



Children from a summer Peace Camp session enjoy sharing instruments and music together



Ishmael learns how to plant a seedling during Children's Peace Camp in July 2015

*Adapted from*  
**“CHILDREN LEARN  
 WHAT THEY LIVE”**  
*by Dorothy Law Nolte*

... If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.  
 If children live with tolerance, they learn to be patient.  
 If children live with praise, they learn to appreciate.  
 If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.  
 If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves...



“Peace Teacher” Sara reads to children during one of the summer Children's Peace Camp sessions



Children learn cooperation and sharing during Peace Camp sessions with “Peace Teacher” Heather

For the 10 months from April 2015 through January 2016, Bernardine Center's Food Pantry served

- ♥ 2,487 households, including
- ♥ 3,334 adults
- ♥ 2,945 children and
- ♥ 748 seniors for a total of
- ♥ 7,027 individuals who received
- ♥ 189,729 take home meals (each person receives 27 supplemental meals/month)

Westside Brunch served 3,852 meals in the same time period



Members of the Soccer Hall of Fame, Sons of Ben, Father Judge High School students donate 75 coats for clients of Bernardine Center; Sr. Sandra and Robyn (BC Staff) sitting on the curb, thank the group for their donation



Members of Sons of Ben from the Reading, PA area, fan club for Philadelphia Union Soccer Team, present Sister Sandra with a \$900 donation for BC



Members of St. Mary Magdalene Community (front - Carolyn, Cass, Charlotte; back- Kathy, Mary) purchase, prepare and serve a brunch meal once each month. This year their service included a Thanksgiving and a Christmas brunch for our clients



Lee Anne and John Montgomery, Rev. McDermott, and John Boles of St. John Fisher Parish deliver Christmas gifts for families of Bernardine Center

**Bernardine Center serves all those in need regardless of race, national origin, age, religion, sex, orientation or disability.**



**Bernardine Center**  
 2625 West Ninth Street,  
 Chester, PA 19013  
[www.bernardinecenter.org](http://www.bernardinecenter.org)

Stamp

We are grateful to  
**Philip and  
 Carol Lynn Stine**  
*of Simpsonville, Kentucky*  
 for their very generous initiation  
 of a Bernardine Center Fund  
 so that “the Sisters’ work among  
 the economically disadvantaged in  
 Chester, PA will be able to continue  
 and even outlive us.”



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SPRING 2016

THE A NEWSLETTER OF THE BERNARDINE CENTER  
*Bernardine*Center  
**TIMES**  
A Ministry of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters

**MEET BERNARDINE  
 CENTER STAFF**



**MESSAGE FROM  
 THE DIRECTOR**  
*Sister Sandra Lyons*

Food pantries are able to serve persons who are in need of food because of you, our donors. Thank you! Food and fund donations generally diminish during summer months creating a barrier to providing sufficient supplemental meals to families-in-need of food assistance. This is an anticipated barrier that can be partially overcome with pre-planning.

But this year, at the time of printing this newsletter, food pantries continue to struggle to overcome another more devastating barrier to providing meals to low-income, food-insecure families. Only recently some state funding for human services, which includes food pantries, has been granted. Without an approved and functioning state budget, the PA Department of Agriculture has no authorization and no appropriation capacity to provide funds for food pantries to purchase food for distribution to families who seek supplemental food support from pantries. It is already eight months into the year. State congress persons are receiving salaries but for what? Do they not realize that compromise and non-partisan efforts are better for the health and welfare of society, especially for persons in vulnerable situations? Please, encourage your senator and representative to remember the needs of “we, the people” to whom they are accountable.

Please, consider seeking out your local food pantry to make a food or fund donation so that families in need of supplemental food will receive nutritious meals. When donating food, keep in mind that outdated food and opened packages cannot be used by pantries, that snack foods do not provide the nutrition children need to grow healthy brains and do not meet the body's need for a balanced diet. Suggestions for food donations: peanut butter, chunky soups of meat and vegetables, tuna, canned salmon or chicken, non-sugar-coated cereals, canned beef stew.

Thank you for helping those who hunger and thirst in a nation of plenty!

Robyn assesses all in-coming clothing and provides opportunity for BC clients to use the Thrift Shop



Edward cares for all the food that comes into BC, weighing, sorting and shelving it; he keeps BC sparkling



Sarah, a Goodwill Trainee, sets up and serves brunches and helps with meals



Sister Sandra oversees all BC programs and finances



*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.



A gathering of BC's Women of Peace Empowerment before the planned vigil for International Day of Peace - September 21, 2015



Chuck, our Master Gardener, with other volunteers replace old raised beds with new beds in preparation for the spring 2016 planting season. All new materials were donated by The Home Depot



Grant funding from **W.W. Smith Charitable Trust** enabled BC to have a new sidewalk put in for safety of its customers



**Nasella Construction Company, Inc.** did the hard work of demolishing the old sidewalk and installing the new, safer walkway for Bernardine Center

## IN GRATITUDE TO ALL DONORS OF MONETARY AND IN-KIND GIFTS

*Between April 1, 2015 and January 31, 2016*

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| ACME, Clifton Heights                            | Duffy, Marie                            | Lucci, Joseph                             | Sendek, Adam                           |
| ACME, Glen Mills                                 | Eaton, Lee & Christine                  | Lucci, Marjorie R.                        | Shiels, Marilyn                        |
| ACME, Glenolden                                  | Englert, Cass                           | Luniewski, Debbie & Dolores               | Sienko, Dorothy                        |
| ACME, Lawrence Park                              | Essington Boy Scout Troop 37            | Maffei, Shawn                             | Sister Betty Kane                      |
| ACME, Media                                      | Farley, Mary                            | Mallee, Michael & Mary                    | Sister Cara Lucille Garofalo           |
| ACME, Newtown Square                             | Farrell, Gloria                         | Malogrino, Nancy                          | Sister Danielle Marie Kubelsky         |
| ACME, Ridley Park                                | Federal Government, TEFAP               | Maris Grove Catholic Council              | Sister Domina Oszmianska               |
| Adams, Kenny                                     | Fee, Frank & Mary                       | Marshall, Chuck & Central Baptist Church  | Sister Francis Canice Reinhardt        |
| Ailes, Richard                                   | Ferzetti, Elizabeth                     | Martin, Mary                              | Sister Kateri Peake                    |
| Alderman, Linda                                  | Fetrow, John & Theresa                  | Martindale's Natural Market               | Sister Marilisa Helena da Silva        |
| Alexander, George & RoseMary                     | Feyas, Thomas                           | Martinelli, Amelia                        | Sister Marinetta Harenza               |
| Anderson, Vincent & Veronica                     | Florio, Dominic                         | Marquardt, Matthew & Karen                | Sister Philip Ann Yurkonis             |
| Arango, Nic                                      | Flynn, Charlotte                        | Matthews, Tina                            | Sister Ruth Ann Rogozinski             |
| ASIS International, Greater Philadelphia Chapter | Foehl, Gene A.                          | McCabe, James                             | Sister Veronica Plewinski              |
| Barrar, Sarah                                    | Fresh Baked Theatre Company             | McDevitt, Sophie                          | Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia |
| Baxter, Cynthia Jama                             | Gallagher, Mary Kate                    | McGarrey, Jean                            | Sleepy Hollow Dolly                    |
| Bernardine Center Garden                         | Gannon, John & Loretta                  | McIntyre, Margaret                        | Smedile, Thomas & Teresa               |
| Bernardine Franciscan Sisters                    | General Federation Women's Club, Aston  | McKee, William & Kathryn                  | Smith, John                            |
| Bernardine Franciscan Development Office         | Giant Food Store, West Chester          | McLaughlin, Chuck & Natalina              | Smith, Marci                           |
| Bethard, Susan                                   | Gibbons, Melinda & UUCDC                | McLaughlin, Joan                          | Smith, Mary                            |
| Betzal, Deacon Jack                              | Godbey, Robert                          | McTeague, MaryEllen                       | Soccer Hall of Fame                    |
| Boudwin, Judith A.                               | Graham, Mary                            | Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital, 7 Center Rehab | Soltanuk, Edna                         |
| Bramble, Linn                                    | Gray, Nancy                             | Merz, James & Patricia                    | Sons of Ben                            |
| Braun, Kim                                       | Gregg, Sean                             | Minaret Court No. 154                     | Sons of Ben, Reading                   |
| Brennan, Jane M.                                 | Grim, Charles                           | Mitchell, Robert                          | Sousa, David                           |
| Briselli, Robert                                 | Grocery Outlet Inc.                     | Morrison, Robert                          | Springfield Pasta                      |
| Broome, Gabe                                     | Grugan, James & Karen                   | Mullarkey, Kevin                          | Stabilito, James & Patricia            |
| Bruno, James & Margaret                          | Gudulunas, Madeline                     | Murray, Richard T & O'Gorman, Mary        | Staffieri, Suzanne                     |
| Burke, Ariene                                    | Gunther, Edward & Marianne              | Naef, Robert & Rosemarie                  | State Government                       |
| Burns, Judith                                    | Gustafson, Maura N.                     | Nasella, James P. & Sons Inc              | St. Anastasia Vincent de Paul Society  |
| Burridge, Nora                                   | Haggerty, Kevin                         | Nasella, Steve                            | St. Bernardine of Siena Convent        |
| Cacciatore, Paul                                 | Hajduga, Raymond & Mary Jane            | Needlework Guild of America, Concordville | St. Francis of Assisi Academy          |
| Carey, John & JoAnn                              | Harcum College                          | Needlework Guild of America, Hatboro      | St. James Alumni, Dog House            |
| Carpitella, Catherine                            | Hardesty, Nancy                         | Nelson, Carolyn                           | St. John Chrysostom Boy Scout Troop    |
| Cassels, Patricia                                | Harenza, Leon & Patricia                | Nenno, Mr. & Mrs. Richard                 | St. John Chrysostom, Council 10935     |
| Chabon, Michalene                                | Harkins, Christopher                    | Harwin, Keith                             | St. John Chrysostom, Hospitality       |
| Chester Charter School for the Arts              | Haupt, Roland                           | Haupt, Roland                             | St. John Chrysostom Parish             |
| Chester Community Charter School                 | HealthPro Management Associates         | Iacone, Lorraine                          | St. John Chrysostom PUEP               |
| Chester Post Office                              | Heart of Mary Convent, Stamford, CT     | IMA Consulting                            | St. John Chrysostom Youth Group        |
| Chester Social Security Administration           | Heron, Richard & Suzanne                | Independence Foundation                   | St. John Fisher Parish                 |
| Chester Upland School District                   | Hicks, Marjorie                         | Jackson, Barbara                          | St. Joseph Guild, Aston                |
| Chimienti, James                                 | Holmstrom, Marilyn                      | Judge, James and Margaret & Family        | St. Kevin Parish                       |
| Chominski, David                                 | Howanski, Elizabeth                     | Jurist, Melissa & Swarthmore Farm         | St. Madeline Parish, Giving Tree       |
| Chominski, Helen                                 | Hughes, Robert C.                       | Just Pizza                                | St. Mary Magdalene Community           |
| Cianfaro, Susanne                                | Iacone, Lorraine                        | Kachelries, Alice                         | St. Thomas More Convent, Allentown     |
| Ciancy, Alexia                                   | IMA Consulting                          | Kane, Joseph & Mary                       | St. Thomas the Apostle Parish          |
| Cocchi, Addie                                    | Independence Foundation                 | Kau, George & Peggy                       | Stier, Frances Rhoda                   |
| Coleman, W. Gregory & Marcia                     | Jackson, Barbara                        | Kelly, Debbie                             | Stuart-Whistler, Lillian               |
| Congregation Ohev Shalom                         | Judge, James and Margaret & Family      | Keosayan, Barbara                         | Szczepaniak, Joseph                    |
| Connelly Foundation                              | Jurist, Melissa & Swarthmore Farm       | Kermes, Patricia & James                  | Tart, Charles & Barbara                |
| Corey, Francis I.                                | Just Pizza                              | King, James & Mary                        | TE Middle School                       |
| COSA   | Kohake, Ruth                            | Knights of Columbus, Ridley               | TE Home Depot                          |
| Cotter, Deborah                                  | Kozlowski, Irene                        | Kohake, Ruth                              | The Home Depot, Glen Mills             |
| Cowell, John & Bridget                           | Kupsov, Stephen & Pamela                | Kozlowski, Irene                          | The Ken Margolis Family Giving Fund    |
| Cummings, Mary                                   | Kusic, Dara                             | Kupsov, Stephen & Pamela                  | The Marcom Group, LTD.                 |
| Curry, Josephine                                 | LeFever, Mary                           | Kusick, Dara                              | The Women Club of Media                |
| Czarnota, Janet                                  | LeFever, Maureen                        | LeFever, Mary                             | Thompson, Robert                       |
| Daly, Pat  | Lemmerman, David & Marilyn              | LeFever, Maureen                          | Thompson, William                      |
| Dapplecroft Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation  | Lewis, Quintelina                       | Lemmerman, David & Marilyn                | United Way of Tocqueville Society      |
| Davis, Jr., Walter & Agnes                       | Lindsay, Mary                           | Lemmerman, David & Marilyn                | Vecchione, Renee                       |
| Dawson, Henry & Alice                            | Lindsay, Vincent & Felicia              | Lemmerman, David & Marilyn                | Velez, Jennifer                        |
| Delaware County Cooperative Extension            | Linstrom, Katherine A.                  | Lemmerman, David & Marilyn                | Villanova University                   |
| Delaware County Council                          | Locklear, Linda                         | Lemmerman, David & Marilyn                | Villari, John & Joanne                 |
| Delaware County Juvenile Court                   | Long, Cindy                             | Lemmerman, David & Marilyn                | Vitello, Antonio                       |
| Delaware County Juvenile Probation               | Lorror, Richard & Frankie's on Fairview | Lemmerman, David & Marilyn                | Vito, Mark S.                          |
| Delaware County Office of Behavioral Health      | Lospinoso, Dave & Stacie                | Lemmerman, David & Marilyn                | Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign |
| DeVacchio, Michael & Betty                       |   | Lemmerman, David & Marilyn                | Wesley, Beverly                        |
| Dennis, Jennifer                                 |   | Lemmerman, David & Marilyn                | Williams, Leroy                        |
| Devereux   |   | Lemmerman, David & Marilyn                | Wolfram Memorial Library, Widener Univ |
| Doherty, John                                    |   | Lemmerman, David & Marilyn                | Wright, Jean                           |
| Dolan, Stephen & Patricia                        |   | Lemmerman, David & Marilyn                | Young, Jerry                           |
| Dominican Sisters, Brookhaven                    |   | Lemmerman, David & Marilyn                | Youtz, Edwin & Mary                    |
| Donze, Steve & Lyn                               |   | Lemmerman, David & Marilyn                | Zech, Ann                              |
| Drozowski, Helen                                 |   | Lemmerman, David & Marilyn                | Ziegenfuss, Margaret E.                |



A Women's Peace Empowerment prayer and dinner takes place on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings of each month. All women are invited. Sr. Sandra cooks



In October 2015, Breyl, Emily and Sally help to clean up the garden for a winter's rest



Delco City Council and partners donated food to the DIFAN food pantries for Thanksgiving 2015; BC's van was filled with 2,704.7 pounds of food, including fresh produce



IMA Consulting, Ann Torbik and Betsy Leo, pose with BC staff member Edward after donating 732 pounds of newly purchased food, personal care items and infant diapers for BC at Thanksgiving time



Denise presents co-Pastor Lena with a Peace Dove during a November 2015 Women's Peace Empowerment dinner



Chuck, BC's Master Gardener, and Edward, BC staff, refresh the new raised beds with mushroom soil in preparation for the up-coming spring 2016 planting



BC pantry shelves are empty after food distribution on December 23, 2015 due to so many seeking help



Parishioners from St. Francis of Assisi Parish load the Bernardine Center van with cases of food donations gathered during the "Souper Bowl of Caring" collection of 5,671 pounds of food in February 2016