

BRIEF HISTORY OF NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

January 1982 it was announced that because of government cuts to domestic programs, particularly to human services, Community Progress Council of York would be phasing out the programs of Dillsburg Dover Social Services, Incorporated (the only social service center in the area) by the end of the year.

Concerns about the impact this would have on the community, particularly for those 430 families being served at a time of growing unemployment, prompted representatives from local churches to begin planning for an outreach ministry that would help fill the void when the government-funded center closed.

Generally, individual churches are not prepared to handle the task of emergency assistance alone, but by networking together with the community, churches can provide a center of service and emergency assistance, encouragement, and hope to those struggling with real survival needs.

New Hope Ministries was incorporated by the end of the year, 1982, and officially opened its doors for operation January 3, 1983, at the Brethren in Christ Church in Dillsburg. The name "New Hope" had been selected to convey a message of hope and encouragement to those coming for assistance as well as to identify the ministry with the message of hope Christ holds out to all mankind.

A year later, on January 7, 1984, New Hope Ministries filed a formal application with the United Way of York County to become a Partner Agency. On February 1, 1984, a United Way panel met with a group of New Hope staff, board members, and volunteers to review New Hope's application. On April 1, 1984, New Hope Ministries was formally approved as a United Way Partner Agency.

In 1985 the Dover Area Ministerium requested New Hope to open a center in Dover. An Advisory Council was established, and the Dover Center of New Hope Ministries opened in April 1986.

Similarly, the Mechanicsburg Council of churches came to New Hope in 1988, asking for advice in setting up a ministry for emergency assistance in the Mechanicsburg area. Already some of the churches in Mechanicsburg were contributing to the center in Dillsburg, but there was need for such a ministry in Mechanicsburg. The Council decided to come under the incorporation umbrella of New Hope in the way Dover had done, rather than go through the process of incorporating a separate agency. The Mechanicsburg Center of New Hope Ministries opened in January 1989.

In 2008, New Hope's board of directors embraced an expanded mission to provide stability programs to provide educational and employment support to the families we serve to promote stability.

New Hope extended services to the West Shore area in 2010, as part of our Mechanicsburg center moving to a new Hampden Township location on East Trindle Road.

In January 2011, on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, New Hope debuted a mobile food pantry model in the York County community of Wellsville, with the goal of reaching rural pockets of poverty where transportation is a barrier.

In August 2012, assumed operations of the Hanover Food Bank and Family Center operated by the Red Cross, Hanover Chapter, which had been in continuous operation since the 1930's. In 2014, New Hope's Hanover site moved to the former Evening Sun newspaper building on Baltimore Street serving the Hanover area of York County.

In October 2016, New Hope opened its 2nd Cumberland County location serving the Lemoyne and nearby riverfront communities of Cumberland County. In December 2016, New Hope assumed operation of the New Oxford Food Bank in Adams County.

In December 2017, New Hope combined its separate Dillsburg Center and Administrative Office in Dillsburg into one new facility on the corner of West Church and North Second streets in Dillsburg.

In February 2018, an upgraded version of our mobile pantry was launched in York Springs, consisting of a custom trailer where guests would walk through the trailer to shop for food.

As New Hope Ministries has grown, God has abundantly provided committed staff and volunteers and the needed resources, and after 35 years, we are still committed to sharing Christ's love by helping our neighbors in need, and currently provide services to close to 20,000 individuals from 8,400 families in York, Adams, and Cumberland Counties.