Grants have been made possible through mission support giving for over 17 years totaling more than a half million dollars. Grant applications are received by the Witness and Service Ministry Team and awarded based on the outreach the funding will accomplish. The story that follows is written by the founders and the current program director of Open Arms Senior Connection. It tells of an inspiring ministry that got it’s beginning because of a vision, need to help others and grant funds available to make it thrive today.

Over ten years ago a small Welcome and Outreach committee at Arndt’s Lutheran Church in Forks Township, PA was looking for another ministry that could use their resources. The congregation came together to modify their existing spaces using funds predominantly from a Transforming Congregations grant and a Witness and Service grant, which are both mission support grant programs and were available through the Synod. Today “Open Arms Senior Connection” continues as a two-day a week program for older adults in the greater Easton, PA community. Realizing that the time some of them spend with us at Open Arms might be the only times during the week that they enjoy a meal with someone, or have any human contact at all, inspires us to make the program as effective and impactful as possible.

Submitted by: Nancy Walters, Karen Beverly, Pattie Corcoran and Alice Lefebvre

To learn more about the activities and outreach of this ministry and other ministries, please visit the synod website @ www.nepasynod.org/stories-of-faith-in-action-page/# or look for it on our facebook page "Mission Interpreters of NEPA Synod." Remember to "Like" and Share."