



Franklin Footnotes

Annual Report Edition

An Update for Friends of the Center, January 2014

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Kari Cushing

January 2014

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Dear Friends,

It has been another amazing year at Franklin Community Center. With economic times continuing to be difficult, and a record number of our neighbors relying on our services, we are proud to say that we have, once again, been able to fulfill the growing needs within our community because of your help.

Inside this issue of Franklin Footnotes, we will share our key accomplishments from the past year, as well as our vision for the future of our organization. You will also have the opportunity to begin (or continue) your partnership with us as a 2014 Friend of the Center, creating relationships that are essential in supporting the amazing work our staff facilitates in our community.

For the past 12 years, I have been honored to be an active supporter of Franklin Community Center. I would encourage you to make a contribution to this worthy organization that is proudly supported by 100 percent of our Board Members.

As a person working in business myself, I continue to be impressed by the well-balanced and unique dynamic of this organization, driven by efficiency and fiscal conservancy, combined with the compassion and empathy that is absolutely necessary to provide such vital services to those in-need—it is a delicate and rare balance for which a donor searches when choosing a charity to support. I can say with confidence that those qualities are exemplified in FCC.

Thank you for being a part of Franklin Community Center's evolution for nearly three decades.

As your neighborhood, grass-roots organization, we'll continue to do what we do best for as long as we have your support, knowing that with each person we serve, "we are making a difference."

With gratitude,

Brian J. Corcoran

President Board of Directors

Our Philosophy is to "Send people out the door with whatever they came in looking for."



Please become a Friend of the Center in 2014. To donate, please fill out the response card located on page 3 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.

Our Present Programs include but are not limited to:

- Safe and affordable housing
- Emergency food pantry
- Project Lift, after school prevention program
- Free clothing and household items distribution center
- Furniture distribution program
- Holiday assistance
- Advocacy and referral information
- School supplies
- Summer camp scholarships
- Parenting information for teens M.O.M.
- Free haircuts
- And more.....

Reflections of our Success

Key Accomplishments for 2013

- In 2013, we served more than 8,000 people with our food pantry.
- Our free store at 101 Washington Street served more than 8,500 people in 2013. This included the hundreds of coats that were distributed.
- We helped provide Christmas gifts to over 600 local children and over 200 Halloween costumes to local children.
- Our golf tournament in June 2013 raised over \$20,000.
- A successful collaboration with Rebuilding Together and The Saratoga Senior Center raised \$1,800 for each agency at our Brooks BBQ. Another is planned for July 24th, 2014.
- We raised nearly \$40,000 at our Project Lift University Event in October.
- Our Celebrations “Party It Forward” program is growing and providing opportunities for youth to give back.
- Our after-school prevention program, Project Lift, served 63 Project Lifters, 50 families and 78 siblings in 2013.
- Through Project Lift we’ve provided help to local families with sports, birthdays and other important milestones that might not otherwise have been possible.
- We had over 150 high school and Skidmore volunteers participate in Project Lift.
- We had over 75 volunteers participate in projects around the Center.
- We secured 111 weeks of summer camp scholarships for local children largely due to assistance from The Christopher Dailey Foundation and Saratoga Springs Rotary.
- With the help of some local barber students we are now offering free haircuts for men/boys ages 12+ once weekly.
- We provided 126 holiday food baskets with the help of TJ’s Turkeys.
- Project Lift has updated their curriculum to keep up with current needs and trends of the participants.
- Thanks to Mountain Media and Kincaid Network Solutions we have an updated online donation system.
- We provided 111 weeks of summer camp to our Project Lifters.

Finding Our Purpose

Who We Are and What Makes Us Unique

- ◇ Our grassroots, non-bureaucratic approach allows us to be able to help anyone that needs help, including those who might “fall between the cracks.”
- ◇ With a small staff of only five full-time (two of whom have been with FCC for over 10 years!) and three part-time employees, we define and demonstrate teamwork on a daily basis, offering those who turn to us a sense of empathy, compassion and concern. It is clear that we are here by choice, not by chore.
- ◇ We rely heavily upon our volunteers to complement our small staff; this allows us to maintain a modest budget with low admin costs, ensuring that the dollars coming in go immediately back in to the operation of our programs.
- ◇ Our foundation is built upon relationships. For over three decades, we have grown, evolved and adapted to meet the needs of those we serve, placing an equal importance on both our donors and the people who rely on us.
- ◇ Our collective experience and education, combined with low staff turnover, provides a comforting level of consistency and care to individuals and families enduring difficult times.
- ◇ Understanding the importance of working with other successful organizations in town, we have formed productive collaborations, yielding positive results for the community.
- ◇ We are an active part of the downtown business community, including The Chamber of Commerce, The Saratoga Convention and Tourism Bureau and The Downtown Business Association. We understand that in order to rely on local businesses for support, we must also give back.

Where We're Headed...

Our Hope for the Future

As you may know, Franklin has grown accustomed to evolving and adapting to the ever-changing economic climate. We are constantly brainstorming new ideas to enhance community partnerships, utilize volunteers and expand services while maintaining expenses.

- Our Long-Term Planning Committee is exploring:
 - Potential expansion of Project Lift into other local schools
 - Rebranding Franklin Community Center
 - Project Lift scholarship program
- We continue to place an emphasis on the importance of family involvement in the lives of the children we serve in Project Lift, focusing on providing opportunities for positive activities in a safe and caring environment; parental involvement through our program continues to improve.
- In an attempt to better utilize and share volunteers with other agencies, we are exploring collaborative efforts with other nonprofits to better suit everyone's needs.
- Continued collaboration with other organizations remains at the forefront, as we realize it is important to pool resources and ensure that we are not duplicating services.
- To ensure our Board of Directors has the necessary skills and awareness to effectively guide Franklin Community Center we are very pleased to announce we have 7 Leadership Saratoga graduates participating in various roles and our Executive Director, Kari Cushing, is a current Leadership participant (Leadership Saratoga is program sponsored by Saratoga County Chamber).
- Increase sponsorships from local businesses and corporations is a desired goal; a comprehensive benefits package is being designed for distribution to our donors. It's a great time to get behind FCC!
- With help from the Saratoga Builders Association we will be making some renovations at Franklin Community Manor to ensure safe and sanitary conditions for our residents for years to come.



Please cut this form and return it back to us in the enclosed envelope.

Become a 2014 Friend of the Center.



I would like to be a Friend of the Center!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Member— \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Member— \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron— \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor— \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member— \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other— \$_____ |

If you are interested in being added to our **EMAIL ONLY** mailing list please check box and list your email address below

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____
street city state zip

Why We Are Here

The Smiles, The Impact, The Kindness...

(Client names have been withheld)

"I cannot put into words our current feelings but I will do my best. You have done such a **generous** and **selfless** thing for our child. This will be a Christmas our child will **never forget**, these things are going to give the **greatest joy** on Christmas morning, especially having the pics for the guitar. We appreciate the **attention** and time you gave to shop for our child as if he were your own. We can **never thank you enough** for what you have done! The **kindness** you have shown is **unbelievable**. We cannot wait to see his face on Christmas morning as he opens his gifts. Please know we are **so grateful** with all of our hearts for you and your **giving heart**." - Written by a family who was adopted for Christmas by a donor

"One word.....**LOVE**" - Diane

What I learned at Project Lift:

"Be a good sport."

"I am **kind**."

"I am different from everyone else in a good way."

"I am **special**."

"Slow down and **think** about your actions."

"**Respect** yourself and others."

"I am important."

"Be a good sport."

"I am me and **I like me**."

- Project Lift participants

"My mother is elderly and on a fixed income, your pantry has **provided** for her when we cannot." - anonymous

"I'm so **grateful** to have FCC in our community. It is unthinkable that we would allow anyone among us to go hungry or homeless. I **feel good** grocery shopping for the food kitchen and writing this reminds me I should do so more often." - Kathryn

"One year I wouldn't have been able to provide Christmas gifts for my children if it wasn't for Franklin Community Center, I will never forget the **kindness** they showed me." - Debbie

"The Franklin Community Center is a **good place with good people** working there."
- William

I just wanted you to know that I **appreciate** the way you conduct business and hope you continue in the same way. **Thank you** for being there. - Cheerio Guy

"I have had 3 children go through Project Lift in elementary school. What a **blessing** it was for my family." - former Project Lift parent

"Saratoga wouldn't be the same without you guys. You **help everyone** who walks through your door and sometimes that's me!" anonymous

I love being able to donate my clothes to a **local organization** who gives them away for free. Makes it easier to clean out my closet! - Lisa

"You **helped me** find a **great home** for a twin size bed I had....and I even got to meet the family who was picking it up for their son." - Ann



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