



The BC Times

A Newsletter of The Bernardine Center

A Ministry of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters

Spring 2009 Issue

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Our Grateful Thanks to All Who Volunteer Time, Talent and Treasure

Time, in this day and age, is a valuable asset, and we at the Bernardine Center appreciate the fact that you, as volunteers, as donors, share your time to collect much needed food for our pantry, to prepare casseroles for our West Side Brunch, to provide usable clothing for our needy clients, or to make a monetary

donation which assists us in minimizing some barriers our clients face, and in making their every day lives less burdensome and definitely happier.

We are so grateful for your generous spirit of giving. Where would we be without exceptional volunteers like you to assist us in all dimensions of our mission at the Bernardine Center? Truly, your hearts are overflowing with love and kindness which prompt your exemplary and generous

contributions. You are, without any doubt, true works of "heart."

Albert Schweitzer once said: "At times, our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to thank with deep gratitude those who have lighted the flame within us."

With hearts filled with an abundance of love and overwhelming gratitude, we, the staff of the Bernardine Center exclaim: **"Thank you for keeping the flame within us burning!"**



BC Staff

From left to right the staff pictured above are: Sister Maria Denise, Sister Sandra, Sister Patricia Lynn, Sister Josandra, Sister Rose, Marylou and Sister Carolyn.

Mission Statement

The Bernardine Center provides a helping hand to low-income Chester area residents by distributing emergency or supplemental food and supplies.

The Bernardine Center also offers educational, spiritual and advocacy programs to help clients build better lives for themselves, their families and communities.

All the ministries of the Bernardine Center are rooted in Franciscan hospitality and the social teachings of our Catholic Christian tradition.

Welcome to Our New Staff Members!!



Sister Patricia Lynn Farrell, one of the newer members of the Bernardine Center staff, is pictured above.

Sister Patricia Lynn Farrell joined the Bernardine Center staff late August 2008, having been a preschool teacher. She immediately set about building upon the English as a Second Language (ESL) program that Sister Reginata had taken great strides to begin earlier at the Center. Sister is an avid advocate for immigrants needing to learn English and Civics in preparation for citizenship. We welcome Sister Pat with her talent and eagerness to support and enhance the Bernardine Center (BC) programs.

Sister Josandra Ciucci, who arrived in mid-October, 2008, hails to the Center from a volunteer immersion opportunity on Red Hill Farm in Aston, PA. Her focus in programming at BC revolves around Earth Care issues and education. She is presently networking with other local groups in planning a community garden for the Center and hoping to involve food pantry clients in vegetable gardening. We welcome Sr. Josandra with her enthusiasm and love-in-action for all creation.

Below is Sister Josandra Ciucci, the newest member of the Bernardine Center staff.



Inter-organizational Cooperation



Marquise, Zach, David, Martel and Lamar from Elwyn are showing off their recently prepared casserole in "On-A-Roll" kitchen.

Since September 2008, five delightful and resilient young men from Elwyn have graced the Bernardine Center's food pantry as volunteers. They are students in the Elwyn's Education Division Program, NETRAC (Navigating Employment and Transition Resources to Adult Communities), for transitioned-aged life skills students. Zachary, David, Martel, Marquise

and Lamar, all between the ages of 18 and 21, are preparing to move from school into the working world. They spend one Wednesday each month joining our staff and other volunteers in serving the needs of our client families who come to the Center's food pantry. They enjoy filling menus, distributing fruits and vegetables, and boxing food in preparation for clients to take to their homes. With the support of their mentors, these young people engage with the staff and volunteers in a personal and sincere way affirming the value of each client who is seeking food assistance.

In addition to all this, under the expert tutelage of Toni DeRosa, they learn and practice culinary skills at "On-a-Roll" Restaurant in Media, PA. There they prepare casseroles that they deliver to the Bernardine Center for distribution to our families during the hours the

food pantry is open.

Together, for our community, we at the Bernardine Center, along with Zachary, David, Martel, Marquise and Lamar, serve the needs of our Chester community and mutually acknowledge the gifts and needs of each other.

We are grateful!



Our friends and their mentors, Celena and Candace, are shown delivering their casseroles to Sr. Josandra, Sr. Sandra, and Sr. Pat at BC.

This Issue's PROFILER COLUMN: Sister Carolyn Muus

Sister Carolyn is a Bernardine Franciscan Sister. She was born in Grandcress, Liberia, in West Africa. Her ministry has been here at the Bernardine Center for the last fourteen years. She is currently Coordinator of Hospitality, a service she dearly loves, and is involved in the preparation and service of the West Side Brunch three days each week. Anyone who enters the Hospitality Room during these days is welcome to partake of a bite to eat.

In Sister's own words, she gets, "...more out of serving the people than they get from me...I enjoy sitting with the guests during brunch as they share their stories with me and each other. It is like a little family."

Sister has also coordinated the SuperCupboard Program at the Bernardine Center "...which helps

women develop self-esteem, self-love..." and deals "...with issues of shame and guilt."

Sister Carolyn planting flowers along Highland Avenue and 9th Street as part of BC's plan for "Weed and Seed."



An avid gardener, Sister Carolyn has also assisted in beautification activities for Chester as can be seen in the above photo.

In her efforts at hospitality, Sister has "...met other Liberians who are trying to get their feet on the ground; I help them in my own small way."

Her clients at BC all appreciate her warmth and hospitality. As she says, "...words that warm my heart from a special client..." are "Give me a hug, Sister!"

In her compassion and performance of the Bernardine Franciscan Charism, she strives "...to walk with others, without judging, but at the same time challenging them to grow beyond life's difficult situations." When she can provide this for others Sister says, "I am blessed."



Pictured above are Sister Carolyn and Mark, one of her favorite clients at the Bernardine Center.

Some Reasons We Are So Grateful



Above are pictured third graders at St. John Chrysostom School in Wallingford, PA, who got together to provide turkeys for Thanksgiving gifts for our clients.

At right is a photo of our favorite turkey! Actually, it is Julie Brown of Magellan Behavior Health. Together with the Delaware County Department of Human Services, Magellan donated 8,936 pounds of food to BC for our holiday meals. Magellan lost the wager between the two groups and Julie volunteered to make the food delivery dressed as...you know what.



Below, Sister Sandra receives a check in the amount of \$2501 from Sandra Drain. The donation comes from the Sons of Ben (Ben Franklin, of course) Soccer Fan Club with the help of the Major League Soccer team. As a result of their philanthropic goals to help end hunger, they raised food and money which they donated to BC to enable families in need to share a nutritious and celebratory holiday meal.

We here at BC feel especially blessed this year and wish to thank so many of our benefactors for their kindness and generosity. There is no way we could possibly express our gratitude to each, but, on this page and throughout this newsletter, you will see photos of some of the acts of kindness which have benefited our community.



SIG Combiblocs, manufacturer of waxed food and beverage container boxes, donated three pallets of soups, broths and iced teas to our clients. Above are shown the pallets, and below are two of the company employees who helped unpack the pallets and transfer their contents to the basement of BC on December 23rd. What a feat!!



Pictured above are two Widener University students assisting in the cleanup of the BC basement, and below are more Widener students stocking BC shelves.



Above are employees from Catholic Health East sorting food they themselves and other groups donated.

Below is Marc Dubach as he spent many tedious hours helping us unpack boxes and stock food. Thanks, Marc!



At left is a photo of students at Beaumont School who collected 2,204 cans of food helping BC provide delicious holiday meals to our clients.



We Are Grateful for Your Generous Holiday Gifts of Food, Clothing, Infant Necessities, Toys and Gifts Certificates

Acme
Sr. Anastasia's St Vincent De Paul Group
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Beaumont Elementary School
Mr. & Mrs. Blake
Borough of Trainer
Boscov's, Granite Run Mall
Jane Brennan
Tom Brinker & Helpers
Laura Bush
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Butera
Barbara Caramanico
Ann Carberry
Catholic Health East
Jean Certo
Michalene & Nicholas Chabon
Chester Community Charter School
Cub Scout Pack #145
Mr. & Mrs. Contofanti
Ramsey Cotherman
William Cullin
Peggy Cully
Bill Cupples
Richard & Josephine Curry
Janet Czarnota
Delaware County Mental Health System
Lisa DeProphetis
Patty Doohan
Essington Boy Scouts
Joseph Ferrara
Joan Ferst
Thomas Feyas
Bob Fullmer
Kay Galvin
Sr. Cara Lucille Garofalo
Lucy Giancristoforo
Judy Gould
Adam Gudelunas
Maura Gustafson
Richard Havyer
Helen Hoban

Marie & Pete Hosler
Betty Howanski
Harry & Philomena Hundermark
James & Charlotte Hyer
Immaculate Conception of Lourdes
Impact Systems, Inc.
Barbara Jackson
Marc & Carol Kadaoch
Debbie Kelly
Barbara Keosayian
Sr. Betty Kirk
Connie Kopko
Commander Bill Kranyak
Kelly Laboy
Debbie Luniewski
Dolores Luniewski
Mark Lynch
Dr. Timothy Martin & Friends
James McCabe
Theresa McCart
Joan McLaughlin
Rosa McMillian
The Mullen Family
Millie Myers
Newcomers & Neighbors
NGA
Ellen Nonnemaker
Congregation Ohev Shalom
Michael O'Keefe
On A Roll Restaurant
Our Lady of Angels Convent
Our Lady of Charity Parish
Our Lady of Charity School
Our Lady of Peace School
Pathmark, Broomall, PA
PharmPro, Inc.
Jackie Pierangeli & Students
Pete Pieri
Philabundance
Denise Phillips
Joe Price & Knights of Columbus
Mary Ann Prorock

Jane Quinn-Schwartz
Geraldine Randall
Holy Trinity Convent, Phoenixville
Red Hill Farm
Retired Teachers Association
Janet Ricks
Right at Home
Imogene Rosenbluth
Kathy Rushton
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Ryan
Sacred Heart Parish, Manoa
St. Francis De Sales Parish
St. Francis De Sales School
St. John Chrysostom Scout Troop #605
St. John Chrysostom CCD
St. John Chrysostom Parish
St. John Chrysostom Social Club
St. Kevin Parish
St. Madeline Parish
St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish
St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Social Group
St. Mark Church, Broomall
St. Matthew Church
Dr. Ana & Jay Sanders
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Savukinas
Candy Schreiber
Michael Shine
Cathy Shuda
SIG Combibloc
Ruth Slowik & Family
Sons of Ben
Strath Haven Cheerleaders
Surgical Monitoring Associates, Inc.
Swarthmore College SAAC
Margaret Tarte
Barbara & Charles Tart
Tredyffrin/Easttown Middle School
Temple Shalom Preschool
Tarah Tremblay
Theodore Traini
Unity Center
John Whitby

Thank you to BC Staff and Linn Bramble, BC Volunteer, for the contents and layout of this issue of the newsletter.

Things to Come

The **BC Community Garden** is being created.
Pictures in next issue!!

The **SuperCupboard Program** for **Women** with children begins again in May.

Topics: Nutrition, Life Skills and Caring for the Whole Self.

BC Wish List

Bernardine Center United Way Donor Code: 44950

- Wheelbarrow and Long water hose
- Rain Barrel
- Financial help for Community Garden (in progress)
- Financial help for dumbwaiter installation (in progress.)

Thank You to ALL Who Responded Monetarily to Our Holiday Requests Between October 1, 2008 and January 31, 2009

Mary Ann Abbott
Vincent Anderson
B.A.C.A.
Bernardine Sisters
James & Diana Billinger
Fred & Mary Bilotta
Jule C. Biunno
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Bonella
Edward Bonnes
Vincent Boyle
Eugene & Christine Bradley
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Brinkmann
Richard & Cheryl Brown
James and Margaret Bruno
Richard & Judith Burns
Paul Cacciatore
Pat & Sean Campbell
Olla Cannon
Pete & Lee Caracci
Judy Carter
Nicholas and Michalene Chabon
Chester Community Charter School
Chester County Community Foundation
David Chominski
John & Ellen Civatte
James & Ann Clancy
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Clancy
Kevin & Alex Clancy
David Clark & LeAnne Gelletly
Russell & Denise Cobb
Joseph & Anita Coppens
Mary Cummings
Thomas & Denise Cunningham
Richard & Josephine Curry
Henry & Alice Dawson
James & Linda Deeney
Delaware Valley Searches, Inc.
Mildred Demarcantonio
Jeremiah & Margaret Desmond
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Dolan
Helen Donaldson
Kent & Mary Anne Drake
Mary Dwyer
Frederick & Mary Farley
Carol Farrell
John & Theresa Fetrow
John & Mary Flynn
Franciscan Ministries Foundation
Fresh Baked Theatre Co.
Clifford Gabrellas
Sr. Mercita Glowacki
Robert Godbey
Richard Godbey
Judy Gould

Keith Harvin
James & Karen Grugan
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Haase
Rev. Doug Haefner
Nancy Halli & Alfred Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Harenza
Sr. Marinetta Harenza
Martin Hayburn
Heart of Mary Convent
Ron & Cheryl Hodgins
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Holmstrom
Harry & Philomena Hundermark
Anthony & Lorraine Iacone
Cathleen Jillson
Mary Kepler
Keystone Mercy Health Plan
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Kiszka
Sr. Patrice Klausung
Thomas & Sharon Klecha
Chester Koczynski
Sr. Faith Kravat
Frances & Michael Kwapisz
Michael & Maureen LaFever
Catherine Laub
Sr. Gemma Legel
Theresa Leonard
Vincent & Felicia Lindsley
Dave & Stacie Lospinoso
Marjorie Lucci
Pat Malach
Kenneth Margolis
Michael Marley
Matthew and Karen Marquardt
Delphine Mattei
James McCabe
Bernice McGinn
Anne McGrath
Mary Ellen McTeague
Sonia Melville & Family
Nancy Mikoljzyk
Bill & Terry Moller
Francis Monaghan
Richard Murray & Mary O'Gorman
Nancy Myers
Rose Marie Naef
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Nenno
Newcomers & Neighbor Book Club
Newcomers & Neighbors
Anne Newton
Timothy & Donna Nichols
Maria Nogowski
Josephine Novak
Bill & Maureen Olphert
Dennis & Cheryl Orlewicz

Jim & Bette Ortoleva
Sr. Domina Oszmianska
Mary Partin
Lambert Payne
Philadelphia Cursillo
Anthony Pileggi
Pilot Freight Services
Sr. Veronica Plewinski
Polish American Club
Sr. Davidica Pomichter
Joan Powers
Pat Pringle
Paul & Karen Quinn
Geraldine Randall
George & Ann Receveur
John Rim
Sacred Heart Convent, Chester
Sacred Heart Convent, DuPont
Sacred Heart Parish, Manoa
Madlyn Santivasi
Richard & Bethann Scalan
Adam & Janis Sendek
SEPA RC & D Council
James Shields
Ken Shuss
Veronica Sidebottom
Sisters of St. Francis, Aston, PA
Sr. Cynthia Skienziel
Tom & Terri Smedile
John & Loretta Smith
Edna Soltanuk
Sons of Ben
Southco
St. Dorothy Parish
St. John Vianney Convent
St. John's Boy Scout Troop #605
St. Joseph Guild
St. Joseph Villa, Reading
Frances Rhoda Stier
Lillian Stuart-Whistler
Susan Sutsko
Lenora Synovec
TIFF Advisory Services, Inc.
Tinicum Township
Toby Farms Elementary School
Michael Valentik
Louis & Rita Visco
Mary Jo & Mark Warner
Joseph & Elvira Weiss
Mary Kay Weldon
West Council Telecom Pioneers
Robert Wright
Sr. Materna Yarrish
Edwin Youtz
Susan Youtz
Clara Zukowski

Adopt-A-Family

The BC Adopt-A-Family program, in existence since 2003, "adopted" 11 families this Christmas. The families provide the names of family members along with a list of items each person needs - clothes, educational toys and gift certificates. These families are referred by a variety of sources. BC unites them with "adopt-ors" who assist in providing them some of the material blessings of Christmas.

This year, the "adoptors" included St. John Chrysostom Parish in Wallingford, Surgical Monitoring Associates in Springfield, Widener University students and individuals who took it upon themselves to help.



Pictured above is Yajaira who is gratefully receiving gifts for each member of her family.



Pictured above: As the representative of BC's "senior family," Shangzhi receives gifts for himself and his wife.

Ellen Nonnemaker and her husband and Jane Quinn-Schwartz, her co-worker at AT&T, adopted two families on their own. Maura Gustafson, a long-time BC friend, and her friends joined forces to adopt two families. St. John's adopted 3



For Jayden and Johnay, who are a bit shy in front of the camera, their mother, Nicole, smilingly accepts gifts.

families and has been in the adoption business for several years. Melissa Hanley and her husband learned their Post Office would not be able to participate, and they promptly involved the Surgical Monitoring Associates, where Melissa is employed. They helped two additional families.



Above, Janet and Ricardo, sharing pictures of their family, Hanef, Hancefah and Ayananah, receive gifts provided by the generosity of the Mullen family, Chris, Courtney, Meghan and Victoria.

Because of the generosity of its benefactors, BC has been able to provide services like this one to those who are much less fortunate.



The Bernardine Center
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