

Phoenixville Area Time Bank
ANNUAL REPORT
2009



**TIME
BANK**
*a local
community exchange*

Our Mission

Phoenixville Area Time Bank is a non-profit organization that enhances people-to-people support to build a fully inclusive, resilient community through a local service exchange network.

Our Vision

To create a strong, responsive, connected community where, using hours as currency, exchanges of personal talents can fill unmet needs.

PATB Principles

- **Assets** – each individual is an asset; we all have a skill or ability: something to give
- **Redefining Work** – “building community” is also real and valuable work; Time Dollars are a way to recognize and reward that work
- **Reciprocity** – helping works much better as a two-way street; those who receive are encouraged and enabled to give, in return, to another
- **Social Capital** – being together means being stronger; people are joined by their helping actions into a network of support, trust and strength.
- **Respect** – every human being matters; we must respect where people are in the moment, not where we hope they will be at some future point.

A Message from the President

Look how far we've come since our founding six years ago! Economic realities, coupled with growing interest in finding creative ways to build community, is placing Time Banking, with its unique form of currency, in a whole new light – *our time has come!* I'd like to share a brief outline of our history with you.

Time Banking in the Phoenixville area began in early 2004, with the first organizational meeting of a small group of enthusiastic pioneers, inspired by the visit and presentation of Time Banking founder Edgar Cahn. That spring, we held a public forum on Time Banking to introduce the concept to the community. The official launch of what was then called the Valley Forge Time Bank, a "neighbor-to-neighbor" organization, was facilitated by a benefactor, which allowed us to hire a part-time Coordinator. By the end of the year, we had about 30 members exchanging services.

The following year, we joined Time Banks USA and were one of the six Time Banks across the country to try out the new Community Weaver software for recording exchanges. We attended international conferences in Time Banking to network and learn about best practices, and by 2006 had grown to 60 members.

With a name change from Valley Forge Time Bank to the Phoenixville Area Time Bank, in 2007 we began earnestly to pursue non-profit status, a key objective that would enable us to apply for a variety of public and private grants. We were thrilled to achieve this ambitious goal in November 2008.

By 2009, in the face of economic turmoil, there was a surge in membership to 120 individuals, as word spread of the value of using everyone's skills and talents to fill unmet needs. We also expanded our reach by adding non-profit organizational members. Our membership is currently 170.

In January of this year, the PATB board held its third retreat. During the weekend sessions, the group discussed and debated PATB's organizational structure, processes and practices, renewed our commitment to the mission and vision, and developed a work plan for the coming year.

Now that you are up to date on where we are, and where we've been over the past six years, we sincerely hope you will join us and enthusiastically support our efforts to create a stronger, more responsive, connected community. We look forward to another exciting year of exchanges, new ideas, and new members.

Joel Bartlett, PATB President

Greetings from the Coordinator

Dear Members and Friends of Phoenixville Area Time Bank,

How fortunate we are to be part of a network of “neighbors helping neighbors”! I talk to so many people when they first learn about us, and it’s fun to share in their excitement at discovering a true gem in our local community. It’s equally heart-warming, later, to watch active members engaging with others, going out of their way to do “favors” through PATB for friends they’ve met through the Time Bank.

When Fox Philly-TV reporter, Josh Eininger, interviewed us last May for “Sign of the Times,” he wanted to know what kind of activity was going on in our Time Bank during the recent economic downturn. The TV spot showed

... a real-life example: Leila spent an hour walking someone's dog. She then cashed in that hour by getting a music lesson from her fellow time banker, Margo. Margo, in turn, spent some of her "Time Dollars" to have a bunch of people help her send out a mailing for a nonprofit she's involved in. At no point does money change hands, but people get stuff done - and do stuff for other people. In the process, they meet people from all walks of life, whom they may never have met otherwise. ...

Sarah Peppel, reporter for *The Phoenix*, met me for coffee in December and wrote an article for her column called, “When Time Is On Your Side.”

It is rewarding for people to share what they have to offer and do what they love. ... Being involved in the P.A. Time Bank helps you get to know your neighbors, save money, give what you want, get what you need, connect unmet needs with untapped resources, and make your neighborhood a better place to live. You can even donate your hours of service to the P.A. Time Bank Helping Fund, which gives to those who need it.

After hearing about our great network, Sarah enthusiastically joined PATB and set about doing exchanges herself.

We’d love to hear *your* stories. Check out our blog at <http://timedollarconnections.blogspot.com>, or write to us at timedollar@verizon.net.

Margo Ketchum, PATB Coordinator

Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

Financial and Operational Results

As with many individuals and organizations, 2009's struggling economy impacted the Phoenixville Area Time Bank. Despite the hardship brought on by the economy, 2009 total contributions increased modestly to \$10,537, including \$3,832 in donations stemming from membership support. (In 2008, total contributions were \$10,322 with members contributing \$3,515 of that amount.)

Fundraising activities provide significant support for operations with the \$5,739 raised in 2009 inline with 2008's \$5,507. The past year's fundraising events included sponsorship of a production of *The Smell of the Kill* at the Forge Theatre in Phoenixville and our annual "It's About Time" dinner dance, with concurrent online and silent auctions.

While total contributions saw a minor increase in 2009, total expenses increased significantly to \$11,046 compared to the \$9,845 incurred in 2008.

While funds raised in 2009 were consistent with those raised in 2008; the expenses necessary to maintain that level increased considerably. Fundraising related expenses were \$3,637 for 2009 and \$2,294 for 2008 and reflect 2009's challenging economic environment. Contributing to the increased fundraising expenses were one-time online auction-related expenses and higher expenses relating to the "It's About Time" dinner dance.

Other expenses were controlled with \$2,129 in 2009 and \$1,791 in 2008, with the difference attributed to TimeBanks USA's \$420 fee for use of its Community Weaver™ portal.

As with other non-profit organizations, in 2010 the Phoenixville Area Time Bank is working to use more efficiently the valuable financial support it receives from both its membership and its community.

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2009 and 2008 (unaudited)

	2009	2008
Assets		
Cash	\$247	\$756
Total Assets	\$247	\$756
Liabilities		
Deferred Stipend (a)	\$480	\$0
Total Liabilities	\$480	\$0
Net Assets (Liabilities)	(\$233)	\$756

Consolidated Statement of Activities

December 31, 2009 and 2008 (unaudited)

	2009	2008
Operating Revenues		
Member Support	\$3,832	\$3,515
Donations	\$966	\$1,300
Fundraising Activities	\$5,739	\$5,507
Total Operating Revenues	\$10,537	\$10,322
Operating Expenses		
Stipend	\$5,280	\$5,760
Operating Expenses	\$2,129	\$1,791
Fundraising Expenses	\$3,637	\$2,294
Total Operating Expenses	\$11,046	\$9,845
Revenue Over (Under) Expenses	(\$509)	\$477

- (a) The PATB has a relationship with an independent contractor to be its Coordinator. This is a part-time position that is paid in arrears. As of December 31, 2009, the outstanding balance represents December's \$480 monthly stipend payable in January 2010.

Committee Activity in 2009

Operations

A group of very dedicated people committed to the success of our Time Bank work steadily with Margo Ketchum in coordinating day-to-day activities for PATB:

- Fielding Inquiries
- Assisting Members with Exchange Activities
- Broadcasting Service Offers & Requests
- Posting Blogs at www.timedollarconnections.blogspot.com
- Processing Membership Contributions and Finances
- Following up on the Success of Time Banking

Many thanks to: Shari Graham, Fran Coghlan, Erin Thomas, Dan Klein, John Schaeffer, and Margo Ketchum.

Members & Exchanges

Although we did experience some attrition in 2009, Phoenixville Area Time Bank's membership grew by 30 members to a total of 150 at year-end. We had an amazing 1259 exchanges during the year, and the total number of exchanges in hours was 2900! The most common exchange categories that were posted included Helping our Time Bank, Work for Social Change, Computer Support, Business Services, Pet Care, Transportation, Counseling, Yoga/Meditation, Cooking/Sewing, and Garden/Yard Work. Many members also exchanged services without an ad ever being posted!

Social Activities

The year 2009 was a busy year for Time Bank members, with not only exchanges keeping them occupied, but also several fun social events to choose from. Our Time Bank members love their potluck events!

In January, we organized our very first "All Time Bank Evening Out" with several potluck dinners, each with a different theme for the night, occurring simultaneously at members' homes throughout the area. On a beautiful day in May, we hosted a very well attended outdoor wine & cheese potluck and garden tour at Time Bank member Jack Miller's extraordinary Japanese garden in Collegeville. In December, it was wine and cheese again that drew a crowd to Time Bank member Susan

Madden-Cox's Ocean-Earth-Wind-Fire Yoga Studio on Bridge Street in Phoenixville for some pre-holiday fun.

In June, we had our Annual Members' Meeting at the Phoenixville YMCA, and celebrated the 5th Anniversary of the Phoenixville Area Time Bank! This meeting was a great opportunity for members to get to meet one another, have their questions answered and share their valuable insights with our Coordinator as well as the Time Bank Board of Directors, Officers, and Committee Members.

The big event for the year was undoubtedly our fourth annual "It's About Time" Dance Party and Silent Auction, the proceeds of which benefit our Time Bank. Chico Huff & Friends provided the music for a fun evening of dancing and socializing. Silent and online auction items were available for bidding, thanks to the generosity of Time Bank members and local businesses. Special thanks go to member Jack Miller, who donated a portion of the proceeds of the sale of a substantial number of fine art works.

Our monthly Sunday socials at Artisan's Café on Bridge Street in Phoenixville continued to grow in popularity, especially since we started posting them online through our Meet Up group. Join us the 1st Sunday of the month from 4 pm to 5:30 pm to join the fun and meet other Time Bank members!

Occasionally, the location of the Sunday social is changed to highlight members and organizations in our community, such as the Community Garden in Phoenixville, which hosted our monthly event this past May. Then it was on to our Summer Potluck Picnic in July, which was hosted by Sheltering Arms, one of our organizational members. Not only were Time Bank members given the opportunity to socialize in lovely outdoor settings, but also to learn more about how our organizational members help the community we live in.

Time Bank social activities are coordinated by the Membership Committee, which is also responsible for new member orientations, ongoing member care, dues collection, and newsletters. Current committee members are Margo Ketchum, Laura Koetter, Carla Schaeffer, and Carol Rife, with Laura Steen, and Lucille Balukian joining us recently.

PR & Marketing

Social networking has come to PATB! Thanks to the creative contributions of Dan Klein and Lisa Gerardi, current members and those who are interested in time banking can now follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and join us on Meet-Up.

Our best regional coverage in 2009 came from Fox 29 (WTFX) in Philadelphia which featured PATB in their Sign of the Times segment in June. Josh Einiger and his camera man filmed and interviewed PATB members in action at Reeves Park, St. John's Community Garden & Labyrinth, and at the home of Margo Ketchum and Joel Bartlett.

We also had a presence at the Phoenixville Farmers' Market, Phoenixville's First Friday for non-profits, supported the Fundraising committee's efforts with event postings, and kept PATB marketing collateral stocked at select businesses in Phoenixville.

Looking forward to 2010, we have recommitted to coordinating PATB's presence at the Phoenixville Farmers' Market and to host a table at the Dogwood Festival. We are also identifying a few projects which will allow PATB members to reach beyond our base and demonstrate PATB's values by contributing to our greater community. Under consideration are Pennsylvania's Adopt-a-Highway program and other group projects that would support local non-profits which contribute to the health and well-being of our community at large.

Leaving the committee in 2009 were Cara Graver and Lucille Balukian. We thank them for their service. Joining us were Lisa Gerardi and Dan Klein.

If you would like to contribute your talents or ideas, please contact any of our current committee members: Karen Alderfer, Judy Antipin, Ann Marie Cantrell, Lisa Gerardi, Dan Klein, or Sylvia Yoder.

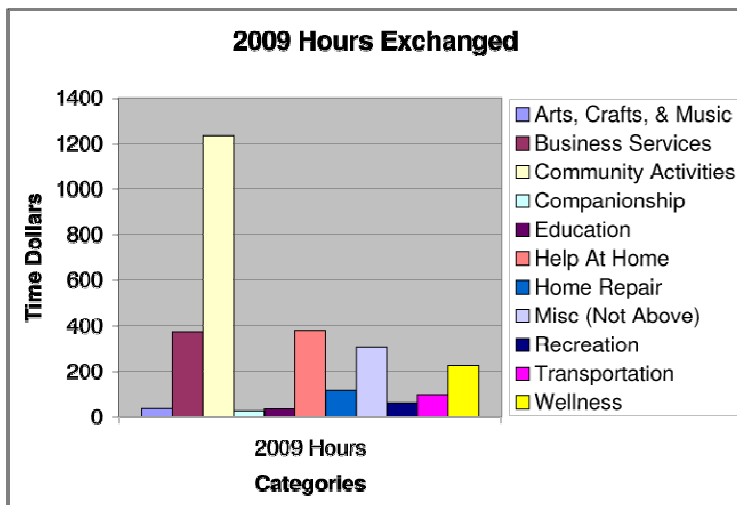
Dance Party and Silent Auction

In October of 2009, PATB held its fourth annual "It's About Time" Fundraising dance and silent auction. For the third year, the dance was held in the banquet hall of the Phoenixville Moose Lodge. More than 70 people turned out for the event, and a wonderful time was had by all. We danced the night away to the music of Chico Huff and Friends, dined on the catered food and mouth-watering homemade deserts (baked and donated by PATB members), and bid on the many silent auction items contributed



by local merchants, area museums, music venues, and landmarks. Attendees included local residents, PATB members, supporters, and a large and enthusiastic contingent from one of our non-profit members, Camphill Soltane. We will keep you posted on plans for this year's event, to be held in a new venue.

–Judy Antipin, Dance Committee Chair



2009	Category	Hours	Exchanges
1	Arts, Crafts, & Music	37	11
2	Business Services	373.5	189
3	Community Activities	1232.8	484
4	Companionship	27.5	22
5	Education	36	15
6	Help At Home	378.75	176
7	Home Repair	118.5	65
8	Misc (Not Above)	304.5	94
9	Recreation	61.5	32
10	Transportation	95.2	53
11	Wellness	227.5	113
Total		2892.75	1254

Excerpts from our PATB Blog:

<http://timedollarconnections.blogspot.com>

Cara: *[At the all Time Bank Evening Out] It was great to get together in people's homes and eat each other's favorite dishes...Games were played; conversations were enjoyed; houses were warm and welcoming... It wasn't about work or services... it was about getting to know each other in a purely delicious social setting.*

Laura: *For those of us without family in the area, the Time Bank community becomes our extended network to rely on when we need help. Recently, I became unexpectedly ill and was alone at home. I needed supplies, but I was too weak to get to the store myself. I asked for help, and within the hour, Margo was at the door with homemade soup, vitamin C-rich fruits, and many other sick-person goodies. Her care package got me through the day. Carol and John reached out to offer their help. Carol brought homemade broth the next morning, keeping my strength up. John generously ran errands for me, bringing much-needed liquids, meds, and other necessities to the door. All of this care helped me tremendously, and I am immensely grateful for the caring support of my Time Bank friends.*

Alexandra: *In September 2008, I lost my employment. I was panicky and distraught. Thank God for Phoenixville Area Time Bank and Jeff's offer for personal business coaching.... Jeff worked with me for one hour a week for three months...[In January] a company offered me a position that is identical to the affirmation statement [that resulted from this work]. Need I say more? Thank you, Jeff.*

Rev Dave: *The Time Bank is comprised of people who care about people, people who want to live in a community characterized by fellowship and service to each other...Looking at the potential of UUFP [Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown] joining forces with the Time Bank, as individuals and as a group, it is hard to see who is not a winner.*

Margo: *Being involved in the Time Bank helps you get to know your neighbors, save money, give what you want, get what you need, connect unmet needs with untapped resources and make your neighborhood a better place to live...the economy is causing more interest in this unique system of exchanging time...*

Looking to the Future

PATB 2010:

Increase Participation of Target Populations

The Phoenixville Area Time Bank (PATB) has set a goal to strengthen its focus on the following populations in the Phoenixville area in the coming year: senior citizens, convalescents, the disadvantaged, and people with disabilities. This project will further our stated mission as a non-profit organization. We see this as an important contribution to the overall health of the greater Phoenixville community.

Increased participation in the Time Bank:

- Enables independence through inter-dependence of members
- Reduces isolation, enriching daily life through warmth of human connection
- Levels the playing field economically as each person's hours are valued the same
- Encourages disadvantaged people through "co-production," (i.e. creating a positive outcome through a full cycle of giving and receiving between members, where services are truly successful because the people being served are involved)
- Maintains the dignity of the asker/receiver who knows s/he can give in return
- Challenges the conventional view that charity and social services are the only appropriate responses to the needy, vulnerable, and disenfranchised
- Helps to integrate people who "bounce" between a diversity of service providers.

The ultimate result is a strengthening of the social fabric of the community. As the number of participants and the number of hours invested increases with each year, the impact on the community grows.

A sub-committee, led by Margo, is implementing strategies to increase participation and measure success.

Current Officers

President Joel Bartlett
Vice-President Marcia Comstock
Secretary Laura Koetter
Treasurer John Schaeffer

Board Members

Judy Antipin
Joel Bartlett
Fran Coghlan
Shari Graham
Margo Ketchum
Laura Koetter
Sylvia Yoder

Coordinator Margo Ketchum

Committee Chairs

Operations Margo Ketchum / John Schaeffer
Membership Carol Rife
PR/Marketing Dan Klein
Fund Raising/Development Joel Bartlett

Phoenixville Area Time Bank

PO Box 964, Phoenixville, PA 19460

610-608-9281

timedollar@verizon.net

www.pa-timebank.com