



A Message from Senator Browne

Dear Neighbor,

Pennsylvania has always been a state of passionate and compassionate people. We care for our friends and neighbors. It's not surprising that Ben Franklin started America's first volunteer fire company in Philadelphia. Nor, is it surprising that so many Pennsylvanians have served with honor and distinction in our military. In fact, thousands of Pennsylvanians are serving today around the globe.

Millions of dollars in our state budget are dedicated to programs and services that provide direct help and relief to needy and at-risk people. Pennsylvania's CHIP program was a model for similar efforts across the nation to provide health care coverage for children. Other programs help women improve their lives and address health concerns.

However, even though we can be a powerful force when we are united as a state, our real strength lies with individuals like you who give their time and money to help those in need. I encourage everyone to help make Allentown a better community by giving of yourselves during the holiday season and throughout the year.

From my family to yours, I wish you a very merry holiday season and a bountiful and healthy new year.

Very truly yours,

Pat Browne

A Report From Senator Pat Browne

Allentown Advocate

December 2005

Time Bank Helps Volunteers Share Talents

How often have you let a task go undone because you didn't have anyone to help you? Or perhaps you enjoy lending a hand to someone in need? The Community Exchange Time Bank brings together people in both scenarios.

The Time Bank Movement originated in the United States with a mission to invite people in all communities to join in a supportive, reciprocal network where all members are respected and valued for their time and talents. Here's how it works. Imagine you can provide a service such as transportation, home repair or setting up a computer website. By providing this service to someone else, you earn Time Dollars.

Conversely, when you need assistance with a certain task, the Community Exchange matches you with another participant to help you and that person earns Time Dollars. As the network grows, so does the good will.

This unique program not only helps those

in need, but also provides an opportunity for individuals to contribute to their community and have their efforts validated. The Time Dollars system values everyone's contribution equally. For example, if you contribute two hours by helping someone, you earn two hours in Time Dollars, which you in turn can tap for services from someone else.

In this way, volunteering becomes a two-way street.

Anne Rodgers, who oversees the program in Allentown, believes people who give their time enjoy making a difference in someone else's life. With roughly 400 participants providing over 2,400 actions and accruing 6,000 hours in Time Dollars (in 2005), it is obvious that community spirit is thriving in the city of Allentown.

For more information on the Community Exchange Time Bank, contact Anne Rodgers at 610-402-2486.

Jim Reeder Joins Browne Team

My name is Jim Reeder and I am a new addition to the Browne team. I believe one of the most important roles of a Legislative Aide is to serve as an advocate for you by arbitrating matters between you and state institutions.

Some of the particular areas that I handle for Senator Browne include issues involving the Department of Revenue, the Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Insurance to name a few. I am able to help on any state-related issue though.

I was born, raised and went to school in Allentown. After graduating from William Allen High School, I received a Bachelor's degree from Penn State and a Masters of Public Administration from Marywood University.

I was elected to serve on the Allentown School board on November 8. I hope that I can bring another view to the school board and that we can work together to make it the best in the area.



Within the City Lines By Lee dePaula

It puts a smile on my face any time I'm able to do something nice for someone else. The outpouring of kindness and generosity given to those affected by the events in the Gulf Coast let me know that I'm not alone. And, like most people, I also enjoy when someone does something nice for me.

Locally, the Community Exchange Time Bank allows people to do a little of both – give and receive. The Time Bank strengthens our community by cultivating the generous services offered by different people and redistributing those services to people who are in need of that kind of help.

It may be idealistic, but I believe when we benefit from the kindness of others, sometimes the best way to pay them back is to pay it forward, passing on those good deeds to someone else in need.

That being said, the Lehigh Valley is rich in opportunities to pass along good deeds. Throughout the year, various agencies and organizations make the day a little brighter for many families, and extend an extra helping of care during the holidays.

If you would like more information on how you can help, please contact one of the agencies listed below.

- Aids Outreach- 610-435-8424
- Allentown Rescue Mission- 610-740-5500
- American Red Cross of the Greater Lehigh Valley- 610-332-1589
- Boys and Girls Club of Allentown- 610-432-9323
- Casa Guadalupe Center- 610-435-9902, contact Maria Torres
- Daybreak- 610-820-5049

- Hispanic American Organization- 610-435-5334
- Lehigh County Conference of Churches- 610-433-6421
- Sacred Heart Visiting Nurse Assn.- 610-434-6134, contact Joanne Marzola
- Sixth Street Shelter- 610-435-1490
- The Caring Place- 610-433-5683, contact Sally Boyer
- The Program for Women and Families- 610-433-6556
- The Salvation Army of Allentown- 610-432-0129
- Turning Point of Lehigh Valley- 610-797-0520 ext. 225, contact Alison Norton



Please contact me at (610) 821-8468 with any ideas or suggestions you may have for future newsletters.

State Senator

Pat Browne

16th District



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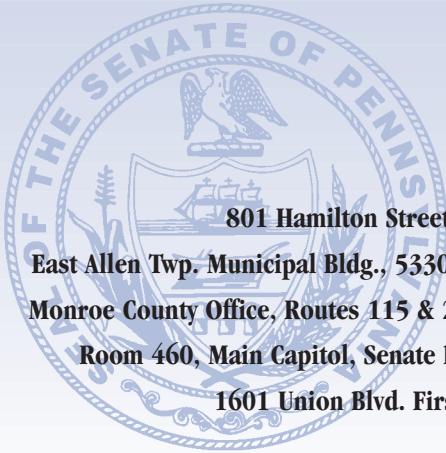
East Allen Twp. Municipal Bldg., 5330 Nor-Bath Boulevard, Northampton, PA 18067 • (610) 502-1567 • FAX (610) 502-1570

Monroe County Office, Routes 115 & 209, P.O. Box 16, Saylorsburg, PA 18353-0016 • (570) 402-1499 • FAX (570) 402-0746

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