Strength in numbers is absolutely critical for our success – it’s even in our mission statement. Our mission is to work collaboratively with individuals and agencies to provide services that will improve the quality of life and foster a sense of neighborhood, community, and family for all people.

We rely on our community partners (individuals, groups, businesses, faith organizations, etc) to help us meet the needs as they exist in our community. We have hundreds of volunteers who dedicate their time to keep our programs running, groups who keep our food pantry shelves stocked, businesses who make financial contributions – the list goes on and on, and we are grateful for that.

Recently, a special group volunteered their time, talents and resources to help us out of a real jam. Our Franklin Community Manor apartment building has 17 efficiency apartments designated as safe and affordable. A long term tenant was moved to a skilled nursing facility and the extent of the rehab work needed was well beyond our capabilities and budget. After exhausting all other resources, we reached out to our friends at Grace Fellowship Church in Saratoga.

Each of the church’s locations have local Grace In Action partners who they support in various ways. Since becoming a partner, we have had many volunteers join our team, received grants to support our programming, and the Saratoga location has hosted numerous drives for items our programs may need.

Their team visited our site and offered assistance – which turned out to be a complete renovation of the apartment from floor to ceiling. The talented team of skilled volunteers, led by Bill Minchin, included volunteers and businesses. Curtis Lumber, Northeast Commercial Interiors, Capital Heating & Plumbing and Brady Electric all donated their time and the majority of their material costs as well. The pictures along the side are a glimpse at our before – during – and after remodel.

We are lucky to have a group like Grace Fellowship who can step up to help with these big projects and we are even luckier because they are one of many groups who are willing to go the extra mile to make our community a better place.

Thank you to Grace Fellowship and to everyone who makes our services possible. Together, we are making a difference.

Franklin Community Center is pleased to announce that our Project Lift pilot program to assist 6th grade students in transitioning to Maple Avenue Middle School will be continuing this coming school year. The program included both former Project Lift participants and new students. Stay tuned for more Maple Ave info in the coming year!
What's Happened & What's Happening!

- **PROJECT LIFT UNIVERSITY** will be held on September 26, 2019 at Longfellows Inn. Check out page 3...
- We are looking for donations of items to be auctioned off at Project Lift University. If you would like to donate, or know someone who would like to donate, contact Jaime.
- Franklin is hosting our **Annual Halloween Costume Drive** — we are collecting **NOW** at our main office.
- Our **Holiday Assistance** program is gearing up!! Please contact Jennifer Briggs if you are interested in learning more about how YOU can help a family over the holidays.  Jen@franklincommunitycenter.org
- **Food Pantry hours**: Monday—Wednesday 9am—1:45pm & Thursday 2pm—6:45pm. Donations are accepted at the pantry during open hours or use our food drop bin when pantry is closed (drop bin is located just inside picket fence off Franklin Street).
- We are conducting a **healthy food drive** for the pantry—consider donating!
- Thank you to Soroptimists of Saratoga County for their generous grant to assist the young women of Project Lift.
- The **Food Pantry** now has a Senior Outreach program and a Summer Kid Pack program in full swing.
- Food Pantry Volunteers Needed —please contact Abby@franklincommunitycenter.org.
- Grace Fellowship's **Grace In Action** volunteer program choose Franklin as a partner for a major project this summer. The group renovated one of Franklin's affordable housing apartments that was left in disrepair from a previous tenant. The apartment is now in great condition and occupied.

---

**Food Pantry Update**  
Julie Slovic, Food Pantry Administrator

Our pantry is now providing fresh locally grown produce every day during our hours of operation. This is made possible through our partnerships with Pitney Meadows Community Farm and their Giving Garden, Plant a Row for the Hungry participants, Featherbed Lane Farm, and our very own community garden.

Also, with the help of the Saratoga-Wilton Elks we are now assisting over 120 seniors in need of food in our community.

Thanks to a Grace in Action Grant our folks are now receiving greatly needed toiletries and cleaning supplies. “This pantry has helped me in so many ways. There are times I struggle not only with food, but toilet paper and personal needs for my entire family. It has made a huge difference in our lives.” stated one of our food pantry customers.

The summer time can be a stressful time for families with children who would receive assistance with breakfast and lunch during the school year. We help by providing Lunch Packs containing kid friendly foods. Thanks to Fingerpaint and their Lunch Lady Program, NYSUT Leadership Institute, and Skidmore College for their food donations helping us ensure that children in our community don’t go hungry.

So far this year our pantry has provide over 73,572 meals.

---

**Project Lift Update**  
Colleen O'Connor Potter, Project Lift Program Coordinator

Our year-end picnic had a total of 265 students and their families representing all six elementary schools. This year, the Saratoga YMCA hosted the picnic and it included a catered meal from Saratoga Casino Hotel's Hands for Hope, a DJ, a bike raffle provided by National Grid and Child Safety ID kits from the Saratoga Springs Police Department. Franklin Community Center provides a variety of giveaway items for families and a toy raffle for each child in attendance.

Our collaboration over the summer with the school district’s Summer Explorers program is in its 4th year and has been a great benefit in staying connected with our Lift students and their families. Each week, two full time Project Lift staff members conduct lessons for 110 students.
Join Us For
Project Lift University
September 26, 2019
Longfellows Inn
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Enjoy live music, beer & wine, hors d’oeuvres, entertainment, auctions, and mingling while supporting our after school prevention program, Project Lift

$80 ticket / $150 pair
Tickets can be purchased by phone, in person, or on our website
WWW.FRANKLINCOMMUNITYCENTER.ORG

Entertainment Includes:
Live music by Rich Ortiz
Tarot Card Reading, Magician and Photo Booth

Check out our website at www.franklincommunitycenter.org for up-to-date information

PRESENTING SPONSOR:
Stacie + Michael ARPEY

EVENT SPONSORS:
Project Lift was able to provide 222 weeks of camp to our Project Lifters for summer 2019. Thank you to all those who made these experiences possible!

We would like to thank the following organizations and camps who provided funding, discounts and/or free summer camp for our Lifters and their siblings: Christopher Dailey Foundation, Saratoga Springs Rotary Club, Camp All Stars, Camp Chingachgook, Camp Little Notch, Camp Northwoods, Camp Saradac, Cutting Edge Martial Arts, NDakinna, Saratoga Arts, Saratoga Children’s Theatre, Sheriffs’ Summer Camp, Skidmore Sports Camp, Skye Farm Camp, Town of Greenfield and YMCA Camp TOGA.

Here’s what’s on our Project Lift Wish List as we gear up for back-to-school:

- School supplies (please visit our website for a list of needed supplies)
- Backpacks
- Individually wrapped snacks
- Small, “fun” items for the prize box (think stickers, silly putty, candy, jewelry, hacky sacks, gel pens, etc.)
- Construction paper
- Duct tape
- Children’s socks and underwear
- Halloween costumes