



SAINT **John's**
HOSPICE

○ Fall - Winter 2020

newsletter



BLESSED.

PHL COVID-19 Fund Awards Saint John's Hospice \$50k

When we were faced with the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19, the outpouring of support from the community was remarkable. In addition to the individual donor support, St. John's was blessed to receive a generous and welcome \$50,000 grant from PHL COVID-19 FUND...

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Our favorite casserole

Deanna's Italian Sausage, Peppers, and Onions

3 lb - Sweet or Hot Italian sausage
2 lg - Onions, cut into eighths
3 lg - Green peppers, sliced
- Emeril's Essence

- Cut sausage into 1-1½" pieces; place in casserole pan.
- Cut up the onions and peppers ; scatter over sausage.
- Add 1 c. water to pan.
- Sprinkle Emeril's Essence over the meat and veggies.
- Cover with foil, making a small steam slit in the top.
- Bake in preheated oven at 350° for 2 hours.
- Remove from oven, let cool. Replace foil with aluminum lid provided by Saint John's Hospice, and freeze. (For variety, add assorted vegetables to sausage mixture.)

A short time ago I was surprised to see a vibrant rainbow - right over my house. It was one of those rare rainbows where you can see both ends and you are straining to find a pot of gold. It lasted for a full 15 minutes. My wife and I were not alone in recognizing the special nature of this sight.....someone went to the trouble of stopping her car to join us in the gawking and picture-taking.

I recognized that what I witnessed went beyond the dazzle of thousands of tiny prisms. God was sending a clear and beautiful message: we have the opportunity for a new beginning. God is constantly making things new. Sending a sign to pump up our faith certainly helps this process. I felt gratitude for the opportunity of renewal.

Shortly before seeing this rainbow one of our residents went out of his way to tell me how St. John's Hospice gave him an opportunity for a new beginning. He was effusive: "You don't understand, other places aren't like St. John's. This place gives you so much. It gives you a chance." He went on to talk about the special attention that SJH gives residents, and how a man needs the support of a place like SJH when the world can get into his head and pull him down. Many residents have told me similar perspectives.

We thank you and all of our supporters for allowing St. John's Hospice to be a rainbow to the thousands of homeless men that we serve. May you also be filled with hope and renewal.

Casserole Program Feeds More Than Just Physical Hunger.

The Casserole Program continues to be a great gift to SJH, to the men whom we serve, and to the volunteers who are the backbone of the program.

Deanna Stagliano has been running the Casserole Program at Saint Anastasia in Newtown Square since 2009, and has been contributing even longer. John Kyle acts as co-chair for the parish casserole program and assists Deanna in her efforts. When asked how she became involved in this program, Deanna responded, "I came across it by happenstance. There was a note in the bulletin. I thought to myself, well this is something that I can do. It's a way to help in some way and do something good for others."

She is certainly not wrong. Historically our casserole program has fed anywhere between 150-300 men daily, 5 days a week, 52 weeks a year. It would be an understatement to say that without the support of parishes like Saint Anastasia and parishioners like Deanna, we couldn't feed the numbers we feed. This past year we served over 150,000 meals through this program alone.

When asked how she would describe the casserole program, Deanna responded, "dedication and selflessness on the parts of so many." Deanna credits Saint Anastasia's pastor, Father Colagreco, with continued support of this program.

Deanna hasn't missed a beat during this time. Not only is she managing like the rest of the world in adapting our personal lives, she is currently focusing on her health and healing after a cancer diagnosis for which she is currently undergoing treatment. Deanna hasn't thought about stepping down from her role as the coordinator of this program because to her it's a no-brainer. The need is great and Deanna is fed by knowing that because of this program and the commitment of many, our men will be able to eat.

And eat they will. Deanna gets creative in her casserole making, thinking of things that she and her family love and sharing them with the men.

The staff and men of Saint John's thanks you Deanna for your commitment, care for others, and your delicious casseroles!

For more information on our casserole program, contact Elizabeth Small at esmall@chs-adphila.org

Top 5 Parishes for our Casserole Program

Nativity BVM Media

St. Anastasia Newtown Square

St. Elizabeth Chester Springs

St. Vincent De Paul Richboro

St. Patricks in Malvern

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When we were faced with the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19, the outpouring of support from the community was remarkable.

In addition to the individual donor support, St. John's was blessed to receive a generous and welcomed \$50,000 grant from PHL COVID-19 FUND. The PHL COVID-19 fund was launched on, March 19, and led by the Philadelphia Foundation and United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey (UWGPSNJ)

The Fund was established to rapidly deploy aid to non-profits serving on the front lines of the coronavirus. In total the fund has awarded over 575 grants totaling \$17.9 million. The Fund has prioritized supporting people who have been most impacted by COVID-19.

This grant has been invaluable to us, here at St. John's,



because it has enabled the kitchen staff to continue serving nutritious meals to our residents and day-service clients. Because of this generous grant, our dedicated employees have been able to perform their respective responsibilities, unselfishly and passionately. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the PHL COVID-19 FUND.



Resident Spotlight

Phil S.



Her work with us is truly a blessing.

The countless dedicated and committed individuals who give of their precious time and resources make the work we do at Saint John's Hospice exponentially better. These volunteers and supporters of our mission go above and beyond to show the dignity and respect, which is central to all of our work, to each of our residents and clients.

Tootsie D'Ambrosio is certainly no exception; the wife of staff member Michael D'Ambrosio (aka Mikey D), Tootsie's love and service to many is evident in all that she does! As the owner of Tootsie's Salad Express in Reading Terminal Market, Tootsie has given countless hours of dedicated service to SJH/GSP.

Her work with us on all of our events has been impeccable and her commitment to the SJH mission is truly a blessing. We



are beyond grateful to Tootsie for her tireless care for others and support of us. Our Annual Fall Gala and Holiday Events have surpassed all expectations because of her generosity.

Thank you Tootsie, for your loyal service to Saint John's and to your true care for each of the men we serve. We are incredibly grateful!



Phil S. truly believes that what Saint John's offers the residents is beyond something special. He is adamant that the way the staff treats each of the men is something that should be replicated in every homeless shelter. Phil has been a resident for a little over a year and is gearing up to get out into his own apartment. When he first arrived he had lost his job because of an injury and his inability to work which lead to his inability to afford his apartment. Raised in the Germantown area, Phil is a Philadelphia native who has known about Saint John's for a long time but the respect and care that he has been shown is something that continues to amaze him.

Currently Phil works the overnight shift for UPS and is saving to have an emergency fund before getting his apartment. His previous years of working in the restaurant industry have inspired in him a dream of going to culinary school in the future. Phil is beyond grateful for the support and care of the entire staff of Saint John's Hospice and the generous donors that make it the place it is... "Where homeless men find dignity, respect and new beginnings."



“Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.”

Matthew 25:40

My name is Isaac Garcia. I am originally from Mexico. I came to the USA last year in order to discern God’s call in my life, particularly with the Capuchin Franciscans. During that time I was learning English and living in Washington, D. C. After this amazing experience where I enjoyed the brotherhood, I gained great insights into this order and decided to apply to become part of this family.

Right now, I am living in the Frankford area of Philadelphia at Padre Pio Friary. The place is my home for this year, while I discern and live my life as a Postulant. I have had the opportunity to reflect on myself and my calling and have come to a deeper knowledge of what it means to follow God. At the beginning of this postulancy year I selected SJH without thinking, I made the decision to be part of the kitchen staff because of my passion for cooking.

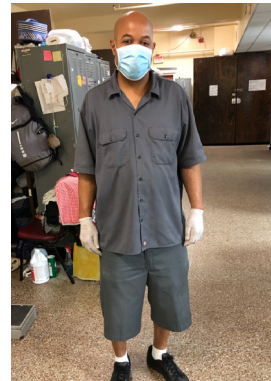
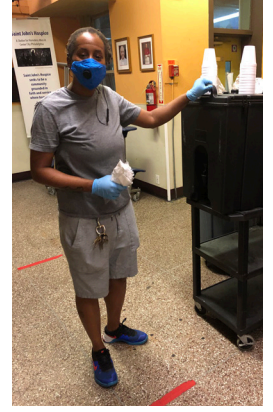
Every day in the kitchen of SJH, the Gospel is put into practice because each visitor is treated with great dignity and respect. The kitchen staff are responsible for the food being ready to be served. Another thing that deserves special attention is the participation of the other volunteers, who every day serve a plate of food but also share a warm grin.

Many of my most pleasant experiences this year have been those that I have had in this place, where through each one of the guests I have been able to see Jesus’s face in those looks or shy smiles. Each dish served is the result of a great machine that is oiled with the generosity of the people who have made SJH a piece of heaven on Earth. I thank God for the opportunity to spend my mornings in a place like this.

I share a favorite and important verse, Matthew 25:40 “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.” Only to say that we need to be conscious that everyday we have the opportunity to be better persons than we were the day before, we need only to turn our head to the side to see our neighbor.



Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!



What an incredible blessing our staff continues to be during this time! We are filled with gratitude for the selflessness and dedication that is shown daily through your hard work and commitment to the men whom we serve. Throughout all of the changes and uncertainty you have shown up daily to serve and show dignity and care that knows no bounds.



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saintjohnshospice.org