

Chamber CHATTER



MECHANICSBURG
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
The Strength of One. The Power of Many.™

11.26.25

6 West Strawberry Avenue, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 (717) 796-0811 www.mechanicsburgchamber.org

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News, Events & more!

Seeking HOSTS for 2026 EVENTS

- Business Women's Networking Luncheon
 - After Hours Mixer
 - Business Leaders Discussion Group

BE A HOST and showcase your business,
service and more...

For a full calendar of chamber and member events,
visit www.mechanicsburgchamber.org/events

CHAMBER EVENTS

Watch for Weekly Updates!!

November

27 - Office closed for Thanksgiving Day

28 - Annual Community Tree Lighting - Downtown
Mechanicsburg. 5:15 - 6:30pm

29 - Small Business Saturday

December

10 - Business Women's Networking Luncheon -
Sponsored by HD Entertainment, Location:
Revolutionary Hot Sauce Eatery & Brewpub, 30 S Market
St, Mechanicsburg. 11:30am - 1:00pm. FREE member
event.

RSVP to info@mechanicsburgchamber.org

Thank You For Renewing Your Membership!

**GreenStar Cloud
H&H Sales Associates
Lions Club of Mechanicsburg PA
Shatzer Insurance**

Mechanicsburg's Annual Community TREE LIGHTING



Friday, November 28 | 5:15 PM

 **DOWNTOWN – MAIN STREET BESIDE THE
MECHANICSBURG FIRST CHURCH OF GOD**

Music | Santa Claus | Hot Cocoa

Music provided by HD Entertainment starts at 5:15 PM
- with the lighting of the tree at 5:30 PM.

Post-Ceremony Festivities

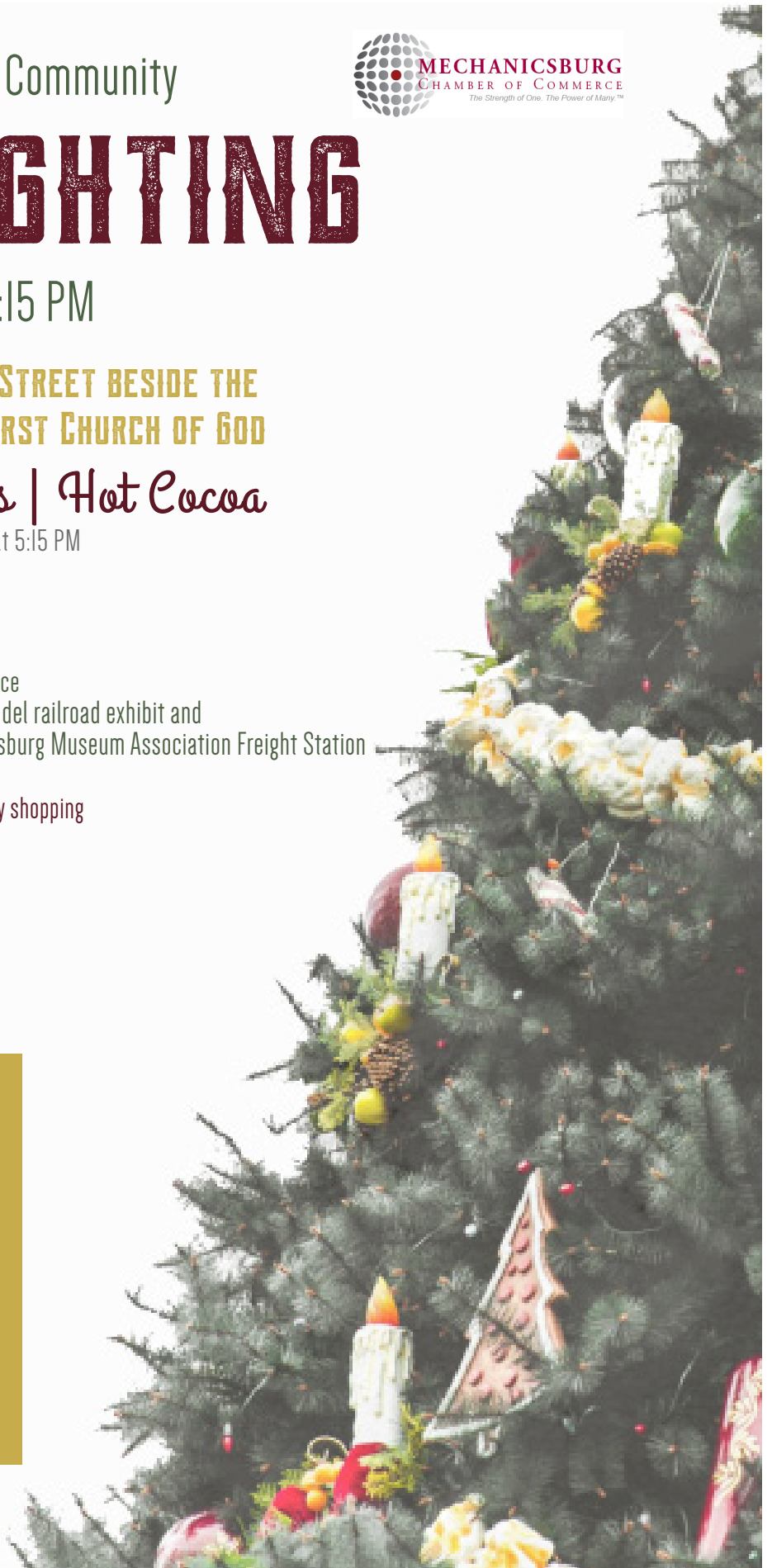
- Visit with Santa @ Buhrig's Gathering Place
- "Believe - A Polar Express Christmas" model railroad exhibit and gingerbread house contest @ Mechanicsburg Museum Association Freight Station

Visit our downtown merchants for Black Friday shopping
and Small Business Saturday!

**P FREE PUBLIC &
ON STREET PARKING:**

Event Sponsors

Borough of Mechanicsburg
Buhrig's Gathering Place
Boy Scout Troop 195
Fairway Independent Mortgage
HD Entertainment
Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ Church
Mechanicsburg First Church of God
Neat Roots
George & Karen Richards
Shaggy Chic Dog Grooming
The Mercantile of Mechanicsburg



Sponsors Welcome at only \$25!



**SMALL
BUSINESS
SATURDAY®
IS NOV 29**

one day makes a difference

2025 marks the 15th year of Small Business Saturday. Mechanicsburg and thousands of communities throughout Pennsylvania are dependent on small business as the basis of their economy. As you continue your holiday shopping (and throughout the year), please remember to patronize the small businesses of our community and especially those who are members of the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce. You may find many of your fellow small businesses in our website's [Membership Directory](#).

Do you have a special or sale for Small Business Saturday?

Forward the information to us and we will work to get the word out between now and through the Community Tree Lighting set for Friday, November 28. Join the list below:

The Mercantile: We will be open from 9am to 9pm at The Mercantile. We are offering Lonely Monk Coffees and Dough N Joe donut holes. (while supplies last)

Dalia Bakery & Ristorante: \$5.00 cake slices all day

British Swim School of Greater Harrisburg: Buy \$100 gift card, get \$20 bonus special purchased via the British Swim School app in the “[Gift Cards](#)” section

Your Business Here: Your Special for Small Business Saturday

Send your information to info@mechanicsburgchamber.org
or call 717-796-0811

**Do you know a great way to show off
what, where, and how you do the things you do?
Host a Business Women’s Networking Luncheon or
After Hours Mixer. There is no fee to host an event,
contact the Chamber office for more details.**

Seeking HOSTS for 2025 and 2026 EVENTS

- Business Women’s Networking Luncheon
 - After Hours Mixer
- Business Leaders Discussion Group

BE A HOST and showcase your business, service and more...

For more information - on HOSTING AN EVENT
contact the Chamber office at 717-796-0811 or email - info@mechanicsburgchamber.org.



Once again, the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce is proud to join the business community of the area in participating as a drop off point for Toys For Tots. If you would like to donate a new, unwrapped toy (or wrapping paper, batteries, tape, etc.), there is a collection box at the office or you may bring your item(s) to any Chamber event.

TOYS FOR TOTS



U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE

Other local locations participating include:

- A&B Automotive
- AAA
- American Legion Post 109
- Benecard PBF
- Best Line Equipment
- Callery Dental Care
- Classic Rock Design Center
- Delbrook Manor Apartments
- East Main Dental
- Fusion Financial Group - Thrivent
- GEICO
- Hot Frog Print Media
- IGPS Logistics
- Lower Allen Township
- Mechanicsburg Kung Fu Center
- Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop
- Orrstown Bank - Baden Powell Road office
- Orrstown Bank - Market Street, Camp Hill office
- Pivot Physical Therapy
- Premier Martial Arts
- Schneider Electric
- State Farm Insurance - Denise Dombach
- Trindle Bowl
- University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work
- West Shore Chamber of Commerce
- Wolf Brewing Co.
- Zimmerman's Automotive Tire Pros

Business Women's Networking Luncheon

Wednesday, December 10

11:30am - 1:00pm

NOTE CHANGE OF DAY/DATE

CELEBRATE *Gettysburg's*
Greatest DJ
2025

Heather Dino Laughman, M.A.
Headliner + President

HD
Entertainment
All-Female
DJ Company

Central PA
Wedding Shows
presented by **HD**

717.850.0460

heather@hdentertainmentdj.com
ido@centralpaweddingshows.com

hdentertainmentdj.com
centralpaweddingshows.com

the knot
BEST OF
WEDDINGS
2017-2021

the knot
BEST OF
WEDDINGS
HALL OF FAME

Pink
Counties
WEDDING
AWARDS
2017-2025

HD Entertainment

hdentertainmentdj.com

Join Heather and HD Entertainment for an Ugly Sweater Christmas Cookie Bash at the December Business Women's Lunch!

Learn how you can add to your holiday and post New Year's gatherings.

Please bring a new, unwrapped toy of at least \$10 in value for Toys for Tots to get entered into our raffles. One lucky lady will win a free DJ event for her organization!

Bring your networking materials and your best ugly sweater!

Location:

Revolutionary Hot Sauce Eatery & Brewpub
30 South Market Street
Mechanicsburg

Space is limited. Reservations required.

RSVP to info@mechanicsburgchamber.org

AMEX SHOP SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM



American Express and Main Street America are helping small businesses to grow, innovate and support their local communities through the Amex Shop Small Grants Program this Small Business Saturday®.

Beginning November 29, eligible small business owners can apply to receive \$20,000 in funding. Terms apply.

In addition, every time an American Express® Card Member shops with their eligible Card at a qualifying U.S. small business on Saturday, November 29, American Express will donate \$1 to Main Street America for the Shop Small Grants Program. Funds raised will be donated back to the program to expand on our commitment and support additional small businesses across all 50 states and D.C.*

Find out more about the program by clicking the link below.

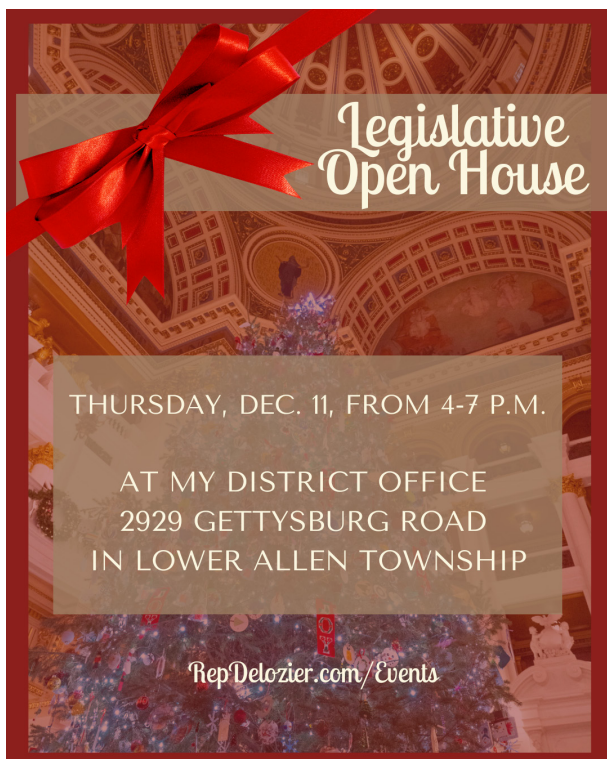
[LEARN MORE](#)



Pennsylvania State Dog Law requires all dogs 3 months and older to be properly licensed every calendar year in the county they reside. The Cumberland County Treasurer's Office will facilitate dog licensing applications at these events, which coincide with pet photos with Santa.

Wag and Tag Dog Licensing Events will be held on Dec. 1, 8 and 15, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Capitol City Mall, 3506 Capital City Mall Dr. in Lower Allen Township.

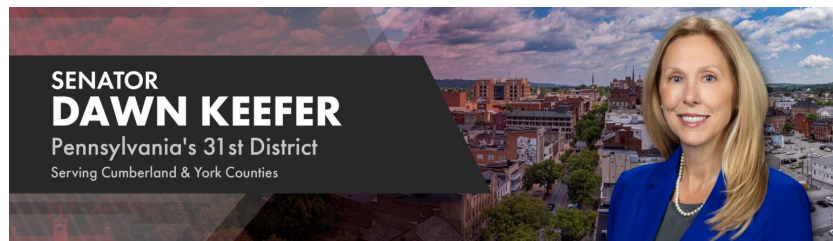
Please RSVP to 717-761-4665 or [click here](#).



Residents of the 88th District are invited to drop by my district office at 2929 Gettysburg Road in Lower Allen Township for an open house on Thursday, Dec. 11, from 4-7 p.m. to celebrate the holiday season and have a discussion about state-related issues.

Light refreshments will be provided.

RSVP to 717-761-4665 or [click here](#).



Oh Say, Can You Sing? The PA Farm Show National Anthem Contest

Think you've got what it takes to sing the National Anthem at the Farm Show? The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is looking for singers to kick off each day of the 2026 edition of the [nation's largest indoor agricultural exposition](#).

Submit your original video entry by Nov. 24 to be considered. Winners will be selected by fan voting on Facebook. You must be available at least one day of the Farm Show, which runs from Jan. 10 through Jan. 17.

You can find details about eligibility, video requirements, voting and how to apply [here](#).

Chamber Chatter is published on-line every Thursday.

We encourage member businesses to send us information on sales, promotions, news and events. It is a great way to promote your business or organization.

Chamber Chatter advertisements will remain for up to 4 weeks, or as space permits.

If you have something to share, please submit it by Wednesday at noon to info@mechanicsburgchamber.org.

****Chamber Chatter advertising is a FREE member benefit.****



PA Small Business of the Year Awards

*Share Your Story! Apply for the PA Chamber's Inaugural
"PA Small Business of the Year Awards"*

Applications are now open for the inaugural PA Small Business of the Year Awards. This statewide program will spotlight the innovation, resilience, and community impact of small businesses across the Commonwealth.

We're honored to count thousands of small businesses among our nearly 10,000 members and deeply value the far-reaching economic and cultural impact they have on the communities they serve. As we host the 2025 "PA Small Business of the Year Awards," we're excited to recognize the contributions of small businesses to jobs, the economy, and Pennsylvanians' way of life.

If your business qualifies, we encourage you to apply, share your story, and take a chance at becoming one of this year's nominees!

Eligibility Criteria:

Small businesses are eligible if they:

- Is headquartered in Pennsylvania
- Has between 100 and 250 employees, and generates less than \$20 million in annual revenue; OR
- Has fewer than 100 employees, and generates less than \$10 million in annual revenue.

Why Apply?

Two standout businesses, one in each category named above, will be named **Top Small Business in Pennsylvania**, receiving:

- A one-year Investor-level PA Chamber membership (\$6,500 value)
- Statewide recognition
- Exclusive networking opportunities with business leaders and policymakers

Finalists will also be recognized across several categories, including growth, leadership, innovation, and community engagement.

Deadline to Apply: November 30, 2025

We'll announce our full list of winners in early December.

Visit our [2025 "PA Small Business of the Year Awards" webpage](#) to learn more and apply!

Let us celebrate your success and amplify your story. We look forward to your application!

APPLY NOW



Grief & Bereavement Support Group

Managing Grief at the Holidays

Monday, December 1, 2025
6:00 PM - 7:15 PM

Legend at Silver Creek
425 Lambs Gap Road
Mechanicsburg, PA

Join us for a holiday edition of our Grief and Bereavement Support Group—a free, warm, and welcoming space for anyone navigating grief or loss. All are welcome.

Whether your grief is recent or something you've carried for years, you're invited to come as you are, connect with others who understand, and find comfort and support throughout the holiday season.



Brought to you by:

Musselman
Funeral Home & Cremation Services Inc.
Est. 1895
Supervisor: Cliff D. Forester, Sr.

LEGEND
PERSONAL CARE • MEMORY CARE
at Silver Creek



 **amedisys**



Mechanicsburg Money

Where dollars made in Mechanicsburg stay in Mechanicsburg

Downtown Mechanicsburg Partnership is excited to introduce Mechanicsburg Money, a new initiative designed to keep local spending local and drive customers directly to our downtown businesses!

This program runs from 11/29/2025-2/28/2026.

\$4,000

400 \$10 coupons
will be distributed

More Info
& to Register -



**FREE TO
JOIN!**



downtown
MECHANICSBURG
partnership



Merry & Bright Window Wonderland Decorating Contest

Downtown Businesses are invited to **decorate their storefronts** with a festive holiday or winter theme!

Cash Prizes and other perks for 1st,
2nd, & 3rd place winners

Important Dates:

- Registration & Decorating: Thurs, 11/6 – Tues, 12/2
- Public Voting: Fri, 12/5 – Mon, 12/29
- Winners Announced: Tues, 12/30

More Info
& to Register -



CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS

JAZZ ME BAND

KIRK WISE UPCOMING
SOLO, DUO & BAND
PUBLIC DATES

TWed. 11/26 – Range + Rye Restaurant @
Range End, Dillsburg...Kirk solo 6-9

Fri. 11/28 – The Dog House, Linglestown
...Kirk solo 7-9

Sat. 11/29 – Moo Duck Brewing,
Elizabethtown... Kirk & Beth Duo 5:30-8:30

Tues. 12/2 – Range + Rye Restaurant @
Range End, Dillsburg...Kirk solo 6 – 9

Thurs. 12/4 – The Terraces, Harrisburg ...
Kirk solo 2-3

Fri. 12/5 – Captain Bob's Steamed Crabs,
Railroad...Kirk solo 6-8 (tentative)

Sat. 12/6* – Masonic Jesters Christmas
Party...Jazz Me Band 6-10

Tues. 12/9 – Range + Rye Restaurant @
Range End, Dillsburg...Kirk solo 6 – 9

Thur. 12/11 – Christmas Food Truck Rally,
New Cumberland...Kirk solo 5-8

For complete up-to-date
schedule, information,
and photos go to
www.jazzmeband.com

Bookings: call Kirk at 717-979-0341 or
E-mail wisemotors@aol.com

Tour sponsors:
FARNHAM INSURANCE,
MEMBERS 1st F. C. U.,
CLASSIC DRY CLEANERS, STUDIO D &
LANDON WISE PHOTOGRAPHY



The Mechanicsburg Kung Fu Center is teaming with a local church to collect food items for the holiday season and those that were affected by the recent government shutdown.

Since many programs have had funding stalled, food providing programs are strained. If you would like to donate to help local residents in need, you may drop items off during regular business hours.

Mechanicsburg Kung Fu Center
2 W Allen St
Mechanicsburg PA 17055
717-364-5252

[Click here for more information](#)





Annual Payroll, Human Resources & Business Seminar

Thursday, December 4, 2025 | 9 AM - 12 PM

Registration is now open for our 2025 Payroll, HR & Business Seminar!

This virtual event brings together industry experts to share key updates and strategies to help you lead better, hire smarter, and stay compliant.

Empower your HR and leadership strategies for 2026 and beyond at this must-attend event.

Whether you're an executive, HR professional, or business owner, join us for a half-day of impactful sessions covering the most relevant topics in workforce management.

We'll kick things off with an essential update on upcoming payroll changes and compliance mandates to keep your organization ahead of the curve. From there, you'll discover how small leadership habits can drive long-term success and learn how to sharpen your recruitment practices.

Industry experts will also walk you through the latest developments in employment law, ensuring you're aware of new legal risks and responsibilities. The day rounds out with hands-on guidance on conducting effective annual reviews and onboarding new hires in a way that fosters long-term engagement.

Topics Include:

- Payroll updates for 2026 and compliance best practices
- Transformational leadership through small daily habits
- Employment law updates from top labor attorneys
- How to lead impactful annual reviews that inspire growth
- Creating onboarding experiences that boost retention

Walk away with practical tips, legal updates, and leadership strategies you can put into action immediately.

[Register Here](#)

*Circle of
2025
Angels*

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
carlisle & cumberland county

Happy Holidays

*from all of us at
YWCA Carlisle and Cumberland County.*

December 8, 2025, 4:00-6:00 pm

We welcome you to join us for our Circle of Angels Reception
Come celebrate the holiday season and the impacts we have
made as a community.



**RSVP today,
and join us
December 8th!**

Add a donation to your
registration to support
survivors of sexual assault
and human trafficking

Sponsored by:



MEMBERS 1st
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

CHRISTMAS GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER!!

It's that time of year again, the Hearts~n~Hands Sertoma Club is doing our annual gift card fundraiser. We have gift cards for over 50 different stores and restaurants. We can have gift cards available for you to do your Black Friday shopping and/or to give out as gifts during the holiday season.



Proceeds go to Hearts~n~Hands ongoing mission projects of spreading sunshine to those in our community dealing with cancer and other life depleting diseases.

If you are interested, please a club member or [CLICK HERE](#) for an order form.

Thanks for your support and have a blessed holiday season.

[CLICK HERE FOR ORDER FORM](#)



GFWC (General Federation of Women's Clubs) Mechanicsburg

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 6:30 PM for our holiday dinner out. Meet at Marcello's Ristorante & Pizza, 900 Calvary Road, Carlisle. It is BYOB.

Would you like to know more about how we serve the community while helping Veterans, libraries and schools? Come for a visit to find out.

For more information, contact Sue at 717.243.9872 visit our website at <http://gfwcmech.tripod.com/>



Big Brothers Big Sisters of South-Central PA Welcomes MaDonna Awotwi as New Director of Marketing and Communications.

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of South-Central PA proudly announces the appointment of MaDonna Awotwi as Director of Marketing and Communications, marking a strategic step in the organization's mission to expand its community impact and elevate awareness around youth mentorship across the region.

In her new role, Awotwi will oversee the organization's marketing strategy, brand storytelling, digital presence, and community engagement initiatives. Her focus will be on increasing volunteer recruitment, strengthening donor relationships, and amplifying the voices of Bigs, Littles, and partners who make Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of South-Central PA's mission possible.

"Mentorship changes lives. It builds confidence, character, and community," said Awotwi. "Big Brothers Big Sisters' mission deeply resonates with my passion for empowering others and creating opportunities for youth to thrive. I'm excited to help tell the powerful stories of impact that are happening every day across our region."



Awotwi brings more than 15 years of experience in marketing, public relations, and community development. Prior to joining Big Brothers Big Sisters of South-Central PA, she served as Program Manager for the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship at Harrisburg University, where she led regional programs that supported small business growth, women's empowerment, and youth entrepreneurship. She is also an accomplished creative professional and entrepreneur, with a background spanning experiential marketing, branding, and social impact initiatives.

As Director of Marketing & Communications, Awotwi will lead efforts to increase visibility and engagement for Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of South-Central PA programs across Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, and York Counties, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to achieve their full potential through the power of mentorship.

www.liveworkplay.media

BREAKING NEWS

● LIVE

SMALL BUSINESS FINALLY GETS WHAT THEY DESERVE!!

We've created the first true Coast-to-Coast
small business directory where your
customers - whether locals, travelers or new
movers find YOU for \$20/\$30 month!!

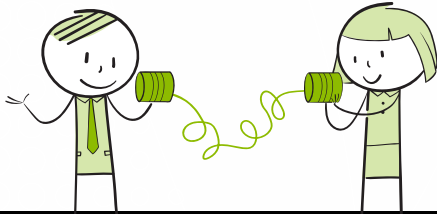
Christine Vasiliades
Founder
liveworkplay.media





Confidently close out 2025 payroll with PaySmart.

DO YOU NEED A
PAYROLL PROVIDER
THAT **LISTENS** TO
YOUR SMALL
BUSINESS NEEDS?



payroll@paysmartpa.com | 717.766.1777
www.PaySmartPA.com

As 2025 comes to a close, we know your to-do list is growing. Payroll compliance shouldn't be another headache on it!

That's where PaySmart can help. As a locally owned and operated payroll company, we've been supporting Central PA businesses for years. Our team of payroll advisors can give you practical tips to help ensure:

- Your payroll tasks are completed on time
- You stay compliant with year-end regulations
- You feel confident closing out the year

Let's set up a quick call so you can walk into 2026 with peace of mind.

[Schedule a quick chat](#)

We'd love to be your trusted payroll resource here in Central PA.

PaySmart | Central PA's Trusted Payroll Partner
717.766.1777





Recovery-Friendly Workplace Survey



Penn State's Center for Economic and Community Development is surveying Pennsylvania businesses and organizations about their needs for a recovery-friendly workplace training initiative.

Please click [HERE](#) or scan the QR code to participate!



All participants will receive a **\$10 Amazon gift card** as a token of appreciation for their time.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at cecd@psu.edu. Thank you!

Join
OUR TEAM
POSITIONS AVAILABLE



Are you detail oriented, reliable and take pride in creating beautiful, spotless spaces?

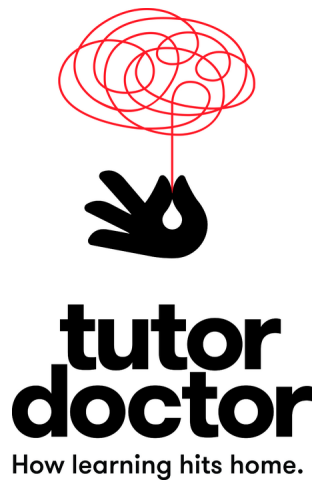
Angel Home Solutions, LLC is a luxury cleaning company serving high end residential homes and premier businesses in Central Pennsylvania. We're looking for exceptional people to join our team.

We offer:

- Competitive compensation
- Flexible schedules
- A professional, respectful work environment
- Opportunities to grow

Contact us today and let's get started on a brighter future together. We look forward to hearing from you!

Please contact Karen at 717-773-1340



✱ *Tutor Doctor is Hiring! ✱ *

Are you passionate about teaching and helping students reach their full potential?

Join Tutor Doctor, a leader in one-on-one personalized learning, and
make a real difference in young lives!

We are currently looking for:

- ☐ Special Education Teachers
- ☐ Math, ELA & Science Teachers for Elementary through High School

✱ Why Join Tutor Doctor?

- ✓ ☐ Flexible schedules – work around your availability
- ✓ ☐ One-on-one tutoring – in-home
- ✓ ☐ Rewarding opportunity – watch students grow in confidence & skills

☎ Call/Text us at: [717-927-7204] or [805-824-7354]

✉ Or email us today skulkarni@tutordocor.org to get started!

Our Website

<https://www.tutordocor.com/harrisburg-mechanicsburg/>



CAEDC 2026 Tourism Grant Applications Now Open

2026 Tourism Grant Opportunities

Beginning Thursday, November 6, 2025, CAEDC invites local businesses, nonprofits, and event organizers to apply for 2026 tourism grant funding. Three distinct opportunities are available:

- Tourism Product Development Grant - Supports physical product development projects seeking between \$25,000 and \$500,000 for creating new tourism experiences, including construction, furniture and fixtures, equipment and more.
- Tourism Partnership Grant – Offers funding from \$2,500 to \$10,000 for smaller-scale product development projects aimed at expanding tourism products, experiences, or services that attract overnight visitors to Cumberland Valley.
- Destination Sales Grant – Provides \$3,000 to \$10,000 for multi-day event expenses, including bid fees, facility or shuttle rentals, speaker or performer fees, and marketing or advertising costs.

Tourism grant applications are reviewed and approved quarterly, and the final deadline to apply for 2026 grants is November 6, 2026.

To learn more about CAEDC's tourism grants, including eligibility, timelines, and application guidelines, [click here](#).

CAEDC Announces Tourism Impact Sponsorship

The Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation (CAEDC) through the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau is excited to announce a Tourism Impact Sponsorship program for 2026.

Building on the momentum of the recently launched [2026 Tourism Grant programs](#), CAEDC is unveiling a new Tourism Impact Sponsorship to invest in tourism partners by reimbursing the registration fee for trade shows, sales events and training sessions.

Eligible applicants can apply for up to \$2,500 in event registration reimbursement, with a maximum of \$5,000 being reimbursed to any one organization in a calendar year. This support is designed to open must doors and remove barriers so that partners can participate in the events that matter most.

Applicants should review the full program [guidelines](#) that include details on eligibility, requirements and the reimbursement process. Forms should be submitted at least one month prior to the event you wish to attend.

"The Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau's goal is to strategically invest in partners that drive

visitation and strengthen the reputation of Cumberland Valley. The Tourism Impact Sponsorship ensures that our partners have access to tools, training, and opportunities they need to grow” said CAEDC Director of Tourism and Marketing, Laura Delaney.



F&M Trust donates Comfort Buddies to first responders for children in need

More than 250 employees of F&M Trust recently spent an afternoon in Carlisle assembling “Comfort Buddies” for first responders to assist children in need.

During the event, F&M Trust employees assembled and decorated more than 300 plush animals. Each “Comfort Buddy” was outfitted with a custom-designed t-shirt featuring a personalized inspirational message, crafted to offer encouragement and comfort.

The completed Comfort Buddies will be donated to several local police and fire departments, including the Waynesboro Police Department, Chambersburg Fire and Police Departments, Carlisle Police Department, West Shore Regional Police Department, Lower Paxton Police Department, Hampden Township Police Department, and Swatara Police Department. These donations aim to support first responders in their efforts to assist children facing difficult circumstances, providing them with a tangible source of comfort during challenging times.

“In my more than 40 years of banking experience, I’ve never witnessed such a high level of engagement between employees and their community as I have at F&M Trust,” said Craig Best, President and CEO of F&M Trust. “We are deeply committed to our workforce and to being a responsible corporate citizen.” Best continued, “F&M Trust successfully dedicates significant resources to support employee initiatives and community involvement, without compromising our position as a top performing financial institution.”

Officers from the Swatara Police Department actively participated in the Comfort Buddies event, sharing personal accounts of how these plush animals have made a meaningful impact during their interactions with children. In cases involving trauma and abuse, the officers explained that the Comfort Buddies serve as a crucial source of emotional support for affected children. The presence of these plush animals helps to ease children’s anxiety and distress, creating a sense of safety that encourages them to trust the officers during ongoing investigations.

This event marked the bank’s annual observance of Banktoberfest, which since its inception in 2016, has emphasized team building, exceeding expectations and community service. Previous events included projects that contributed to environmental conservation efforts, benefiting area food pantries, providing essentials for local at-risk veterans and supporting youth foster care agencies.

F&M Trust partnered with Impact 4 Good, an organization that specializes in charitable team-building activities, to facilitate the event.



CAEDC's America250PA Cumberland County Sponsorship Program

To support product development, event creation, and promotion efforts for America250PA Cumberland County, CAEDC will consider sponsorship requests of \$500-\$3,000 for activities happening in Cumberland County prior to December 1, 2026.

Sponsorship requests will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. Emphasis will be placed on projects and activities that attract visitors. Please allow three weeks for review after submitting your sponsorship request.

All America250PA Cumberland County sponsorship requests must be submitted through this form.

[See full Sponsorship Guidelines.](#)

**CLICK HERE FOR
APPLICATION FORM**



Join Cumberland County in Celebrating America250!

This year, Cumberland County proudly kicked off its 275th anniversary, and we're already gearing up for another milestone—the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026! To ensure a memorable celebration, Cumberland County has formed an America250PA Committee with representatives from various organizations, including local historical societies, chambers of commerce, non-profits, school districts, higher education institutions, the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, and Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation.

We invite your business to join the excitement and contribute to making America250 truly special in Cumberland County! Here are the ways you can assist.

- Explore and share the microsite VisitCumberlandValley.com/America-250.
- Plan an America250PA-themed event and submit it for free to our online calendar.
- Take an active role and join one of our sub-committees:
 - Programming & Events
 - Marketing & PR
 - Education
- Consider sponsoring an America250PA-themed event.

If you'd like to participate or learn more, please contact Stacy Snyder at smsnyder@cumberlandcountypa.gov.