



# Public Hearing: Neighbors Helping Neighbors - Examining the Ways Local Organizations are Helping Their Communities Deal with Rising Costs

The purpose of this hearing is to highlight the important work community organizations are doing to help families meet their basic needs amid rising costs.

**October 1, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.**

## Hearing Overview

- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Welcome**
- **Opening Remarks**
  - Chairman David H. Rowe
  - State Representative Marc Anderson
- **Testimony from Invited Experts**
- **Member Discussion with Testifiers**
- **Closing Comments & Adjournment**

## Testifiers - Panel 1: Community Organizations

- **Eric Saunders**, Executive Director, New Hope Ministries
- **Thad Sales**, Pastor, Calvary Methodist
- **Rodney Carberry**, Commander, Dillsburg Legion
- **Matthew Castillo**, Pastor and Founder, Believers Early Learning Center

## Testifiers - Panel 2: Neighbors Served

- **Dean Van Zanardi**, Director, Veterans Lake Fishing
- **Shirley Fortunato**, Member, Calvary Methodist

**Livestream**  
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Chairman David H. Rowe  
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# Panel 1: Community Organizations



## Eric Saunders

**Eric Saunders, MSW**, is the Executive Director of New Hope Ministries, a Christian social service organization serving individuals and families across South Central Pennsylvania. Saunders has led the organization since 2006, overseeing its growth and expanded efforts to address hunger, homelessness, unemployment, and other basic needs. He holds a Master of Social Work from Indiana University and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Under his leadership, New Hope Ministries has expanded its reach to three counties, 10 service locations, and a mobile pantry network serving smaller communities throughout the region.



## Thad Sales

**Rev. Thadius "Thad" Sales, M.Div.**, is the Pastor of Calvary Methodist Church in Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, a Global Methodist congregation. A native of Tioga, Pennsylvania, Sales began his ministry while attending Mansfield University, later serving churches in Pennsylvania and Kentucky. He earned his Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary in 2022 and was ordained as an Elder in the Global Methodist Church in 2024. He also served six years in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard as a Religious Affairs Specialist.



## Rodney Carberry

**Rodney Carberry** serves as Commander of American Legion Post 26 in Dillsburg, Pennsylvania. In this role, he helps lead the post in its mission of supporting veterans, honoring military service, and contributing to the Dillsburg community. American Legion Post 26 provides ongoing services and community activities for veterans and local residents.



## Matthew Castillo

**Pastor Matthew Castillo** is the founder of Believers Early Learning Center (BELC) in York Haven, Pennsylvania. His experience working with children in a community learning center inspired him to establish BELC to provide young children with a safe, nurturing, faith-based environment focused on early literacy, STEM exploration, character development, and biblical principles. Through his leadership, BELC seeks to support children and families while helping prepare young learners for future academic success.

## Panel 2: Neighbors Served



### Dean Van Zanardi

**Dean Van Zanardi** is the Director of Veterans Lake Fishing, a Pennsylvania nonprofit organization that provides free fishing and recreational opportunities for veterans and their families at Codorus Lake. The organization, active since 2020, provides fishing equipment, boats, kayaks, and other support to help veterans enjoy time outdoors and connect with fellow veterans. Van Zanardi is also active in the Pennsylvania Marine Corps League, where he has served as District 6 Vice Commandant and has been recognized as a Marine of the Year.



### Shirley Fortunato

**Shirley Fortunato** is a member of Calvary Methodist Church in Dillsburg, Pennsylvania. She is part of the church community and participates in its faith, fellowship, and outreach activities. Calvary Methodist is a Global Methodist congregation focused on serving its members and the surrounding community through worship, fellowship, and service.