

Facility Renovations at Saint John's

Over at Saint John's, some exciting changes have been taking place! This month, we began Phase II of our facility updates, including making necessary renovations to our yard space or "Coffee House," Good Shepherd kitchen, and living room. Our yard will be completely transformed with new bunk beds that will, quite literally, lift our men off the floor and a new HVAC system to make for more comfortable temperatures all seasons of the year. Our Good Shepherd kitchen will be converted into a teaching facility, which will allow our men in residence to develop healthy living and cooking skills to take with them when they transition into independent living. With the updates already made to our Connelly Dining Room and

main kitchen, we are excited to announce that on February 14th, we opened our dining room to the public for the first time in two years since before COVID and welcomed back volunteers for our lunch and dinner service. We are most grateful to the Connelly Foundation, William Penn Foundation, and our other generous supporters, like you, for making this project a reality and helping us to create the most dignified and compassionate care to all who entrust in Saint John's for support. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at Saint John's, please visit our website at saintjohnshospice.org/volunteer for more information or to sign up.



Saint John's Hospice Updated "Coffee House"



Good Shepherd Kitchen Proposed Renovation

SAINT John's HOSPICE newsletter

○ SPRING 2022



Programs providing crucial, life-sustaining services with dignity, respect, and compassion to homeless men in Philadelphia.

A Division of Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Saint John's Hospice is a Catholic Social Services shelter for men located in Center City Philadelphia. St. John's provides crucial life sustaining services with dignity, respect and compassion to homeless men in Philadelphia

saintjohnshospice.org

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SAINT John's HOSPICE



Celebrating the Life of Monte, Good Shepherd Program Graduate

Monte was a light at the Good Shepherd Program, a great friend who greeted everyone he met with kindness, a smile, and always had a joke up his sleeve. His true passion was fashion, inspiring his career as a seamstress and a fashion model. He became a great success in the industry, modeling and hosting fashion shows in various states. In August 2016, a bump in Monte's journey brought him to Saint John's and the Good Shepherd Program. When he arrived, he instantly immersed himself in his recovery and the many different programs offered to residents, including Philadelphia FIGHT's TREE Program, Project TEACH, various recovery walks, and the Good Shepherd Singers. In his teenage years, Monte was a member at New Light Beulah Baptist Church, where he sang in the choir. Singing in the Good Shepherd choir became a big part of Monte's life at Saint

John's. There, he could express himself through music while enjoying the camaraderie and support from the group during his recovery. In February 2017, Monte officially graduated from the Good Shepherd Program and was placed into permanent housing. After graduating, Monte kept in contact with Saint John's and the Good Shepherd Program by continuing to sing alongside the Good Shepherd Singers and mentoring current GSP residents in the group. In 2021, he reunited with his family and planned on attending a ski trip with them in the new year. On January 24th, 2022, Monte returned home to the Lord. At his services, his life was celebrated with a performance by the Good Shepherd Singers. Monte was a beacon of hope to so many at Saint John's Hospice and Good Shepherd Program, and he will be sorely missed by all.



Giving Back to Saint John's Hospice

As a part of his Eagle Scout project, Owen Applestein of Merion Liberty Troop chose to bless Saint John's Hospice with the gift of his time and talent. Owen made and dropped off sandwiches to Deacon Willoughby and, within the next couple of weeks, will be collecting toiletries and other items to donate to Saint John's as a way to help the clients we serve.

Owen's gift is an excellent reminder of the many ways to support Saint John's, whether that be volunteering at our lunch or dinner service, collecting needed toiletry items, making an in-kind or casserole donation, etc. To learn more about ways to give back to Saint John's, visit our website at saintjohnshospice.org.



Good Shepherd Singers Perform on Homelessness Memorial Day

On December 21, the longest night of the year, our very own Good Shepherd Singers performed at the Homelessness Memorial Day ceremony, hosted in Thomas Paine Plaza near City Hall. Their performance of "Lean On Me" and "This Little Light of Mine" shared a powerful message of hope, as well as a way to honor those who have passed away without a home in the past year. Also included in the ceremony were personal testimonies, recited poetry, a reading of over 400 names of individuals who passed away in the last year while experiencing homelessness in the city, followed by a candlelight vigil in remembrance. Barry Martin, Program Director at Saint John's, heads up the group and shares how impactful it has been for the Good Shepherd Program, in more ways than one. In addition to the other wonderful programs that St. John's provides, this particular program gives residents a creative outlet, a support system, and a fun activity to participate in amidst healing from trauma.



Save the Date: Boot Up Philly - October 22nd, 2022

We are thrilled to announce that on Saturday, October 22nd, 2022, we will host our annual Boot Up Philly distribution day! Boot Up Philly strives to mimic the work of St. John Neumann, who would give the shoes off his feet to those in need. Last year, we significantly exceeded our goal by raising over \$143,000, which allowed us to serve over 400 men, women, and children and distribute thousands of undergarments, feminine products, coats, food, and boots to those in need. We are so thankful for all who supported last year's Boot Up Philly initiative and hope you will partner with us again this year to help make an even larger impact in the lives of those who need it most in the City of Brotherly Love. To learn more about Boot Up Philly, please visit our website at saintjohnshospice.org/bootupphilly.

