Clean Team Workforce October Employee of the Month

By Stefanie Appel

ALLENTOWN, PA – The Clean Team Workforce announces its Employee of the Month for October, Richard G. Richard grew up in an intact, Christian family, but began rebelling at the age of eleven. For four decades, he didn't take responsibility for his actions; he "chased the high." But after jail time and a drug overdose, Richard came to the Allentown Rescue Mission with a vision to do better.

He said, "I came to get back on track with my life." Richard studied Theology when he was younger and enjoyed learning the Gospel message when he joined the Allentown Rescue Mission's Transformation Program. "It brought me closer to God, and I got a chance to break bread with my new Brothers in Christ!" While in the program, Richard often spread the Gospel and prayed with others. After Richard graduated from the Transformation Program, he immediately started working for the Clean Team Workforce and has been a great asset to the team.

He arrives promptly, ready to work with a smile on his face, and offers to help with every job around the Mission. The Clean Team Workforce transitioned to a new warehouse in September, and Richard played a big role in the move. He assisted with troubleshooting non-working equipment and relocated and installed security cameras for the Allentown Rescue Mission.

Recently, Richard was assigned to work at a local valve manufacturer as a general laborer.

The company instantly noticed that Richard possessed greater skills and elevated him to company trainee. Since his promotion, he has demonstrated that he pays attention to detail and can learn all aspects of the position, making him a potential permanent hire. The Clean Team Workforce congratulates Richard on being selected as an outstanding employee and being an outstanding guest who continues to serve God and helps others in need.

RYAN MACKENZIE
U.S. CONGRESS

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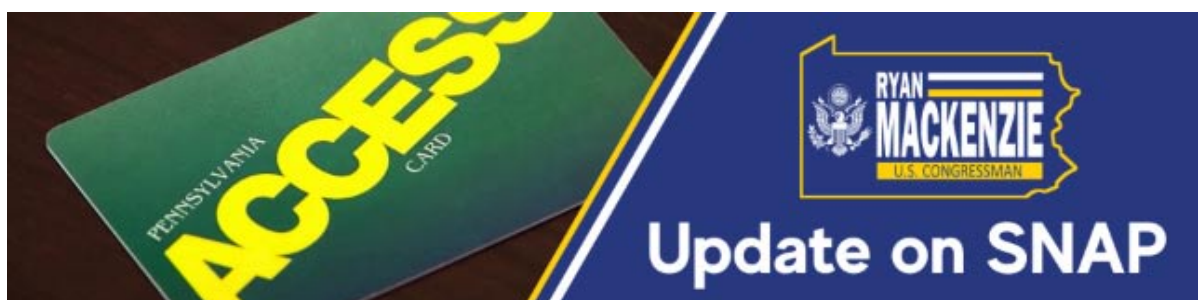U.S. CONGRESSMAN

Conserving Local Greenspace

By Congressman Ryan Mackenzie

This week, I joined local conservation partners at South Mountain Preserve for a hike and discussion to highlight the impact of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) — the nation's most effective conservation program. LWCF has helped protect parks, trails, forests, and outdoor recreation spaces for over 60 years at no cost to taxpayers. Nearly $15 million in LWCF funding has supported almost 200 local projects right here in the Lehigh Valley and the Poconos.

It's essential that we protect our local greenspace and create opportunities for local families to access our region's natural beauty. That's why I've joined efforts with House colleagues calling on the U.S. Department of the Interior to reverse administrative restrictions that limit how LWCF dollars can be used, and to restore full implementation of the program as authorized under the Great American Outdoors Act. I'll continue working to ensure this program is implemented as Congress intended so that resources remain available for conservation and recreation projects in our communities.

Thank you to the Appalachian Mountain Club, Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, and the Wildlands Conservancy for joining us for a great conversation.

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U.S. CONGRESSMAN

Update on SNAP

By Congressman Ryan Mackenzie

Several weeks ago, I joined a bipartisan majority in the U.S. House of Representatives to pass a clean, nonpartisan government funding bill that would keep our government open. That nonpartisan bill has proceeded to the Senate, and while it continues to receive support from the bipartisan majority, some Senate Democrats are blocking it from receiving the 60 votes that are needed. This has resulted in a government shutdown.

As a result of the shutdown, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits did not go out as scheduled. Tens of thousands of local families depend on this program, which is why I have been adamant about passing a clean, bipartisan government funding bill. It's also why I've co-sponsored the Keep SNAP Funded Act of 2025, which would protect this program from being impacted by the shutdown.