



CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®
Since 1937 Reaching children worldwide™

A ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship of Schuylkill County

Mountain-Valley News

FEBRUARY 2026

Do Not Hinder Them

Recently I learned that five Central Asian nations restrict or even forbid the teaching of Christian beliefs to children. One of those countries passed a law in 2025 criminalizing Christian education to children. Even parents who teach or allow their children to be taught *illegal* religious beliefs can be fined or sent to jail. Children are not free to go to church with their parents. If parents want to go to church, the children must be somewhere else.

The devil wants our children. He wants to control their beliefs, their lives, their destiny. And although the fight to keep children from true salvation can be seen in foreign countries, if we are honest, the fight is in our own country as well. In the past few years, the fight against our children has intensified. At this point we are not forbidden from teaching our children the Bible, but in many places it is frowned upon or considered illegal (although it is not!). In place of the Bible's teachings, children are being taught that God did not create them, that they can be any gender they wish, that forgiveness comes by protecting the environment, that they are enough, even gods themselves, that social media will fulfill their inner longings, and that truth is whatever they want it to be.

The lies from the devil are too powerful for us to fight on our own. We can only fight by the power of the Holy Spirit. But we must be involved in the fight, especially through prayer. Please be praying fervently for CEF® as we fight for the children. We invite you to pray privately but also together with us during our Wednesday prayer time and at our Prayer Summit in May.

The devil wants our children

Maybe as you pray God will burden your heart to be involved in *Good News Club*®. Several of our clubs desperately need more volunteers. I pray that if God tugs at your heart, you will not push Him away but will contact us.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them..." Let us pray against all those things in our country that hinder the children from coming to Jesus.

~Linda

Contact information

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"Like" us on Facebook
(CEF of Schuylkill County)

Director
Mrs. Shelley Hikes

Field Workers
Mrs. Linda McCarthy
Mrs. Trixie Ruch

Committee
Erik Gottfried, Chairman
Vice-chair, Chris Trapani
Linda Fetherolf, Secretary
Cathy Nagle, Treasurer

Members:
Jean Hurst
Tom Tilden

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Gifts were given to CEF between November 18, 2025—January 21 2026

In Memory of...

Jane Berk

By: John & Deena Heisler

Phyllis Bloch

By: Mary Ellen Krammes

Lewis & Mildred Ebert

By: Glen & Diane Ebert

Laurin & Helen Edmonds

By: Atty. & Mrs. Martin Cerullo

Pap, Ronald & Cheri Gilbert

By: Carol Merbah

**Ron Gilbert: loving father, son,
brother, uncle**

By: The Gilbert Family

Ronald & Cheri Gilbert

By: Carol Merbah

My husband, Bill Houtz

By: LaVerne Houtz

Dave Kramer

By: Janet Kramer

Alex Kriner

By: Bob & Alma Davis

Ruth Luckenbill

By: Robert Luckenbill

Our Parents

By: Ken & Kay Kintzel

Pauline Schoener

By: Ernie & Maureen Schoener

My parents,

Eugene & Betty Stauffer

By: Linda Bollinger

Rev. Edward C. Stemme Sr.

By: Sylvia Stemme

Diane Stock

*By: Rich Stock
Kathy Reichert*

Charles & Florence Walton

By: Glen & Diane Ebert



In Honor of...

Pastor Mark Brooks & family

By: Joan Mengel

Glory to God

By: Jim & Connie Glunz

Grandchildren:

Mr. & Mrs. Lamont Masser

Mr. & Mrs. Nolan Masser

By: Mr. & Mrs. Mark Masser

Great grandson:

Mr. & Mrs. Kyle Masser

By: Mr. & Mrs. Mark Masser

Paul & Mary Jane Olson

By: Farel & Dolores Becker

Staff & Volunteers

By: Pat Kuchinos

Helen Warmkessel

By: Stuart & Judith Schappell

Will & Connie Wright

By: Joan Mengel



If you would prefer to receive the newsletter via email please send the request to office@cefschuykill.com.
If you would like to be removed from the mailing list please contact CEF by email, or phone: 570-544-8042.

Tel-A-Story®
 1-888-878-8660
 Listen online at
 www.18888788660



November 2025

Lessons graded: 58
 New students: 7
 Certificates earned: 4
 Professions of faith: 4



Budget Corner

2026 Budget
 \$184,865.
 Monthly budget
 \$15,405.

YTD as of December 2025

Income \$171,764
 Expenses \$180,723
 \$—8,959

Online donations are accepted through
 Tithely.com

Received 2025

Community Aid: \$2,035.67
Boyer's Food Market: \$284.74
Redner's Market: \$459.35



<u>Location</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Professions</u>
Valley View	8	0
CEF Office	8	0

Good News Club Stats			
<u>Club</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Professions</u>	<u>New to Church</u>
BMEE	49	9	2
BMEW	38	1	
Hegins-Hublely	17	0	1
Mahantongo	22	1	
Pine Grove	17	1	
Pottsville	20	4	
Schuylkill Haven	20	5	
Shenandoah	18	0	
Tamaqua	28	4	
West Penn (K-2)	14	0	
West Penn (3-5)	22	0	
11 clubs	265	25	3

Weekly Prayer Time

Wednesdays 11:00 a.m.— 12:00 noon

Join us in praying for the children who live in Schuylkill County. Feel free to come anytime within the hour and to stay as long as you are able. Our children need someone to pray for them~

are you willing to be that someone?

From the Director

I don't even know where to begin. Truly. I am at a loss for words and if you know me that does not often happen. Beginning May 1, I will be stepping down as the director of CEF of Schuylkill County. Life has a way of bringing change and God's timing is perfect.

For the past several years I have known that the time would come when I would need to train someone to take my place. When I started with CEF I was 32 years old and my sons were in first and second grade. Twenty-eight years later, I am still a mom with two sons but our family has grown to include two daughters-in-law and five grandchildren with another baby due in August. My parents are aging and my dad and his wife are especially in need of care.

In order to do what the Lord has ordained for me, I cannot "have it all", as they say. My family needs me to be present and to have a more available schedule and my heart desires to be there to help meet that need. While I know this is where the Lord would have me, it does not come without much emotion~ so much emotion in fact that I can barely speak of it. Working as a missionary with CEF of Schuylkill County has brought me great joy. I have had the privilege of serving the Lord with exceptional CEF staff, godly volunteers, and have been blessed to sit under the teaching and preaching of great local pastors (many of whom I count as friend).

The plan is for me to stay full time until April 30. The hope is for a new local coordinator to be hired while I am still full time in order to help train them and make the transition as smooth as possible. Beginning in May, I will go part time and will continue to serve with CEF as needed.

If you know of someone who has a burden for the local mission field~ the children of Schuylkill County, please put them in contact with me (570-544-8042). I will be glad to speak with them about this ministry that has brought me so much joy over the past 28 years.

Pray for the local committee: Erik Gottfried, Chris Trapani, Linda Fetherolf, Cathy Nagle, Jean Hurst, and Tom Tilden as they work through the applications and interview process.

With a grateful heart,

Shelley Hikes
Local Director

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