THIS IS 40!

CELEBRATING FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

It’s official – we’re turning 40! It’s hard to believe – four decades of service, caring and a dedication to helping families and individuals in Saratoga County. Together we’ve accomplished a lot and we really couldn’t have done it without you.

But our work is not finished. Each month, we see an increasing number of people in need, reaching out for assistance with food, housing, rental payments and service referrals. Despite these challenges, we continue to look forward to the journey and what lies ahead in the future.

Before we can look to the future, we invite you to take a tour of our 40th anniversary webpage to look back at our greatest milestones that have made a lasting impact in this amazing place we call home. You’ll see that there’s a lot to celebrate and we can’t wait to get started. We hope you will join us at our special celebration event at 550 Waterfront by Druthers on September 28, 2023 and choose to participate in our #FranklinsforFranklin Challenge campaign.

Thanks for everything you do to support our work. We’re excited for what we will accomplish together in our next 40 years.

Sincerely,

Kari Cushing
Executive Director
Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

Each April, we honor and acknowledge the over 160 volunteers that are crucial to the success of our programs and services. FCC benefits greatly from the many individuals who lend their time, talent and voice to make a difference in our communities.

Hosted on Friday April 21st, we celebrated the past year of achievements and accomplishments. Our staff decorated the Community Room, assembled the thank you gifts and gathered multiple gift baskets to be given as raffle prizes. We hope everyone had as much fun at the luncheon as we did! We are grateful for the enthusiasm, energy and dedication our volunteers offer as they continue to inspire us every day of the year.

A special shout out to our Office Coordinator Melissa Pagan and Skidmore Intern Kate Silagi for their coordination and putting on a fantastic event!

Interested in volunteering? Please visit franklincommunitycenter.org/waystogive/volunteer for more information or to apply!

Make an Impact As A Sustaining Member

Our Sustaining Membership or recurring giving program helps to make a significant difference to our programs - while making your support of our work easier and more manageable. You will essentially support our work all year long and be counted among our most valued donors. Recurring gifts provide sustained support for our existing programs and resources that benefit our community throughout the year.

It's simple and easy to enroll.
When making your donation, choose weekly, monthly or quarterly recurring installments through automatic payments from your credit card or debit card. We'll deduct your designated contribution from your account and you let us know anytime to change or adjust your gift.

See your donation go a little further.
Some donors prefer to give smaller monthly donations over a longer period of time, rather than a single lump sum. Not only can this be easier for personal budgeting, but it also allows you to contribute more than you may have thought possible. For example, a gift of $10 per month might be easier to manage than a one-time gift of $100—and over the course of a year you’ve increased your overall donation by 20%.

Be better together.
Collectively, we’re creating a sustainable impact. As a member, you will receive fun perks, insider emails and opportunities to get more involved. And you’re in good company! This community is composed of generous, passionate and determined people--like you! You’re going to fit right in!

Visit our website at franklincommunitycenter.org/recurringgivingprogram
No matter what you can give, know that you’re part of an inspiring community committed to promote healthy lifestyles and positive changes. You can upgrade or downgrade your gift at any time.
Online Ordering at The Food Pantry

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to close the buildings to clients, our Food Pantry had to alter the way it operated. We changed to an appointment-based system, allowing clients to place their orders over the phone and schedule their own pick up time. Our clients now had the ability to build a customized order for their household but it also added a significant amount of staff and volunteer time to each interaction. The new procedure proved to be an effective and efficient way for our clients to get all of the food and household items they desperately needed. Not only did we discover that clients loved choosing their own food but it enabled our volunteers to fill more orders within a shorter amount of time, making it possible to assist the larger volume of clients. With this success, we explored alternative ways to create a more permanent solution that would better serve our clients - implementing an online ordering platform.

After thoroughly researching many online ordering programs, we chose PantrySOFT, an all-in-one software solution specifically designed for food pantries. The program helps our staff to manage all aspects of operation, from inventory logistics to client intake and reporting. It's like an “Instacart” for food pantries! We launched in March and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Clients have found the system very user-friendly and being able to have 100% choice gives them the ability to do their own grocery shopping.

This has also simplified and shortened the client intake process, making it easier and more convenient for everyone involved. Clients can self-register, via an on-site "kiosk" interface or through an online portal. After completing registration, individuals can schedule their food pickup time from the available days and time slots before being directed to the online storefront where they can choose items to receive on their next visit. By placing the order themselves, clients now have the ability to select 100% of the foods they want.

With real time inventory tracking, there is less chance of listed items being out-of-stock. We also have the ability to run reports, tracking the most popular requested items and items low in stock, making it easier to restock. PantrySOFT has become a much easier and efficient way for us to run the pantry.

Project Lift

What a great year at Project Lift! While the program has ended for the school year, we’re already making plans to see our friends over the summer and get them ready for the new school year. This year we are sending twenty-two of our fifth grade friends off to middle school from all six of our programs. Project Lift gave them a special goodbye with a lunch visit, certificates and gift cards.

A huge thank you to all the high school volunteers who joined us this year. We can’t believe that 65 graduating seniors gave us 1,542 volunteer hours at our program! Best of luck to all of them on their adventures ahead.

We also would like to extend our thanks to The Christopher Dailey Foundation, Rotary Club of Saratoga Springs, The Hawley Foundation for Children, and The Jennifer Crimi Sunshine Fund and the BFF Fund through The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region for the generous support this year providing summer camp scholarships. So many of our Lift friends will be experiencing summer camp for the first time this year and we can’t wait to hear all about it!
or current resident

Be a part of the FRANKLINS FOR FRANKLIN CHALLENGE

Gather your team together and help to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Franklin Community Center!

1. REGISTER
Complete the easy registration form on our webpage to let us know what you will be doing & your fundraising goal.

2. RAISE
Use the resources in the online Franklins for Franklin Challenge Toolkit to raise money for our programs, staff and services.

3. CELEBRATE
The top fundraising teams will be recognized at our “Cheers to 40 Years” Celebration at S50 Waterfront Restaurant on Thursday, September 28, 2023 from 5-7PM.

Questions or want to learn more? Call Mary Beth at 518-587-9826 x227 or marybeth@franklincommunitycenter.org