

Water Street Rescue Mission will take new name: 'Ministries'

Some divisions of charitable group also get clearer designations.

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When the Water Street Rescue Mission asked folks what the mission does, 94 percent knew it provides shelter and meals for the homeless at its South Prince Street headquarters.

But only 28 percent knew the mission also offers pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes in Lancaster and Columbia. Only 44 percent were aware the mission also has long-term housing for men.

The group's leaders wondered if the organization's name might just be too confining.

"People had no idea we were so big and that we did so much," said spokeswoman Maria Schaszberger.

So this week, the organization unveiled a new name, Water Street Ministries, which is the umbrella for its five different divisions, some of which also got a name facelift.

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Those divisions include the Wonder Club Early Learning Centers, formerly Wonder Club, which offers pre-kindergarten classes at the Ministries' South Prince Street location and the Columbia Mennonite Church, as well as pre-K and kindergarten classes at Covenant United Methodist Church in Lancaster.

Another division is Water Street Health Services, formerly Water Street Medical and Dental Clinic. Schaszberger said the name change reflects that the division could offer other health services in the future.

The Water Street Rescue Mission became just the Water Street Mission.

Two other divisions did not change their names. Teen Haven has youth centers in Lancaster, York and Philadelphia and a camp in York County. The Lydia Center offers an addiction recovery program for women and a center in York County.

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Water Street Ministries also got a new logo, replacing its square, blue and white logo that depicted a cross, a house and a dinner plate. The new yellow and orange logo is a circle surrounding a figure with outstretched arms. Divisions also have their own logos.

It also launched a new Web site, www.waterstreetministries.org . And it has filed name change documents with the state.

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