



# Franklin Footnotes

*"We Are Making A Difference" April 2019*

## **"I Lead By Following People"...and What An Amazing Leader He Is!**

For those of you who don't know Michael Russo, and for those of you who do and love him as much as we do, we would like to talk a little bit about the amazing commitment he has made to Franklin. Mike joined the Board of Directors for Franklin Community Center in 1991 – yes, that is correct, during the 90's, and has been on the Board ever since. That's a whopping 28 years of uninterrupted and dedicated service.

After almost 3 decades of service, Mike is retiring from the Board to spend some time with his family, enjoy retirement, and fend off calls from us begging him to come back. Mike has the distinction of serving as President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, all more than once, and pretty much every committee we have ever had. He has been involved with all of our fundraising efforts including the soft pretzel stand at the Track Open House and our coin drops, both of which have been gone for a long time! According to Mike, he "has done a little bit of everything at Franklin over the years."

Mike became involved with Franklin through his strong connection with the United Methodist Church; an organization who has always shown Franklin support. He was introduced to our Center, and after careful consideration and prayer, decided to take the leap into Board membership. His response to why did you join..."I was looking for a way to give back to my community. I have been blessed to have this opportunity to do for the community what I would not have been able to do alone." says Mike. "During my childhood my father was always willing to do something for someone else and I wanted to do the same. Being involved in Franklin gave me this chance and also allowed me to influence my daughters with my actions."

Mike talked about how much smaller of an impact the Center had in the 90's and how he has been able to watch the growth himself. "I have always been impressed with our Project Lift youth program and our dream, even back then, was to expand it to all the elementary schools. Together we accomplished that dream, and it's amazing. Today, more of our community has an understanding of Franklin and are willing to help out."

When asked what's next for Mike, he told us spending some quality retirement time with his wonderful wife Sharon is definitely on his agenda. Mike isn't ruling out the possibility of a come-back but does want to explore what this next chapter has in store for him. "Being a member of the Board allowed me the opportunity to meet, work with, and learn from many other individuals who I ordinarily would never have met – what a great experience! To all of you potential future Board members, of any agency, my advice to you is to take the chance and give back. What you have to bring is important."

Mike, we at Franklin hope you realize how much of an impact you have made here. Your tireless service has propelled us forward. Your willingness to be a leader, to take chances, and to listen to what others have to say without judgement and preconceived notions is truly remarkable. Thank you for all that you have done.

P.S. We promise to give you at least 90 days before we come knocking!

### **Food Pantry Hours:**

**Monday - Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.**

**Thursday: 2:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.**

**Friday: Closed**

#### **Executive Director**

*Kari Cushing*

#### **Board of Directors**

*Jason Lynch*

*(President)*

*Andrew Ferrara*

*(Treasurer)*

*Anne Marko*

*(Secretary)*

*Matthew Brobston*

*Molly Bush*

*Christopher Cook*

*Stephen Cutting-Miller*

*Karen D'Andrea*

*Stacie Haswell Arpey*

*George Iglar*

*Zachary Manz*

*Brian Nealon*

*Marne Onderdonk*

*Michael Russo*

**Franklin Community Center | 10 Franklin Street | Saratoga Springs | NY | 12866**

**phone: (518) 587-9826 | fax: (518) 587-5293 |**

**email: [info@FranklinCommunityCenter.org](mailto:info@FranklinCommunityCenter.org)**



Together, we are making a difference.

*"Happiness is not something ready made. It comes from your own actions." Dalai Lama*

## What's Happening

- Our **21st Annual Franklin Open Golf Tournament** is June 7th at Brookhaven. Registration form is on page 3. Get yours in right away—space is limited!
- Franklin's **Guest Bartender Event** will be held at Bailey's Café on August 20th—check our website and Facebook page for additional information.
- **Project Lift University** is scheduled for September 26th at Longfellows Inn.
- Franklin Community Center and the **Saratoga Regional YMCA** have partnered to help make the YMCA and their programs more accessible to our neighbors in need—we are so thankful for their commitment to the community.
- Our free store at **101 Washington Street** is now accepting spring clothing. Don't forget, Cudney's collects in-season clothing on our behalf on the first Saturday of every month.
- Please help us keep our **food pantry** stocked as we head into spring and summer. A list of most needed items is on the right or visit our pantry for a healthy shopping list printed on a grocery bag.
- Our food pantry is partnering with **Pitney Meadows Community Farm** to increase the accessibility to fresh produce and nutritional programming to our community members. To learn more about the program contact Julie (contact information below).
- We have **volunteering opportunities** at our food pantry. We have twice the garden space as last year so we are looking forward to twice the harvest. If you like to garden we can use your help! Contact Julie for more information:  
Julie@franklincommunitycenter.org / 518.587.9826 x 224
- Won't you consider helping us **"GROW"** our **Plant a Row for the Hungry** program? Consider planting an extra row in **your garden** and donating it to our Food Pantry. It's easy to participate: contact Julie (contact info above) to register and pick up materials. Purchase your plants at **Dehn's Flowers and Greenhouse** at a **10% discount** or **Sunnyside Gardens** for a **50% discount!** Remember to mention Plant A Row with Franklin.

### Food Items Needed:

Chicken, Beef, Pork, Fish  
 Canned Tuna and Chicken  
 Cheese  
 Milk Gift Cards (Stewart's Shops)  
 Fresh Fruits and Vegetables  
 Peanut Butter and Jelly  
 Hearty Soups and Stews  
 Oatmeal  
 Canned Fruits  
 Hamburger/Chicken Helper  
 Pasta Sides and Rice Sides

### Hygiene & Misc Items Needed:

Shampoo/Conditioner  
 Soap/Deodorant  
 Toothpaste/Toothbrush  
 Shaving Cream/Razors  
 Laundry/Dish Soap  
 Cat Food  
 Can Openers

**Please keep the children and families we serve in mind, especially as spring and summer breaks approach and more kids are at home.**

## Major Generosity

We would like to thank the following Major Sponsors who have signed on at a level of \$5,000 or higher to support us this past year. We are lucky to have them behind Franklin Community Center and our mission!

**Michael and Stacie Arpey**

**Hawley Foundation for Children**

**The River Farm Foundation**

**Kimberly Beth Kennedy Family Foundation**

**Christopher Dailey Foundation**

**Kincaid Network Solutions**

**Stewart's Holiday Match**

*"My favorite things in life don't cost any money. It's really clear that the most precious resource we all have is time." Steve Jobs*

# The Franklin Open

## The Franklin Open

9:00 am Friday June 7, 2019

\$100 Entry Fee - per person

"Happiness is a long walk with a putter." Greg Norman

Franklin Community Center will host its **21st annual golf tournament** benefit at Brookhaven Golf Course, located at 333 Alpine Meadows Road in Porter Corners NY. The **Franklin Open** is a big event for us, and we're planning to make our 20th year another great one! All of the proceeds from The **Franklin Open** go directly back into providing programs and services to community members in need. Not a golfer? Sign up to be part of the "**Franklin Fantoms**"! Your \$25 Fantom entry fee will entitle you to a tournament t-shirt and your name will be listed in our upcoming newsletter. We are still looking for **sponsors** and **prize donors**. For information on our sponsorship opportunities please contact Franklin Community Center at 518-587-9826. The first 100 officially registered participants will enjoy 18 holes of golf with course side refreshments, followed by prizes and lunch.

All players should arrive for an 8:00 a.m. sign-in with rules and a 9:00 a.m. shotgun start to follow. Please fill out the registration form below for your team of four players and mail with credit card information, check or money order to:

Franklin Community Center, 10 Franklin Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Or register online at [www.FranklinCommunityCenter.org](http://www.FranklinCommunityCenter.org) (put GT in notes section)



### Registration Form

Name	Address	Phone	Email	T-shirt size*	Check if registering as a Franklin Fantom
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					

\* Please indicate t-shirt size if you are registering as a **Franklin Fantom**. T-shirts will be sold for \$10.00 at the tournament, if you would like to pre-order please indicate your size. (Limited quantity available)

#### Billing Information:

I have enclosed a check or money order in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my card: MC / Visa / Discover accepted

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name appearing on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address for card: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount to be charged on card: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please note registration forms are accepted on a first come, first serve basis. You are officially registered when we have all information and fees for your entire team.



Franklin Community Center, Inc.  
 10 Franklin Street  
 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
[www.franklincommunitycenter.org](http://www.franklincommunitycenter.org)  
[info@franklincommunitycenter.org](mailto:info@franklincommunitycenter.org)  
 [p] 518-587-9826 [f] 518-587-5293

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**In Project Lift News:**

From the Coordinator...

We are so happy to welcome our 45 new high school volunteers this semester who will be joining us until June. It has been a long winter and we are anxious to get outside this spring, especially in May when our friends from Camp Chingchgook join us for a day of cooperative games and team building activities! There is lots more coming up for us before we finish in June including our Spring Fling family event and our highly anticipated Art Show. We're also planning our goodbye celebrations to our fifth graders. This year we are sending thirty of them off to middle school from all six of our programs. Project Lift will end the year with our annual picnic in a new location, the Saratoga YMCA.

-We would like to extend our thanks to the Christopher Dailey Foundation, Saratoga Springs Rotary Club and the Saratoga Regional YMCA for the generous support this year providing summer camp scholarships.

- Mark your calendars! Our Project Lift University fundraiser is scheduled for September 26th at Longfellows. We hope to see you there!

