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Dear Friends,

As President of the Franklin Community Center Board of Directors, I welcome you to the 2016 Annual Report Edition of Franklin Footnotes and encourage you to look through this publication to see what Franklin has accomplished in the past year and the direction we are heading.

It is known throughout Saratoga Springs that if an individual or family is in need of food, clothing, education, and/or shelter, they can call on the Franklin Community Center for help. For more than 30 years, our team of dedicated staff and volunteers has worked hard to ensure that those in need have access to basic necessities.

During the past year, Franklin expanded two of its largest programs – the food pantry and Project Lift – making the Center better equipped to serve our community. Thanks to the success of our capital campaign, we constructed and expanded the food pantry area to provide more food with easier access. The food pantry serves approximately 190 families per month and the need continues to grow. We were also able to increase the number of schools offering Project Lift – a program that is unique to Saratoga Springs and has proven to be a critical asset to children and families in the Saratoga City School District.

The Franklin staff is always working to meet the ever-changing needs of the community through our range of programs and services. With your support, cooperation, and assistance, we can continue to grow and improve ourselves in the upcoming year.

We pledge to continue to provide the very best for our community, knowing that with each person we serve, we are making a difference.

Thank you for your support,

Christopher Cook
Christopher Cook, President – Board of Directors

Please become a Friend of the Center
In 2016 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
- Food pantry
- Project Lift, after school prevention program
- Free clothing and household items distribution center
- Furniture distribution program
- Holiday assistance
- Advocacy and referral information
- Summer camp scholarships
- School supply assistance
- Free haircuts
- And more.....
Key Accomplishments for 2015

- In 2015, we provided approximately 62,400 meals with our food pantry—about 4 days worth of non-perishable food items for each family who comes through our doors during the 9 months the new pantry was open.
- Our free store at 101 Washington Street served almost 8,000 people and we matched 138 houses with donated furniture.
- We gave out approximately 300 Halloween costumes and helped to provide Christmas gifts to 1,033 local children!
- Our golf tournament in June 2015 raised almost $20,000.
- We raised nearly $50,000 at our Project Lift University Event in October!!
- Our after-school prevention program, Project Lift, served 104 Project Lifters, 75 families and 84 siblings in 2015.
- Our capital campaign was a success and we were able to open our new food pantry doors in the Spring of 2015!
- Project Lift was expanded during 2015 to include both Caroline Street and Dorothy Nolan Elementary Schools!
- We had over 100 high school and college volunteers participate in Project Lift.
- We had over 125 volunteers participate in projects around the Center, including many Navy folks.
- We secured 65 weeks of summer camp scholarships, a Pop Warner scholarship and multiple fall soccer opportunities for local children largely due to assistance from The Christopher Dailey Foundation and Saratoga Springs Rotary.
- Dan the Barber is still providing free haircuts for boys/men monthly and he has been joined by Amy the Hairdresser who will provide women’s hair cuts.
- With the help of TJ’s Turkeys and other groups we were able to provide holiday food baskets to all our Project Lift families for both Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Through Project Lift we’ve provided help to local families with sports, birthdays and other important milestones that might not otherwise have been possible.

Why we do what we do...

As more and more people are learning about Franklin Community Center we keep hearing the same question, “What do you do?” The simple answer to that is anything we can do. We believe that everyone matters and everyone has value. We work hard to make sure that those who need a helping hand are given one. We are not here to provide handouts—we are here to help our neighbors in whatever way we can. Below is an email one of our Project Lift Family Outreach Educators received from a parent when she was new to Project Lift. We think it sums up why we do what we do.

“Lindsay, I know everyone’s situation is different but I have to thank you. I cannot express how much we appreciate all of your help and from the Community Center in general. Meghan was there when my husband lost his job of 12 years and when I came and asked for help. I wasn’t sure how I was going to put food on the table and found myself asking everyone for help including social services. He has since been working for the State but took a 50% pay reduction and had to start over, ‘just to work’. My husband and I work very hard and a lot of hours to try and make ends meet and we are still going through some serious financial hardships currently including a lengthy bankruptcy, resulting from his job loss and huge income reduction. Our heads are not above water yet, but I think we’re making slow progress. Anyway, I just wanted you to sort of ‘know’ our story (like Meghan did). It makes me feel better. Without the help of Franklin Community Center and the various holiday programs, scholarships for the kids, clothing, food, etc... we may not have been making the little bit of progress that we are making. Every little bit helps enormously and I look forward to ‘giving back’ and ‘paying it forward’ one day.”

Project Lift Mother
Where We’re Headed

Our Goal for the Future….Expanding Project Lift

- Project Lift has been diligently serving children and families in the SSCSD since 1984 and we are now on track to bring these essential services to all six of our local elementary schools. This past October, Project Lift expanded into two additional elementary schools bringing our grand total to four. With the start of 2016 we expanded further and are now currently operating at five schools: Caroline Street, Dorothy Nolan, Geyser Road, Greenfield and Lake Avenue. With our last planned elementary expansion set to take place for Division Street Elementary School this October we could not be more excited. Please stay tuned to learn more about our progress...

Food Pantry News

- Our newly expanded food pantry has been open for business and buzzing with energy since this past Spring. Here are some facts we thought you might find interesting:

  - 656 cans of soup given out in the month of May.
  - The food pantry has over 75 dedicated volunteers who worked over 2,500 hours of service.
  - The pantry served 5,200 customers between April through December 2015.
  - The pantry provided over 62,400 meals to those in need in the Saratoga Community.
  - From June through December of 2015 our generous community of Saratoga donated over 37,477lbs of food!
  - The Naval Support Activity Center—Feds Feed Families—has donated over 2,924lbs of food over the past 7 months and is continuing to collect and make weekly donations.

Franklin welcomes Suzanne Carpenter-Franck as Program Coordinator for Project Lift. Suzanne graduated from the State University of New York at Potsdam with a Bachelor of Arts and The College of Saint Rose with a Master’s of Science in Education for School Counseling. She has worked in the Human Service field for the past ten years; working herself up at CAPTAIN Youth & Family Services as Lead Case Manager to Shelter Administrator. Suzanne is an Alumni of Leadership Saratoga, Class of 2014 and is the Vice President of The Board of Trustees for the NYS Military Museum.

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

Become a 2016 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  ☐ Supporting Member— $50  ☐ If you are interested in being added to our EMAIL ONLY mailing list please check box and list your email address below

☐ Patron— $100  ☐ Benefactor— $500

☐ Life Member— $1000  ☐ Other— $______

Name:______________________________  Phone:___________  Email:______________________

Address:_________________________________________  street__________________

_________________________________________________________________________  city__________________

_________________________________________________________________________  state__________________  zip__________________

Franklin Footnotes

www.franklincommunitycenter.org  January 2016
Franklin was one of a select group of agencies selected to pilot the Charity Defense Council’s I’M OVERHEAD campaign. The movement is designed to open awareness to the importance of staff to non-profits and how the perception of overhead should change. For more information on their campaign please visit their website.

Don’t forget you can also visit our website at www.franklincommunitycenter.org and make your donation online, click the DONATE button at the bottom of our homepage.

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  
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Expiration Date:____/____  
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Billing Address: _______________________________________________________________________________

  street  
  city  
  state  
  zip

Signature: ___________________________________________________

Thank you for 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.
**The Smiles, The Impact, The Kindness...**

“The volunteers and Food Program Administrator have been endlessly welcoming and even patient with the special requests of a largely vegetarian diet. I can honestly say at this point that my struggle has been and eye-opening, heart changing experience. I hope anyone reading this will contribute or offer to volunteer at the Franklin Community Center, because they are truly neighbors serving neighbors.” Francine Grinnell, Say No More Multimedia Services

“I’ve learned to be thankful.” Project Lifter

“If it wasn’t for the Franklin Food Pantry we basically would be short on food in our house for probably almost 2 weeks. The people here make you feel so comfortable and are so helpful. One day I will get back on my feet and hope to be able to be a volunteer. Thank You All at Franklin Community Center Food Pantry.” Christie

“We get to play outside, learn not to do drugs, smoke cigarettes, and to always be nice. Check labels on candy and lots of other stuff.” a Project Lift participant

“I am very grateful for this Food Pantry. The people here are the nicest. They are very helpful. All you have to do is ask. I’m so happy to come to your our pantry.” Judy

“Thank you all for my time with this amazing organization. I will treasure my experience here always.” Free Store Volunteer

“Having, myself, been in situations where I needed help, I started volunteering as a way of giving back. I was surprised how much I enjoyed it. I look forward all week to my time at the food pantry and love the time I get to spend with the other volunteers and the clients. I get as much or more out of it, than the people I serve”. Billy Stewart

“Project Lift is awesome!”
Project Lifter

“Dear Project Lift, Thank you for teaching me all the things I know right now. I appreciate how you treat me and all of the fun things we do. You guys are the coolest ever. Your Friend H***

Project Lifter

“Volunteerism is good for you!” Joe Almeida, volunteer (Joe’s answer when asked what keeps him so young on his 89th birthday)

“Project Lift is a really great place to go, all kids should go there.” Project Lifter

“My heart has never been so full of gratitude as it has been since volunteering at the Franklin Community Center Food Pantry. Just when you think that you are doing something to help someone else, you yourself are blessed beyond belief by doing so.” Lisa, volunteer
This issue of Franklin Footnotes is sponsored by Kincaid Network Solutions and Informz.
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