

You are receiving this email because of your relationship with Operation Our Town. Thank you for your interest and support!
 You may unsubscribe if you no longer wish to receive our emails. You may also report problems with Newsletter format or content.



Operation Our Town Reporter

a monthly newsletter *by our volunteers to our volunteers about* our fight against drugs and crime in Central PA

Volume 14, Issue 12 - December 2022



OperationOurTown.org

Board Members:

Michael A. Fiore Joe Sheetz
 Phil Devorris Ron McConnell
 Randy Feathers

Administration:

Shawna Hoover, Exec. Coordinator
 Nick Gordon, AmeriCorps Member

Steering Committee:

Dr. Lori J. Bechtel-Wherry
 Tom Brandt
 Heather Crusinberry
 JR DiAndrea
 Honorable Elizabeth Doyle
 Greg Drew, R.Ph.
 Zane Gates, M.D.
 Dr. Robert Gildea
 Donna Gority
 Rodney Green
 Sue Griep
 Lisa Hann
 Cheryl Johns
 Dr. Todd Negola
 Mayor Matt Pacifico
 Judy Rosser
 Peter Weeks

Founding Members & Committed Businesses:

Blair Candy Company
 Blair Companies
 D.C. Goodman & Sons, Inc.
 Delta Health Technologies
 Fiore Toyota/Fiore Buick GMC
 Grappone Law Offices
 Harry Sickler & Associates
 Holiday Inn Express
 John & Doug Wolf
 Lawruk Realty
 Lee Industries, Inc.
 Leonard S. Fiore, Inc.
 M&T Bank
 McLanahan Corporation
 New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co.
 New Pig Corporation
 NPC, Inc.
 Reliance Bank
 Sheetz, Inc.
 Small Tube Products
 Stuckey Automotive
 The Hite Company
 Thompson Pharmacy
 UPMC Altoona
 Value Drug Company
 Ward Trucking



Our Town Times

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

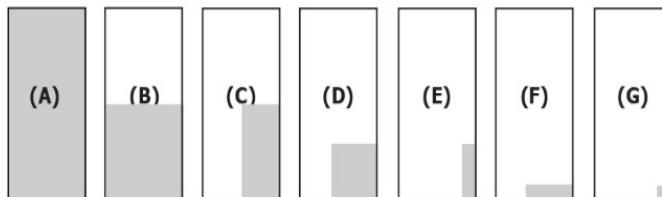


Distributed at the Annual Blair County Chamber Operation Our Town Breakfast and throughout the year to local businesses and community organizations!
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY PRIDE!

The 2023 report will provide an update to the readers from this past calendar year. We will hear from law enforcement, treatment providers, healthcare professionals, business leaders and others in our community about the impact Operation Our Town has made over the past 16 years and the importance of prevention.

Get the inside scoop from Operation Our Town Roundtables on their projects and efforts to help keep our community safe!

Please help us...



Ad sizes	Width	Height	Cost
(A) Full Page	10"	21.33"	\$900
(B) Half Page	10"	10.66"	\$650
(C) 1/4 Page Vertical	5"	10.66"	\$450
(D) 1/3 Page Square	6.633"	6.633"	\$400
(E) 1/6 Page Vertical	1.833"	6.633"	\$200
(F) 1/6 Page Horizontal	6.633"	1.833"	\$200
(G) Block ad	2"	1.667"	\$50

All images or 4 color ads must be submitted as final, high-resolution (300 DPI) CMYK files, preferably in PDF format. High-resolution JPEGs are also acceptable. Please convert all text to outlines. Please do not submit ads generated in word processing applications such as Microsoft Word. Ad design can be provided for a nominal fee of \$115 per ad. Space is limited. All ads are admitted to the publication on a first-come-first-serve basis.

All ads and pre-payment MUST be received by February 1, 2023.

Published by
 DiAndrea Media

For advertising information, please contact
 Angelyn Skipper at (814) 944-5678 or email: Angelyn@DiAndreaMedia.com • 2431 6th Avenue • Altoona, PA 16602

Please Check One:

- (A) Full Page (\$900)
- (B) Half Page (\$650)
- (C) 1/4 Page Vertical (\$450)
- (D) 1/3 Page Square (\$400)
- (E) 1/6 Page Vertical (\$200)
- (F) 1/6 Page Horizontal (\$200)
- (G) Block ad (\$50)

Please print and return this portion with your payment (checks only—do not send cash).
 Checks to be made out to Operation Our Town and mailed to DiAndrea Media, Inc.
 2431 6th Avenue • Altoona, PA 16602

Name: _____ Company: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

Will you be submitting final artwork? Yes No
 Use the same artwork from last year? (no charge) Yes No

Mission

To facilitate partnerships between community and business to fight drug abuse and crime through proven law enforcement, treatment, and prevention techniques.



REPORT DRUG ACTIVITY
**PUSH OUT
THE PUSHER**

814-693-3020

2-1-1

Pennsylvania
Get Connected. Get Help.™

PA 2-1-1 is a comprehensive database that includes information about health & human services.

PA 2-1-1 can be accessed by phone 24/7 or the web at:

www.pa211.org



814-381-0921

Month of December - Meetings

12/1

Housing Roundtable meeting

12:00pm

Al's Tavern

Essay Contest Winner



Pictured left to right:

Barb Harpster (Media Consultant, Altoona Mirror), Joe Meadows (Partner, The Meadows Original Frozen Custard of Hollidaysburg), Holly Myers (Essay Contest Winner), Fred Imler Jr. (President, Imler's Poultry)

Congratulations to **Holly Myers**, a 6th grader at Spring Cove Middle School, whose essay was chosen out of 57 entries as the winner of the Altoona Mirror and Operation Our Town Essay Contest!

The winner received \$250 in gift cards to The Meadows Original Frozen Custard in Hollidaysburg. Co-sponsors of the Essay Contest were the Altoona Mirror, Imler's Poultry, and The Meadows Original Frozen Custard in Hollidaysburg.

See below to view her winning essay on why people give in to peer pressure from those who use drugs and some of the best ways to avoid giving in to peer pressure:

Peer pressure can be the reason why people give into drugs. Some feel lonely or have very low self-esteem in themselves. They feel drugs could be a way to make the hurt stop. Many see family members and friends do drugs and feel influenced, thinking it is okay to use them. Wanting to be in the "IN" crowd can be a factor as well. People will also try drugs not thinking about the consequences in the future and just want to have fun in the moment.

Peer pressure can be prevented in many different ways. Being a supportive friend to others that are going through tough times and finding yourself the same kind of supportive companion can be helpful in prevention. Keeping yourself busy with extracurricular activities is another way to avoid low self-esteem, which leads to peer pressure. Facing peer pressure is hard but it can be avoided by talking to a trusted adult, parent, or guardian. When a crowd of kids asks you to do drugs, think about the consequences of the future. Say NO to peer pressure and say YES to a drug free future.

Grant Recipient Highlight: Renew Church BEN Blessed

By: Nick Gordon, PMSC AmeriCorps Member
with Operation Our Town



Photo courtesy of Bill Kibler, Altoona Mirror

BEN Blessed's focus is serving the homeless community, though they will help anybody with a need that they can. The people they serve range from children to senior citizens and everybody in between. They typically drive the streets of Blair County 3-5 nights per week, year-round, looking for homeless individuals to serve. They also serve hot meals twice a month and assist with other needs and issues scheduled in advance or as calls of need come in.

As a street ministry, the majority of BEN Blessed's interactions take place outdoors as they travel all over the city of Altoona and surrounding areas. As a faith-based outreach, every service that they provide is free of charge and funded by community support. Their mission is to serve the homeless community of Blair County by meeting them where they are and providing for their basic needs while sharing God's love with them.

What does this mission in action look like in practice? BEN Blessed hands out backpacks of supplies, food, clothing, winter gear, tents, sleeping bags, and other essential supplies. They also offer ride services for various reasons, whether to make it to doctors' appointments, church or bible study, food banks and job interviews, or even to visit other agencies in order

to obtain help with needs BEN Blessed is unable to provide for directly.

One of the things that makes this organization stand out from others is that Josh Roland, the founder of BEN Blessed, once spent a winter homeless in Altoona. He can relate to those he serves on a more personal level because of this, and uses his own experiences to help others rise up out of their situation.

The ultimate goal is to continue working with the homeless until they can become reestablished in society. This means BEN Blessed aims to help out with stable housing, employment, as well as mental health and medical needs. For more information about any of the services BEN Blessed offers or to learn more, please reach out at the contact info below.



Photo courtesy of Bill Kibler, Altoona Mirror

1201 11th Ave #3002 Altoona, PA 16601
www.facebook.com/benblessedaltoona
Contact: Josh Roland
Phone: 814-232-2988
Email: benblessedaltoona@gmail.com

