

There's Still Time to Give to the Annual Fund

Please consider a gift to SJH's Annual Fund. Your generosity has enabled SJH to continue to provide life-sustaining services to thousands of individuals each year. Your end-of-year gift will have a direct impact on people's lives.

Please scan the QR code to make a gift today. We humbly appreciate your commitment to Saint John's Hospice—to our work, our mission, and to those, whom together, we serve.



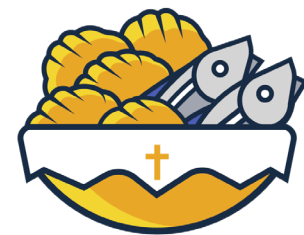
Save the Date Thursday, April 18, 2024

American Swedish Historical Museum
Cocktail Reception at 5:30pm

#iGiveCatholic

Thank you to everyone who supported St. John's Hospice during the special #iGiveCatholic initiative. Over 47,000 donors gave to 1,646 ministries across the nation. Of all those ministries, St. John's Hospice finished the day as 25th on the leaderboard thanks to donations totaling \$111,041 from 392 gracious donors.

Your donation will help feed the hungry, shelter those in need of housing, and help us to serve those we impact every day. Thank you!



#iGIVECATHOLIC

Learn more at saintjohnshospice.org

SAINT John's HOSPICE

Newsletter

WINTER 2023



Programs providing crucial, life-sustaining services with dignity, respect, and compassion to individuals experiencing homelessness 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 individuals experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia.

saintjohnshospice.org



SAINT John's HOSPICE
1221 Race St
Philadelphia, PA 19107

SJH Resident to Independent Living

When he heard of Saint John's Hospice, "Tom" had low expectations. He knew that resources for men in Philadelphia were few and expected a hard time securing any real support. He first began coming for nightly services before transitioning to residential services weeks later. Now, a SJH Resident Alumni, he remembers everything being easier and smoother than he ever imagined. He soon realized there was a plethora of institutional support at SJH. Tom fondly recalls management, staff, bunkmates, and roommates who he approached with positivity. He says, "I never veered from my true self. I was able to retain my own sense of self." Tom's advice for current SJH residents is to take advantage of the good people and structure at SJH to ultimately reintegrate into independent living. After an experience he describes as "smooth sailing", Tom made the seamless transition to living alone offsite. He received assistance with the apartment search and leasing from case workers and other SJH staff. Tom shared, "Thank you doesn't begin to convey the gratitude I have. The staff here were and are in my corner".

Meet SJH's New Events & Volunteer Coordinator Marion "Tootsie" D'Ambrosio



Join us in welcoming Marion D'Ambrosio—or "Tootsie" to all who know her—to our SJH team as our new Events and Volunteer Coordinator. Tootsie has a long relationship with SJH. Over the past years, she has planned several fundraising events and worked with residents teaching life skills classes. Some of you may know Tootsie through her husband, Michael D'Ambrosio, our beloved truck driver who recently retired after fifteen years of service, working closely with our wonderful casserole parishes.

Tootsie feels right at home at SJH, "The day services guests here at St. John's are frequent guests at the Reading Terminal Market where my store was for 15 years, so I feel right at home." Her store she refers to, was a self-serve buffet called Tootsie's that, unfortunately, did not survive Covid. "Even though the store is no longer there, the nickname has stuck like glue." Tootsie's large family—the Iovine's—is still going strong at the Reading Terminal Market with a produce stand and restaurant, Molly Malloy's, named after their mother.

If you or your group are interested in volunteering at Saint John's or if you would like to have Tootsie come speak at your church about SJH and volunteer opportunities, please feel free to contact her at: Mdambrosio@chs-adphila.org or call her at 215-563-7763 ext. 123 or 215-313-8421.

Thanks to All Who Made This Year's Boot Up Philly a Success!

We were honored to receive more than 800 people at the 3rd annual event held on November 4th. Over 80 volunteers arrived at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul parking lot in downtown Philadelphia in the early hours of the morning to help prepare for what was an amazing day for all involved.



Boot Up Philly—an annual event organized by Saint John's Hospice (SJH) Shelter and Day Services Program—provides free new coats, boots, socks, underwear, and other cold weather essentials to individuals and families experiencing homelessness and impacted by poverty. With support from the SJH Board, Catholic Social Services, and The Order of Malta in Philadelphia, several months of planning culminated in an event that benefits thousands of people. There was music provided by Philadelphia Metro Entertainment Group as well as food and activities for families—all contributing to a block party feel. "It was important to us that guests felt like they were having a fun shopping experience" replies Kris Jaeger, SJH Director of Development and Community Relations. Volunteers greeted people as they were given bags filled with new winter essentials.

Many of the items distributed were made possible by sponsors and donations from organizations in Philadelphia and beyond including Independence Blue Cross, WSFS, Knights of Columbus Council 1911 and Knock Knock Give a Sock, a nonprofit out of NYC that generously donated over 4,000 pairs of socks for the event. In addition, many items were donated from organizations that held drives in the weeks leading up to the event such as St. Mary's Interparochial School where K-8th graders collected socks and underwear, and St. Dominic Parish, who used their Boot Up drive as a kick-off in celebration of their 175th anniversary celebration. The event also served as a great platform to educate visitors on the other archdiocesan services and ministries, such as Nutritional Development

Services, the Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence, and Visitation Homes.



Thank you to all the donors, parishes, organizations, volunteers, schools, and many others who supported our cause this year—Boot Up Philly 2023 was successful because of your hard work and dedication to the service of others. To learn more about Boot Up Philly, visit saintjohnshospice.org where you can still donate to support those helped by this initiative.