

ANN FRANCES OUTREACH FOUNDATION



March 2026

Through Winter, Our Mission Endures

It has been a long, cold winter, but thankfully spring is on its way. As a nonprofit committed to addressing the root causes of housing insecurity in Berks, Chester, and Montgomery counties, the frigid temperatures and snowstorms have posed added challenges. Even so, we remain immensely grateful for the generosity of our community as we reach out to those who need support most. We hope you enjoy the updates in this newsletter and perhaps discover a new way to join us in our mission.

Kelly & Kiki Founders



From Old to New at Swede Street

We are deeply grateful to our friends at **Mennonite Disaster Service of Eastern PA & New Jersey** for a generous grant allowing us to address critical plumbing updates at our Swede Street property. This support enables us to complete essential repairs so we can continue providing much-needed affordable housing in our region. Beyond the practical improvements, MDS's partnership brings hope, encouragement, and renewed energy to everyone at the Foundation.

Find out more at msd.org



We Would Love Your Help!

Volunteer Opportunities

Whether you have time to help on a weekly basis or a couple hours on the weekend, there are numerous ways you can use your gifts and time to bless those in our region struggling with housing insecurity. Give us a call at 484-374-9091.

Cleaning the office
Sorting donations
Meal preparation
Event support

Street Outreach
Yard Work (Swede St)
Painting (Swede St)
General Upkeep



Swede St plumbing repairs



Visit from State Representative, Greg Scott



www.annfrances.org



484-374-3091



41 Seven Stars Rd, Spring City, PA



Faces Behind the Numbers Walking the PIT Count in Pottstown

by Josanna Lewis

One blustery Thursday evening in January I had the privilege of participating in **Montgomery County's Point-In-Time count**. The Point-In-Time count or PIT count happens every year in January all across the country in every county that receives federal HUD money. This serves several purposes. First, the data collected from the count helps identify problem areas in services available to homeless individuals, it gives a data plot to determine if housing instability in the region is improving or getting worse, and it helps procure federal funding for housing solutions.

In the PIT count, an attempt is made to identify all sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals in the county. Sheltered individuals are counted when they spend the night in the local homeless shelter. There is currently a deficit of shelter beds for the number of homeless individuals in the county, meaning that some homeless individuals remain outside unsheltered. Groups of volunteers and county workers go to different sections of the county and walk around counting unsheltered homeless individuals.



Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
April 25th from 4-7 pm
at Vincent Mennonite Church
DINE IN or TAKE OUT
Purchase tickets at annfrances.org

Save the Date

ANNUAL GALA
Thursday, October 8th 5:30pm
Shady Maple Banquet Hall
DINNER • MUSIC • SILENT AUCTION

My group, comprised of 5 individuals, walked around homeless encampments in Pottstown. We counted approximately 7 individuals spread throughout two encampments along the river. We passed over 20 tents, implying that individuals who were in the shelters that night often spent their nights in the encampments when the shelters were not open. After surveying along the river, we went to another encampment near the railroad on the west side of town. We counted another 10 individuals and many more tents. Along with the tents there were several structures built out of pallets and tarps. One individual we encountered was experiencing chest pain but refused medical treatment and county workers were going to follow up the next day. All of the individuals we encountered expressed concern about the predicted snowstorm in the next few days and were encouraged to go to the shelters or contact agencies like Ann Frances for assistance.

"No one's child, sibling, parent, or friend should be unsheltered in this weather."

The temperatures were below freezing and there was 4 inches of snow and ice on the ground. The terrain was uneven, slippery, hard, and dangerous. At one place we had to scale down an embankment with the help of a rope, at another we balanced along a board to get over a pile of debris to reach the encampment. No one's child, sibling, parent, or friend should be unsheltered in this weather. The Ann Frances Outreach Foundation and other relief agencies provide dignity and support for these unsheltered individuals during difficult times.

Josanna Lewis is one of our longtime volunteers and now is serving with the Foundation regularly as she completes her Masters degree in Public Health.



Explore our website to learn more about the Foundation, how to contribute, and ways to participate www.annfrances.org

Our mission is to address the root causes of homelessness and provide support for individuals and families in need, including those in danger of becoming homeless or experiencing crisis situations.