



**CEF**  
CHILD EVANGELISM  
FELLOWSHIP®  
Since 1937 Reaching children worldwide™

A ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship of Schuylkill County

# Mountain-Valley News

## The "Why" of Reaching Kids for Christ

NOVEMBER 2023

The "why" is the reason for the ministry of CEF of Schuylkill County.

\*16,500 elementary age children

\*59.5% of people in Schuylkill County are religious~ of that 59.5% only 15% are Baptist, Episcopalian, Methodist, Pentecostal, and Presbyterian<sup>1</sup>

\*Today only 50% of adults are married<sup>2</sup>

\*27% of adults say their religious views are a factor in a good family arrangement<sup>2</sup>

\*71% of adults say they get fulfillment from having a career or job they love<sup>2</sup> (having children wasn't even part of the equation)

\*We are seeing the first generation of adults who have never attended church raising children who do not attend church

\*The world is promoting gender-confusion

\*In 2022 a study found that only 39% of Americans read their Bible multiple times a year.<sup>3</sup>

\*Currently only about 10% of Americans read their Bible daily<sup>3</sup>

All these statistics point to that fact that the majority of the children in Schuylkill County do not attend church, do not hear the Bible read (they may not even have a Bible in their home), and have parents who have no interest in their children

knowing God, man's need for a Savior, and the Way of salvation.

If your heart is stirred~ that's good. We are here to help. Training is available, free of charge, to all volunteers. We have a lending library full of materials and there are *Good News Club*® locations in need of volunteers.

Let's work together to see that our Schuylkill County children have every opportunity to hear the Gospel that saves.

For the children,

Shelley Hikes

All the time and effort you spend preparing and teaching lessons... it will be worth it all when you see Jesus.

All the time and effort you spend sharing the Gospel... it will be worth it all when you see Jesus.

All the time and effort you spend taking neighborhood children to a Bible teaching ministry... it will be worth it all when you see Jesus.<sup>4</sup>

1. [www.bestplaces.net/religion/county/pennsylvania/schuylkill](http://www.bestplaces.net/religion/county/pennsylvania/schuylkill)
2. "The Modern Family" Dale Hudson Blogpost
3. "Christianity Today April 20, 2022
4. Adapted from Dale Hudson Blogpost 10/19/23

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**Gifts were given to CEF between September 26 to October 19, 2023**

**In Memory of...**



**My husband, Les and  
daughter, Lisa**

*By: Joan Mengel*

**Weekly Time of Prayer**

**Consider joining us on November 1 for the CEF World Day of Prayer**

Weekly prayer time.

12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Stay for the whole hour, come for 15 minutes, 30 minutes~ whatever fits in your schedule.

Let's join together in praying for the children in Schuylkill County.



**Tel-A-Story®**

**1-888-878-8660**

Hear a new Biblical truth story every day. Listen online at

**www.18888788660.**

**Budget Corner**

2023 Budget  
\$160,721.00  
Monthly budget  
\$13,393.

**YTD (Sept. 30, 2023)**  
Income \$129,998.  
Expenses \$147,007.  
[-17,009.]

Online donations are accepted through Tithely.com

**School Good News Clubs**

We are very excited! After-school Good News Clubs have started in Blue Mountain Elementary East and the John S. Clarke Elementary School, Pottsville.



Four of the school districts have fees associated with the usage of the building: We hold club in two semesters (fall and spring). The estimated cost for this fall is, \$2,800.

If you would like to give toward this added expense to the budget, please send your offering to:

CEF, PO Box 486, Minersville, PA 17954  
be sure to include a note stating the money is for the building usage expenses.

*Thank you!*

**Stats  
September 2023**

- \*Lessons graded: 43
- \*New students: 0
- \*Certificates earned: 2
- \*Professions of faith: 0

**Pray for more children to sign up for the lessons.**



From the Mailbox Club lady: A friend of one of the girls who attends club asked her, "What is a Bible?" The little club girl told her friend she would bring her own Bible to club next week to show it to her.

**Please keep the following needs in prayer:**

Good News Clubs began the week of October 1.

We are in need of help at the following afterschool Good News Clubs:

- Pine Grove ~ Thursdays 3:30-4:45**
- Schuylkill Haven ~ Tuesdays 3:00-4:15**
- Shenandoah ~ Tuesdays 3:00-4:30**
- West Penn ~ Mondays 3:15-4:30**

We are unable to seek to start clubs in the following schools due to a lack of volunteers:

- Mahanoy Area**
- Minersville Area**
- North Schuylkill**
- St. Clair Elementary School**

**For more information  
Contact the CEF office 570-544-8042**

## It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

### Christmas Party Club Time!

A recent study found that only 12% of those between the ages of 9-24 go to church or religious gatherings. Nearly 40% describe themselves as religiously unaffiliated, meaning agnostic, atheist, or nothing in particular. Sixty percent of this group describe themselves as spiritual. This is the age group that will soon be, or is raising the next generation. If those who are in their early 20s are not attending a Bible teaching church, what will it be like for their children, our communities, and our world?



Help us reach the children ages 5-12 with the Gospel.

CEF of Schuylkill County will supply the lesson, memory verse, and game ideas. This year's lesson is How Turea Kept Christmas. The story is about a little girl from Morocco who comes to know Jesus as her Savior at school. When she returns home she tries to hide that she is a Christian, but comes to realize the meaning of John 1:11-12 *"He came unto His, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."*

In telling this story you will be sharing the Christmas story and the promise of salvation along with a challenge to be a witness for Christ in a dying world.

A Christmas Party Club can be for 1 to 1 1/2 hours, focusing on the lesson, verse, review, songs, games and snack. Or your church could do a four hour outreach giving parents an opportunity to get some shopping done, wrap presents, bake cookies...you get the idea. One mom told us she took the hours to volunteer with another nearby ministry. Here's a sample schedule:

- 10:00-10:30 Welcome and games
- 10:30-11:30 Lesson/verse/songs/review game
- 11:30-12:00 Cookie decorating (we baked cookies earlier in the week~  
The kids loved this part of the day!)
- 12:00-12:30 Lunch (hotdogs, chips, fruit)
- 12:30-1:00 Games/craft
- 1:00-1:30 Movie and Popcorn
- 1:30-2:00 Cookies and hot chocolate

Contact CEF at  
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Email:  
office@cefschuylkill.com

This schedule worked so well for us last year, we plan to follow it again for our party club scheduled for Saturday, December 2. We had 16 children attend last year and there were 4 of us to staff the club. Jerusha and I focused on the teaching and games and Linda and Ellie McCarthy took charge of the cookie decorating, lunch, popcorn and the snack at the end of the day. We had a blast and the hours flew by!

I hope you will prayerfully consider this community outreach opportunity.

