Habitat for Humanity Donates $2K to Buena Vista Church’s “Good Works”

For the past three years, Buena Vista (Va.) church members have been installing foundations for Habitat for Humanity. However, they never expected to be rewarded with a $2,000 donation for a mission trip. In 2009 elders for the Potomac Conference church brainstormed community service project ideas. We decided we would volunteer to install foundations for [Habitat for Humanity],” recalled recalled Jim Garber. “This work had previously been subcontracted out, with Habitat for Humanity paying for labor costs as well as materials. Two of us at the Buena Vista church are masons, me and David Hall. As a team, we figured that laying foundations for Habitat, with no labor cost, would be the greatest contribution we could make as a team.”
Habitat for Humanity workers recently learned about church members’ participation in Potomac’s annual mission trips. On October 17, Lynn Leech, executive director for the Rockbridge Area Habitat for Humanity, presented members with $2,000 to support the effort. “Just as they have supported Habitat’s good work in the community, we are pleased to be able to assist the church’s good work in the world,” Leech said.—Story by Tiffany Doss/Potomac Conference

READ MORE

Frederick Adventist Students Learn in Nature’s Classroom

Although fall classes recently started again at Chesapeake Conference’s Frederick Adventist School (FAS) in Frederick, Md., the fifth- and sixth-graders, got to exit their classrooms. They headed to the Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md., for some alfresco, hands-on learning. During the day, students participated in a variety of outdoor exercises to encourage working as a team and building courage and confidence. The evening hours were spent in the camp’s nature center with more hands-on learning. It appears that holding the camp’s snakes was a favorite for the students.

Each year FAS offers programs for different grade levels ranging from events like the outdoor school to study tours to places like New England. However, “[outdoor school] has become an event students look forward to long before they get to these grades,” commented Linda Stewart, FAS’ fifth- and sixth-grade teacher.—Story by Elisabeth Catalano-Appleton/Frederick Adventist School

READ MORE
Ephesus School Makes Wellness a Daily Subject

This year students at Allegheny East Conference’s Ephesus Adventist Junior Academy in Richmond, Va., are engaging in a new wellness program called Let’s Move! Modeled after First Lady Michelle Obama’s national Let’s Move! program, students and teachers meet each morning for 10 minutes of instructional exercise conducted by personal trainer Patricia Goodman and/or teacher(s). Students keep a daily log of their eating habits and exercise routines in a fitness and health journal. Parents review the journals and encourage their children with healthy eating habits and stimulating physical activities.

“We want to emphasize wellness and health and educate staff, students and parents on how healthy living improves the total being and strengthens the physical and spiritual development of the mind and body,” says Sheresa Woodson, principal.

“Beginning the day with morning exercise helps stimulate the brain, wakes up the body and prepares us to focus better in class. The morning exercise is fun!” says eighth-grader Crystal Young.

Four Baptized at Pennsylvania Youth Retreat

Eduard Diaz and his daughters Eduanny (left) and Amandy (right) were among the four
people baptized at this year’s Pennsylvania Conference Hispanic Youth Retreat held at Camp Hebron in Halifax, Pa. The Diaz family, pictured with Pastor Alberto Balio (in blue shirt), are now members of the Reading Hispanic church. Some 230 youth attended the retreat, 40 of whom, where not Adventists.

At the end of the weekend, participants filled out anonymous evaluations. Here are some of the things they said they learned: “God always gives us a second opportunity;” “We can reflect Jesus in our lives;” “I learned that I need to leave my sins behind;” and “God has a purpose for my life.”—Story by Pennsylvania Conference Staff; Photos by Leandro Robinson

SEE MORE PHOTOS

---

**Toll Gate Members Honor Two of Their Own**

Travelers recently came from far and near to attend homecoming weekend at Mountain View Conference’s Toll Gate church in Pennsboro, W.Va. The church was established more than 30 years ago and attendees spent three-days sharing memories, photos and meals. During the program on Sabbath, Wilton and Janice Williams were recognized for their dedication and support in spreading the Seventh-day Adventist message in the Toll Gate community.

---

**Spring Valley Kindergartener Makes a New Friend**
In every school year, there are times when an administrator experiences a special connection with a precious little one that doesn’t go unnoticed. Recently Darius Hoggard, a kindergartener at Ohio Conference’s Spring Valley Academy (SVA) in Centerville, hurt his arm when he fell off the playground equipment at recess. Not only did he bravely refrain from tears at the time of the injury, he also continued doing so while Vern Biloff, principal, kept a faithful and comforting vigil by his side in the clinic until his mother arrived.

When Biloff phoned Hoggard’s mom later that night, she confirmed that his arm was indeed broken and said how brave he was when they reset his arm before placing it in a cast. Naturally, once Hoggard returned to school, his many friends signed his cast and that included his new friend, Principal Biloff.

Newark Church Hosts First Walkathon

Some 83 members of New Jersey Conference’s First church of Newark, recently participated in the church’s first walkathon. “The purpose of the walk was to get out from behind the walls of the church and into the community to make our presence known and felt as a church, to promote a healthy lifestyle and to fundraise for Sabbath School Investment,” said Andre Ascalon, pastor.
More than half of the participants, who ranged in age from 76 to three months, completed the five-mile walk in less than two hours. During the walk, which took church members through the community of Newark, community members approached church members seeking information. At the end of the walk, the participants were energized and motivated to have the walk on a monthly basis. The church also distributed food and clothing that day.

---

**End Quote: What Are Some Benefits of Small Groups?**

“Our church has seven small groups, including one for teenagers. Many of the people who come to our group had never before heard of Seventh-day Adventists and would not otherwise come to our church. But they are willing to accept invitations to our homes.

One of my favorite memories is of a large family who came to our church. They weren’t members, but they invited one of their relatives to our small group, she then became interested in our church, became baptized and she now serves as an elder.”—Geovani Salvador, small group leader for New Jersey Conference’s Sion church in Newark

---

**Fin de la cita: ¿Cuáles son algunos beneficios de los grupos pequeños?**
“El ministerio hispano de Allegheny West Conference ha sido grandemente bendecido mediante el ministerio de los grupos pequeños. Creemos que los grupos pequeños son la manera más rápida de conectar a los creyentes con familiares y amigos que desean conocer mejor al Señor.

Tenemos en promedio de unos tres a doce grupos pequeños por iglesia. Tomando en consideración el tamaño del ministerio hispano y su rápido crecimiento hemos llegado a la conclusión de que todo se debe a creemos y animamos a los pastores a poner en práctica este ministerio tan efectivo”.—Walter Castro, director de ministerios multilingües de Allegheny West Conference

UPCOMING EVENTS

Click here for a complete listing of upcoming events around the Columbia Union Conference.

MARYLAND

October 27: The Middletown Valley church invites you to attend their Family Fall Festival titled “The Great Tomb Raid–Discover Jesus’ Power” on Saturday evening, 7-9 p.m. There will be indoor/outdoor games, crafts and snacks. Adults can join the kids or enjoy viewing the Sights & Sounds Production of “Ruth.” Register by contacting at mvsdaevents@gmail.com or (240) 415-8268. This event is free, and all are welcome to
attend. The church is located at 1811 Arnold Road in Jefferson, Md.

**October 27-November 3: The Metropolitan church is hosting, Rooted, a nightly series based on Colossians 2:7-8.** The meetings will run nightly from October 27 through November 3 on Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and Friday nights at 7:30 p.m., and on Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m. The speaker is Pastor Marquis D. Johns, the church’s associate pastor. There will be uplifting praise and worship sessions, special musical guests, question and answer periods and free giveaways, including a new iPad. Light refreshments will be served during the week starting at 7 p.m. For more information, visit [www.metrosda.org/rooted](http://www.metrosda.org/rooted).

**NEW JERSEY**

**October 14-27: The Trinity Temple church presents “Fireproof,” a Bible series on the book of Daniel.** Evangelist Troy Levy will lead the service, which starts at 7 p.m. The series will also feature the Rutgers University Liberated Gospel Choir, praise and worship, powerful sermons and free giveaways. The church is located at 35-37 Hillside Avenue in Newark.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

**October 26: You are invited to join 200 women in jeans for worship** and praise at the West Philadelphia church. Themed “Empowered for Change,” this Friday evening service will include praise, worship, networking and empowerment. The service starts at 6 p.m. The church is located at 46th and Haverford Avenue in Philadelphia. For more information, contact Pastor Evon DeLee at (215) 326-9823 or at deleee00@gmail.com or Donna Riley at (267) 258-4748.

---

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here to read it online.](#) For more news and up-to-date information from the Columbia Union Conference, visit [columbiaunion.org](http://columbiaunion.org).

---

**Forward to a Friend, Subscribe or Send Us Stories**

To share the *Visitor News Bulletin* with friends and church members across the Columbia Union, click the “Forward to a Friend” link below so all the photos and copy will appear correctly. Also, encourage them to sign up for the email at [www.columbiaunion.org/emailnews](http://www.columbiaunion.org/emailnews).
To send us a news story, email us at visitor@columbiaunion.net. The deadline for all submissions is 10 a.m. each Tuesday.

Stay Connected:

![YouTube](https://via.placeholder.com/150.png)
![Twitter](https://via.placeholder.com/150.png)
![Facebook](https://via.placeholder.com/150.png)

---

Taashi Rowe, Visitor News Bulletin Editor  
5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045  
Email: visitor@columbiaunion.net  
Website: www.columbiaunion.org

Visitor News Bulletin is an electronic newsletter published by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Columbia Union Conference. You are free to reprint any portion of the bulletin, however, please identify Visitor News Bulletin as the source.

---

Copyright © 2012 The Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. All rights reserved.
Sent to ahc@andrews.edu — why did I get this?
unsubscribe from this list | update subscription preferences
Columbia Union Conference · 5427 Twin Knolls Rd. · Columbia, Md 21045

Spam
Not spam
Forget previous vote
After years of Buena Vista members installing foundations for Habitat for Humanity, they were recently rewarded with a $2,000 donation for a mission trip.

**Habitat for Humanity Donates $2K to Buena Vista Church’s “Good Works”**

*Story by Tiffany Doss/Potomac Conference*

*Published 10/13/2012*

"We’re not put on Earth just to accumulate material possessions," observed Jim Garber, a member of Potomac Conference’s Buena Vista (Va.) church. "We’re meant to help others."

In 2009 the Buena Vista church elders brainstormed community service project ideas. "One suggestion was to team up with Habitat for Humanity," said Garber. "Upon further consideration, we decided we would volunteer to install foundations for them. This work had previously been subcontracted out, with Habitat for Humanity paying for labor costs as well as materials. Two of us at the Buena Vista church are masons, me and David Hall. As a team, we figured that laying foundations for Habitat, with no labor cost, would be the greatest contribution we could make as a team."

To date, Hall and Garber and their faithful crew have completed 11 foundations and started the 12th one Sunday, October 14. They have saved Habitat approximately $15,000 in labor costs.

"This gives our church the opportunity to make a difference in the community while helping to provide decent, affordable housing to individuals unable to secure a conventional loan," Garber said. "We believe Christianity is all about service, the very things Jesus taught when He was on this Earth."

After years of working with the Buena Vista church, Habitat for Humanity workers learned about church members’ participation in Potomac’s annual mission trips. On October 17, Lynn Leech, executive director for the Rockbridge Area Habitat for Humanity, presented members with $2,000 to support the effort. "We are grateful for the foundation work volunteer members of the church have so generously provided to Habitat and our homeowners," said Leech. "Just as they have supported Habitat’s good work in the community, we are pleased to be able to assist the church’s good work in the world."

Outreach ministry doesn’t stop with foundation work for the Buena Vista church. Members have given gift bags to elementary school teachers in appreciation for their work; provided free oil changes to single mothers; and have provided an appreciation meal for the local volunteer rescue squad and the police department.

"We really believe in Matthew 25:40," said Garber, "As ye have done unto the least ye have done it unto Me."
COMMENTS POLICY: The Columbia Union Conference Visitor encourages quality conversation and welcomes your thoughtful comments. All comments are subject to approval but will not be edited. Please limit your comments to 500 words or less. Only one comment per person will be published.

There are no comments.

Anonymous

Name: 
Email: 

Preview comment

Name: 
Email: 

Preview comment  Close
John Schroyer explores a stream during his day at Outdoor School.

Frederick Adventist Students Learn in Nature’s Classroom

Story by Elisabeth Catalano-Appleton/Frederick Adventist School
Published 10/24/12

Although fall classes recently started again at Chesapeake Conference’s Frederick Adventist School (FAS) in Frederick, Md., the fifth- and sixth-graders, as is tradition, got to exit their classrooms. They headed to the Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md., for some alfresco, hands-on learning. During the day, students participated in a variety of outdoor exercises to encourage working as a team and building courage and confidence.

The evening hours were spent in the camp’s nature center with more hands-on learning. A favorite nature center attraction for the students appeared to be holding the camp’s snakes.

Each year FAS offers programs for different grade levels ranging from events like the outdoor school to study tours to places like New England. However, “[outdoor school] has become an event students look forward to long before they get to these grades,” commented Linda Stewart, FAS’ fifth- and sixth-grade teacher. Mount Aetna Camp provides the ideal locale for their outdoor learning. There are a variety of natural environments to explore on the camp’s 300 acres located near the Appalachian Trail.

This year the students learned about emergency shelters, ecosystems and habitats, and participated in the most-talked about activity, high ropes and rappelling. The students’ survival skills kicked into high gear as the classmates encouraged each other through their fears of heights and uncertainty on the ropes while under the guidance of instructors. “I have seen many students say they are afraid of heights make it to the top of the climbing tower,” Stewart observed. This is no doubt a rewarding experience for teachers and parents alike to witness these young people gain confidence after summiting the tower.

“The high ropes made me nervous in kind of a fun way,” remarked Clay Otis, one of the sixth graders on the trip this year. Although not all the students start out anxious about ascending high up on the climbing tower, some get a surprise at the top. “Some students were not afraid to climb the tower,” Stewart said. “However, when they got to the top of the platform, they found out how scary it was to jump off the tower to go down the zip line.” It takes no less courage for these students to jump off than for the students who were nervous from the beginning.
“The whole time at outdoor school is a growing, maturing experience for the students and has a very positive influence on their school experience,” Stewart said. Pushing past their comfort zones in a safe environment, all the students involved in outdoor school were rewarded for their efforts by discovering how much courage they possess.

Frederick Adventist students (from left Valerie Akinyi, John Schroyer, Macy Horman and Clay Otis) spend a day learning about nature at the Mount Aetna Camp.

Clay Otis conquers the high ropes.
COMMENTS POLICY: The Columbia Union Conference Visitor encourages quality conversation and welcomes your thoughtful comments. All comments are subject to approval but will not be edited. Please limit your comments to 500 words or less. Only one comment per person will be published.

There are no comments.

Anonymous

Name:
Email:

Preview comment

Name:
Email:

Preview comment  Close
Eduard Diaz embraces his daughters, Eduanny and Amandy. They were baptized together.

Four Baptized at Pennsylvania Hispanic Youth Retreat
Story by Pennsylvania Conference Staff; Photos by Leandro Robinson
Published 10/24/12

Eduard Diaz and his daughters Eduanny and Amandy were among the four people baptized at this year’s Pennsylvania Conference Hispanic Youth Retreat held at Camp Hebron in Halifax, Pa. They are now members of the Reading Hispanic church.

Ten-year-old Shirley Echevarria was also baptized that weekend. She is now a member of the South Philadelphia Hispanic Company.

Held at Camp Hebron in Halifax, the retreat attracted some 240 people, 40 of whom were not members of the church. Leandro Robinson, the conference’s Youth Ministries director, said leaders were intentional about getting youth to take ownership of the weekend, which was themed “Reflecting Jesus.” He believes that because youth participated in all facets of the program, young people attended every segment. One of the most popular segments was the talent show where young people showcased their music, poetry and comedy. Still, Robinson said the retreat was not just a place to have fun. “At these retreats young people grow spiritually and are empowered to minister,” he said.
At the end of the weekend, participants filled out anonymous evaluations. Here are some of the things they said they learned: “God always gives us a second opportunity;” “We can reflect Jesus in our lives;” “I learned that I need to leave my sins behind;” and “God has a purpose for my life.”

COMMENTS POLICY: The Columbia Union Conference Visitor encourages quality conversation and welcomes your thoughtful comments. All comments are subject to approval but will not be edited. Please limit your comments to 500 words or less. Only one comment per person will be published.

There are no comments.
Anonymous

Name:

Email:

Preview comment

Name:

Email:

Preview comment
Columbia Union Columbia MD: October 24, 2012--Four Baptized at Pe...
Upcoming Events Around the Columbia Union

MARYLAND
October 13-November 17: The Middletown Valley church is hosting a Revelation Series with George Rice during six Sabbath worship services starting on October 13. Rice will share a study from the book of Revelation each Sabbath to conclude on November 17. The church is located at 1811 Arnold Road in Jefferson, Md. For more information, call 240-415-8268 or email mvsdaevents@gmail.com.

October 26-28: The Washington Metro Area Women's Ministries Retreat will be held at the Hyatt Resort in Cambridge, Md. The group is celebrating 20 years of ministry and has scheduled anointed speakers and community projects. This year’s highlight will be The Red Dress Ball featuring actress, singer and activist, Cheryl Lee Ralph. For more information and to register, visit www.chosen-vessels.org. Space is limited, so register early!

October 26-27: “One Miracle After Another” is the theme for the Prayer Conference sponsored by Chesapeake Conference Prayer Ministries. Pastor Pavel Goia shares miraculous stories of answered prayer and the transforming power of a walk with God. The event takes place at the Atholton church located at 6520 Martin Road in Columbia, Md., and opens with a Friday evening meeting that begins at 7 p.m. Participants must pre-register by October 17 to attend. The $15 fee covers materials and lunch on Sabbath. For a full schedule and to register, visit ccosda.org, or call Pam Strahle at (410) 995-1910.

October 27: The Middletown Valley church invites you to attend their Family Fall Festival titled “The Great Tomb Raid–Discover Jesus' Power” on Saturday evening, 7-9 p.m. There will be indoor/outdoor games, crafts and snacks. Adults can join the kids or enjoy viewing the Sights & Sounds Production of “Ruth.” Register by contacting at mvsdaevents@gmail.com or (240) 415-8268. This event is free, and all are welcome to attend. The church is located at 1811 Arnold Road in Jefferson, Md.

November 3: All Chesapeake Conference members who live in the Baltimore area are invited to attend an evangelism rally from 3-5 p.m., at the Northeast church located at 6200 Loch Raven Boulevard in Baltimore. Come and be blessed and motivated for outreach. An afternoon of inspiring messages from Gary Gibbs, conference evangelism director, and Anibal Hansell, conference pastor and evangelist, interspersed with music by talented artists is planned. Questions? Call Pastor Sedley Johnson at (410) 679-7249, or email sedeuljon@yahoo.com.

November 3: The first meeting of Potomac Conference’s bilingual church, ARISE, will take place at Centro de Evangelismo y Discipulado Adventista (or “CEDA” as it is known in the Hispanic community). The address is 5203 Manchester Drive in Temple Hills, Md. At ARISE church members strive to provide Hispanic Americans and their friends a place of worship where they can feel comfortable to worship, regardless of language or culture. Everyone is invited to attend, not just Hispanics. For more information, visit arisesda.com.

November 4-5: Highland View Academy's Open House/Academy Days starts on November 4 at 4 p.m. All students from grades seven through 10 are invited to attend. This event is free. Register at www.hva-edu.com, contact Renee Williams at rwilliams@highlandviewacademy.com or call (301) 739-8480.

November 11-18: The Glen Burnie church is hosting the Nature’s Remedies Health Training program. John Glenn Clark, MD, a Loma Linda University School of Medicine (Calif.) graduate will give presentations on timely subjects such as weight control, cancer, cholesterol and diabetes. As an orthopedic surgeon, he has seen the results of ignoring good health practices, and his presentations are clear, simple and Bible-based. The programs will be held each night starting at 7 p.m. at the church, which is located at 508 Aquahart Road, Glen Burnie, Md. The presentations are free, however voluntary donations will be accepted. For more information, call (240) 793-5401 or (443) 867-6658 or visit http://glenburnie.netadvent.org/GBClark.pdf.

NEW JERSEY
October 14-27: The Trinity Temple church presents “Fireproof,” a Bible series on the book of...
Daniel. Evangelist Troy Levy will lead the service, which starts at 7 p.m. The series will also feature the Rutgers University Liberated Gospel Choir, praise and worship, powerful sermons and free giveaways. The church is located at 35-37 Hillside Avenue in Newark.

PENNSYLVANIA
October 26: You are invited to join 200 women in jeans for worship and praise at the West Philadelphia church. Themed “Empowered for Change,” this Friday evening service will include praise, worship, networking and empowerment. The service starts at 6 p.m. The church is located at 46th and Haverford Avenue in Philadelphia. For more information, contact Pastor Evon DeLee at (215) 326-9823 or at deleee00@gmail.com or Donna Riley at (267) 258-4748.