



Franklin Footnotes

Annual Report Edition—2021

Read All About It...

Dear Friends,

As a Franklin Community Center supporter, you know that the services we offer are a vital community resource to our neighbors in need. As Executive Director, I know that your support of our programs allows us to continue this work each day. This year, what none of us knew were the challenges the pandemic would present to both Franklin Community Center and those we serve.

This year presented us with unprecedented challenges that we were able to address and adjust to throughout the pandemic. Under New York State guidelines, we were deemed essential, and it quickly became apparent how much more our services would be needed. Your support became essential as well, as we moved ahead in new ways working to keep both our staff and those we serve safe. When the need in our community spiked, so did the generosity of donors like you.

I can tell you that together, we have made a difference. We may have reinvented how we support those we serve, but the services have been able to continue thanks to the generous support of our community and I couldn't be more proud of what we've accomplished together. With the help of generous friends like you, our small staff has stepped up like never before. Our pantry increased its hours and the size of the orders we placed with the Regional Food Bank. We've unloaded thousands of pounds of food, filled hundreds of orders and have been a listening ear to those who have needed us. We've stayed in touch with our Project Lift students and families as pen pals, through video chats and phone calls. We provided a "Christmas in July" to our Lift students giving them summer clothes, toys and essentials. In mid-summer, we reopened our free store by appointment for those in need of clothing and household items. And this fall we were able to return to the schools with a modified Project Lift program so that we can help our young friends as they struggle with their social/emotional skills as a result of the pandemic.

As we begin 2021, it is unfortunate that hunger and hardships will continue for those we serve. With your help, we can ensure that support from Franklin Community Center for our neighbors in need will continue as well. It is my hope that you will continue to help us as we help others prepare for whatever lies ahead. Take a look at the enclosed giving card information and know that a donation from you now will go a long way in meeting the needs of our community as they continue to grow and change. Better yet, I ask you to consider monthly giving and making a difference all year long.

You are essential to us, and we remain grateful that we are able to continue our work in the community each day. We can't be certain of what lies ahead for us in 2021, but I know one thing for sure...thanks to you, we'll be here.

With appreciation and gratitude,

Kari Cushing

Executive Director

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

Executive Director

Kari Cushing

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Reflections of Our Success

Key Accomplishments for 2020

REFLECTIONS OF OUR SUCCESS

- Our pantry served 3491 families in 2020—over 30% of those families were new to FCC
- When COVID struck and left many people in need of food we were able to extend our hours utilizing our existing staff and set up a noncontact order and pick up procedure for our pantry
- We received, and gave out, over 166,000 lbs of food through the Food Pantry in 2020
- Some of our largest supporters: general community drop box donations, Aldi's, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Featherbed Lane Farm, Freihofer's, Fresh Market, Healthy Living Saratoga, Panera, Pitney Meadows Farm, Price Chopper, Saratoga Farmers Market Vendors, Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church, Thomas' Poultry, Uncommon Grounds —just to name a few!
- We provided about 5,000 meals to homebound seniors through our partnership with the Saratoga Wilton Elks Club
- Our free store closed down for a a period of time but we were able to reopen, with safety measures in place, for the remainder of the year
- We were able to provide school supplies to over 80 families
- Project Lift shifted to an on-line model during the spring and returned to a modified in-person program this fall—we were thrilled to be back in the schools providing support
- Project Lift provided services including but not limited to: food, clothing, printed school materials, gifts, support services, hygiene products, etc, to 129 families in 2020
- Project Lift staff hosted a “Christmas in July” event for our families—140 children were served
- Our Holiday Assistance program helped more children than ever before—725 Saratoga County children
- Grants from The Christopher Dailey Foundation and The Saratoga YMCA provided 116 weeks of much needed summer camp for our “Lifters”

Meet The Family...

Please meet our 3 Project Lift Family Outreach Educators—they're pretty awesome!

“Hi, I'm Bailey! I was born and raised in Saratoga and graduated from SSHS in 2014. I graduated from Hartwick College in 2018 and recently started working at Franklin Community Center as one of the Family Outreach Educators. I came from Head Start and look forward to continuing to work with the community and kids. When I'm not at work I love going on walks, spending time with my family and painting.”

“Hi I'm Carly, one of the Family Outreach Educators for Franklin Community Center's program Project Lift. I graduated high school here in 2014, went on to SUNY Cortland to obtain my bachelor's degree in Sociology. I am currently working on my master's degree to become a licensed mental health counselor. I am extremely passionate about helping others and I connect well with children. When I am not at work I enjoy spending time with my three rescue dogs and binge watching Criminal Minds.”

Hello, I am Bree! I have worked at the Franklin Community center since 2019 and I am the Project Lift Family Outreach Educator at Greenfield and Geyser Road Elementary. I was very excited to join the community center after a few years of volunteering at FCC with my previous job. When I am not at work, I spend my time reading, doing yoga, and attempting to cook recipes from the Half Baked Harvest food blog.

Program Update

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

The connections with our students and their families has become even more important during the pandemic. Every week we are at each of the elementary schools as well as the middle school meeting in small groups. We've gotten creative in how we work together on our projects and games all while socially distancing and staying safe. As always, we will continue to provide additional support to our families as needed. We are so grateful to be able to continue our work with our Project Lift students during these difficult times.

Food Pantry News by John Falco (John@franklincommunitycenter.org)

I started my position as Franklin's food pantry manager this past July. Learning a new position is hard enough but add a pandemic into the mix and it becomes all the more challenging! As I move forward in my first year I would like to take a moment to thank all of my co-workers for all of the help and guidance they have provided in these crazy times. By working together, we were able to create a safe and healthy environment while also maintaining social distancing and continuing to serve our clients as. We changed our operations to a phone-in order system with contactless pick up and it has made it possible for us to safely serve those in need and keep our program operating. I am happy to report the food pantry has remained fully operational throughout the pandemic and we are planning to keep it that way. This new system has taught us that we are able to continue to provide much needed relief to our clients as well as the ability to adapt to change when needed. It was an eye-opening experience and one we have learned a lot from. Looking forward to moving forward and continuing to meet the needs of our community.

Become a 2021 Friend of the Center

Your donation will help us continue our necessary programs and services



I would like to support Franklin's Expansion Campaign—See page 5 for more information

Amount—\$_____ / Please mail Expansion Campaign pledge form to address below

Gifts over \$5,000, with permission, will be recognized on Campaign related materials and on donor installment at new building

How would you like to be recognized on Campaign materials? _____

I would like to be a Friend of Center!

Continuing Member— \$25

Supporting Member— \$50

Patron— \$100

Benefactor— \$500

Life Member— \$1000

Other— \$_____

If you are interested in being added to our **EMAIL ONLY** mailing list please check box and list your email address below

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____
street city state zip

What To Watch for

- **23rd Annual Franklin Open Golf Tournament** - Scheduled for September 24th at Brookhaven Golf Course in Porter Corners—registration to come in the spring newsletter & on our website, join us for our **“2020 Mulligan Tourney!”** (in 2021).
- **2021** will bring many changes for the Center with our most exciting adventure yet—over the first quarter of the new year we will be moving our administration over to our new building at 95 Congress Street. This new space will allow us to grow our existing programs and create new opportunities for those we serve.
- Stay tuned for updates and see page 5 for how YOU can help support our efforts.

Thank You’s

- We would like to highlight our dear friends at Cudney’s Launderers & Dry Cleaners...Joyce and the crew are some of our COVID heroes! During 2020 Cudney’s offered to be our donation drop off location. They laundered all the donations and delivered to Franklin’s Free Store. During the early months when the store was closed Cudney’s stored all the donations so when we reopened we would be fully stocked and ready to go. All in all, Cudney’s laundered about 9,000lbs of clothing and bedding for the Center—WOW!
- If we tried to thank every organization, business, family and individual that made this past year a success we would have a 1,000 page newsletter. With that said, we also do not like to pass up an opportunity to let everyone know how thankful we are! Thank you to all of our supporters—2020 presented many challenges for our community and our Center. Without your support we would not have been able to keep climbing that mountain. We look forward to the wonderful things 2021 will bring.

To donate online - visit our website at www.franklincommunitycenter.org and click the DONATE button

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 Mastercard Expiration Date: ____/____ Phone: _____

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.*

GIVE LOCAL 
volunteer • support • donate

The Michael and Stacie Arpey Family Community Center at Franklin



The Center is proudly announcing a \$3M fundraising Expansion Campaign. We have raised over \$2.2M to date and are now turning to our community to help raise the additional funds needed.

The additional space will allow the Center to:

- Better serve the growing number of individuals, families and children in our community
- Effectively meet our current and future needs
- Better identify and address the underlying needs in the community

By contributing to our Expansion Campaign, you will have a direct impact on the growth and ability to better serve our community now and in the future. Campaign pledge forms and multi-year pledges are available.

518.587.9826

[FRANKLINCOMMUNITYCENTER.ORG/SUPPORT/DONATE](https://franklincommunitycenter.org/support/donate)

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