

Slate Belt Rising Litter Pickup

By Brian Fenstermaker Slate Belt Rising Dir.

SLATE BELT - I would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the Slate Belt Rising Litter Pickup event that occurred last Saturday. This was my first SBR event as Director, and I was a bit nervous, but with our amazing volunteers and community leaders we hit it out of the park! Thank you all for making the program and more importantly the Slate Belt look great. Although I've been working in the Slate Belt for some time now, I always say the first thing you learn about the region is that when asked the residents always step up to the plate!

I'm thrilled to be able to announce that Waste Management informed me this morning that our four teams collected 460 pounds of garbage!

Great job everyone and THANK YOU! Enjoy the weekend!

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Scholarship Recipient Flourishes

By Stephnie Apell

(ALLENTOWN, PA) – Mark H. became the first man to benefit from the Allentown Rescue Mission's Educational Scholarship Fund in November 2021. A year and a half later, the Allentown Rescue Mission is proud to celebrate Mark's continued success. January marked his first anniversary working at Geodis Logistics. Mark was hired by the local logistics company as a forklift driver after completing Logistics & Forklift training at Lehigh Career & Technical Institute.

He received his forklift certification by participating in the Mission's Educational Scholarship Program funded by Glasbern and an anonymous donor for education to help homeless men become more employable.

Mark came to the Allentown Rescue Mission after he lost his job at a retail store in New York City. Once at the Mission, he immediately set goals for himself to end his homelessness and embraced all the programs the Mission had to offer.

First, Mark graduated from the Transformation Program which developed his life and work skills, and then worked for the Clean Team Workforce while saving money and completing forklift training through the scholarship program. Mark studied which local companies were hiring and found that warehouses across the Lehigh Valley had job openings.

He decided the quickest way to get back on his feet was to obtain a forklift certification. Mark says, "I am doing great. The scholarship program provided me with an opportunity to learn a skill and regain my independence." He hopes more men at the Mission will take advantage of the beneficial program. Mark plans to continue learning how the Geodis warehouse runs and hopes to eventually be promoted to a supervisor or management position.



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