



Franklin Footnotes

"We Are Making A Difference"

An Update for Friends of Franklin Community Center—April 2011

What's New and Exciting?

Things at Franklin Community Center have been kicked in to high gear since January. Let us fill you in:

- The **Adirondack Trust Company** made a **\$2,000 donation** to FCC—thanks to the votes of their credit card customers. When asked which non-profit should receive the bank's contribution, FCC was chosen by the voters amongst many other deserving non-profits. Thank you!
- **Saratoga Springboard** is working hard on a new fundraiser for Project Lift, called **Project Lift University**. Please mark your calendars for the evening of Thursday, June 23rd and join us at **Longfellows** for a great time. More Project Lift news included on page 4.
- **Leadership Saratoga** has installed **new shelves in our food pantry** to maximize space and efficiency. We've also implemented a more streamlined database system, thanks to their help.
- Preparations for our **13th Annual Franklin Open** golf tournament are in full swing—help us make it a "lucky" one. Don't forget to send in your registration form and payment, located on page 3.
- The **Melanie O'Donnell Memorial** race is scheduled for **September 18th**, and we're the beneficiaries! Get those running shoes ready! More details to come.



Board Bio

Gary Ferguson, Treasurer



Mr. Ferguson has been a member of the Board of Directors for five years and was appointed to Treasurer in 2009. He became involved with the Center following his completion of a Leadership Saratoga Project to benefit FCC. Mr. Ferguson is Vice President for Corporate Development for Saratoga National Bank, where he is responsible for the development of corporate banking relationships and business lending. An area resident since 1980, Gary remains actively involved in the community. In addition to FCC, he is also involved with Domestic Violence Rape Crisis of Saratoga County, Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce, and the Saratoga Springs Lions Club.

Inside This Issue:

New and Exciting News	1
An Inside Perspective.....	2
Donation Information.....	2
The Franklin Open	3
Project Lift News	4



We are pleased to announce that Project Lift, our after-school prevention program, has been selected to participate in the national **Service to Science** initiative, which aims to provide direct assistance to program developers, implementers and evaluators to help them better assess the program's effectiveness. Project Lift meets the criteria and supports state prevention efforts to ensure that more local programs are addressing critical substance abuse and mental health needs, according to evidence-based standards. We are honored and excited to be recognized by this initiative and look forward to improving the well-being of our area's targeted youth on a daily basis.



An inside perspective...

“No, I’m sorry we don’t have any openings right now, but you’re more than welcome to come in and fill out an application...”

I say this phrase literally every single day—and it’s not in reference to people asking about a job—it’s about people searching for a place to live. I’ve said it more times than I can count, and the scary part is, I’ve only been back to work for three months.

Much of Franklin Community Center is the same as I when left it in 2007, when I departed to become a stay-at-home mom. But being back on the job on a daily basis has me quickly realizing just how much things have changed, especially in the wake of our downturned economy.

The phone rings constantly. People are accessing our services, far more than ever before, and referrals from other agencies are pouring in, with an emphasis on people looking for housing and help with rent. For those facing tough times, the shelter and local hotels provide a temporary respite, but neither is designed to be permanent housing. Faced with the threat of time and money running out, our city’s residents are scrambling for safe and dependable places to call home. Franklin Community Manor’s 17 efficiency apartments, which are generally full, have a waiting list 10 people deep, leaving those unsettled with very few options or places to turn.

As gas prices skyrocket, the number of people relying on our food pantry continues to rise, with people being forced to choose between food for their families or gas to help them get to their jobs. Meanwhile, I’m meeting veterans and their families who’ve moved back to their hometown after deployment, struggling to find jobs and housing in our city. And in the midst of it all, the devastating result of funding cuts to our agency will undoubtedly have a direct effect on these people who need us the most.

These are some very tough times, and frankly, it’s a little scary as we find ourselves doing more with less while we continue meeting the needs of our community. But as I struggle to make sense of it all, I realize all we can do here is be thankful for the support we do have, and use it to pay it forward, not only at our jobs, but in our everyday lives. FCC has been here for nearly 30 years, doing what we do best, and we’re not planning on going anywhere anytime soon.

I knew there was I reason I came back to this place—it’s about the people. The staff, the generous donors, the loving community and the thankful individuals and families we reach each day. I just try and remind myself, just like our motto says, *we are making a difference*.

~Bo Goliber, Coordinator of Development and Volunteers

Walking the extra mile...

Students from Division Street Elementary School braved the February chill to hand-deliver items they collected for our food pantry. The students rallied their teachers and peers to give back in honor of their 100th day of school. With their insightful questions and giving hearts, the kids are the perfect proof that you’re never too young to give back!

Thank You!



Donation Information:

- Non-perishable food items may be dropped off Mon. -Fri. from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 10 Franklin Street. Please see our current list of needs below.
- In-season clothing and small household items may be dropped off at 101 Washington Street on Tues. from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Monetary donations can be made via paypal on our website, by mail or in person at 10 Franklin Street.

Food Pantry Shopping List:

Spaghetti Sauce
Cereal
Chef Boyardee/
Spaghettios
Coffee
Jelly
Canned Fruit
Rice
Noodle Side Dishes
Diapers/ Baby Supplies
Hygiene Products

Other ways you can help...

- Donate a gas card.
- It's not too late to mail in your tax deductible Friends of the Center donation.
- **Green thumb?** We'd welcome volunteers to donate and plant simple flowers for our boxes in front of our buildings.



Project Lift Updates

What a great year it's been so far! Lifter retention and participation are high, volunteerism from SSHS and Skidmore students is strong, and support from the teachers and school staff continue to make the program a success. Despite nearly \$30,000 in funding cuts in our troubled economy, FCC and Project Lift staff continue to forge ahead, striving to raise community support to help Project Lift get the recognition it deserves.

A new and exciting fundraiser, planned by [Saratoga Springboard](#), will specifically benefit Project Lift in an effort to raise necessary funds to sustain the program at three local schools in the Saratoga Springs City School District. Scheduled for the evening of [Thursday, June 23rd](#) at [Longfellows](#), this academic-inspired event will be moderately priced and is geared toward promoting the importance of education in the lives of our youth.

Guests will take a trip back to their college days with an opportunity to make a donation by "registering for one-time classes" with local "professors", such as chefs, artists, photographers and more. With an event as unique as Project Lift itself, [Project Lift University](#) is sure to be a great time for everyone—and a perfect way to directly benefit the children we serve. Save the date cards coming soon!

Help Lift a Child's Spirit

- Consider donating funds toward a summer camp scholarship
- Purchase peanut/gluten free snacks for program
- Donate a gift certificate toward a pizza party
- Help fund Project Lift by attending our fundraiser

This issue of Franklin Footnotes is sponsored by

**Miller
Printing**



Franklin Community Center, Inc.
10 Franklin Street
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
www.franklincommunitycenter.org
info@franklincommunitycenter.org
[p] 518-587-9826 [f] 518-587-5293



Project Lift logo created by [lisDESIGN](#) ideas that are beautiful.

Summer Camp News

We are thrilled and incredibly thankful to have the support of the [Christopher Dailey Foundation](#) and the [Saratoga Springs Rotary Club](#), who have each donated generous funding toward summer camp scholarships for our Project Lifters. Thanks to the help of these organizations, the children in our program will enjoy a summer experience that might not otherwise have been possible!



Presorted Standard
US Postage PAID
Saratoga Springs, NY
Permit #208

or current resident