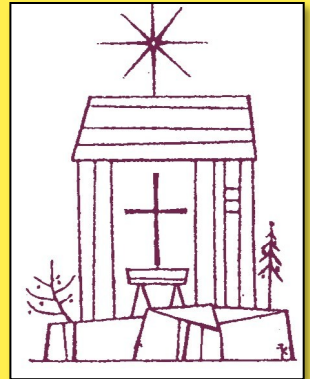




- The number of homeless in PA has risen from 103,000 people in 2017 to 141,000 people in 2024.
- There are 4,564 homeless families with children in PA.
- 30 percent of seniors who live in poverty receive no social security benefits.
- 6.8 million households faced very low food security in 2024 and cut food intake.
- 771,480 people reported to be homeless nationwide in 2024.

Source: [peopleofhope.us](http://peopleofhope.us)

## The Bethlehem Project's "Inn the News"

### Christmas Fundraiser Set for December 6

The Bethlehem Project's "A Home for Christmas" brings togetherness of holiday traditions while raising crucial funds for those experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.

"A Home for Christmas" basket raffle/open house will be held Sunday, Dec. 6, at 12 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral parish hall.

The basket raffle will feature exceptional gift baskets curated by The Bethlehem Project Advisory Board members. Baskets are valued between \$50 and \$100.

A press release with tickets will be mailed out soon. Tickets can also be purchased at the open house. A \$5 donation is requested for each ticket.

Join Advisory Board members for donuts, a hot cocoa bar, light refreshments and Christmas carols sung by local parochial students.

### Homelessness Awareness in Our Communities

Members of the Bethlehem Project advisory board took the group's message about homeless awareness to two major events this summer: the Diocese of Greensburg's 75th anniversary celebration at Christ Our Shepherd Center in early June, and the annual Hempfield Night Out at Hempfield Community Park in early August.

During these events, board members provided information on the Bethlehem Project's work to help alleviate homelessness in 28 communities in central Westmoreland County. Event attendees also learned about the main fundraiser "A Home for Christmas" open house/raffle event happening in December.

#### 75th Anniversary Celebration

The Catholic Charities USA People of Hope Museum is traveling the nation- the eastern half this year- and was at the 75th Anniversary Celebration to show how Catholic Charities is working to help alleviate poverty and homelessness, around the country. The museum will tour the western states in 2027.

.....See Awareness Pg. 2

**"Because there was no place for them to stay..." Luke 2:7**

## Raising Awareness from Page 1

Jane Stenson, the vice president for food and nutrition/poverty reduction strategies for CCUSA, said housing challenges are closely related to issues of hunger and lack of adequate food.

“It tells our story and presents a picture of the people, not just case studies,” Stenson said. “It shows the choices people have to make. Housing is one of the biggest issues across the country. People need food and have to pay rent. We tell them to ‘pay rent first’ because there are food assistance programs to help with that issue.”

“We hope this helps people look at who is their neighbor,” Stenson said. “It’s also an effort to shine a light on the amazing work local Catholic Charities agencies do.”

### Annual Hempfield Night Out

Young and old came out on the warm summer evening to enjoy food, games and music; meet the township’s first responder units; and learn about the many service organizations in the region, including the Bethlehem Project. Advisory Board President Ann Miles and board member Gretchen Kline, who leads the Public Relations Committee, handed out the new information brochures, pens and Post-It notes with the Bethlehem Project logo to adults and led games with small prizes for children.

The evening event had 11 food trucks, 12 emergency responder units, and 48 vendors and community resource organizations, according to event coordinators.



Advisory Board members for The Bethlehem Project volunteered their services at events this summer, helping to educate the community about The Bethlehem Project’s mission.



### Scan me to donate online!

All donations are earmarked to prevent homelessness in Greensburg and surrounding communities.