

**THE THIRD ANNUAL REDBANK VALLEY DAY OF GIVING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>** with a

goal of raising at least \$50,000. Funds raised will benefit the ten participating charitable organizations who, through their hard working volunteers, are working to improve many aspects of life in the Redbank Valley. Proceeds help with their missions, with very little, if any, administrative or fundraising costs. The participating organizations this year are: Brandon's Dad (DUI Awareness), Just Us for the Animals, New Bethlehem Fire Company #1, Redbank Renaissance, Redbank Valley Church Association, Redbank Valley Community Center, Redbank Valley Education Foundation, Redbank Valley Public Library, Redbank Valley Trails Association and Tri-County Health & Fitness. It is hoped that the event will grow in future years to include other area 501(c)3 organizations that were not able to participate this year.



**Brandon's Dad** is a non-profit organization developed by Vernon Hilyer after losing his only son Brandon in a DUI crash at age 21. Brandon's Dad works daily to change and save lives, thru alcohol education, by sharing the real effects that DUI has on families and friends....forever. When you donate to the Brandon's Dad organization, the money is used

for Underage Alcohol Use Education, and DUI prevention for all ages. This is done thru programs Vernon has developed for High Schools, Universities, and Adult Probation DUI classes in different counties. Expenses the Brandon's Dad organization has include: billboards, event programming, video equipment, reminder silicone bracelets and time away with travel, meals and sometimes lodging. The organization also has pedal karts and intoxication simulation goggles they use for education. Most of the expenses the Brandon's Dad organization incurs are covered by donations from people in the communities he reaches, just like you. This program is Life Changing for many he has reached. This year Brandon's Dad will be speaking in schools all across PA while Vernon works to keep their parents' dreams alive. Many people, even from out of the area, say they see the billboards, they contact him on Facebook.com/DUIawareness (Brandon's Dad). They message him to say how much they appreciate what he has done for them. Vernon has learned that every family has a connection with someone who has died due to alcohol use or DUI. Brandon's Dad has truly made the highways safer for everyone in our area, and official numbers show that, but he needs your financial help to continue this life-saving mission. You can also donate directly at DUIawareness.com.



**SPAY·NEUTER·RESCUE·ADOPT**

**Just Us for the Animals** is a non-profit dedicated to reducing the overpopulation of cats and dogs in the area. This goal is accomplished through several programs. First, JUFTA works with local veterinarians to provide low-cost spays and neuters for dogs and cats. Feral animals are trapped, taken for surgery, then released (Trap, Neuter, Return) in an effort to prevent unwanted litters. These

low-cost services are also made available to the public. Second, JUFTA provides foster homes and care for unwanted animals until they are able to be adopted into forever homes. Lastly, JUFTA seeks to educate the public through fundraisers and adoption events about preventing animal abuse and overpopulation. JUFTA is operated by several volunteers who have a great dedication to saving animals' lives. For more information, please visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/justusfortheanimals/>.



## **NEW BETHLEHEM FIRE COMPANY #1 Clarion County 600**

**New Bethlehem Fire Company # 1** is a completely volunteer fire company covering approximately 56.5 square miles, including New Bethlehem Borough, Porter Township and parts of Redbank Township, Clarion Co. and South

Bethlehem Borough in Armstrong Co. for fire, rescue and emergency response, as well as community service. The department also provides mutual aid to neighboring fire companies. Most of the equipment and training is funded by donations. Equipment and training need to be maintained and constantly upgraded with the latest technology to meet compliance and safety regulations. Better equipment enables the volunteers to save lives and property faster and more effectively. This year's goal is to raise at least \$2000 for a thermal imaging camera to enable firefighters to locate victims in an active fire situation when visibility is poor. For more information or to donate please visit our website at [www.newbethlehemfire.com](http://www.newbethlehemfire.com).



**Redbank Renaissance** is a revitalization group with a multifaceted approach. This year's main goal is to raise \$5000 to assist the New Bethlehem Police Department purchase a police dog and outfit vehicles and equipment to deal with the illegal drug epidemic in the region. Its other ongoing efforts include the Garden Keepers who plant, maintain and improve the public gardens around New Bethlehem (sprinkler system, perennials and new bushes needed); Redbank Valley Historical Society recording past and current history with hope of opening a museum and genealogy center (build out fund); tourism and business promotion through the Towns and Trails Regional Initiative (signage), promotional video and regional Welcome Brochures (print costs); business assistance, façade, signage and bike rack matching grants (funds for more grants); community clean ups, Dog-i-Pot stations (more bags needed), and



community calendar to improve the New Bethlehem and Redbank Valley area. All these efforts depend on public donations. Information can be found on its website at [www.redbankren.org](http://www.redbankren.org), on Facebook and at 814-275-1718.



**Redbank Valley Church Association** is a para-church organization committed to fostering and supporting religious, charitable and educational pursuits that proclaim, promote, enhance, and further the Kingdom of God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Redbank Valley. Its mission includes a food pantry for the Redbank Valley area, a yearly scholarship fund for local high school students, annual ecumenical church services such as a Hymn Sing at Gumtown Park, a Gospel Music program at the Clarion County Fair, a community Thanksgiving Eve Service, Lenten Services, an Easter Sunrise Service and a Christmas Festival of Carols. RVCA organizes pastors to write articles for The Leader-Vindicator and provide Sunday afternoon services at Broadwood Towers and Edgewood Heights.

The Share in a Dream Scholarship is an opportunity for any senior attending the Redbank Valley School District who is a participating member of a Redbank Valley church and who satisfies the application criteria. The number of scholarships depends on money donated each year. Between 2008-2018, 123 scholarships, of \$500 each, have been awarded by RVCA.

Staffed by volunteers, the Food Pantry began in 2001 to assure that Redbank Valley School District students had basic foods to meet their needs so that they would be more likely to succeed in school.

The Food Pantry broadened to provide supplemental food to all families in the school district. Over the past 5 years, an average of 145 families have benefitted monthly. A goal is to raise funds to sustain the food pantry, and provide meat for meals on Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. Donations are needed and much appreciated for the Food Pantry and Scholarships. [www.RvChurchassociation.org](http://www.RvChurchassociation.org); info@RVChurchAssociation or 814-275-1880.



**Redbank Valley Community Center's** mission is to provide an environment of encouragement, education, and entertainment to meet the needs of our community. The current focus is on the physical, spiritual, emotional and developmental well-being of community members of all ages. Programs include a weekly senior center, homework help, youth corps, refreshments during food pantry, and knitters/crocheters group, among others. The center offers space for family celebrations, parties, yoga, music classes and other special programs and events. All programs and events depend for their support and continuation on public contributions. Your donations keep our building operating, doors open, and programs and activities happening! Visit [www.rvcommunitycenter.org](http://www.rvcommunitycenter.org), [info@RVCommunityCenter.org](mailto:info@RVCommunityCenter.org) or call 814-457-5033. The Center is located at 430 Broad St. and will serve as a Donation Location on May 9<sup>th</sup>.



**Redbank Valley Education Foundation** The recently established permanent endowment fund gives the school district a new way to support the students and the school community. It targets the needs our students and faculty, and especially the donors to the fund, identify as important to them. Only the growth of the investment is used; the initial donation is held permanently. The RV General Scholarship Endowment distributions shall be restricted to fund income in excess of a minimum market value principal of 30K. It is funded by tax deductible donations that are invested to earn interest. The Endowment Fund is administered through the Clarion County Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Bridge Builders Community Foundations.

The RV Undesignated Fund is a non-endowed fund with no distribution restrictions from principal or income sources. Donations that are not earmarked for a specific fund will be placed in the RV Undesignated Fund. Donors can donate to a specific fund. The Foundation will honor the donor's intent based on the Foundation's recommendations and for charitable purposes. [RedbankValley.net](http://RedbankValley.net) or call 814-275-2426.



**Redbank Valley Public Library** provides people with the tools to solve problems, resources to meet needs, and services to help our community. Whether it is sending a fax, obtaining a passport, having copies made, attending a preschool early literacy program, utilizing the computers, having an exam proctored, teens socializing after school, adults coming together for book club, crafts and learning opportunities for all ages, homeschooling families finding no-cost materials to aid schooling, or just enjoying new books by favorite authors, the library has become a place of support, learning, and fun for all ages! **Our 2019 Challenge: If each person in our service area donated at least \$10, our operating budget would be covered and we could focus more on meeting community needs.** Imagine the world of opportunity that could open for all of us! Your donation helps us respond to community needs and remain a life-giving organization. Redbank Valley needs us now more than ever – will you help? For more information, please visit

[www.youseemore.com/NewBethlehem/directory.asp](http://www.youseemore.com/NewBethlehem/directory.asp) or call 814-275-2870. The library is located at 720 Broad Street and will serve as a Donation Location for the Day of Giving.



**Redbank Valley Trails Association**, an all-volunteer organization, is improving and maintaining the award-winning 51-mile non-motorized, 4-season Redbank Valley Trails, from the Allegheny River to Brookville and the 9-mile Sligo Spur which is nearly completed. Donations help volunteers improve and maintain the trails for the community to enjoy and benefit from the recreation, relaxation and fitness opportunities the trail presents. Tourism dollars from those who are drawn to visit are helping new and existing local businesses grow. This year's goals for which donations are needed include repairing our hard working trail tractor which suffered a broken axle, improving the Middle Run area, refreshing crushed limestone on the main trail, providing port-o-johns and other improvements. Donations can be used as gifts to name bridges, shelters, picnic tables and other amenities and are much appreciated. Donations of time, equipment and materials are also welcomed. [www.redbankvalleytrails.org](http://www.redbankvalleytrails.org), [info@redbankvalleytrails.org](mailto:info@redbankvalleytrails.org) and 814-275-1718.



Tri-County Health & Fitness is your community action leader when it comes to all things health and fitness. Currently we specialize in personal training, meal prep, and group fitness classes. We plan to open publicly in 2020 as we are a private fitness center at the moment. We have been remodeling our facility for over one full year now and our project is taking longer and costing more than expected. Receiving a 501(c)3 Charitable Organization designation allows Tri-County Health & Fitness to receive tax deductible donations. If you have a passion for community involvement, health, fitness, or general wellness, we ask you to please make a monetary donation in person, through the mail, online via [BlouseBrothers.com](http://BlouseBrothers.com), or our GoFundMe Page. Your donation will be used to improve our 100-year old structure, renovate our space, improve equipment, establish a scholarship fund for Redbank Valley athletes, and will ultimately help us impact the communities around you! **ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE** to the full extent allowed by law.

More information and links to each organization's websites can be found at [www.RedbankValley.org/giving](http://www.RedbankValley.org/giving). Donations are tax deductible to the full extent the law allows for any of the participating organizations and can be mailed or dropped off for arrival during their regular hours on or before May 9th as follows:

- Redbank Valley Community Center (430 Broad St.)
- Redbank Valley Public Library (720 Broad St.) and
- Northwest Savings Bank (301 Broad St.) in New Bethlehem
- First Commonwealth Bank at 223 Main Street in Brookville
- directly to the organization or
- via online donations on each of the organization's websites. (Online donations through PayPal will deduct a fee of 2.2% plus \$.30.)

Contact any of the organizations or Sandy Mateer at 814-275-1718 for more information or to donate to the match fund for all organizations. All donations stay local. Together and with your support we can make a real difference to improve life in the Redbank Valley.