

# THRESHOLDS OF CHESTER COUNTY

## Night of Celebration and New Beginnings

On Thursday February 7, 2013 we held our annual business dinner meeting.

The first order of business was to elect a President and Secretary for our organization to serve the two year term from 2013-2015. Becky Carter was unanimously voted back in as Secretary and Jennifer Schuff was voted in as President.

Last year, the decision was made to have the President and the Secretary hold positions in sync with each other and for the Vice-President and Treasurer to hold terms in sync with each other. This will help provide the organization stability and continuity as board members change.

After the elections, we spent some time reviewing the accomplishments of the 2012 year from the annual report.

A recap of the Strategy Session that was held on February 2 was given. About 15 members had gotten together to brainstorm where we want the organization to go in the next ten years. From that meeting

### **Mission Statement:**

*Thresholds of Chester County (Thresholds) is a non-profit organization that teaches decision making skills to interested inmates by developing and maintaining a group of volunteers. Through this program, Thresholds builds a constructive relationship between the Chester County Prison, Chester County Youth Center and the community.*

we formed several sub-committees and they are in action producing plans to help us achieve our goals.

We spent the rest of the dinner going over the different roles that members play on the Executive Committee and gave an overview of all the programs that we sponsor in the Chester County Prison and the Youth Center. Many of the topics covered at the meeting can be found in this newsletter, see Table of Contents to find what you are looking for.

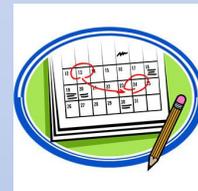
We look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting on Thursday April 25 at the Calvary Lutheran Church!

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## **SAVE THE DATE: General Member Meeting**

**Thursday, April 25  
at 6:00 PM at the  
Calvary Lutheran  
Church in West  
Chester**

**Guest Speaker:  
Megan Reese from  
the End Violence  
Project**



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## 2012 Annual Report Highlights

Below are some highlights from our 2012 Annual Report. We had an amazing year full of transition and accomplishment.

- We transitioned from having Dick as President to three members co-chairing the position of President: Jarrett, Alison and Jennifer.
- We reviewed the roles and responsibilities of all members of the Executive Committee and revised the mission statement (see front page).
- Prison Activities:
  - Dudley retired this year from being the lead Men's Macro Teacher for several years. Jennifer will now be leading the Men's Macro class at the prison.
  - **72 people graduated** from the Thresholds program at the Men's, Women's and pre-release center.
- Youth Center:
  - Thresholds of Chester County was the proud recipient of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania's **21<sup>st</sup> Century Committee Criminal Justice Partners Award** for our activities to improve the criminal justice system at the detention center and shelter services.
  - A new program was initiated at the Evening Reporting Center (ERC). The program is designed to serve Chester County pre-adjudicated and adjudicated delinquent adolescent males for 30 program days.
  - **76 people graduated** the Thresholds program at the Youth Center during 2012.
- Participated in the Mid-Atlantic Thresholds training session for people who were interested in understanding what Macro teachers do and to share ideas and tools.
- **Honeywell Company generously donated 100 Prison Workbooks. Thank you to Fred Vodde** for his help in facilitating this. Our biggest expense is the printing of our workbooks, so this makes a big difference for our organization.
- Treasurer's Report
  - Beginning Cash Balance 12/31/2011 - \$1,114
  - Income 2012 - \$935
  - Expenses 2012 - \$1,377
  - Ending Cash Balance – 12/31/2012 - \$672

### Know Someone Interested in Volunteering with Thresholds?

Our next Volunteer Training Weekend is coming up Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Anyone interested can contact Amber at: [volunteer@thresholdschesco.org](mailto:volunteer@thresholdschesco.org)



**Have a Question?  
Need Information?  
Don't know who to call?**

Email the [President](mailto:President@ThresholdsChesco.org) at [President@ThresholdsChesco.org](mailto:President@ThresholdsChesco.org)

**Thursday, April 25  
6:00 PM**

**General Member  
Meeting**

Guest Speaker:  
**Megan Reese**  
from the  
**End Violence Project**  
(see article to the right)

**EndViolence.org**

### **END VIOLENCE PROJECT SPEAKS AT APRIL MEETING**

At our next General Member meeting, we will be having a guest speaker present from the End Violence Project. Megan Reese is a volunteer with End Violence and will be sharing about the group and her experiences with the organization.

The following information is from their website.

The End Violence Project is a non-profit organization that provides leadership programs to inmates and ex-offenders that help them to create a successful transition back to life with their families and

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSIONS UNDERWAY**

On February 2, 2013, members gathered to discuss the current state of our organization and how we want to move forward. Connie graciously agreed to lead the group through this meeting.



First we looked at our mission statement and what we possibly would want to change on it. We then looked at having a Vision statement, a statement of what we want this organization to look like in ten years.

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communities. This results in community healing and safer neighborhoods - -the end of violence where it had once been commonplace.

Our six-month leadership program is voluntary. All of the inmates and ex-offenders that participate have a strong commitment to living a positive life and ending the cycle of violence and incarceration. They strive to become End Violence Facilitators in their communities. Through the program, they learn a variety of skills that prepare them for a life that is dedicated to the improvement of society.

We then did a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) and then brainstormed on what we wanted for the organization in the future.

After looking at the SWOT Analysis, we grouped the items into four main goals to focus on in 2013. We then formed sub-committees that would gather on each topic to brainstorm smaller goals and create action items and steps around how to achieve the large annual goals.

We held a follow up session on March 2 to review the goals and our next step is to compile a business plan that will be prioritized and given a timeline.



# THRESHOLDS OF CHESTER COUNTY

## Calendar of Events

March 5 (Tuesday)	7:00 PM	Women's Prison Graduation
March 6 (Wednesday)	7:00 PM	Women's Pre-Release Graduation
March 9 &10 (Saturday and Sunday)	All Day	Youth Center
March 12 (Tuesday)	7:00 PM	Women's Prison Re-entry Session
March 13 (Wednesday)	7:00 PM	Women's Pre-Release Re-entry Session Men's Prison Graduation
March 14 (Thursday)	7 PM – 9 PM	Executive Committee Meeting Calvary Lutheran Church
March 16 (Saturday)	All Day	Shelter
March 20 (Wednesday)	7:00 PM	Men's Prison Re-Entry Session
March 23 (Saturday)	9 AM - 5 PM	Volunteer Training Session
March 27 (Wednesday)	7PM – 9 PM	Interview Inmates for Spring Cycle
April 2 (Tuesday)	7:00 PM	Women's Prison First Session
April 3 (Wednesday)	7:00 PM	Women's Pre-Release First Session Men's Prison First Session
April 13 and 14 (Saturday and Sunday)	All Day	Youth Center
April 20 (Saturday)	All Day	Shelter
<b>April 25 (Thursday)</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>General Member Meeting Calvary Lutheran Church</b>

**Don't Forget – Thresholds of Chester County is on the web!**

[www.ThresholdsChesco.org](http://www.ThresholdsChesco.org)



**Also, like us on Facebook!**

