Dear Friends,

Happy New Year from all of us here at Franklin Community Center! THANK YOU for helping us meet the needs of a record number of individuals and families.

From the many community food drives, the endless volunteer hours put in by our friends and neighbors, to the financial generosity of our corporate neighbors, your partnership makes such an amazing difference every day.

Because of you, a child has a safe, empowering place to go after school with Project Lift. Because of you someone has a warm, safe place to sleep. Because of you, a family has food to eat. Because of you, we honor those less fortunate than us by helping them meet their own needs.

We make it our mission each and every day to spread your goodwill by fostering a sense of family to every person who turns to us for help. Our efficient services include safe and affordable housing; a food pantry; free clothing and furniture distribution; advocacy and referral information; holiday assistance; our Methods of Motherhood classes; and our after-school prevention program for at-risk youth called Project Lift.

In partnership with caring supporters, like you, we are making a difference. Please make your tax-deductible gift today by using our pledge card located on the back of this newsletter; or via Pay-pal on our website, without any fee or cost to you.

To learn more about us and to see how your donations directly help others, please come visit us at the Center or view our website at www.franklincommunitycenter.org. We are eternally grateful for your continued support.

Many blessings,
Karen D’Andrea
Board of Directors

Inside This Issue:

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year from all of us here at Franklin Community Center! THANK YOU for helping us meet the needs of a record number of individuals and families.

From the many community food drives, the endless volunteer hours put in by our friends and neighbors, to the financial generosity of our corporate neighbors, your partnership makes such an amazing difference every day.

Because of you, a child has a safe, empowering place to go after school with Project Lift. Because of you someone has a warm, safe place to sleep. Because of you, a family has food to eat. Because of you, we honor those less fortunate than us by helping them meet their own needs.

We make it our mission each and every day to spread your goodwill by fostering a sense of family to every person who turns to us for help. Our efficient services include safe and affordable housing; a food pantry; free clothing and furniture distribution; advocacy and referral information; holiday assistance; our Methods of Motherhood classes; and our after-school prevention program for at-risk youth called Project Lift.

In partnership with caring supporters, like you, we are making a difference. Please make your tax-deductible gift today by using our pledge card located on the back of this newsletter; or via Pay-pal on our website, without any fee or cost to you.

To learn more about us and to see how your donations directly help others, please come visit us at the Center or view our website at www.franklincommunitycenter.org. We are eternally grateful for your continued support.

Many blessings,
Karen D’Andrea
Board of Directors

Inside This Issue:

- Friends of the Center
- SGR-A friend of the Center
- Project Lift Update
- News at FCC

Please become a Friend of the Center in 2011. To donate, please fill out the response card located on the last page of this newsletter or on our website. Donate via mail, telephone or online and know you are helping us continue to make a difference in our community.

Karen D’Andrea, President

Ms. D’Andrea has been a Member of the Board of Directors for five years and was appointed to President in May 2009. Karen became involved with the Center following her completion of a Leadership Saratoga project to benefit FCC. From that time Karen has been an active member of our community and Board. Currently Ms. D’Andrea serves our community in dual capacities both through her volunteerism and her professional career as a Deputy County Attorney in Saratoga County. Karen was recently honored with the Saratoga TODAY Women of Influence Award for her dedication to our community. In her free time, Karen enjoys downhill skiing and Bikram yoga.
Franklin Community Center relies heavily on the support of our friends and neighbors to continue providing services to our community. Saratoga Gaming and Raceway has provided constant support of our mission. Through the years, Saratoga Gaming and Raceway has sponsored numerous events and provided many wonderful opportunities for partnership.

In the past year alone, Saratoga Gaming and Raceway has seen a lot of Franklin Community Center! From being a Platinum Sponsor of our annual golf tournament, The Franklin Open, donating Foundation funds to support Project Lift. In November 2010, the Saratoga Harness Horseperson Association (SHHA) teamed up with FCC once again to grant funds in order to help offset budget cuts to Project Lift. Drivers generously donated their entire matinee card driving fees to the Center. “We were so touched to learn that the drivers planned to help FCC in this way,” says Courtney Bissell, Coordinator of Development and Volunteers at the Center, “it is an amazing donation that comes at the perfect time”. When Saratoga Gaming and Raceway learned of the generosity of the horsepersons, they decided to contribute as well. “SGR is very pleased to partner with the local horsemen to make this donation to FCC,” explains Skip Carlson, Vice President for External Affairs for SGR. “The Center works extremely hard through a variety of initiatives to foster a sense of neighborhood giving to help the less fortunate in the Saratoga community. Our donation will be used to support Project Lift, an after school prevention program that recently sustained $30,000 in budget cuts.”

While Saratoga Gaming and Raceway is a huge financial supporter of the Center, they also employ a group of kind, caring individuals who are eager to support the efforts of Franklin Community Center in any way possible. Numerous volunteers have become involved with the Center through their tenure at SGR. From serving on our Board of Directors, to helping enhance our fundraising plans, adopting a family at the holiday time or simply volunteering to help unload groceries at our food pantry.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our staff and the families we serve, we applaud you, Saratoga Gaming and Raceway. Together, we are truly making a difference in the lives of our friends and neighbors.

Save the date!

The Franklin Open, our annual fundraising golf tournament will be held on Saturday, June 4th, 2011. Registration information will be available in April. We are seeking event sponsors and prize donors. If your company would like to learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please call 587-9826 or email bo@franklincommunitycenter.org to find out how to help.
Project Lift Begins their 26th Year!

It’s a scary world for not-for-profit agencies these days, but despite major funding cuts, Project Lift recently began their 26th year in operation. Students in Greenfield, Lake Avenue and Geyser Road Elementary Schools were greeted by the familiar faces of Project Lift staff, and the friendly faces of our new volunteers when they kicked off another great school year back in October. Through the generosity of local businesses, community members and grant funding, Franklin Community Center has been thrilled to sustain programming again for the 2010-2011 school year.

And an exciting year it will be — Saratoga Springboard, a group of energetic professionals dedicated to helping local not-for-profits, has been working with Project Lift and Franklin Community Center on their 2010-2011 project. “Franklin Community Center is so excited to have been chosen as the beneficiary of Saratoga Springboard’s efforts!” says Kari Cushing, Executive Director. So what’s in store? The group will be designing marketing materials and an annual fundraiser to benefit Project Lift to help sustain future funding. Their support comes at a critical time. As funding sources continue to dwindle, the program could face major set backs; creating an uncertain future for many of our students.

“Prevention programming is pivotal in the lives of our Lifters,” says Jaime Williams, Deputy Director and Program Coordinator. “We see students making great strides each day.” Through a comprehensive approach, students learn about drug, alcohol and tobacco prevention while working on character development skills, self esteem, communication and decision making. Not only do the students gain access to invaluable information, but they find themselves within a core support group. “Our students really form close knit bonds while they are at Project Lift. We’ve watched them become a family”, says Aliza Travis, Prevention Educator. Students are typically enrolled in the program for multiple years, forming strong bonds with staff as well. On staff is a Family Outreach Educator, charged with the great task of ensuring all of the students, their siblings and their families are cared for. “Any issues that may arise within the family unit, we are here to assist with;” says Lehra Inglis, Family Outreach Educator. “We are really open to anything.”

As Project Lift continues to change and grow, we are looking forward to a bright future. It’s really an amazing thing to be a part of” notes Christina Sipple, Prevention Educator. We hope to continue our unique approach to programming for as long as the need is great. For more information on how you can help, Project Lift sponsorship opportunities or information on our upcoming fundraiser, please email info@franklincommunitycenter.org or call 587-9826.

Become a 2011 Friend of the Center.

Your donation will help us continue our necessary programs and services.

I would like to be a Friend of the Center!

☐ Continuing Member— $25
☐ Patron— 100
☐ Life Member— $1000
☐ Supporting Member— $50
☐ Benefactor— $500
☐ Other— $______

Name: ____________________________ Phone: ____________ Email: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________

  street                city                state                zip

www.FranklinCommunityCenter.org
A new year, and a new face at FCC!

Franklin Community Center will be saying goodbye to Coordinator of Development and Volunteers, Courtney Bissell, as she departs from her role at the Center. Courtney has accepted a position at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and will be working in Institute Advancement. As an Associate Advancement Officer, Courtney will work with Corporate Match Sponsors and alumni to build a program to enhance revenue at the Institute. While at the Center, Courtney has worked collectively with the staff, Board of Directors and volunteers to raise awareness about the needs in our community and the services we offer, as well as secure funds necessary to enable Franklin Community Center to flourish.

As Courtney moves on, Roberta (Bo) Goliber will be stepping into her role at the Center. Bo has been a Board Member since 2007 and took on the role of Vice President in 2009. Before joining the Board, Bo was a member of Franklin Community Center’s staff as Community Relations Specialist. She is currently a stay-at-home mom and enjoys writing, singing, volunteering, cooking and making a difference in the community, however she can. Bo will be joining FCC as 2011 begins and is excited to take on her new role. Please welcome Bo to the Center by stopping in for a visit, calling us, or emailing her at bo@franklincommunitycenter.org.

Franklin Community Center wishes Courtney and Bo well as they take on new challenges in the new year!

Franklin Community Center was able to provide holiday assistance to a record number of families and children this year! We couldn’t have done it without your help. On behalf of our staff and Board of Directors, we extend our sincerest thanks to all of you who remembered Franklin Community Center this holiday season. From organizing an adopt-a-family donation, hosting a food or toy drive, volunteering your time or sending financial support—we are so honored that you chose Franklin Community Center.

Best wishes in 2011!

Get your running shoes ready...

Franklin Community Center is proud to be chosen as the beneficiary of the 2011 Melanie O’Donnell Memorial Race. Funds used will support the Center as well as a scholarship in Melanie’s honor. Mark your calendars for this exciting event on September 18, 2011. Whether you run or walk in the 5K, beat your record time in the half-marathon or volunteer your time, we could use your support!

Method of Payment

☐ I have enclosed a check in the amount of $_____

Name as it appears on card: ___________________________ Amount to be charged $_____

Card Number: ___________________________ 3 Digit Security Code (found on back of card): ______

Card Type: Visa Discover Mastercard Expiration Date:____/____ Phone:___________

Billing Address: __________________________________________________________________________

______________________________ __________________________ ________________
street city state zip

Signature: ______________________________

Thank you choosing Franklin Community Center to be the beneficiary of your generosity. Please know, your donation will be used to serve local families and children in need. Together, we are making a difference.

Please clip this card and use the self addressed envelope provided to make your donation.