



# Franklin Footnotes

Annual Report Edition

*An Update for Friends of the Center, January 2017*

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Dear Friends,

As President of the Franklin Community Center Board of Directors, I welcome you to the 2017 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.

In the past two years Franklin expanded two of its largest programs – the food pantry and Project Lift – making the Center better equipped to serve our community. Our expanded food pantry serves approximately 190 families per month with both fresh and shelf stable items. We now have our own gardens, work with local farmers to provide additional fresh produce, are able to offer free produce days and have been working with our customers to promote and provide healthy options. We were also able to expand our school prevention program, Project Lift, to all of the elementary schools in the Saratoga Springs City School District. This program, which began in 1984, is unique to Saratoga Springs and has proven to be a critical asset to the children and families who participate.

For more than 33 years, our team of dedicated staff and volunteers have worked hard to ensure that those in need have access to basic necessities and that we continue 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.

Please take some time to review the enclosed materials and think about how you and your colleagues can help. We are always open to new ideas – in fact, some of our most notable improvements have come from our supporters.

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 2017. 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.....

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

# Reflections of Our Success

## Key Accomplishments for 2016

- We provided approximately 105,000 meals with our food pantry—about 4 days worth of non-perishable food items for each family who came through our doors.
- Our free store at 101 Washington Street served over 7,500 people and we matched 144 households with donated furniture.
- We gave out approximately 100 Halloween costumes, provided 394 children with school supplies and helped to provide Christmas gifts to 497 local children.
- Our golf tournament in June 2016 raised almost \$20,000.
- We raised over \$48,000 at our Project Lift University event in October.
- Our Food Pantry Appeal raised over \$17,000.
- Our Guest Bartender fundraiser at Harvey's raised over \$3,800.
- Thanks to our Project Lift expansion, the program served 170 Project Lifters totaling 129 families.
- Project Lift was expanded and now operates at all 6 SSCSD elementary schools.
- We had over 90 high school and college volunteers participate in Project Lift.
- We had over 130 volunteers participate in projects around the Center.
- We secured 80 weeks of summer camp scholarships, for local children utilizing grants from The Christopher Dailey Foundation and Saratoga Springs Rotary.
- Dan the Barber and Amy the Hairdresser are providing free haircuts monthly.
- With the help of TJ's Turkeys we were able to provide food baskets to all our Project Lift families for both Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Through our Food Pantry we provided 202 Thanksgiving and 99 Christmas food baskets.
- The Saratoga Buffalo Bills Backers raised \$1,942 through 50/50 raffles held during the games at Harvey's.
- We participated in the SSCSD's new summer school opportunity, the Explorer's Program.
- Project Lift family outreach educators now work directly out of the elementary schools and are able to bridge the gap between home and school.
- Ronald McDonald House Charities and Berkshire Bank Foundation have approved grants to defray the increased cost of providing snacks to our Project Lift participants.

## *Additions to the Franklin Family*

Lindsay Duma and Colleen O'Connor Potter have been promoted to Project Lift program coordinators and join Suzanne Carpenter Franck in the leadership role. Both women have been working with Project Lift and have graciously stepped up to lead the program now that it is operating in all six of the Saratoga Springs City School District elementary schools. They join our family outreach educators, Stephanie Deuel, Chloe Williams, Sophie Rotter and our Prevention Educators Chloe Mincher, Colleen Scavone and our newest prevention educator, Kathy Daley.

Stephen Cutting-Miller -Senior Vice President at Continuum Wealth Advisors, LLC , Molly Bush - Assistant Controller at Informz, and Anne Marko - Director of Media Operations at Quad Graphics, have all joined Franklin Community Center's Board of Directors. Stephen, Molly and Anne joined the board after becoming actively engaged with the Center and bring with them a common goal—to help those in the community who need it. We are honored and humbled to have them on-board.





# Why We Are Here

## *The Smiles, The Impact, The Kindness...*

“Not only is my nutrition better but at the end of the month I can pay my utility bill.” Jo, food pantry recipient

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

“My son has anxiety and has always resisted going to school but now on Project Lift days we have no problem because he wants to go to program.”

Mother of a Lifter

“You help me when I need it, thank you.” Client

“Thank you for making Project Lift happen. I appreciate you for helping me. You are awesome. From your Friend M.” a Project Lift participant

“When I started volunteering at Franklin a year ago, little did I know how much this place would come to mean to me. As I watch the staff and volunteers do their jobs with passion and compassion, kindness and empathy, I realize how very lucky I am to be a part of this place. I love the challenge of trying to find funding for the food pantry or helping with Project Lift University, doing whatever is needed. I am grateful every day to work at an organization that is making a crucial difference in the lives of the people in our community—not only for those who utilize our services but also for giving the community an opportunity to help others in our neighborhoods. Thank you Franklin, for being such an important part of Saratoga and thank you for letting me play a small part in your efforts.” Gina Peca, volunteer

### THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED

#### MAKE THIS POSSIBLE



A view of our Holiday Christmas Store that allowed local parents to shop, for free, for their children. Thank you to our volunteers who helped put the store together!

“Dear Project Lift staff and supporters,

I want to thank you so much for the gift of Project Lift to my children. Weekly you have given us unconditional, non-judgmental support and love to my children and I. They look forward to their special Project Lift days. You have embraced us and filled our hearts with kindness, love and knowledge to live a happy and emotionally healthy life. The program has helped us in so many ways. My children’s teachers, therapists, etc., have commented on the positive changes to their behaviors. The program has helped us in so many ways. God bless you.

Sincerely, A very grateful mom”

“I can’t thank you enough, I had tears rolling down my face after seeing the gifts. I couldn’t have asked for more generous gifts and it’s like you knew the kids. They are going to have the best Christmas!”

Mother of a Lifter

“Why I serve at Franklin Community Center Food Pantry: In July of 2015 I was looking for a way to serve with one of our Grace in Action partners and had a friend that was serving at the food pantry. I thought that that would be a good place to spend a few hours over the summer while I had some time off from work. Little did I know that the day that I walked in the door there, my life was changed forever. I thought that I might be able to show the Lord's love to a few people and maybe bless them in some way by serving them. I was not prepared for the blessings that are bestowed upon me every shift that I "work". Needless to say, almost two years later and quitting my paying job, I now volunteer 3 days a week and am the Volunteer Coordinator for the entire pantry. Every single day I thank the Lord for allowing me the privilege of serving Him and others in this way.” Lisa Ford, volunteer



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