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## NEWSLETTER



**A Message From  
Thomas R. Harrington,  
VYH President & CEO**

Dear Friends,

I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to

## YOUTH SPOTLIGHT



This month's Youth Spotlight goes to Cheyenne, who was recommended by her counselor. After overcoming obstacles during her teenage years, Cheyenne has found employment, a safe and reliable day care for her daughter, and

serve as the next CEO for Valley Youth House. For over 43 years, VYH has served children and families who are experiencing some very tough challenges. With compassion and professional insight, our staff has helped these youth and their parents navigate some rough waters and come out stronger and more resilient.

I appreciate the support that each of you provide to these youth, and I look forward to getting to know you better and sharing with you some of the many success stories that we see each day. If you haven't checked out our new video, feel free to do so at our website: [www.valleyyouthhouse.org/about](http://www.valleyyouthhouse.org/about)

-Tom



**Packing Party**

externship opportunities to graduate Allstate Career School through Valley Youth House's [Adolescents Achieving Independence](#) Program. Click [here](#) to hear directly from her!

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about other VYH youth and families.

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### **Calling All Mentors!**

We are looking for [volunteer mentors](#) for our Career Assist Network (CAN) in Delaware County. The program matches young people with mentors in their chosen fields. We are looking for mentors from the following professions:

- Fashion Merchandiser/Clothing Designer
- Social Worker
- Police Officer/Detective/Private Investigator
- Musician/Music Teacher/Sound Engineering/Producing
- Small Business Owner
- Teacher
- Sports Trainer/Coach/Physical Education
- Engineer
- Nursing

Mentors will be interviewed by the young person they're matched with, and help with a hands on assessment for a total time commitment of approximately 2 hours.

If interested, please contact Valerie at [vjohnson@valleyyouthhouse.org](mailto:vjohnson@valleyyouthhouse.org)

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January 20th marked another successful Packing Party! Volunteers helped pack bags filled with hygiene items, winter weather gear, nonperishable snacks, and handwritten notes of encouragement.

These bags were then used for our annual Youth Count in Philadelphia on January 27th.



### **City Council Helps Track Youth Homelessness**

On [January 27](#), four members of the City Council joined 70 volunteers to help with our Youth Count: Helen Gym, the chair of the newly-created Committee on Children and Youth; Allan Domb, head of the Housing Committee; Kenyatta Johnson; and Darrell Clarke, President of the City Council. The Council met with Allison Moore - Vice President of SE Programs - to learn about how VYH works within the community, and then traveled to LOVE park to watch a street team in action.

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**Past Meets Present: Thomas R. Harrington, VYH President & CEO (left) with Dr. David Gilgoff, former VYH CEO (right)**

A reception was held on January 19th at Lehigh Country Club to welcome Thomas R. Harrington, new VYH President & CEO. The evening was sponsored by Air Products and featured remarks from Lesley Fallon, Board of Directors Chair, Nia Vasquez, Youth Speaker, and Tom Harrington, President & CEO. In attendance were VYH staff, board members, donors, supporters, local officials, and Dr. David Gilgoff, former VYH CEO. Welcome, Tom!



Congratulations to Lisa Weingartner (left) and Allison Moore (right) for their promotions to to the positions of Vice President of NE and Central PA Independent Living and Vice President of Southeast Independent Living Programs respectively!

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On January 25th, Valley Youth House received a generous \$1,000 grant from IronPigs Charities to support families in our [Family Based Mental Health Program](#). This grant will allow FBMH families to participate in adventure therapy with their counselors at VYH [Camp Fowler](#).

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This month, [The Monkey and The Elephant](#) in Philadelphia will be holding an Instant Replay toy collection drive to support the [Achieving Independence Center](#) at Valley Youth House. New toys, games, and books for ages 1-5. Donations will be accepted.

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### **Snow Days Rock!**

During one of Bethlehem School District's snow days, youth from our [Lehigh Valley Shelter](#) visited [Martin Guitar](#) in Nazareth. The youth toured the facilities, which includes a look at the 1833 shop, opportunities to play some of the high-end guitars, and a look into how each guitar is crafted in the factory.

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## SAVE THE DATE

Our 10th Annual [Have a Heart for Children](#) dinner dance to benefit Project Child will be held Saturday, March 5, 2016 at the Historic Hotel Bethlehem.

Our 6th Annual Always Bet on Youth [Casino Night](#) will be held Friday, March 11, 2016 at the [Crystal Tea Room](#) in Philadelphia.

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Stay up-to-date on the most recent drug and alcohol prevention news with our [Youth Education Program Digest!](#) Learn more about YEP [here](#).

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## SUPPORT VYH

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Valley Youth House! Bookmark [this link](#) and support us every time you shop.

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