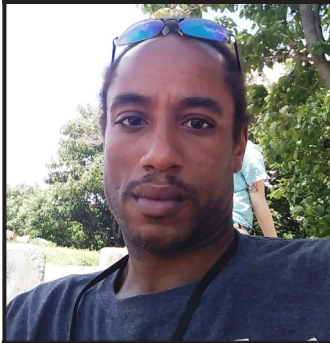




Back on Their Feet and Reaching for the Stars: *SJH & GSP alumni share their journeys from homelessness to home*



GSP Alumnus,
Jamaal Henderson

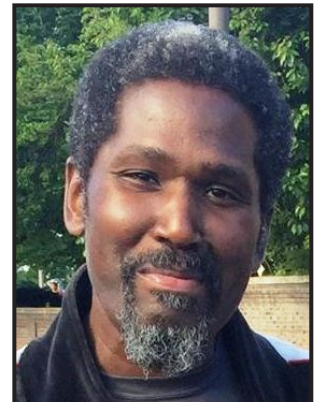
Life for **Jamaal Henderson** has been far from easy. Originally from North Carolina, Jamaal knows the struggles of being homeless. After his marriage ended, Jamaal lost everything including custody of his four children. He was living on the street, trying to make it through each day: "That was a hard time for me. I managed to stay off the streets by sleeping on friends couches when I could." Jamaal also

has HIV/AIDS, and his health was rapidly deteriorating: "Not having a stable home made it difficult for me to be consistent with my medication." Eventually, Jamaal relocated to Philadelphia, where he would have a place to live while he helped raise his daughter from a previous relationship. Jamaal remembers, "After only six months in Philly, I was thrown out on the street again. At this point, my health was at its worst; I was really sick with pneumonia."

Finally, Jamaal got the help he needed when **Philly Fight** (an HIV/AIDS advocacy and healthcare organization) referred Jamaal to the Good Shepherd Program (GSP) at Saint John's Hospice. Before arriving at GSP, Jamaal had spent a short time in the Philadelphia shelter system. When arriving at GSP he was pleasantly surprised: "I was amazed at how nice Good Shepherd was. After speaking with the staff I started to get hopeful. It seemed like a place where I could take the time to get better instead of being put back out on the streets." At GSP Jamaal was able to regulate his medication and get healthy. He was also able to get involved with **Back On My Feet** (BOMF). Thanks to Good Shepherd and BOMF, Jamaal was able to gain a sense of community and family that had been missing in his life for too long. Jamaal moved out of Good Shepherd in 2014 into an apartment. Today, he lives in a three-bedroom house, has full-time employment, and volunteers in the community. In October 2016, Jamaal gained custody of his four children: "Raising four kids alone is a challenge but at the same time I love it. I would not change a thing."

Before coming to St. John's, **Chris Williams** had a good job that he enjoyed. Chris worked tirelessly to support himself and his family members in any way possible. Unfortunately, his situation would drastically change for the worse. After losing his job due to a medical issue coupled with the 2008 economic downturn, Chris was without employment, unable to provide for himself or others: "Support from family and friends was very limited. They weren't used to seeing me vulnerable and unstable. Also, because I felt ashamed, I was slow to seek or accept help of any kind." For Chris, this was the beginning of a downward spiral into depression and eventual homelessness. Then Chris heard about Saint John's Hospice: "After spending countless days of walking downtown, visiting churches, drop-in centers and parks, someone told me about the support I could find at St. John's."

One of the first impressions I had of St. John's was that it was welcoming and non-judgmental." Chris started attending our Day Services Program for a meal and support, then staying at the overnight drop-in Coffeehouse, and eventually became a Saint John's resident in our shelter: "When I transitioned from St. John's Coffeehouse and became a resident, my hopes for a better life became a reality. I was relieved and grateful to have the support and the opportunity to rebuild my life." When asked to reflect on one particularly special moment at Saint John's, Chris replied, "The frequent interaction I had with the Coffeehouse staff was so welcoming and respectful. They were the ones who encouraged me to apply to become a St. John's resident, which I eagerly accepted. During that time, I battled with gout which made walking extremely difficult. But when I climbed to the top of the stairs—to my own bed at John's—that moment was extraordinary. From that day on, the treatment I received from staff and volunteers seemed to say 'Welcome home! Come just as you are.'"



SJH Alumnus,
Chris Williams

Gratitude and Kindness is Everywhere at SJH

A reflection from the Saint John's Hospice Program Director, David Stier



David Stier,
SJH Program Director

Have you ever been surprised by an exuberant greeting from someone who is an apparent stranger? Perhaps there are elements of kindness and gratitude in that greeting. You may ask yourself, "Do they have the right person? Did I actually do something for this person to warrant this kind of a reaction?" This experience happens to us all the time at St. John's Hospice.

Despite having worked here almost 10 years, I continue to be amazed regularly by the disarming kindness and gratitude of men using our services—men whom I don't even know. Sometimes there is such a gentle, tender quality about them. They seem to know me.

I usually ask myself whether we've personally met before. What did I say or do; or have we even spoken before? It would be nice to know. Yet, I also tell myself that on some level it really doesn't matter that much whether we've ever personally connected. I know that this is not of primary importance for many of our men. The real kernel of it is that I work at St. John's Hospice.

This team of people here – staff, volunteers, supporters, whether seen or unseen - represents something. Through our collective acts of kindness, we give something special here that the men enjoy, respect, and relish. The men sense that they are genuinely cared for. Love is always

something to enjoy respect, and relish; yet we humans do find ways to let this slip by us. Sometimes for our men a little dose of love is particularly poignant because outside of St. John's Hospice they often feel forgotten, abandoned, and even reviled.

I'm grateful for those moments when I'm the recipient of gentle kindness and gratitude from our men. God's love is so clearly being given to me from their hearts. God's love is in these hallowed buildings at St. John's and Good Shepherd. God's love is in the hearts of our staff, volunteers and supporters. We thank God everyday for this!

David Stier

Program Director



Saint John's Hospice seeks to be a community grounded in faith and service where homeless persons find dignity, respect, nourishment and opportunities for new beginnings.

Thank You for Supporting the Saint John's Hospice 2016-17 Annual Appeal!



Thanks to you, our loyal and dedicated family of donors, Saint John's Hospice was able to exceed this year's Annual Appeal goal of \$550,000 by 118% with a ***closing total to date of \$647,475!***

To one and all we say, **“THANK YOU!”** Together, we will continue to provide essential and life-sustaining services to our homeless brothers who are suffering and in need. Your care makes such a difference in the lives of so many, and we are deeply grateful for all that you do. Thank you for being a vital part of the Saint John's Hospice community.

For more information on our programs and how your donation can truly make a difference, contact Kris Jaeger at 215.563.7763 or kjaeger@chs-adphila.org.



PB&J Day! A Great Way to Make a Difference for the Homeless

So, you don't have time to come down to Saint John's to volunteer? Don't worry, there are many other ways to make an impact on hunger right from your office, school or home. One way is to host a "PB&J Day." Throughout the city and suburbs of Philadelphia, SJH supporters gather to make PB&J sandwiches for Saint John's Hospice guests. Kris Jaeger, Director of Development and Community Relations for Saint John's, underscores the impact that these sandwiches have on the men we serve: "These sandwiches mean a lot to us. For many of the men, the hot lunch they receive at Saint John's may be the only meal that they'll have all day. By handing them a sandwich on their way out, we are able to provide food that will carry them through the night until we open again the following day. It's a small gesture that makes a big difference in their lives."



The Blue Crew pictured here with their donation of hundreds of sandwiches for our SJH men.

Blue Cross of Philadelphia (otherwise known as the, '**Blue Crew**') are long-time supporters of SJH. Marie Gillespie, Blue Cross Community Affairs Specialist, loves the PB&J events: "Our Public Affairs department participated ... we decided to do this around the holidays. It was just one hour in the morning—we really enjoyed the time together and giving back." Blue Crew teammate Yasseline Diaz added, "It was a great way to start the day! Everyone enjoyed the project. We are planning on making it a yearly event."



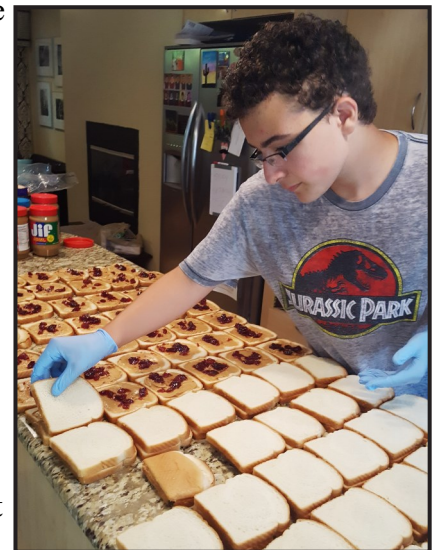
Archdiocesan employees take a break from work to make sandwiches for SJH

Brooke Mullen, Assistant Director of Community Relations for **Nutritional Development Services** of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, recently organized their second PB&J Day for Saint John's. Brooke was thrilled that all of her archdiocesan colleagues enjoyed the event: "The staff commented that the event was a great opportunity, and that they were thrilled to help. Many attendees asked when the

next event would be held so they could help again." Brooke intends to organize these events as an ongoing service project: "We plan to hold PB&J sandwich-making days a few times each year to help the men at Saint John's. Through small events like this, we are able to bring the archdiocesan community together to live our mission of helping those in need."

Max Keer, an 8th grader from **St. Mary's Interparochial School** located on 5th and Locust Streets in Philadelphia, organized a PB&J Day to make sandwiches for his summer service project for school. Max had a great time making sandwiches with his sister, Nora. He smiles when he thinks back on that experience: "It was really fun. We bought lots of bread and peanut butter and jelly – more than I had ever seen before! We figured out how many sandwiches we could get from one loaf and started from there. By the end of the afternoon, my sister and I made 360 sandwiches in all. It made me feel good to do something that helped so many people. And we had lots of fun doing it!"

If you or your group are interested in organizing a PB&J Day, please contact Kris Jaeger at 215-563-7763 for details. Thanks to all who help to make PB&J Days a success! Together, as a community of faith and service, we can work to end hunger one meal at a time.



St. Mary's Interparochial School 8th grader, Max Keer, makes sandwiches for his summer service project

Spotlight on Our SJH Volunteer Family



Meet Dan Campbell

Chances are, if you've ever visited Saint John's Hospice, you've met Dan Campbell. A long-time member of the Ignation Volunteer Corps, (IVC), Dan has worked at the front desk of SJH for the past eight of his sixteen years with IVC. Dan's responsibilities include distributing mail and toiletries, answering the

phone, and giving information and advice to Day Services guests who come to Saint John's each day for food and support. Often the front desk is the busiest place at Saint John's, yet Dan and his fellow volunteers are always ready to handle the crowds, patiently providing caring service to our homeless brothers. When asked what keeps him coming back, Dan replied, "I like getting to know the clients and helping them with their problems." Thanks Dan, for your ongoing service and dedication to SJH and to those whom we serve!



Meet Juliana Smalls

Every Thursday and Friday you'll see Juliana (Julie) with her apron on, ready to serve in our SJH dining hall. Julie came to Saint John's a little over a year ago and has been a loyal and generous member of the SJH volunteer family ever since.

Julie first reached out to Saint John's with an offer to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables for the lunch program. She told the SJH staff that she wanted to help and this was the most direct way to make an impact. From that day on, Julie has continued to serve our brothers in need each and every week. Julie's motivation is heartfelt: "I want to help the poor. It's that simple. I also enjoy working with the other volunteers." Thank you Julie for your generous heart and kind spirit. God bless you!



Meet Beneficial

Service and giving back to the community is very important to Beneficial Bank. Beneficial employees (l-r) Joan Florek, Cathy Tipson, and Sue Killeen should know. Together, they have a combined total of fifty years working for

Beneficial. Every month, they and fellow employees donate their time to Saint John's and other organizations around the region. "Service is a big part of what we do. It's part of our culture," comments Sue. When asked what keeps them excited about service, Joan replies, "I find service to be humbling. I also like to talk to the men." Cathy and Sue agree that they also like meeting new people and connecting with the SJH day services guests. As Cathy remarks, "The best part about volunteering is making new friends and making the men smile." Thank you to all the people of Beneficial, for your service to our homeless men of SJH and to our "city of brotherly love"!

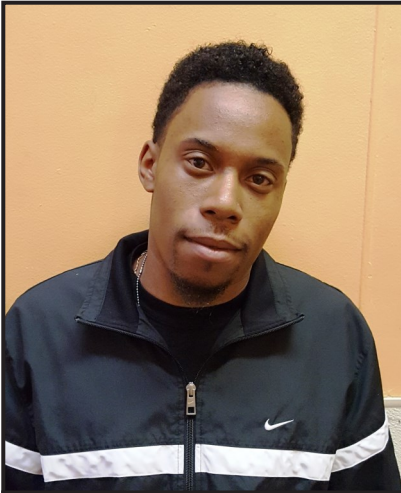


Meet Sarah Beierle

Sarah Beierle, Director of Accounting and Financial Reporting for **Berwind Corporation**, is an active member of the SJH Development Council and Co-chair of this year's Annual Appeal. Sarah's enthusiasm for SJH and its mission is apparent in all that she does: "The

passion, energy and dedication of each member of the Development Council is infectious. This same level of passion is also reflected in the SJH staff and volunteers." Sarah has been a driving force behind making SJH more visible through networking with other nonprofits in Philadelphia and creating new marketing opportunities for Saint John's, including a new promotional film. Sarah reflects, "I have seen SJH make amazing strides in the past two years with respect to increasing our visibility and donor support in the Philadelphia area, and am blessed to be a part of it." Thank you Sarah for doing your part to ensure that the SJH mission will continue to serve our homeless brothers for many years to come!

Meet Our New SJH/GSP Employees



Kevin Spears
SJH Kitchen Aide



Natalie Johnson MSS, MLSP
SJH Case Manager



Yanique Richards
GSP Case Manager



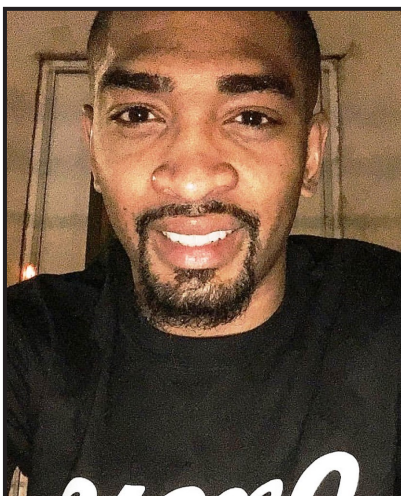
Charles Bey
GSP Resident Aide



Damon Cottman
SJH Food Services Manager



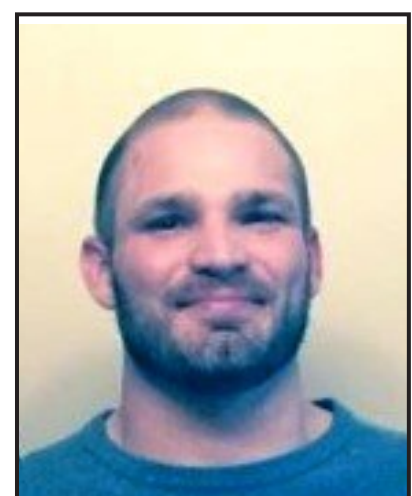
Chris Reynolds
SJH Resident Aide



Joel Green
GSP Resident Aide



Linda Kellam
SJH Kitchen Aide



Chris Johnson
SJH Weekend Coffeehouse Supervisor

New Van from Maguire Foundation Puts the SJH Mission in Motion



The SJH 2017 Dodge Grand Caravan generously provided through a grant from the Maguire Foundation

Each day, Saint John's Hospice employees rely on the SJH van to help them do their job. Whether its collecting donations of food and clothing from local businesses and donors, transporting residents for their weekly day of gardening at Cranaleith Retreat Center, or getting employees and residents to events and trainings throughout the city, having a reliable vehicle is crucial in enabling Saint John's to effectively carry out its mission. Each day Tasha Madison, SJH Kitchen Aide, drives the van to various locations to pick up donations of food. She is thrilled to have a new van: "It's great to have a clean, reliable vehicle that we can rely on to get our job done." SJH Program Director Dave Stier comments, "I'm excited every time I see our beautiful van; it represents all of the good work SJH does on behalf of the

homeless. It is also a reminder of the generosity of people and organizations such as the Maguire Foundation. Without their support, this new van would not be possible." Thank you to the Maguire Family Foundation for their compassion for the poor and ongoing support of SJH and its mission.

Saint John's Welcomes Brother Tommy Piolata

Saint John's Hospice would like to welcome Brother Tommy Piolata, OFM, Cap., our Franciscan Summer Intern. Originally from Columbus, Ohio, Br. Tommy currently resides in Washington, DC at Capuchin College, a house of formation for his Franciscan Community. Before joining the Order, Tommy earned his BA in Philosophy from St. Louis University. After completing his degree, Br. Tommy began his initial formation with the Capuchins, which includes one year in Philadelphia and one year in Santa Ynez, California. He then professed simple vows in 2014 and has been completing his graduate work in philosophy and theology at The Catholic University of America.

Each summer, Capuchin brothers are assigned to a ministry in order to better form them in the values of St. Francis. Br. Tommy was assigned to SJH, where he is spending his days working in case management with the Day Services guests. When asked how things are going, Br. Tommy replied, "It's been a powerful experience to see the face of Christ in the face of the poor. On a personal level, I have grown much more comfortable around our homeless brothers. I'm happy to shake their hands, make them laugh, joke with them, and share in all of their experiences and struggles." Welcome to the SJH family, Brother! Your presence, kindness and good will is a blessing to us all.



Br. Tommy Piolata
OFM, Cap.

In Loving Memory of Our Friends and Donors.... *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.*

Alan Babitt
Mary Burke
Brian J. Coyle
Lewis DeFidelto
James English
Brian Hotz

Irene Langan
Marie Magras
Jane M. McCarty
Helen McEroy
James McGarvey

Mary McMonagle
Peter McVeigh
Barbara Miller
Anthony Mettimano
Mary Morelli

Irene Pasdon
Rodney Philion
Norman Rahn
Joseph Ryan
Joan Scipione

Thomas Taylor
Varga Family
William Weber
Robert Whealan
Dolores Yanni

*A life-affirming legacy or bequest gift through your will or estate enables Saint John's Hospice to provide life-sustaining services to the homeless community of Philadelphia, today and far into the future.
For more information, please contact Kris Jaeger at kjaeger@chs-adphila.org or call 215.563.7763*

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of your contribution!

Interested in Volunteering at Saint John's Hospice?

Contact Kris Jaeger at
kjaeger@chs-adphila.org
215.563.7763

Save the Date

Saint John's Hospice Fall Fling Gala

*Friday, September 15, 2017
Seven-thirty in the evening*

The American Swedish Historical Museum
1900 Pattison Avenue, Philadelphia, PA



Honoring the Maguire Foundation as the
2017 Saint John's Hospice
Partner in Mission Award Recipient

For more info or to register online now, go to www.saintjohnshospice.org
or contact Anne Marie at adicesare@chs-adphila.org / 215.563.7763