

Greater Valley YMCA to Offer "Here for You" Program Supporting Emergency Responders and Medical Staff

By Greater Valley YMCA

Allentown - During these unprecedented times, we know children's care options for emergency responders and medical staff are a large community need. Earlier this week, the State of Pennsylvania's Office of Child Development and Early Learning announced Child Care organizations like the Y may temporarily operate this type of programming. Accordingly, the Greater Valley YMCA will be offering a "Here for You" Program, supporting the Lehigh Valley's doctors, nurses, technicians, other medical staff, and first responders. The Program will be operated by the Y at select Branch locations, providing care for the children of these personnel.

The Here for You Program will launch on Monday, March 23rd at the Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton/Phillipsburg, and Nazareth Branches of the Greater Valley YMCA. Further details on each site's operational hours, contact information, and program meals offered is as follows:

Allentown Branch
425 South 15th St
Allentown, PA 18102
Monday-Friday
6:00-6:00
Breakfast Provided
Must Pack Lunch
Free Supper Program at Branch
Contact Information
Tami Unger
Tamiunger@gv-ymca.org

Bethlehem Branch
430 East Broad St
Bethlehem, PA 18018
Monday-Friday
6:30am-6:00pm

Breakfast Provided
Must Pack Lunch
Free Supper Program at Branch
Contact Information
Julie Kase
juliekase@gv-ymca.org

Easton/P'Burg Branch
1225 West Lafayette St
Easton, PA 18042
Monday-Friday
6:30am-6:30pm
Breakfast Provided
Lunch Provided
Contact Information
Kristen Fisher
kristenfisher@gv-ymca.org

Nazareth Branch
33 S. Main St Nazareth, PA
18064
Monday-Friday
6:00am-6:00pm
Must Pack Lunch
Contact Information
Olivia Wiebel
oliviawiebel@gv-ymca.org



These sites will offer care for children grades Kindergarten through Sixth, overseen by trained Y Staff. Emergency Responders/Medical Staff interested in enrolling their children are encouraged to reach out via the above contact information. Additionally, community members may visit the Greater Valley YMCA's website at www.gv-ymca.org to download enrollment paperwork. Enrollment paperwork will only be accepted via email submission.

Note that enrollment will only be accepted for hospital staff until 8:00am on Friday, March 20th, at which time enrollment will be open to hospital staff as well as to all doctors, nurses, technicians, other medical staff, and first responders. Program slots will be available on a first come, first served basis, and will be filled until enrollment meets capacity. Enrollment must be received by email no later than Saturday, March 21st by noon. Enrollment paperwork must be accompanied by parental proof of emergency response/medical staff work (ID). The Y has reduced the cost of this program to \$100/week.

As we focus our efforts on supporting those helping to keep our community safe, you can support the Y in turn through maintaining Y membership, donating to the Y via our website, or helping to spread the word via social media.

"The Y is always here to meet pressing community needs, and during this difficult time, this is one way we can step up, offer a service that is much-needed, and help," comments David Fagerstrom, President/CEO of the Greater Valley YMCA, "We want to make sure those caring for our neighbors during this crisis don't have to worry that their children are in a safe place, being well cared for." At the Y, we believe that when we all work together, we can create meaningful social action and come through this crisis a stronger community than ever before.

Resources Available to Help Businesses, Employees Affected by Coronavirus Mitigation

HARRISBURG - A number of resources are available to help businesses and employees who are affected by the governor's coronavirus mitigation measures.

The Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) is expected to offer loans that could assist businesses affected by COVID-19. Information will be posted to www.dced.pa.gov/resources as it becomes available.

The Strategic Early Warning Network, administered by the Department of Labor and Industry, offers resources to help small and medium-sized business, including business planning resources and contingency planning, at www.steelvalley.org/coronavirus.

The Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry also has a webpage dedicated to helping businesses deal with coronavirus concerns at www.pachamber.org/coronavirus.

<http://www.pachamber.org/coronavirus>

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Statement on the Closure of the Northampton County Government Center

County Executive Lamont McClure : Statement concerning the continuing closure of the Courthouse to visitors

"Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Northampton County Government Center and Courthouse remain closed to visitors. We are working on a plan to re-open to the public as soon as practicable. We hope to do so by April 1, 2020.

"The following exceptions to the closure are still in effect: Any person and their legal representative(s) having business before the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County will be permitted to enter the building. (If you have any questions as to whether you are required to appear, you should call Court Administration at 610-829-6700).

"Any person needing to make an application for a 'Protection from Abuse' order will continue to be admitted. Additionally, any person and/or their legal representative who believes, in good faith, that a statute of limitations pertaining to them may expire within the month of March, may be admitted to the building."

No Kid Hungry

By Roshelle Payes, MPH / Project Director, Early Childhood and Health, Nemours National Office of Policy and Prevention

WASHINGTON D.C - No Kid Hungry is offering real time funding and assistance for schools, early child care centers and community organizations that are making sure kids have access to the meals they need as schools close due to coronavirus.

No Kid Hungry is providing emergency grants to support these local efforts like home delivered meals, grab and go meals programs, school and community pantries, backpack programs, and other steps to help reach children and families who lose access to meals. We're providing \$1 million in emergency grants on a rolling basis. This is the first phase of an ongoing multi-million dollar response. Please visit the linked COVID-19 support inquiry form to learn more <https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/>.

If your organization needs funding to support these efforts, please submit your interest in receiving emergency grant funds: <https://www.nokidhungry.org/coronavirus-grant-request>

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New Website Offers Guidance on Responding to Coronavirus

By CDC

HARRISBURG - Statewide efforts to contain the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus have raised a number of questions and concerns throughout our local communities. A new website has been established to provide guidance for Pennsylvania families, businesses and schools as the situation develops.

Information on symptoms and prevention, travel, mitigation, scams, emergency food assistance, mitigation guidance, social distancing and much more is available at www.pa.gov/guides/responding-to-covid-19/. I will also continue to share helpful information on my website.

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**Ken
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Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Keep Your Distance

Life will be changing drastically for the next few months but it won't be impossible to carry on. Some changes will be needed to allow us to all do our jobs and still stay safe.

I have gotten numerous emails from our vendors about how they are handling the COVID 19 problem. Most are having their customer service people work from a less populated office or even from home. Luckily technology allows this to be done seamlessly from the perspective of the customer. Most of the emails I have received are from people I have never talked to anyway and certainly never have entered their facility, like the company that hosts our website. But knowing everyone is doing whatever they can is important so none of us feel like we are being inconvenienced more than the next person.

We are eliminating as much scheduled work as possible for a couple weeks just to minimize the daily contact we normally have. We still have several emergency calls to deal with though every day. What we are asking our customers to do on a service visit is to open the basement door if they have one and allow us to enter and do our job without any close personal contact. We can take payment by credit card or with a gloved hand at the end of the visit but because we have to be in several homes every day, I would prefer not to bring anything in or take anything with me. Luckily the weather has been mild so systems are not running very hard but they are still breaking down. Pretty soon the air conditioners will be running and they will need service too. We will keep the distancing plan in effect until we have more information from the government about the spread of the virus and hopefully return to normal after that. The safety of our customers is very important because many are elderly. Our safety is important too because if we are sick, we will not be available to respond to service requests and we could potentially spread the flu. Hopefully everyone is taking similar steps to ensure the safety of employees and customers alike. Our local suppliers are all doing their part. We place our order by phone and the materials are placed in an exterior location for pickup. None of this is convenient or enjoyable but it seems like it is necessary to flatten the curve of the spread of COVID19 as the experts have shown. Let's hope it is enough

Ken Field is the owner of Field's Service, Inc. and Slate Belt Energy Services. He has over 40 years of experience in heating, air conditioning and is certificated by RESNET and BPI in various areas of energy conservation. He can be reached at 610-599-8832 or at www.SlateBeltEnergy.com