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Palmerton Auxiliary Presents Check to St. Luke's for Carbon Campus

By Sam Kennedy

PALMERTON - The Palmerton Auxiliary presented a \$30,000 check to St. Luke's University Health Network for the Carbon Campus Capital Fund. Marj Federanich (President) and Louise Koons (Treasurer) from the Palmerton Auxiliary presented a check on July 29, 2020 that was accepted by St. Luke's Lehighon Carbon President John Nespoli and St. Luke's Carbon Lehighon Board of Directors, Judge Steven Serfass at the worksite location of the St. Luke's Carbon Campus.

The funds from the Palmerton Auxiliary donation will be used to advance the development of the new St. Luke's Hospital in Franklin Township, projected to open in early 2022. "The new facility will include round-the-clock, in-house critical care coverage and trauma care capabilities; local patients will no longer need to be transferred out-of-area to receive this level of care," says John Nespoli, president, St. Luke's Lehighon & Carbon Campuses.

"The Palmerton Auxiliary is a valued partner in our shared goal to build a comprehensive health care network in Carbon County that will ensure our residents can receive quality care close to home. We're very grateful to President Federanich and Treasurer Koons who have played an outstanding leadership role in making this very generous gift happen."



Second Harvest Food Bank Distributes 11.8 Million Pounds Of Food

By Katarah Jordan

BETHLEHEM - The network of 200 nonprofits that are supplied by the Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania has never turned away someone in need of food assistance. In the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2020, it took a 25% increase in distribution over the prior year to continue its 38-year streak of increases over the prior year to keep pace with the need in the six counties served by the program run by the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley.



Despite the ravages of the deadly coronavirus, Second Harvest was able to continue to increase the percentage of its distribution of more nutritious fresh products, including 1.3 million pounds of fruits and vegetables and 17,000 gallons of milk. Last year, the Food Bank also provided a monthly box of food, popularly called "Sunshine Boxes," funded by the federal Commodities Supplemental Feeding Program to 2,400 low-income seniors (27,557 boxes total) and a weekly package of food to 865 low-income school children to help them bridge the gap between Friday's school lunch program and Monday's school breakfast.

Second Harvest's network has been serving more than 60,000 people each month; since the start of the pandemic, that rose to 79,000 people, a 31% increase. More than half of the people served are children or seniors.

Throughout the crisis, many people who had never imagined needing to visit a food pantry suddenly found themselves without a job and in need of food

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Eagle Scout Lucas Soares

HANOVER TOWNSHIP - Last week Senator Scavello had the honor of presenting Lucas Soares of Hanover Township with a Senate Citation in honor of him reaching the rank of Eagle Scout. "Only attained by a small percentage of all Boy Scouts, this monumental achievement represents the great sacrifice and tremendous efforts that have been made by Lucas" said Scavello. For his Eagle Scout community service project, Lucas refurbished an area of Mary's Shelter in Bethlehem. This involved building indoor mail slots and a brochure rack, installing a clothing rod and painting the shelter ceiling. "Congratulations Lucas and the Soares family!"

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*References available from residential
to commercial sources.*

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Application Period Opens for Second Round of COVID-19 Small Business Grants

By Senator Scavello

PENARGYL - Small businesses that have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic may qualify for funding through the COVID-19 Relief PA Statewide Small Business Assistance program. The application period for the second round of funding is open now through August 28.

The program provides grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and is open to businesses that generate at least 51 percent of their revenues in Pennsylvania. Businesses must also have had 25 or fewer full-time employees prior to February 15 and have annual revenue of \$1 million or less prior to the pandemic. Grants must be used for losses or expenses related to COVID-19, such as payroll, rent/mortgage, utilities or expenses related to new measures to protect the health of employees and customers.

Businesses that applied during the first round of funding do not need to apply again.
Go here <https://pabusinessgrants.com/>.

COVID-19 Small Business Assistance

- New Applications Being Accepted
- No Need to Reapply
- August 28 Deadline

pabusinessgrants.com

Returning Fraudulent, Erroneous Unemployment Compensation Benefits to PA Treasury

By Senator Scavello

PENARGYL - A few months ago, the Pennsylvania Treasury uncovered thousands of cases of fraud pertaining to the state's Unemployment Compensation program. If you receive a fraudulent or erroneous payment, it is critical to return the debit card or paper check to the Treasury so they can investigate the case.

If you receive a U.S. Bank ReliaCard in error, it is important to email a picture of the back of the card to officeofinvestigations@patreasury.gov or return the card to the address below.

Pennsylvania Treasury Department
Department of Treasury Comptroller's Office
Attn: Mark Accorsi
Room 113, Finance Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Paper checks issued in error should be returned to the same address after writing "VOID" across the front of the check. A photo of the front and back of the check should also be sent to the same email address above for investigation.

If the payment was made electronically through direct deposit, recipients should contact their financial institution to request a "Refuse Credit of Deposit" and provide the financial institution with the issue date of the payment. If they are unable to request a refuse credit of deposit, they should write a check or money order to the PA UC Fund at the address below with a brief statement as to why they are sending the check or money order as well as their name, address, last four digits of their Social Security Number, phone number and email address.

Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry
651 Boas Street, Room 500
Harrisburg, PA 17121

How to Return Erroneous Unemployment Compensation Payments

PA Labor & Industry, PA Treasury

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