

*Ride along in Coatesville, continued...*

“I’m grateful for the opportunity to see Coatesville through Rodger’s lens, and get to know the people,” Mollica said. “The philosophy they have in Coatesville is working. They are sincere in their devotion to the community.”

Mollica said his position is new to Human Services, Inc. and Chester County, and it often involves finding individuals who have slipped through the cracks, needing mental health or drug and alcohol services, or those who have lost hope of finding housing stability. Part of his job is to restore that hope.

“I’ve seen a full spectrum of situations,” Mollica said. “One guy had been living in a tent in Chester County for the past five years. Problems with drugs, alcohol and various mental health conditions are common. We also see a lot of heroin addiction.”

The ride along experience helped him to understand how to become part of a community, Mollica noted, including supporting the local economy and sticking around to help serve meals at a local shelter. The connections he makes are crucial to help develop relationships and trust with those who need service and support.

His job has challenges, Mollica said, including linking people to the right services and overcoming the county’s lack of affordable housing. But the rewards are great. “When I see someone who is genuinely happy to be given an opportunity, to be seen, and acknowledged, when someone is given hope, it’s all worth it,” he said.

“Rodger and I helped to serve lunch at one of the local shelters where he regularly helps. They serve lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays to 30 to 50 people, and I’ve continued to go back each week,” said Mollica. “I really can’t say enough about his approach, and the Coatesville police. They should write a book and everyone should read it.”

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