

## **DIAKON LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES & DIAKON CHILD, FAMILY & COMMUNITY MINISTRIES**

Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries and Diakon Child, Family & Community Ministries celebrate our partnership with the Upper Susquehanna Synod and its congregations as we live out our mission of demonstrating God's command to love our neighbor through acts of service. Diakon continues a 150-year tradition of care for people of all ages, especially those with limited financial resources. In 2016, Diakon provided some \$19 million in benevolent care, including more than \$5.2 million within the Upper Susquehanna Synod.

Last year was the second full year in which Diakon's two "sister" organizations operated separately, with individual boards of directors guiding each. Both organizations experienced successful years, achieving significant service, operational, quality, and financial goals.

**Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village**, Lewisburg, which offers a range of independent living homes, a personal care community and a neighborhood-concept health care center, broke ground for a new phase of senior living homes; a grand opening for the new homes will take place in mid-spring 2017. **Ohesson** in Lewistown serves older adults through senior living homes, health and rehabilitative care and a dedicated memory-support unit, as well as a bereavement support group for members of the community. It began to plan its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, to be marked in 2017.

Together, the two senior living communities served 1,748 in 2016.

**Diakon Family Life Services – Upper Susquehanna** offers counseling, behavioral health care and related services at sites in Williamsport, Lewisburg and Montoursville. In all, the program served more than 2,300 people last year. Diakon Family Life Services provides individual, couple, and family counseling, a tele-psychiatry component; family-based mental health services to prevent out-of-home placement of at-risk children; and student assistance program training for school personnel. In addition, Diakon Family Life Services offers the **SPIN program** serving families in Clinton and Lycoming counties. The predominantly in-home program provides individual counseling, family therapy, group therapy, parent groups, training, and case management for children and youths who have exhibited problematic sexual behaviors.

As the prime contractor for **Pennsylvania's Statewide Adoption & Permanency Network**, or **SWAN**, Diakon helps to coordinate all public adoptions across the state, another way the organization touches the lives of people within the region. In fact, the number of children and families within the synod's territory served through SWAN in 2016 totaled 821.

We thank God for the gifts of staff, volunteers, congregations, donors, and board members who, together, enabled us to directly serve more than 67,000 people last year, including 4,877 in the Upper Susquehanna Synod.

**Mark T. Pile, MSHA, MSW**  
*President/CEO*