for beautifully capturing the evening.

Our Performers: The talented violinist and DJ who brought the night to life.

Live Casino Pittsburgh for hosting our event.

Our Dedicated Volunteers: Your hard work and passion made everything possible.

Our Inspiring Recipients: Thank you for sharing your stories and inspiring us all.

Our Board of Directors and Staff: Your commitment to our mission shines through in everything you do.

Our Community Partners: Your collaboration is invaluable.

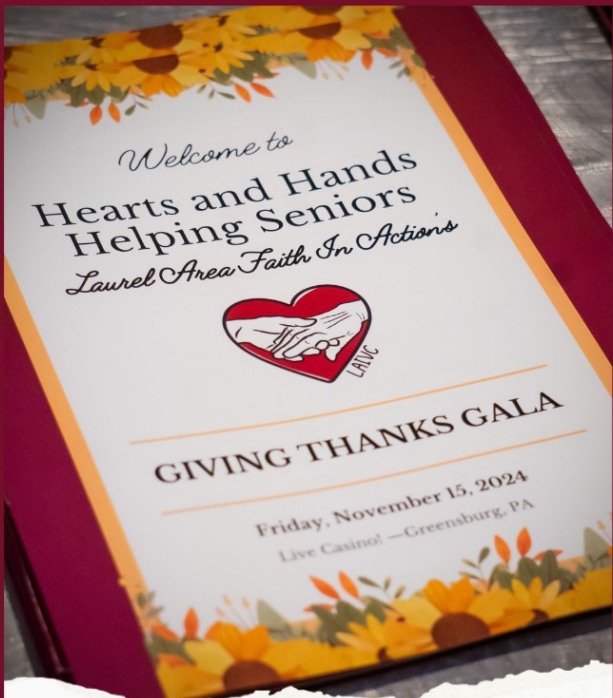
Raffle Winners:

Nancy, our \$2,500 grand prize winner and devoted volunteer—thank you for your dedication!
Roxanne, our \$500 winner—your generosity inspires us!

Together, we celebrated the power of community, compassion, and connection. THANK YOU for helping us make a difference in the lives of seniors!

There were too many great times at the gala to be able to publish them all. Please turn to the next page for some of the highlights from this special night.





Giving Thanks
Gala
2024



Donor Bill of Rights

We all receive so many requests for donations each year. It is difficult to decide which organization to support. We want to ensure that you have full confidence when donating to Hearts and Hands Helping Seniors—Laurel Area Faith in Action. We want to share with you the Donor Bill of Rights we live by when making decisions for our organization.

1. To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to utilize donated resources, and of its capacity to use donated resources for their intended purposes.
2. To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities.
3. To have access to the organization's most recent financial statements.
4. To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.
5. To receive appropriate acknowledgment and recognition.
6. To be assured that information about their donations is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.
7. To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donor will be professional in nature.
8. To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers or employees of the organization.
9. To be ensured that their name and information included in mailing list will not be shared.
10. To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers.

In short: be scrupulous!



Are you facing a **REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION (RMD)** from your retirement accounts? Do you want to leave a legacy?

If you have ever wanted to make a significant difference in the life of an aging neighbor, there is no better time than now. Support the mission of LAIVC and save money! Talk with your financial advisor about the possibility of **saving on taxes, avoiding capital gains**, or even building a legacy through giving your **annual required minimum distribution** or setting up **planned legacy giving from your estate to LAIVC**.

These planned Gifts are donations made through donors' estate or financial plans. They are deferred gifts that are received once the donor's will has been executed. These gifts help secure the future of the nonprofit and often provide tax benefits to the donor's estate.

Take steps today to **make a difference** now and for the future. Talk with your financial planner or estate attorney today. Feel free to give us a call with any questions.

LAIVC is an independent 501 C 3 nonprofit corporation. Our Tax Exempt number is 20-438-0836. The official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll-free within PA 1-800-732-9999.



LAIVC is a United Way Partner Agency and has received a grant from the Non-designated Community Impact Fund. **LAIVC designation #1462314.**



10 Lessons Learned from a Snowflake

An Uplifting Reflection for Winter Season

As we step into the winter season, the world transforms into a glittering landscape of snow and serenity. There's something magical about watching snowflakes dance their way to the ground, each one uniquely crafted by nature's gentle hand. Snow reminds us that beauty can be found in stillness and in the quiet moments of reflection. Just like snowflakes, we each carry a unique story, a purpose, and a beauty all our own.

Here are 10 lessons we can learn from a snowflake:

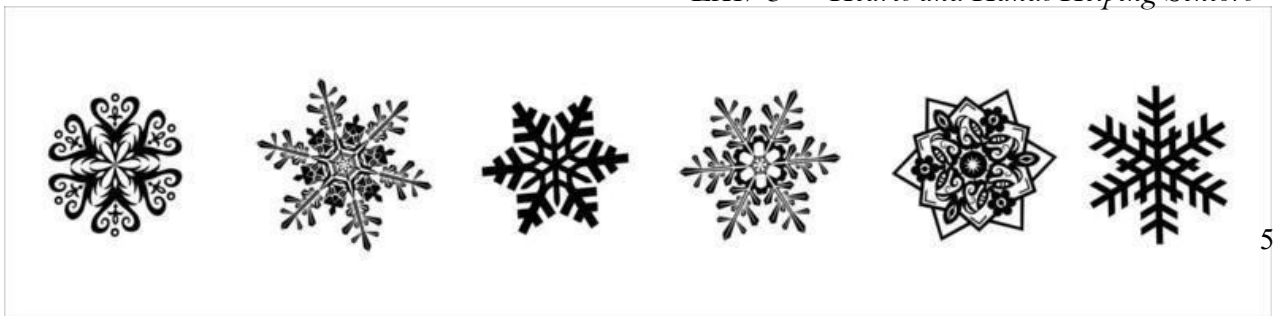
1. **Embrace Your Uniqueness** No two snowflakes are alike, and neither are we. Celebrate what makes you different—it's what makes you special.
 2. **Small Things Make a Big Impact** A single snowflake may seem insignificant, but together, they blanket the earth in beauty. Small actions add up to meaningful change.
 3. **Change is Inevitable** Snowflakes transform as they journey through the clouds. Embrace change as an opportunity to grow and adapt.
 4. **Quiet Moments Hold Beauty** Snowfall whispers instead of shouts. Take time to pause and appreciate life's quiet, beautiful moments.
 5. **Shine in the Light** Snow sparkles under the sun's rays. Let your light shine brightly for others to see.
 6. **Be Gentle Yet Strong** Though delicate, snowflakes withstand their journey to earth. Strength comes in many forms, even gentleness.
 7. **Unity Creates Strength** Snowflakes form blankets, drifts, and glaciers when they come together. Collaboration can achieve amazing results.
 8. **Celebrate the Season** Snowflakes remind us to appreciate the unique beauty each season of life brings.
 9. **Be Present in the Moment** Snowflakes melt quickly, reminding us to cherish the fleeting moments.
- You're Part of Something Greater** Every snowflake contributes to a larger masterpiece, just as we each play a vital role in our community.

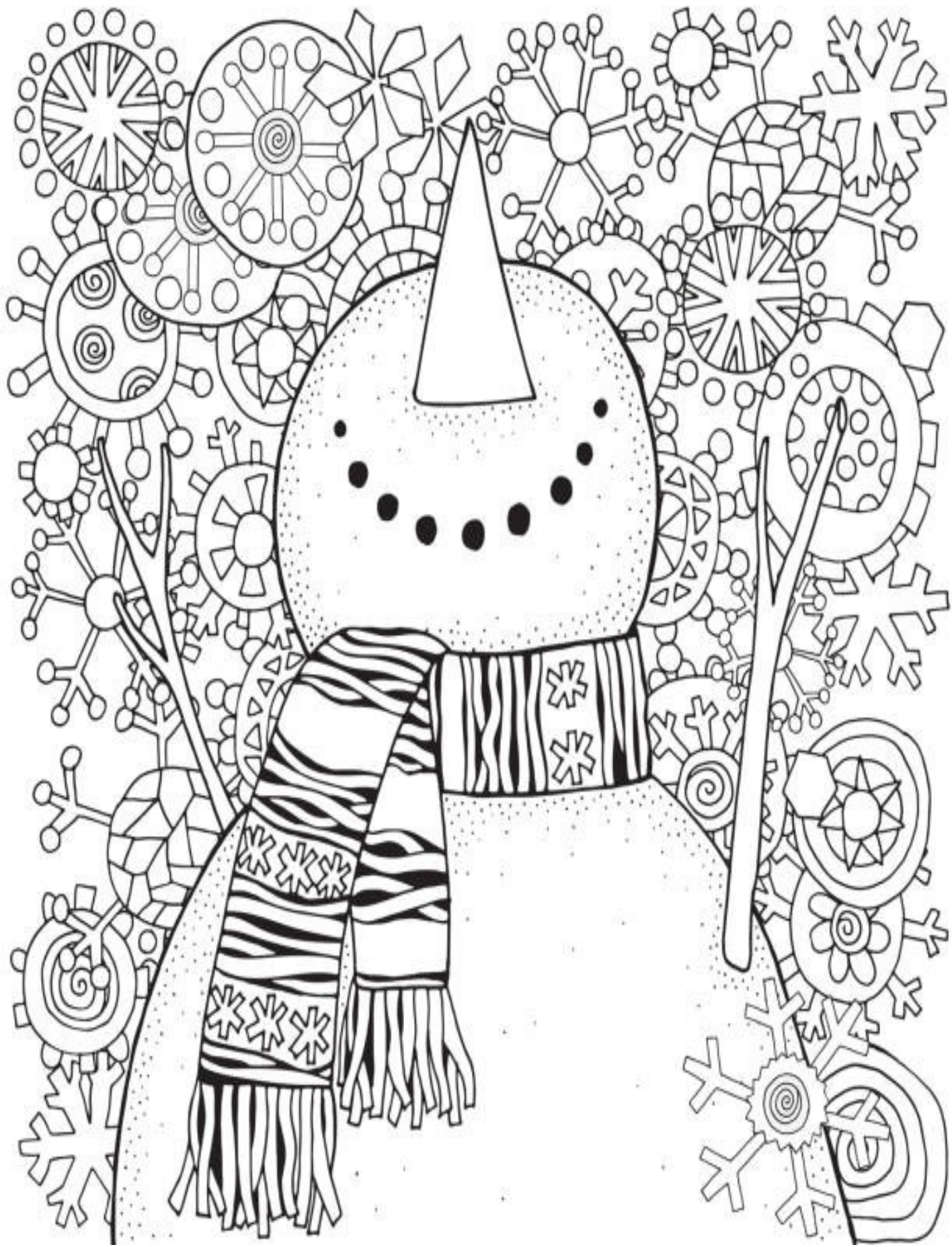
At Hearts and Hands Helping Seniors—LAIVC, we believe in celebrating the beauty and individuality of every person. Together, we create something truly special—a community that uplifts and supports one another.

Let's take inspiration from snowflakes this season and continue to spread warmth and kindness, even in the coldest days.

Wishing you a Winter Season filled with wonder, reflection, and joy!

Amy, Taylor, Dee, Jackie, Peggy, and Sue
LAIVC — Hearts and Hands Helping Seniors







WINTER

WORD SEARCH

M I X P B E D Z Q T D D W M R Z R L T F
 S N V O L U X K N E V N E Q T N S P E N
 N K O C M E L T K Z B O N C F Y Q B K S
 P T I J V L G A U P M K U N E C V G N W
 S C D I N B L I Z Z A R D E B M P H A I
 I X Q P N F P G U S Q A Q A R B B O L N
 T U V L W G L R I J L M X U U S O E B T
 E Q F O L Z L E D W A E V F A S M W R E
 G C N M X A U H F D U F D T R X R I S R
 M S A A S H B O B Z M H F H Y W H T E S
 F U X L S N O W I N G T O V C J G W T W
 S I S L P E F W O D M T S H O V E L A E
 R N W E V E Y R L N C L I I Z P X V K A
 E I O Y V R R O A O S L N E Z O R F S T
 T C U W A O C I C C L P G Q A Z A P E E
 A E O U M O L O F Y S T X I D N G U C R
 E T N C N A A G G A V A F Z N D W E I P
 H A L O P F N C F E W O O J W N J A G U
 J L E P M O Q G V Z F C E E T S S X X S
 Y R E P P I L S T S O R F M K C B P S M

BLANKET
 BLIZZARD
 BOOTS
 CHILLY
 COAT
 COLD
 DECEMBER
 FEBRUARY
 FIREPLACE
 FROST
 FROZEN
 GLOVES
 HEATER
 HOT COCOA
 ICE
 ICE SKATES
 ICICLE
 JANUARY
 MELT
 SCARF
 SHOVEL
 SKIING
 SLED
 SLIPPERY
 SNOWING
 SNOW BALL
 SNOWFLAKE
 SNOWMAN
 SWEATER
 WINTER

10-Minute Vegetable Pantry Soup

Cook Time 10 mins
Total Time 10 mins

If you need a recipe that's 100% from the pantry, you can omit the onion and garlic, or substitute minced or dehydrated onion and garlic.

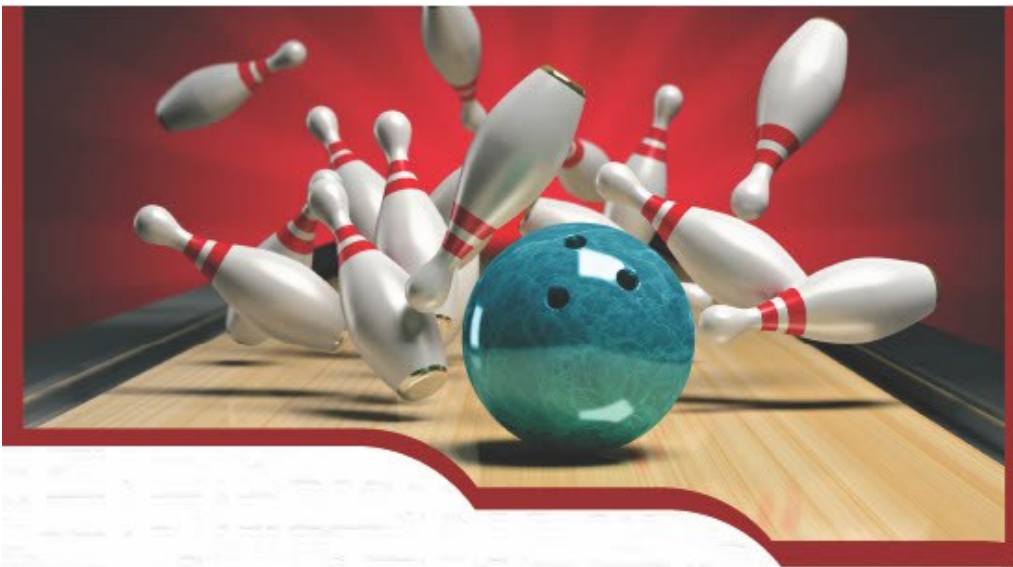


Ingredients

1 T. olive oil	1 can diced tomatoes. DO NOT DRAIN
1 large onion, diced	1 can navy beans or chickpeas. Drained and rinsed
2 cloves garlic, minced	1 can sliced carrots, drained
1 t Italian seasoning	1 can cut green beans, drained
1/4 t ground sage	1 can sliced mushrooms, drained
1 quart chicken, beef, or vegetable broth	**You can add other canned vegetables that you have on hand. Corn, peas, and diced potatoes are great additions. Make sure to drain them.
1 c 100% vegetable juice **If you do not have this, you can substitute the liquid from the canned vegetables	Salt and pepper to taste
2 t red wine vinegar **You can use any type of vinegar you have on hand.	***You can add canned chicken or beef to this. Make sure to drain before adding.

Instructions

1. Heat the oil in large saucepan over medium-high heat.
2. Add the onion and sauté until transparent, about 2 minutes.
3. Add the garlic, Italian seasoning, and sage and cook 10 seconds.
4. Add the broth, vegetable juice and vinegar, and bring to boil.
5. Add the tomatoes, navy beans, carrots, green beans, and mushrooms. This is where you would add any additional canned vegetable you have on hand. Let soup simmer for 4 to 5 minutes.
6. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
7. Enjoy!



BOWLING



FUNDRAISER

*Proceeds directly support **Hearts and Hands Helping Seniors (LAIVC)** — in providing essential services that empower local seniors to live confidently, age well, and remain connected to the heart of their community.*

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025

 **814 Lanes & Games:**

4589 State Route 136— Greensburg, PA 15601

**BOWLING TOURNAMENT,
BASKET RAFFLE, 50/50,
PRIZE PUNCH BOARD,
BOWLING BALL DRAWING,
AND MORE!**

BASKET RAFFLE WINNERS AND BOWLING BALL DRAWING WINNERS NEED NOT BE PRESENT.

Contact Amy at
faithinaction@msn.com or call
724-539-4357

or contact Shawn at
bowl@814lanesandgames.com
for registration and questions.

ENTRY

\$40

Per Person

**Teams of 4*

Registration Includes:

- 3 Game Series
- Shoe Rental
- Event T-shirt

PREFERRED SESSION:

Check below

- 9:00 AM**
8:30 check-in
- 12:00 PM**
11:30 check-in

**FOOD & DRINKS
AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE.**



Hearts & Hands HELPING SENIORS

BOWLING **FUNDRAISER**

Event Date: Sunday, March 23, 2025

Location: 814 Lanes & Games
4589 State Route 136— Greensburg, PA 15601

Your Team Registration Includes:

- Four Bowlers Per Team (\$40/ Bowler)
- Three Game Series
- Shoe Rental
- Event T-shirt

**If you are an individual bowler, we will have a team for you to join.*

Preferred Session (select below):

- 9:00 AM (check-in at 8:30 AM)
- 12:00 PM (check-in at 11:30 AM)

Sponsor: _____

Team Name: _____

Player 1: _____ **Shoe Size:** _____ **T-shirt Size:** _____

Player 2: _____ **Shoe Size:** _____ **T-shirt Size:** _____

Player 3: _____ **Shoe Size:** _____ **T-shirt Size:** _____

Player 4: _____ **Shoe Size:** _____ **T-shirt Size:** _____

**DURING THE
EVENT: BASKET
RAFFLE, 50/50,
PRIZE PUNCH
BOARD, BOWLING
BALL DRAWING,
AND MORE!**

Contact Amy at
faithinaction@msn.com
or call 724-539-4357

or contact Shawn at
[bowl@814lanesandgam
es.com](mailto:bowl@814lanesandgames.com) for registration
and questions.

Cash payments can be
made to Amy or Shawn.

*Check payments
preferred.

Checks can be made out
to **LAIVC** and mailed to:
428 Main Street
P.O. Box 854
Latrobe, PA 15650

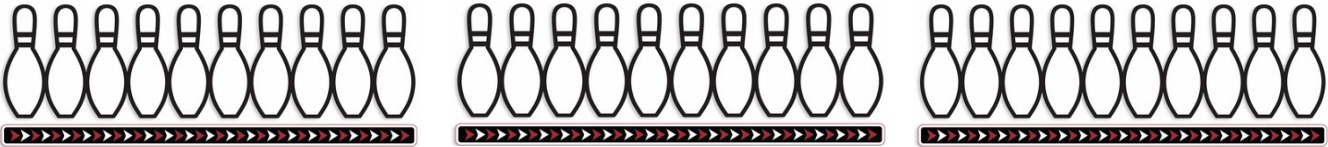


BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 2025 Board of Directors for Hearts and Hands Helping Seniors LAIVC was elected at our December meeting. We would like to take this opportunity to thank each person for their dedication and support. Each member of the Board of Directors holds an essential piece of the puzzle, and together we create the whole vision. Please join with me in thanking the members of the 2025 Board of Directors.

David Kirkland, President
Dr. Kathleen Kelley, Vice-President
Shannon Wilson, Treasurer
Rex Ashbrook, Secretary
James Beck

James Bendel
Johnette DeRose
David DeRose
Dr. Dan DiCola
Marie McCandless



WE ARE IN NEED OF BASKETS AND GIFT CARDS/ GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR BOWLING TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER

We are collecting baskets filled with items for our FUNdraiser on March 23rd. If you would like to put together a basket for the Basket Raffle it would be greatly appreciated. We are also collecting gift cards or gift certificates for the FUNdraiser punch board. Help support our seniors by giving to this event.

Please contact the office at 724-539-4357 if you are able to help us make this inaugural Bowling Tournament FUNdraiser a success. All baskets and gift cards are needed by March 11th, 2025.





On behalf of Hearts and Hands Helping Seniors, Laurel Area Faith in Action, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the outpouring of generosity from our community. The continued generosity is invaluable and helps us to fulfill our mission to provide support that empowers local seniors to live confidently, age well, and stay connected to the heart of their community.

We receive support in various forms. Through time spent volunteering, through sharing your talents, and last but not least, through the sharing of your treasure we have just concluded our 23rd year of providing service to our aging neighbors. We count on the continued philanthropic generosity of our community so that we can secure the organization's present and future.

Your continued belief in our mission means the world to us and to our recipients. Our quarterly newsletter helps to keep you updated on our services, opportunities for you to be involved, as well as upcoming support opportunities.

Thank you for your continued support. We could not do anything without you! Your generosity of time, talents, and treasure makes a difference in the lives of those we serve, and we are profoundly grateful for your continued support.

Grace and peace,

Amy L. McLendon, Executive Director

2025 Calendar of Opportunity

February 11, 2025 Ministers Breakfast
March 23, 2025 Bowling Fundraiser
April 1, 2025 Crafter Kickoff
May 1, 2025 Annual Appeal Begins
Fall Fundraiser:
September 1, 2025 Raffle Ticket sale begins
Sponsorship Opportunity for Event
November 7, 2025 Fall Event
October, 2025 Required Minimum Dist. Mailing
December, 2025 Distribution of Holiday Project

*Please feel free to contact office if you have any questions.

2025 Newsletter Schedule

Winter Newsletter—Current mailing
Spring Newsletter—End of April
Summer Newsletter—End of July
Fall Newsletter—End of October

Anyone interested in sponsoring the mailing of the newsletter please reach out to us at 724-539-4357.



How do I qualify to be a recipient?

- ◆ Be ages 60 or older
- ◆ Live in Latrobe, Unity Township, Derry, Derry Township, Ligonier and Ligonier Township areas
- ◆ Be mobile enough to get in and out of home and into and out of transportation
- ◆ Fill out, sign, and submit application. Application can be printed from our website Laurelfia.org or call and request one from our office at 724-539-4357.



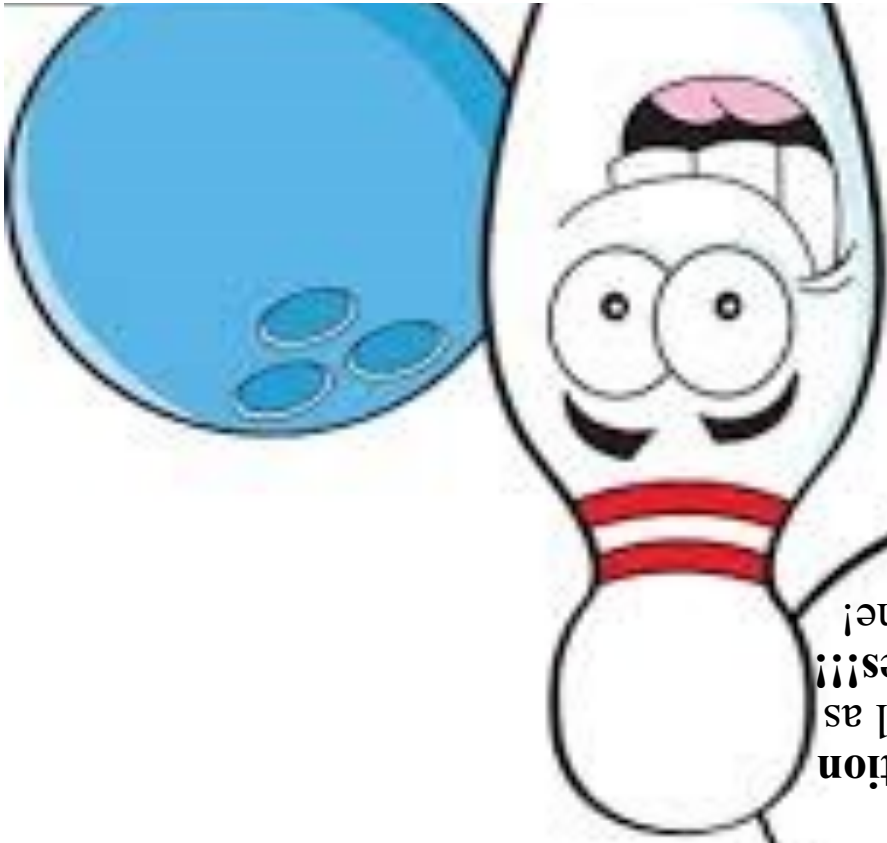
Visit our website for more information at www.Laurelfia.org or scan the QR code

Help us spread the news!!!!

If you are a member of an organization, club, church, or business and would like for Hearts and Hands Helping Seniors, Laurel FIA to come and speak to your group, please reach out to us at 724-539-4357 or email us at faithinaction@msn.com.

We would be delighted to come and share opportunities for volunteerism, services provided for our recipients, and other ways to support the much needed missions and work of Laurel Area Faith in Action. We look forward to hearing from you soon.





We are having a
**Bowling Tournament
 FUNdraiser!!!**
 Details inside for registration
 for the Tournament as well as
Sponsorship opportunities!!!
 Do not miss this great time!
 See you there!!!



Hearts and Hands Helping Seniors
 Laurel Area Faith in Action
 428 Main Street, 2nd Floor
 P.O. Box 854
 Latrobe, PA 15650
 (724) 539-4357
faithinaction@msn.com

Nonprofit Organization
 U.S. Postage PAID
 Latrobe, PA
 Permit No. 59