



Franklin Footnotes

"We Are Making A Difference"

An Update for Friends of Franklin Community Center—January 2010

President's Corner

Is anyone else having Déjà vu? It was exactly a year ago, for the purpose of our January newsletter, Kari and I were reflecting upon the past year and chatting about all the changes headed our way for 2009. As I sit here now, in the early days of 2010, I am writing my own piece for the newsletter, astounded at how much the Center has accomplished in the year behind us and thrilled to see what the new decade has in store.

It was another **amazing** year. Record numbers of families were helped by our services, and countless donors spilled forth their generosity to make it happen. Project Lift is thriving; our food pantry is feeding hundreds of local children and families; our staff is re-defining and demonstrating "teamwork" on a daily basis. I've never been more proud to be aligned with such an amazing group of people.

But let's face it, folks, we're not getting any younger. "And times, they are a changing." **Franklin Community Center** has stood the test of time for more than three decades, evolving necessarily along the way but still continuing to provide the same level of compassion and service to our community's less fortunate. We've modernized, expanded and adapted, but somehow we've managed to keep the Center's mission our main focus at all times. Despite the fact that the number of families we serve has more than **doubled**, our staff still provides a one-of-a-kind, non-bureaucratic, hands-on approach that offers comfort to every person who turns to us for help. And thankfully, our supporters, who make all these programs possible, share a common goal: **the desire to make a difference**.

So, next year, when we're getting ready for our 2011 newsletter, feeling grateful for our generous donors and figuring out more amazing ways the Center can keep up with the times, you can expect to see the same level of commitment to our community you always have. And I'll be expecting another episode of Déjà vu.

Bo Goliber, Vice-President



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Save the Date

13th Annual Franklin Open

When: June 5th, 2010

Where: Windy Hills Golf Course, Greenwich

Visit our website for more details as they become available!

If you'd like to be a corporate sponsor, please call 587-9826.





The spirit of giving is alive and well in **Mr. Scott Stewart's** 2nd grade classroom at the Waldorf School in Saratoga Springs. Searching for an opportunity to teach his eleven 2nd grade students about community service, Mr. Stewart contacted Franklin Community Center to see how he could help. Fortunately, the call came at a time when donations for Franklin Community Center's food pantry were extremely low, so the 2nd graders set to work organizing a food drive to help supplement Thanksgiving Baskets to be distributed in November.

The students, along with Mr. Stewart and a few parents, headed over to 10 Franklin Street to see the food pantry first hand. After the visit, the inspired class began designing fliers and posters to hang throughout the school, advertising their food drive. As donations rolled in, Mr. Stewart was able to incorporate the food drive into his lesson plans, teaching children math skills using the non-perishable food items that filled his classroom.



Mr. Stewart and his 2nd grade class

Their posters worked and their efforts were quite successful in involving the school community. Students dropped off over 200 items to the food pantry at the conclusion of the two-week food drive. All of the students should be commended on a job well done!

A special thank you to Henry Rathener, a 3rd grader at The Waldorf School who organized a very successful holiday toy drive!

Keep the change!

A little bit makes a large difference! You may have seen, or even donated to our coin boxes around town. The boxes are placed at local businesses throughout Saratoga Springs and patrons are invited to donate their change to support programming at FCC. We are proud to announce that the total raised throughout 2009 was **\$1167.63!**



Thank you to all of those who spared your change and a special thank you to Allerdice Building Supply, D'Andrea's Liquor Store, Grapevine Fine Wines & Liquor, Crush & Cask, Roma Importing Co., Virgil's House, Sloppy Kisses, Purdy's Discount Wine & Liquor, Impressions of Saratoga, West Ave Pizzeria and Esperanto for providing us with space to display our coin boxes! If you're interested in having a box at your establishment to help FCC in 2010, please contact us!

Dine to Donate Update

Thank you to everyone who visited Five Guys to support FCC on October 14th! We raised over \$100.00 to support programs at the Center!

In an effort to support our local economy, FCC encourages you to buy local and **GIVE LOCAL!** In times of economic distress, store owners struggle to maintain their business, not-for-profit agencies face heavy funding cuts and community members are in need now, more than ever. Franklin Community Center has worked tirelessly to serve our friends and neighbors in their time of need. Through creative cost cutting measures, FCC is dedicated to utilizing funding to serve those in need and keep costs as low as possible. With a small staff and countless volunteers, FCC serves over **2,000** people annually through **free services** such as an emergency food pantry, holiday and back to school assistance, furniture and clothing distribution and Project Lift. Giving locally keeps your donation in **your** community, supporting your friends and neighbors.

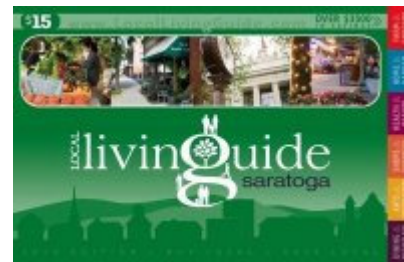


GIVE LOCAL

volunteer • support • donate

Looking to **GIVE LOCAL** and **SHOP LOCAL**?

Purchase your **Local Living Guide** for \$15 and receive over **\$3,500** in discounts and special offers at local retailers and restaurants. Register your book online and choose Franklin Community Center to be the beneficiary of your purchase; 30% of the purchase price will go to support programs at FCC.



Visit www.locallivingguide.com for more information or to purchase.

FCC Welcomes Junior Board Member

Franklin Community Center is pleased to announce the appointment of **Gina Major**, as a Junior Board Member. Gina is a senior at Saratoga Springs High School and



Gina Major

plans to study psychology in college. She is extremely active in her school community; participating in a variety of clubs and organizations, along with advance placement courses. Gina is currently conducting research on depression in teens as part of the University

in the High School Science Research Program. Gina will surely be a wonderful addition to the Center!

Thanks for stopping by!

We were delighted to have **Senator Roy McDonald** and **Mayor Scott Johnson** come by the Center to learn more about the services we provide and discuss the impact our current economy is having on our agency and the people we serve. We are so fortunate to have local officials who are committed to meeting the needs of our community!



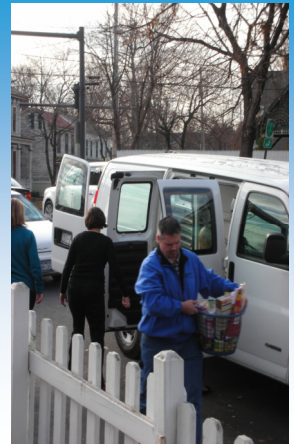


Happy 2010!

The holidays have come and gone and we are wishing you and yours a happy, healthy and prosperous 2010. Franklin Community Center would like to thank the incredibly **generous community of Saratoga Springs and beyond**. We received record numbers of applicants for assistance this year and were able to provide holiday assistance to more than 600 people in Saratoga County. Once again, our community has come together to support their friends and neighbors during the holiday season. Franklin Community Center thanks all of you who participated in helping make the season brighter for our less fortunate neighbors!



Holiday gift donations at FCC



Volunteers unloading Thanksgiving Baskets



Project Lift Update

Project Lift, our after school prevention based program for youth attending Greenfield Elementary, Geysers Road Elementary and Lake Avenue Elementary Schools, is going great! The Geysers Road Elementary School Project Lift program is made possible in part with funds from the Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Foundation.

We kicked off the start of winter with our annual Winter Family Celebration at each school. Eat Smart New York and Fidelis Care attended the parties and provided some wonderful information and ideas to our families.

Thirty-four of our Project Lift families received holiday assistance through our program with many thanks to the community members, civic groups, companies and churches who provided gifts and meals.

A very sincere thank you goes out to all of you who have helped provide snacks for the children participating in Project Lift. I would like to extend a special thanks to SEFCU Trustee Board Member **Bob Cornute** and the Greenfield Elementary School 1st Grade!

Wakin' Up with the Wolf – PYX 106 – THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT! That was my first experience on a radio show and it was great.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Saratoga Gaming and Raceway Foundation for their generosity again this year. Our Open House would not be possible without your support.— Thank You To All!

Jaime Williams

Program Coordinator



You're Invited...

\$5 Ham "Economic Stimulus" Dinner
(to benefit local food pantries)

When: Saturday, January 23rd, 4pm-6:30pm

Cost: \$5 for adults (second helpings and kids are free!)

Where: Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church (exit 14 off Northway to Henning Rd. & Fifth Ave.)