



## The high cost of summer: Making a difference at SHIM.

Summer vacation conjures up images of sunny days stretched out with sprinklers, bike rides, and staying out well past dark to catch lightning bugs.

For many families in the South Hills, however, summer isn't a vacation. It's when costs mount, as working parents struggle to keep their children safe, fed, and engaged when school isn't in session. When you layer on the added cost of summertime child care for families already facing difficulties putting food on the table, there's a rising need for relief.

### A sunny spot in the South Hills

SHIM's Summer Camp, for kids Pre-K through eighth grade, is one way we help. Here, our dedicated summer staff provide sports, games, activities, field trips, and all-too-important lunches and snacks.

This year, a new topic has sparked kids' interest: VEGETABLES! Thanks to the bounty of SHIM's new community garden at Whitehall Presbyterian Church, happy campers are getting hands-on

Though summer's sunny afternoons still beckon, SHIM is already preparing for back-to-school season, which places additional financial burdens on families in need. Many thanks to our South Hills neighbors who've stepped up to collect backpacks and school supplies to ensure our students go back to school confident and ready to learn. Last year, our caring community equipped 725 South Hills children; this year, our goal is to provide school supplies to every South Hills child in need.



knowledge about vegetables – from picking and cleaning them to enjoying lunchtime salads.

Since hunger is a significant issue for kids not in school, SHIM's expanded summer lunch program is providing meals for local kids. In total, nearly 200 South Hills children have benefited from SHIM's summer lunches this year.

### Join the movement.

We'll begin distributing school supplies to families in August, so if you'd like to help send kids back to school confident and ready to learn, visit [shimcares.org/give](http://shimcares.org/give).

# Empowering women young and old to find their voice

The South Hills is filled with incredible women. Young girls learning robotics. Single moms making a better life for their children. Senior citizens giving back. Here at SHIM, we strive to provide opportunities where women feel empowered to succeed.

## SHIM teens take the runway

Just last month, a group of young women from SHIM's Youth Mentoring Program hosted a fashion show to spread cultural awareness throughout the community. With the help and guidance of Susie Backscheider, youth mentoring coordinator, and our staff and volunteer mentors, the girls



Photos: Ryan Michael White

gained valuable experience by applying for—and receiving—The Sprout Fund's 'The Change Machine,' which provides \$500 grants to support, celebrate and showcase unique youth-led initiatives with the power to incite positive change. From writing the grant, reserving the venue, organizing the food and clothing, and gathering a group of 30 young men and women to participate, these determined young ladies from Bhutan/Nepal, Burma/Thailand, Iraq and Sudan planned the entire event. We could not be more proud of their efforts and determination.

## Smart Investments offers a lift up

Renee and her fiancé had been happily planning their wedding. Living in the South Hills with two kids, including their one-year-old baby, things turned ugly when the father lost his job and became violent toward Renee. Faced with the need to protect her children and herself, Renee knew she needed to move quickly. She looked to SHIM's Smart Investments program for help. Together, with partner Bethlehem Haven, the organizations were able to help Renee pay a security deposit and first month's rent on a small apartment. She moved with her two sons into a safe environment and only missed a handful of work days. Thanks to the support of SHIM and

More than 60 gathered at the event, where the young women and men told their stories, strutted down the runway in their culture's traditional attire and shared tastings of meals from their countries.

our partners, Renee was able to move her family to a safer situation and is now thriving.

Smart Investments is funded by United Way of Southwestern PA's United for Women initiative.

## Every woman deserves a chance

When given the opportunity and resources, women in our community can achieve incredible things and live successfully and safely. At SHIM, we strive to empower all women, young and old, to find the happiness they deserve.

looking forward:  
**save  
the  
dates**

**Campaign for Kids' Coats**  
**September 1 – October 31, 2016**  
SHIM Center, Bethel Park

SHIM will accept new or gently used children and teen winter coats, boots and snow pants to distribute to families this winter.

Consider hosting a coat drive this fall for community service project hours, at your workplace, or with a social or religious group to help us spread warmth to local kids. For more information, contact Rebecca

Maletto-Cornell, our volunteer manager, at [bcornell@shimcares.org](mailto:bcornell@shimcares.org) or 412-854-9120 ext.106.

**SHIMmering Soiree, a benefit for SHIM hosted by Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
**September 24, 2016**  
St. Clair Country Club

Enjoy an evening of dinner and entertainment with friends and neighbors at the beautiful St. Clair Country Club. Even step up to

test drive a Tesla. Join us as Westminster Presbyterian Church helps shine a light on need in the South Hills. \$75 per person. All proceeds benefit SHIM.

For more information, visit <http://www.westminster-church.org/events/event-list/shimmering-soiree>.



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Visit [shimcares.org](http://shimcares.org)  
Give – [shimcares.org/give](http://shimcares.org/give)

## Volunteer Profile

# From pick ups to pantry, volunteers drive success

Last July, Curt Young walked into SHIM and very quickly became a critical part of our team by offering to drive SHIM's van to pick up and deliver food to our pantries... and more. Conversations with Curt often went something like this:



SHIM: "Curt, can you drive SHIM families to and from the pantry?" CURT: "Of course."  
SHIM: "Curt, can you help us with maintaining our vans?" CURT: "Of course."  
SHIM: "Curt, can you go pick up donated food and bring it back to the pantry?" CURT: "Of course."

You get the picture. When Curt retired last year, he wanted to help his community and stay busy. He was more than happy to help out with any project thrown his way. His biggest contribution to SHIM was becoming a Crush Hunger Hero where he drove families to and from the pantries and picked up food to stock our shelves—everywhere from Aldi's to Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank to St. Thomas More.

"When I started at SHIM, I told them to call me any time. Give me 15 minutes, and I can come do anything you need," Curt said. "I wanted them to know they can rely on me. They can count on me."

This year, Curt and his wife decided to move to North Carolina for retirement. We are thrilled for him and his family as they embark on this new journey, but we will feel his loss. Having a volunteer who is willing to deliver food to our pantries from our donors is critical, and with Curt gone, we are in great need of caring community members to step up and help fill his place.

"It's a great opportunity to help your fellow neighbors. People asked if I got paid for this work, and I'd say no, but you get paid in other ways," Curt said. "I developed friendships with the people I drove and the people I worked with. It was a great year of my life, and I'm really going to miss it."



We are looking for members of our community to step up

as Crush Hunger Heroes. Driving our vans is critical to our operation —without van drivers, food does not get to our pantries. Consider joining our team to crush hunger. Sign up today: [www.shimcares.org/volunteer](http://www.shimcares.org/volunteer).



## Giving more of our neighbors a chance to experience holiday joy

For two decades, SHIM has been able to connect neighbors in need with holiday gifts thanks to hard-working volunteers, devoted local congregations, active school groups, and a caring community that steps forward with thousands of gifts and cash each year.

The need for basics—from food to clothing to critical community services—here in the South Hills, has grown so significantly that SHIM's Angel Emporium was unable to serve all our families in 2015, challenging us to reimagine the program to meet increasing demands.

At the same time, the SHIM team has been looking for ways to evolve the

program so that more South Hills parents can experience the joy of holiday shopping for their children—and select gifts that will be most meaningful.

Angel Emporium 2.0 provides a win-win for neighbors helping neighbors by:

- serving more families in need in our community
- aligning with SHIM's mission to help families

achieve self-sufficiency with a hand up, not a hand out

- using resources most efficiently, to bring holiday joy to as many neighbors in need as possible
- empowering participants to choose gifts best suited to their families

### Four easy steps: New and improved Angel Emporium 2.0.

1. Caring community members shop for gift cards for local families
2. Families receive gift cards so they can choose the best holiday gifts for their families

3. Families served by SHIM also experience the joy of holiday shopping—and the power of finding a good sale to make their holiday budget go further

4. Local congregations, schools and organizations can take advantage of their existing gift card programs, win-win-win!

### Join the movement and help Angel Emporium 2.0 take wing.

GIVE A GIFT CARD

Please donate gift cards in \$25 increments from easy-to-access retailers Giant Eagle, Target, or Wal-Mart or easy-to use cards from Amazon, Visa or MasterCard.

MAKE A GIFT

Your financial donation of any denomination is always appreciated and will be converted to gift cards.

JOIN US NOW

Gifts and gift cards are being accepted now through the end of November. Donations can be conveniently dropped off at any Brentwood Bank location.



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