



# Franklin Footnotes

We Are Making A Difference - Spring 2021

## Executive Director

Kari Cushing

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Susanne Rogan

Alex Rotolo

Elizabeth Schlegel

Heather Straughter

## WE HAVE MOVED...

After months of preparation, multiple changes and a few slight delays, we are excited to announce that we have expanded into our new building at 95 Washington Street! Our administration and Project Lift staff can now be reached at **The Michael and Stacie Arpey Family Community Center at FCC**. Our Food Pantry remains in its original location at 10 Franklin Street but now has the ability to expand to safely accommodate our many volunteers and add room for the storage of extra food, hygiene products and pet food. We can't wait to show it to all of you at our Open House later this year.

## SPRING FLING AUCTION A "BIDDING" SUCCESS!

With so many charity events being forced to cancel this past year, the fundraising team here at Franklin decided to move in a different direction and, instead of canceling, opted to host a virtual auction! Our volunteer-driven Host Committee organized "The Spring Fling Online Auction" in April, featuring great items such as overnight packages to local hotels and restaurants and gift baskets from local businesses. Thanks to your overwhelming generosity, we smashed our goal and raised almost \$9,000! "We were hoping that our online auction would help to raise funds for our programs and services, but we didn't anticipate what a great success it would be." said Executive Director Kari Cushing. A special note of thanks to our dedicated committee members: Amy Totino, Beverly Bisnett-Jenks, Colleen O'Connor-Potter, Colleen O'Hara, Devin Sherin, Gina Peca, Heather Straughter, Jaime Williams, Jen Allen, Jeslyn Bell, Kelley Trembley, Lizzie Schlegel, Rachel Dunn, Stacie Arpey and Susanne Rogan.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

- The **Free Store** is OPEN for shopping by appointment only—please call 518.587.9826 x235 to schedule. Now accepting spring and summer clothing donations by appointment only. And **Free Store** volunteers, Marcia Martin and Linda LaRou, used the time the store was closed to repaint the inside walls. Now, the store is back open again with a fresh new coat of paint. We are so grateful to them for donating their time and energy!
- Did you know that the **Food Pantry** is feeding an average of 800 people per month? Donations are greatly appreciated and may be left in our food drop box. Check our Facebook and Instagram pages for our most urgent needs. Please consider a financial contribution as well. Your gift allows us to purchase items from the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, for pennies on the dollar.
- The **Food Pantry** began a new partnership with the Market 32 by Price Chopper, located at 115 Ballston Ave. in Saratoga Springs. Customers can now purchase items for donating and simply place them in the designated drop box at the store.
- We are getting our **veggie gardens** ready for the growing season! Volunteer Sarah Morley will be heading up the volunteer-led garden group this year.

**ATTENTION: NEW FOOD PANTRY HOURS—starting MAY 5th**

**Mon, Tues, Thurs 9:00 am—3:30 pm Wed 9:00 am—6:00 pm**

**Call 518.587.9826 x229 to make an appointment for meal package pick-ups.**



*Together, we are  
making a difference.*

Please support our friends at:



**(518) 882-9208**

## SAYING HELLO...

We are so thrilled to introduce our new staff members and are excited for everyone to meet these amazing additions!

Mary Beth McGarrahan is our newly hired **Development Director**. With her background in fundraising, she looks forward to working with the Board, staff and volunteers on current and future campaigns, special events and community awareness. Mary Beth is excited to “be a part of a team that does so much for the community”.

Howard Schneider, our new **Custodian**, is a Jack-of-all-Trades. “My skills include experience with HVAC, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, grounds keeping and much more. I look forward to using them throughout the many tasks in our buildings.” says Howard.

Wenonah Kemp has been hired as the **Program Assistant**. Her background working with nonprofits makes her a perfect addition. “I’ve had a rewarding career in youth and community services. I worked as a Family Specialist for Berkshire Farms and as an Education Outreach Coordinator for Cornell Cooperative Extension.” states Wenonah. Wenonah will be spending the majority of her time ensuring the food pantry is running smoothly and folks are getting what they need.

Long-time staff member, Colleen O’Connor-Potter, recently expanded her responsibilities and we are happy to announce that she has taken on the role of **Project Lift Program Director**. Colleen says, “I’m so excited to oversee a program that means so much to me and has such a positive impact on students and their families.”

## AND SAYING GOODBYE

This May, we bid a fond farewell to three of our long-time volunteer board members. Collectively, Chris Cook, George Igler and Jason Lynch have contributed 44 years of service to Franklin Community Center! During their tenures, they have chaired and served on countless committees, contributed thousands of hours of community service and acted as mentors to new board members and volunteers. Under their leadership, FCC has grown and relocated our food pantry to a space six times larger than it was, expanded our Project Lift program to serve all of the six public elementary schools and the Maple Ave Middle School in Saratoga and most recently, helped raise the funds necessary to purchase a new and larger building to accommodate this growth. Because of their efforts, we are able to better serve even more people through our programs and services. Franklin Community Center is better because of their efforts and we are eternally grateful for their contributions.

## BEST OF LUCK

After 17 years at Franklin Community Center, Associate Director Jaime Williams is moving on to a new career. From her early days at Project Lift working with children and their families, to the many fundraisers and check presentations, Jaime has done it all during her time at Franklin. We tried to capture them all in a book of memories we collected from current and former staff and board members, former Project Lift students, volunteers and countless others who wanted to share well wishes and words of thanks. “You were always there whenever anyone needed guidance or help in any situation.” said one individual. Another noted, “What stands out for me was learning from you how we could really go above and beyond our programs to improve the quality of life for others, and the joy it can bring to everyone involved.” All of us at Franklin are grateful to Jaime for her dedication, determination and willingness to take on any task no matter how large or how small. Thank you, Jaime, for leaving Franklin Community Center better than you found it. We wish you all the best!





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making a difference.*

## PROJECT LIFT NEWS

After a long winter, we are so excited for spring and some warmer weather! With the end of school just around the corner, our Family Outreach Educators have been hard at work finding summer camp opportunities for our Project Lift friends. Each year, we work closely with our Lift families to match Lifters with day and overnight camp programs in our area. And after this particularly difficult year, we can't wait to provide our Lifters with some outdoor summer fun. Our summer camp scholarship fund is made possible by your generosity and that of the following donors: **BFF Fund of The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region, Christopher Dailey Foundation, Jennifer Crimi Sunshine Fund of The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region, and the Rotary Club of Saratoga Springs.**



## YOUR GIFT IS AN INVESTMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY

✓ YES! I would like to be a **Friend of the Center!** Please accept my donation of:

☐ \$25      ☐ \$100      ☐ \$1,000  
☐ \$50      ☐ \$500      ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_



✓ YES! I would like to support the **Expansion Campaign** and enable Franklin to better serve the growing number of families and children in our community who need help.

☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_      ☐ Please mail me/us an Expansion Campaign pledge form for my multi-year gift.

Gifts over \$5,000 will be recognized on Campaign materials and on our donor recognition installment at the new building.

Recognition Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET CITY STATE ZIP

Please mail completed form to: 10 Franklin Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Or donate online at:



Franklin Community Center  
10 Franklin Street  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Presorted Standard  
US Postage PAID  
Saratoga Springs, NY  
Permit #208

or current resident

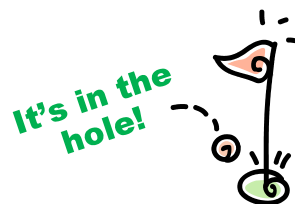
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# The Final Franklin Open

Friday, September 24, 2021



Tee up & join us for the **23rd Annual Franklin Open Benefit Golf Tournament** at Brookhaven Golf Course.

The first 25 officially registered foursomes will enjoy 18 holes of golf with course-side refreshments, followed by prizes and lunch at the newly opened restaurant, The View at Brookhaven.

***Not a golfer? Sign up to be a Franklin Fantom for your keepsake tournament t-shirt!***

Interested in sponsoring a hole or donating a prize? Please contact Mary Beth at [marybeth@franklincommunitycenter.org](mailto:marybeth@franklincommunitycenter.org) or 518.587.9826 x227 for sponsorship opportunities.

Please visit our website, [www.franklincommunitycenter.org](http://www.franklincommunitycenter.org), for more information and to register your team.

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