

## LGH 990 Report: A modest improvement, a huge misdirection

Accompanying the copy of Lancaster General Hospital's Federal 990 Report for 2009 came a news release entitled "**Lancaster General Health Community Benefit Financial Summary, Fiscal Year 2009**" that purports that "Total Community Benefit Support" amounted to "\$73,645,000."

However, according to its Federal 990 Report, "*Description of Grants and Other Assistance to Individuals in the United States*" amounted to \$6,655,525, a respectable and welcome increase from the paltry \$1,183,464 of 2008, and an increase in contributions from one percent of profits to about 8.5%.

(Profits in 2008 were \$113,326,709 and in 2009 were \$78,844,643, still among the highest in the state. Not bad for a Public Charity during a recession year!)

So how does LGH justify exaggerating its "*Community Benefits*" eleven times?

They are claiming that \$49,731,000 in "*unpaid cost of care*", normal expenses borne by all hospitals as part of their mandate, as a "*benefit to the community*."

This is comparable to the airline industry treating free meals and baggage service as "*benefits to the community*." Or hoteliers, department stores and super markets claiming they are contributing "*benefits to the community*" every time they reduce a price or conduct a sale!

Another example is LGH's treating \$7,022,000 for "*Un & Under insured Unpaid Cost of Care*" also as "*community benefit*". Put simply, bad debt is treated as charity! If this is proper, we should thank the owners of millions of non-performing home mortgages for their great philanthropy!

We ask ourselves "*Why does LGH engage in such deception?*" The answer may be they count on the reluctance of the local media to challenge such egregious propaganda, although a careful reading of the recent *Sunday News* article provides some hints.

Moreover, LGH has become so spoiled by the docility of the Lancaster community that they take affront and refuse to respond to media inquiries. This isn't just *NewsLanc's* experience.

*Next week: Lavish pay increases for executives despite the Great Recession.*

## LETTER: Root cause of dysfunction of government

One thing Barry Lynn points out in reviewing "**Cornered: The New Monopoly Capitalism and the Economics of Destruction**" is how all of the economic issues we face are connected to concentrated corporate power. This is the root cause of the dysfunction of government as money dominates elections and, just as creativity is shut

out of business, new ideas are shut out of the political dialogue and real change to policies that would fix urgent problems are not considered.

This dysfunction makes it impossible for government to be responsive to the urgent necessities of the people and nation. **[Continued on back]**

We've become an oligarchy where the economic elite join with the government to ensure that wealth continues to funnel to the top. This rule of the wealthy few through government they control leaves most Americans struggling, bankruptcies and foreclosures rising, the middle class shrinking, poverty at record levels and the seeds of change being fertilized.

It takes organized citizens to make change. It was not Wilson who gave women the right to vote, but

**DAILY LOCAL NEWS (West Chester):**

Congressman Joe Pitts writes *"Before 2001, the government taxed the transfer of an estate worth more than \$1 million at a 55 percent rate.*

*Handing down a business or family farm to a son or daughter required extensive estate planning to ensure that property or equipment did not have to*

**INTELLIGENCER NEW ERA:** Article "PAM declares itself bankrupt" goes on to remark *"Finally, the new board and [Executive Director Thomas F. ] Godfrey have questions about the moves made in December by the earlier board."*

**WATCHDOG:** Talk about locking the barn door after the animals are out!

The *"moves"* by the earlier board have to do with PAM's prior board turning the academy's main

women demanding it; it was not LBJ and the Dixiecrats who dominated his party that gave us the Civil Rights Act, it was African Americans demanding it; and it was not Nixon who ended the Vietnam War, it was the American people (and the Vietnamese people) demanding it.

This is the way it has always been and it is our job as people who see the tremendous unfairness of the current economy to demand.

*be sold to pay the tax. However, the sudden death of a business owner could be devastating."*

**WATCHDOG:** Among other things, Pitts fails to mention that there was a Generation –Skipping Transfer Tax Exemption of \$2,000,000. Ninety-seven percent of families would not pay a cent in federal estate tax!

building over to UNCB bank. Furthermore, it transferred certain other real estate plus valuable instruments to the Ferree foundation of which Paul Ware is the prime benefactor. Ware was the chairman of PAM when all of the ruinous decisions were made pertaining to building and operations.

As have been all of the recent articles re PAM, this is comprehensive, nuanced and well written. A wag of the tail!

The above have been excerpted from [NewsLanc.com](http://NewsLanc.com).  
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