

**2007 Bulletin of Reports  
Delaware-Maryland Synod**

**AGENCIES, INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

**HILLTOP LUTHERAN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER**

This year's report is presented with mixed emotion. We are extremely pleased to report that during this reporting period, we were able to make tremendous progress with our Youth Service Program. We were able to revitalize our Teen program and hire a full time Teen Program Coordinator and a part time assistant. These positions and other part time employee's and volunteers have enabled us to extend our hours of operation on weekends and provide services to children from 7 a.m. through 8-9 p.m. during the week. We are also extremely proud of the accomplishments of the children in our Latchkey program. All of them met or exceeded the standards on the State of Delaware's Standardized Tests (DSTP). While this is very good news, we are saddened and frustrated about the ongoing youth violence that plaques the City of Wilmington in general and the Hilltop community in particular. This senseless ongoing violence, driven primarily by the illicit drug trade, resulted in a record number of murders in the city and countless children, adults and seniors citizens being traumatized and held hostage in their own homes as a result. In 2007, Hilltop will remain committed to doing all we can to reduce and ultimately stop the violence.

We are truly grateful to J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation, Bank America Foundation, Wachovia Foundation, the Delaware-Maryland Synod, the City of Wilmington and the State Grant-In-Aid program for making it possible for us to revitalize and expand our Youth Service Program.

During this reporting period, we reorganized our pre-school services into one Early Childhood Education Program (ECEP) combining our Child Care, Early Head Start and Head Start Programs under one team of Supervisors headed by Ms. Dara Boger who was appointed as Deputy Director in June of 2006. We are pleased to report that our ECEP had satisfactory met the standards of a federal view during this reporting period.

We truly appreciate all the support and assistance that we received from all of our funding sources, volunteers and contributors. We truly appreciate all that they have done and will continue to do to help us make a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve.

In 2007, we envision completing the Strategic Plan that we started in 2006. This plan will determine the level and scope of service that we will provide over the next five years. Please keep a watchful eye out for a Hilltop Web Site early in 2007.

At the writing of this report, we have just received our 2005/2006 independent auditors report. There were no findings or disputes with management in this years report.

Finally, we recently purchased a house on the corner of the block where our Center is located. We now own all the property on the West side of the block adjacent to the main entrance of the Center and all the property on the north side of our original day care facility. We are excited about the potential for future growth that the purchase of adjacent properties presents.

*Jea Street, director*