



Franklin Footnotes

Annual Report Edition

An Update for Friends of the Center, January 2019

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Dear Friends,

As President of the Franklin Community Center Board of Directors, I welcome you to the 2019 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.

The Center is driven by efficiency and fiscal conservancy, combined with the compassion and empathy necessary to provide such vital services to those in-need. I am continually impressed by the well-balanced and unique dynamic of this non-profit organization. Their ability to identify and address a need in the community is a trait that a donor searches for when choosing an organization to lend support.

If an individual or family is in need of food, clothing, education, shelter or guidance they can call upon Franklin Community Center for help. For over 35 years the dedicated team at Franklin, comprised of staff and volunteers, has worked tirelessly to ensure those in need have access to information and basic necessities. Our 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.

Franklin has EXCITING news that will be shared with YOU very soon. We have been quietly working behind the scenes on a new project that will enable Franklin to better meet the needs as they exist today and into the future. We can't wait to tell you more so please, stay in touch. Visit our website, Facebook and Twitter pages, stop by and say "hello", and stay tuned...a game changer is coming our way!

Happy New Year and Best Wishes,

Jason Lynch, 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 2019. 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
- And more.....

Reflections of Our Success

Key Accomplishments for 2018

REFLECTIONS OF OUR SUCCESS

- We provided groceries for over 131,784 meals from our food pantry—and 5,982 meals for our furry friends.
- Franklin’s Free Produce Day distributed 10,025 lbs of produce to 1,290 individuals—this is a 65% increase in people served and 136% increase in distribution.
- Plant a Row for the Hungry had 17 participants in 2018 and brought in 587 lbs of produce—if you garden and want to learn more, let us know.
- The community donated 68,122 lbs of food to the pantry and farmers from Saratoga Farmers Market donated a total of 2,491 lbs of produce.
- With the help of NY Regional Food Bank we were able to provide 88,840 lbs of produce, dairy and protein products to our customers.
- Over 90 volunteers served approximately 4,818 hours in the food pantry.
- Our free store at 101 Washington Street served, on average, over 500 individuals a month with clothing and household items and we matched 157 households with donated furniture.
- We provided 214 children with school supplies, 158 children with Halloween costumes and gave Christmas gifts to over 500 local children.
- Our Project Lift after-school program served 192 Project Lifters totaling 154 families .
- We had 213 high school and college volunteers complete a total of 3,418 hours volunteering at Project Lift.
- Project Lift provided 218 weeks of summer camp scholarships for local children utilizing grants from Saratoga County Children’s Committee, Saratoga Springs Rotary Club, The Christopher Dailey Foundation and others.
- Project Lift participated, once again, in Saratoga Springs City School District’s summer school program.
- Project Lift is running a pilot program for 6th grade students in Maple Avenue Middle School
- TJ’s Turkeys provided Holiday Meal Baskets, at Thanksgiving and Christmas, to 155 families.
- Community members filled 3,930 volunteering opportunities for the Center during 2018.

Additions to the Franklin Family

Abby Kirchert, long time volunteer, joined the Franklin staff as our Food Pantry Assistant/Volunteer Coordinator and has been a huge asset to the Center and those we serve. Rebecca Green, Brooke Meyer and Alex Hilker have joined the Project Lift staff as Family Outreach Educators for our elementary Project Lift program. Also new to the team are Eva Anderson, Brianna Kelly and Carly Moran who have joined as Prevention Educators for Project Lift.

Brian Nealon joined Franklin’s Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting in May 2018. Brian is the CEO at the Wesley Community, a large, multi-faceted, not-for-profit retirement community in Saratoga Springs. He is currently Chair of LeadingAgeNY’s Services Board of Directors and served nearly 8 years on the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce’s Board of Directors, including being the 2008 Chairperson of the Board. Previous community activities included terms as Chair of various committees at Shenendehowa United Methodist Church, President of the Southern Saratoga YMCA’s Indian Princess Program, a Board member at Wildwood School, the Albany County ARC and the Cohoes School Board Finance Committee.

Program Update

Project Lift News by Colleen O'Connor Potter (colleen@franklincommunitycenter.org)

At Project Lift, in addition to our drug and alcohol curriculum, team building games and art projects, seven events are held during the school year. These events help to strengthen the parent-school relationship by providing a positive school experience for parents and their students. For our Lift students, the goal of our family events is to provide opportunities to interact positively with family members and practice implementing skills such as effective communication, teamwork, positive attitude, manners and respect. During the 2017-2018 school year, a record 669 family members attended family events at the six schools. In the fall of 2018, we partnered with the Culinary Arts students and Chefs at WSWHE BOCES in Saratoga. The students work with their Chefs to prepare a light meal such as chicken wings, mac and cheese, hot dogs and nachos for each of the six schools throughout the year. We are so grateful for this delicious partnership!

Food Pantry News by Julie Slovic (Julie@franklincommunitycenter.org)

As in years past, the food pantry is in constant motion. We are seeing many local residents utilizing our services to maintain food security among their households. We are also seeing local community members, businesses and civic groups getting involved with the pantry and helping us meet the needs as they exist. On a monthly basis we serve an average of 900 people with not only food but non-essential food items like laundry & dish soap, personal hygiene items, etc.

For our 4th year in a row we have been able to provide our customers with locally grown and freshly harvested produce thanks to the help of so many volunteers who make sure our community garden is growing. We will be working even closer with Pitney Meadows Farm this upcoming season to benefit from their "Giving Garden" and to maintain garden plots of our own.

We are so appreciative of all of our supporters but would like to give a special recognition to our business community who have a fixed donation schedule. THANK YOU Freihofer's Bakery, Fresh Market, Hannaford, Healthy Living, Panera, Price Chopper, Saratoga Farmers Market, Spot Coffee and Thomas's Poultry Farm for donating 35,658 lbs of food to support the pantry in 2018!!

We are grateful to have your continued support and we pledge that 2019 will be even better.

Please cut this form and return it to us

Become a 2019 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

Patron— \$100

Benefactor— \$500

Life Member— \$1000

Other— \$_____

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Why We Are Here

The Smiles, The Impact, The Kindness...

"To Project Lift! Thank you for all you have & continue to bring to our lives! We are so SO grateful for ALL of you."

Project Lift parent and child

"Thank you for everything. The bean salad recipe will be dinner for a week. The milk and strawberries will be breakfast shakes for at least a week. I am so beyond grateful. The dog food helps when we run out in between bags. It helps me to get through the end of the month." Food Pantry recipient

To our friends at the Franklin Community Center,
Thank you for the privilege of donating to the Franklin Community Center. We wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year!" Holiday Assistance donor



"To everyone who helped. I cried tears of joy and cheerfulness on my way to my house this morning. Thank you again"

Holiday Assistance parent

We would like to thank all our partners who made Franklin's Holiday Assistance program such a huge success again this year!

"I'd like to thank you and the Franklin community Center for making my kids Christmas this year. As a single mother of three you can imagine how grateful and appreciative I am!"

Holiday Assistance recipient

"It is truly amazing what you guys do for everyone. There's no words in the English dictionary that can thank you enough. Even if it seems small to anyone, it's huge to us."

Project Lift parent

"We are so appreciative of ALL you have done and continue to do. We are so so lucky our child is a 'lifter'. I hope you realize - you all are definitely one of the BIG reasons she smiles so brightly, as well as myself. You've made (especially this past year) a very trying time in our lives and year of triumphs and pain, so much less stressful for our family and you showed us how much service you do." Project Lift parent

"In the beginning I did not want to be here but over the time everyone has been so nice and kind to me which helped me become a better person due to all the happiness around me."

Project Lift middle school participant

"Dear Kari and staff,

Thank you for organizing a beautiful Christmas for so many children and their families. It is such a pleasure to shop for the kids as it brings so much joy and cheer to our hearts."

Longtime Franklin supporter

"The Food Pantry provides more than just mere food. It provides nourishment for my soul as well. There's always a smile and a desire to help, besides the food they dispense it's a real pleasure to come in. They really really care. It's like meeting old friends each and every time I come." Food Pantry recipient



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