



We sincerely appreciate and celebrate our partnership with the Upper Susquehanna Synod and its congregations. United in purpose and guided by compassion, Diakon continues to extend services that strengthen children, families, individuals, and older adults across our communities. In 2025, Diakon programs served over 67,000 people.

Diakon's mission states: *In response to God's love in Jesus Christ, Diakon will demonstrate God's command to love the neighbor through acts of service.* That mission continues to guide our work as we expand behavioral health services, foster care and adoption programs, at-risk youth services, and family preservation supports, while also serving older adults through community-based senior services. We are also prioritizing the expansion of affordable housing for families and individuals of all ages.

Within the Upper Susquehanna Synod, Diakon Behavioral Health Services (formerly known as Family Life Services) provides a range of behavioral health programs, including individual, couple, and family therapy; family-based mental health services aimed at preventing out-of-home placements for at-risk children; school-based counseling; and addictions-related counseling. The program also offers specialized in-home treatment services, trauma-focused therapy, and psychiatric care to support mental and emotional well-being. With offices in Williamsport, Montoursville, and Lewisburg, Diakon Behavioral Health Services served nearly 2,200 individuals within the synod in 2025.

Diakon Adoption & Foster Care also plays an important role within the synod, working with resource families to provide safe, supportive homes for children and teens in need. In addition, Diakon serves as the prime contractor for Pennsylvania's Statewide Adoption & Permanency Network (SWAN), coordinating public adoption services across the Commonwealth. In 2025, SWAN services impacted more than 1,300 children and families within the synod's territory.

We give thanks for the gifts of our staff, volunteers, congregations, donors, and board members. Through their compassion, dedication, and faithful partnership, Diakon was able to touch the lives of thousands of people in 2025.

Shari VanderGast, *President/CEO*