

Jon Singer, Executive Director
Ken Nissley, Case Manager
Carol Steffy, Administrative Asst.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!
**SEE PAGE 2 ABOUT THE FALL CLASS
TO TRAIN VOLUNTEER FACILITATORS**

PEOPLE

*

POSSIBILITIES

*

PEACE

***Oh, This Is Why
We Do This!***

(Denny Walker – Volunteer)

Alejandro (names have been changed) took a cell phone from the victim’s locker hoping to sell it for cash. His friend, Oscar, as a favor, agreed to store the phone for safe keeping. But marketing a cell phone at their middle school brought attention to the item - both boys were identified and arrested handily. And, Alejandro paid the full amount of the victim’s loss almost immediately.

Having already recovered her losses, one might think there was little incentive for the victim to participate in a meeting with the offenders. But she was clearly not comfortable with the way the case had developed. Both boys were guilty of breaking the law and Alejandro had paid the full restitution required. Still there was a feeling something was wrong with the arrangement. Although receiving full restitution made things right for the victim, her mother began to view my proposed joint meeting as an opportunity to right another wrong. The mother and victim decided to give the meeting a try.

The joint meeting took longer than usual due to the need for several translations into Spanish. Reports of the effect on the families of hurt, anger and of shame, as the crimes had become known among them, sobered all of us in the room. But the victim’s mother had brought another agenda that had not been addressed: What were we going to do tonight,
(Continued on Page 2)



GIFTS THAT GIVE

IMPORTANT: As our next Newsletter will be mailed in early December, please mark your calendar now about the *Alternative Gift Fair*.

Are you looking for ways to eliminate holiday stress? Does the commercialism of the holiday season get you down? Do you have more stuff than you know what to do with?

The Alternative Gift Fair, "Gifts that Give" (www.theladieshalf.org/giftsthatgive.html) offers holiday shoppers an alternative to traditional gift giving and is a perfect way to get in the real spirit of the season. It is a way to find gifts that honor special people on your gift list.

LAVORP is joining 20+ other non-profits who will gather at the **Farm and Home Center, Arcadia Road, Lancaster, November 22nd from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.** You will have an opportunity to purchase gift certificates to give to your family, friends, relatives, and co-workers.

Proceeds go directly to LAVORP. With your purchase, you will get cards and envelopes to send to the special persons on your list indicating

(Continued in next column)

that you have made a donation to LAVORP in their honor. Gift Certificates will be available for the following: \$25 to support one prep meeting for a victim or offender; \$50 to sponsor a conference between a victim and offender; or, \$95 to provide a scholarship for an individual to take the Volunteer Facilitator Training.

This is the **only direct notice** about the Fair from LAVORP. However, look for other notices that will appear in the media closer to November 22nd. So, mark your calendar now and come out for a non-hassle, fun-filled venture of gift buying, food, and musical entertainment.

“This was beautiful and redemptive. We were so thankful as a family to have an opportunity to show our remorse and express our hearts.” Offender Family

LEAVE A LEGACY

As a regular supporter of LAVORP, have you ever thought of a greater investment than your periodic contribution? Have you thought about taking your stewardship to the next level whereby you can take philanthropic action in a way that enriches both yourself and LAVORP and leaves a lasting legacy for generations to come? If so, please contact your financial advisor or call LAVORP at 397-2404.

(Oh, This Is Why Cont'd)

right now – about the restitution payment? Since both the boys were guilty of the crime why is restitution required only of Alejandro?" All parties quickly agreed with her that both boys, being equally guilty, should equally share in the restitution. Most importantly, Oscar agreed, but he had no income to pay Alejandro his share. Now everybody was energized by the process. Oscar's father brushed the financial problem aside and asserted that his son could mow the lawn for Alejandro's family five times which he felt would cover the boy's debt. All were enthusiastic about the father's idea and Oscar agreed to do the work.

I must add that I was not sure, due to folks' summer travel plans, how this project might meet LAVORP's need for supervision and monitoring. But the families in the room were certain they had done something together to "make things right." And, after all, isn't that what we are about?

Note: As of press time, Oscar has mowed the lawn 3 times with 2 remaining!

Board of Directors Changes

Patrick H. Zaepfel was elected Chair at the April Meeting of the Board of Directors. Pat is an attorney with Kegel Kelin Almy and Grimm LLP. Pat assumed the position from Bill Eckenrode, who served on the Board from October 2000 and as Chair from April 2005 to April 2008.

E. Joy McFerren, Executive Vice President of Human Resources for Willow Valley Associates, joined the Board in April of this year. Joy chairs the Human Resources and Nominating Committees.

Jim Cassel, III, was elected to the Board as Treasurer at the July Board Meeting. Jim is a Senior Manager of Accounting and Auditing with Beard Miller Company LLP. Jim takes over for Michael Carr who resigned after three years as Treasurer.

Be a Volunteer – You Can Make a Difference!

"Achievement lies within the reach of those who reach beyond themselves"

Anonymous

Giving back to the community as a volunteer, is reaching beyond oneself.

Do you think of crime as just the meting out of consequences (some say punishment) to the offender? Or, do you recognize crime as causing harm and broken relationships within your community? If the latter, then you have a good grasp of what LAVORP's Restorative Justice Program of victim-offender mediation is all about. Through face-to-face meetings, offenders have opportunities to be accountable, learn the impact of their actions and make amends, resulting in lower recidivism and making our communities safer. Victims can get answers to their questions, tell of their experiences (part of healing), and have the harm addressed. The process affirms the dignity, worth, and uniqueness of every human involved and their capacity for growth and change. It is an empowering process. Volunteer Facilitators experience a high degree of satisfaction while working within their own flexible schedule on an average of just one hour per week.

Our next class will be held **October 14 from 6:30 – 8:30 P.M., plus October 24, 25 and November 1, from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., plus October 26 and November 2 from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.** Visit our web site www.lavorp.org for more details and then call 397-2404 and ask for Jon Singer to arrange an appointment to learn more about LAVORP's "make a difference" opportunity.

"Do Justice- Love Mercy"

Micah 6:8

TEN GOOD REASONS TO BE A VOLUNTEER!

- Add new meaning to your life.
- Take personal satisfaction.
- Better your community.
- Be a positive influence.
- Make your community safe.
- Give hope to others.
- Help others reach their potential.
- Answer a need.
- Change someone's life.
- Grow from the experience.

LAVORP IS NOT A UNITED WAY AGENCY, BUT IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH THE UNITED WAY DONOR CHOICE PROGRAM

***"The kid's participation was
handled gently and well.
Thanks!"*** ***Victim***

JUVENILE PROBATION/PAROLE AND LAVORP

When youth are cited by police officers and are not eligible to go before a Youth Aid Panel (a diversion program), they are petitioned into Juvenile Probation and Parole (JP&P).

The Department, with a staff of about 55, and very ably directed by Dave Mueller, has the awesome task of assisting youth in not becoming repeat offenders. Among other things, JP&P provides competency development so that when released from their probation the youth are better able to reintegrate back into the community. When there are victims involved, referrals are made to LAVORP so the youth can be accountable, learn the impact of their actions, and work towards victim restoration by "making things right."

LAVORP has been in partnership with JP&P for almost 14 years. The first referrals were made in 1995 when, the late Judge Richard Eckman was President Judge and Earl Stoudt (Continued on Page 3)

was the Director of JP&P.

In 2007, 439 victims and 316 offenders (94% of the referrals made to LAVORP) were referred to LAVORP. For various reasons, not all referrals end up in a conference between victims and offenders. However, with a low recidivism rate of 17 percent, some youth are not being trained in crime and victims have opportunities to meet with those who have offended them and to have their needs met.

LAVORP is proud to be in partnership with JP&P. Without the close relationship that exists with the JP&P Staff and Probation Officers, LAVORP would not be as successful as it is.

LAVORP 1-2-5 Society

(Faith Partners)

Faith partners are those businesses, individuals and congregations who have accepted our invitation to help provide a secure funding base (while we carry out our mission) by investing a minimum of \$200 per year, for five years.

We are pursuing a goal of having 100 businesses, 100 congregations and 100 individuals sign on as faith partners. We'd love to have you join the group. Please see envelope included herein.

New Members:

Scenic Ridge Construction
Strasburg Mennonite Church

Contributors

LAVORP is grateful for the support of the following individuals, congregations, businesses, foundations and organizations who have made contributions during the period May 6th through August 13th. Any omissions are unintentional. Please let us know and you will be included in our next newsletter.

Individuals

Mary Ellen Bachman
Robert Baldwin
Esther Becker
David and Beverly Beiler
Karen Beitzel
William and Fay Bennett
Fred and Jeannette Brubaker
Alfred and Gladys Claassen
Ernest and Donna Doerschuk
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Roger and Pam Rutt
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Raymond and Timothy Trayer
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Dale and Irene Weaver
George Weber
Chester and Sara Jane Wenger

Businesses

Gap Power Rental
Hempfield Family Dental Care
Oregon Dairy

Stadel Motors
Susquehanna Bank
Woerth's Used Cars

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East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church
East Petersburg Mennonite Church
First United Methodist Church of Lancaster
Goodville Mennonite Church
Millersville Mennonite Church
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Witmer Heights Mennonite Church

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Ressler Mill Foundation
Skyline Swim Team Parents Club
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation

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