



News at N4Cs

Northern Columbia Community and Cultural Center

Income Sources for N4Cs

Where Do We Get Our Money?

Since Northern Columbia Community and Cultural Center (N4Cs) is a non-profit institution, it receives no tax money. That means, it must generate its income from operations, grants, and donations.

In order to meet its financial obligations, the Center has developed many methods—each one important and each one necessary.

Every year in January, N4Cs mails a fund raising letter to area residents, in order to encourage friends and neighbors to help financially support the Center. Some people question why N4Cs needs additional fund raising since it already charges a membership fee. But the reality is that *Membership Fees* cover less than 50% of the costs to run the Center. The remainder comes from other sources. The an-

nual fund drive is only one of those sources.

2009-2010 Income Source	% of Total
Membership Fees	48
Program Fees	16
Auction	14
Grants	6
Thrift Shop	6
Contributions	5
Room Rentals	5

Sources of Income

The table above shows the various means that N4Cs employs to earn its income. *Program fees* generate 16% of the total income. The more programs and participants we have the more income. Over the past several years we have added a wide range of programs, and the number of participants in each has grown. For example, this

past year we added a monthly Friday Night Movie, tumbling/gymnastics, Zumba, and a twice-monthly Speakers' Series. This coming year will see the addition of adult acting class and a children's acting workshop.

Everyone agrees that the *Village Sampler and Fun Auction* annually provides an enjoyable evening, great food, and camaraderie. But the Auction also generates several thousands of dollars to help allay Center expenses. Thank you to all who attend and who donate and buy auction items.

Grants are perhaps an unrecognized source of funds. During the past two years, thanks to Center Director Rob Hutchison, we qualified for grant money that helped fund new programs and

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Special Interest

- *The Curious Savage*, April 1, 2, 3
- *Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield* funded N4Cs' tumbling mats
- *Charlie Crusan* is chef for the upcoming *Mardi Gras* celebration
- Watch for details on children's acting workshops
- Cut-off date for Auction item submission: March 25

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Rob's Corner

Help change someone's life!



Community Centers are places where people can meet others in the community who have similar interests, concerns, or problems.

Community Centers serve many purposes. Some people join to get involved in civic projects. Others volunteer to give themselves a renewed sense of purpose and usefulness. They help others and in doing so help themselves.

Oftentimes, by sharing information about them-

selves and their lives, people can help friends and neighbors unburden themselves too. Sometimes just talking about a problem relieves the burden. Perhaps difficulties that seem to have no solution appear not as major when someone else tells how they handled a similar issue, or suggests helpful resources to solve the problem.

It is rather amazing, but everyone that frequents a Community Center gets to know everyone else, in a very short time—just like here at N4Cs. At our Center, I have noticed that if one person has a problem, other Members are quick to rally round with support. If one per-

son doesn't show up on schedule, another will check up on them to make sure they are OK.

Last year I issued a challenge to invite at least one person to become an N4Cs' member. This year, I am not challenging you again or asking you to do me a favor. But I am asking you to invite someone to become a Member to help change their life! As you watch that person's life evolve by being apart of our Center, I hope you will smile knowing the good thing you did for him or her.

Respectfully,

Rob Hutchison

Invite someone to become an N4Cs' Member to change their life.

Village Sampler and Fun Auction

- April 10
- Cut-off date for receipt of auction items is March 25
- Music this year will be provided by Raven Creek

Volunteer of the Quarter: Diane Laubach

Northern Columbia Community and Cultural Center (N4Cs) named Diane Laubach Volunteer of the Quarter for the last quarter of 2010. Without Diane's commitment to the Benton Community Center it would not have achieved its huge success.

Diane has been an integral part of the Center since its inception. She served on the Board of Directors from 2003 to 2007—during the planning, design and construction phase of N4Cs. In 2006, when the Center opened a Thrift Shop, to supplement its income, Diane stepped forward to run the operation—a task she continues today, with the help of many other volunteers. Diane says she is “an organized person” so working with the Thrift Shop meshes well with her talents.



Diane Laubach, Volunteer of the Quarter Q4 2010

She has worked in the library and museum since the Center opened and was recently elected as Chairperson of the Library/Museum Committee. Since

childhood Diane has enjoyed reading and history, so her Library and Museum work nicely complements those interests.

Diane does not call attention to her work, or pat herself on the back—preferring instead to maintain a low profile while accomplishing her activities. She gets the job done and moves on to other tasks.

Those other tasks include a variety of activities that would overwhelm many people. She is an accomplished pianist and organist and has performed in concert at the Center. She also participated as accompanist during the recent Christmas play presented by Fishing Creek Players. She is the church organist for the Hamline Church and has played at the local Methodist Church and the Stillwater Christian Church.

She has been a member of the Benton Borough Council since 2010, and serves on several important committees for the local government.

Diane graduated from Benton High School in 1960, attended Bloomsburg State Teachers College, graduating from Otterbein University with a degree in art. She was a substitute elementary-school teacher and taught for tens years in a Christian pre-school. In 1970, she married college professor Dr. John Herbert Laubach. They lived in Westerville, Ohio, until her husband retired, when they moved “back home to Benton.” Diane has two sons, Rob who lives in Youngstown, Ohio and Brian, who resides in Benton.

Diane has been hoping for something like N4Cs since Benton's movie house closed in 1952.

“The Center is the best thing to happen to Benton in my lifetime.”

Diane Laubach

The Curious Savage

A play that leaves audiences with a warm, fuzzy feeling.

Fishing Creek Players will present John Patrick's The Curious Savage, directed by M.R. Daniels, on April 1, 2, and 3. It is a fast-paced play that mixes drama with comedy to portray the mischief that greed and unkindness can render. But at the same time, it is a tribute to the healing power of love and kindness.

The story revolves around a matriarch, Mrs. Ethel Savage, who inherits \$10 million and decides to spend it on what her children believe are frivolous purchases. For example, she buys a tombstone for vegetable seller's horse, and sends needy children on a cruise around the world, "while there is still a world around."

Mrs. Savage's children commit her to a sanitarium, the Cloisters, in order to get control of the fortune. At the sanitarium we meet the residents, who, although each with his or her own "quirk," are charming and dignified—quite the contrast to Mrs. Savage's greedy and manipulative children. The characters play nicely off each other, while the drama unfolds through a series misadventures, to reach its poignant conclusion.

Plan on spending a pleasant two hours watching the Savages and the residents of the Cloisters wend their way through this uplifting drama.

*"Man was made all wrong. His stomach should be in back. When he bends—it's in the way
Hannibal, Cloisters' resident*

Mardi Gras

A party you don't want to miss!

N4Cs plans to hold its first Mardi Gras celebration on March 5. By all early accounts the evening should be a night-to-be-remembered. The Center will be converted into a Cajun and Creole Restaurant with dinners offered from the kitchen of Chef Charles—Charlie Crusan, a Texas native and Cajun-inspired cook now living in Benton.

On the menu will be delights

such as Chicken & Andouille Gumbo, Shrimp Étouffé, Chicken & Sausage Jambalaya, and Cajun Pork Chop; for dessert plan on traditional King Cake, a 12th Century French tradition.

We hope you come and join friends and neighbors in this traditional pre-Lenten celebration. While you're at the Center you can also learn a little bit about Cajun and Creole history and their traditional cooking spices.

Income Sources for N4Cs

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activities, and also helped to meet operational expenses.

High Mark Blue Cross/Blue Shield contributed several thousand dollars to pay for mats—enabling the Center to offer the new gymnastics/tumbling classes. The Central Susquehanna Community Foundation (formerly Berwick Health and Wellness) has also contributed several thousand dollars, helping us meet expenses related to fitness activities. Finally, the Columbia/Montour Visitors Bureau donated funds which covered the Center's first Heritage Days Festival.

When a grant helps to subsidize a new program, the Center makes every effort to ensure that the program becomes self-sustaining, thus eliminating the need to re-apply for the same grant with the same purpose. We will continue to pursue all types of grant activity, although with the given economic condition grants are difficult to locate and to qualify for. Each grant has specific criteria which must be met, so we do not qualify for all types of grants

N4Cs' *Thrift Shop* has been in operation since 2006, a year before the Center opened. Thanks to a host of volunteers who sort, price, and sell items, and to the many people who donate gently-used clothing and household goods! The Thrift Shop has been a reliably good source of income for the Center.

Through the generosity of neighbors, friends and corporations

Contributions total 5% of N4Cs' income. In addition to the annual Fund Drive, one-time contributions are received from Center visitors and matching funds donated by corporations.

Room Rentals make up the final 5% of income. This includes rental income received from the Senior Center, and from activities such as Weight Watchers, Girl Scouts, and from individuals or groups who rent a room for parties or meetings.

Without each of them, we could not effectively function. Thank you for your generous support!

A New Grant in the Works

Rob Hutchison, Center Director, is in the process of applying for a grant from Central Susquehanna Community Foundation that will hopefully fund a 5-Year Plan for the Center. Over the past several years N4Cs has identified many unmet needs in the community. For example, we want to expand the Fitness/Aerobic room—but in order to accomplish that we must move the Food Bank. We would like to see a medical center or free clinic close to Benton. A community garden has been suggested. And storage space is always at a premium for Museum artifacts, Library books, Thrift Shop items, and Fishing Creek Players' props, etc.

A grant to finance a 5-Year Master Plan will help us develop an integrated and efficient plan to meet those needs.

Stay tuned! We'll keep you posted on the progress.

Membership fees only less than 50% of N4Cs' expenses

Grant to fund a 5-Year Plan

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Become Part of Our Family

Visit...

Enjoy...

Join!

N4Cs provides social services, cultural and educational opportunities, sports programs, and health and wellness activities for people of all ages. Thanks to the dedication of our founders, donors, staff, and volunteers, the greater Northern Columbia County and surrounding municipalities have become a better place to live and raise our families.

Sit 'N Fit

Stay Fit While Aging

Visit the Center any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday between 10:00 and 10:30AM and you will encounter a vision to brighten your spirits. On those days between 15 and 55 of Benton's "more senior generation" come to the gym for their workout.

Designed with the aging (or recuperating) body in mind, Sit 'N Fit exercises improve flexibility, strength and balance. It encourages participants to use parts of their aging body that aren't as limber as they once were. The program includes arm and leg stretches, neck rolls, shoulder lifts, light weight lifts, and other gentle movements.

By all accounts, the program is a huge success. Harold 'Butch' Johnson, who just celebrated his 90th birthday, said that "it keeps him in shape and out of trouble." Kay Chapman reported that since she has been consistently attending Sit N' Fit her persistent heel pain is gone, and she is more flexible. John and Charlotte Sibly, who are among the many regular attendees, love coming.

Charlotte said it helps her "stay young." She said that her physician commented that Sit 'N Fit is "the best thing to come to Benton." Dick Shoemaker not only feels more limber, but is also encouraging other people to join the Sit 'N Fit movement.

Most Sit 'N Fit participants come regularly and use the experience not just for exercise but also as a social gathering. After their workout about half of the class regroups in the Activity Room for a social hour with coffee and a lot of talk—another remedy to combat aging.



Mark Your Calendars

- **February 11:** Bluegrass Jam Session; 6:30-9:00PM
- **March 4:** Friday Night Movie, The Quiet Man
- **March 7:** Mardi Gras
- **April 1, 2, 3:** Fishing Creek Players presents The Curious Savage
- **April 10:** Village Sampler and Fun Auction