

## A Note From Barry Martin, Program Director



Recently, the SJH community had multiple events that enabled us to come together as one family. The 60th Anniversary Gala brought out the best in all of us who gathered at The American Swedish Historical Museum on April 18. The sold-out venue was the perfect place to welcome all our guests who made the evening such a success through their philanthropy and service. We thank you so much for being in attendance and sharing your time and treasure with us!

Another night to remember was Friday, May 31, during Catholic Charities Night at the Phillies. The SJH's Good Shepherd singers sang The Star-Spangled Banner at the start of the Phillies game at Citizens Bank Park. The 60th Anniversary Gala and the Phillies game are just two of the many instances of how coming together has the power to strengthen our community's bonds. I'm grateful and look forward to the many events and activities that await us in the months ahead.



## SJH Social Services Supervisor, Steve Walenta LSW, Retires After 25 Years of Loyal Service



Pictured left to right are Barry Martin, Steve Walenta, and Peter Greenland.

Steve Walenta, SJH Social Services Supervisor and dedicated member of the Saint John's Hospice staff since 1999, has announced his retirement after 25 years of dedicated service. When Steve started at SJH, he was drawn to the needs of vulnerable individuals in the community: "My sensitivity towards the suffering of others was a motivation for wanting to be helpful. I liked staying busy and enjoyed the various challenges that working with the men at SJH presented."

Whether it be with colleagues or fellow employees, Steve cherished the relationships he built throughout his years of service, "One of the best things about being a part of the SJH community was the camaraderie—laughing often with

staff and residents and keeping a sense of humor amidst all the seriousness of the work and challenges of life—there is a daily appreciation of the gifts life can offer."

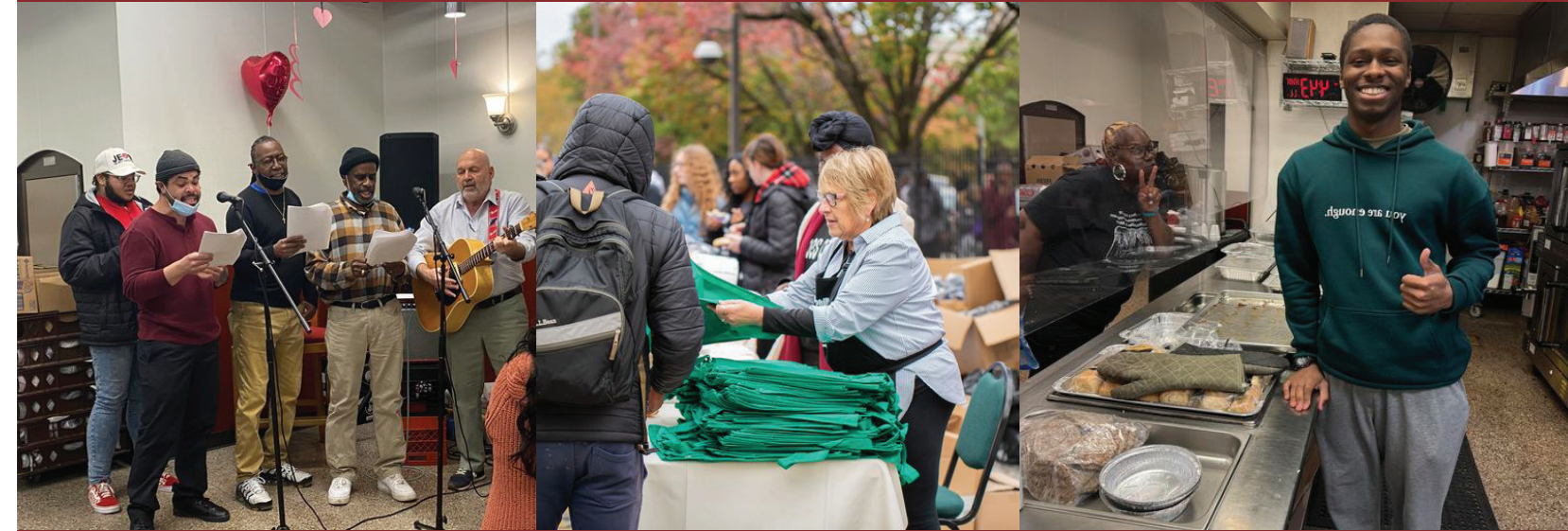
Throughout his time at SJH, Steve built a case management program that today provides a trauma-aware, safe, and supportive space for individuals experiencing homelessness and in need of opportunities and stability. The Saint John's Hospice community is grateful for all of his contributions over the past decades and will carry on his legacy of quality care for underserved and marginalized men for years to come.

**Matthew 25:23: 'Well done, my good and faithful servant.'**

SAINT **John's**  
HOSPICE

# Newsletter

SUMMER 2024

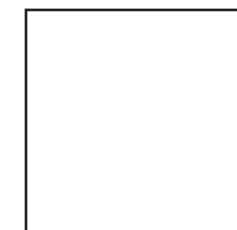


Programs providing crucial, life-sustaining services with dignity, respect, and compassion to individuals experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia.

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



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HOSPICE  
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Philadelphia, PA 19107



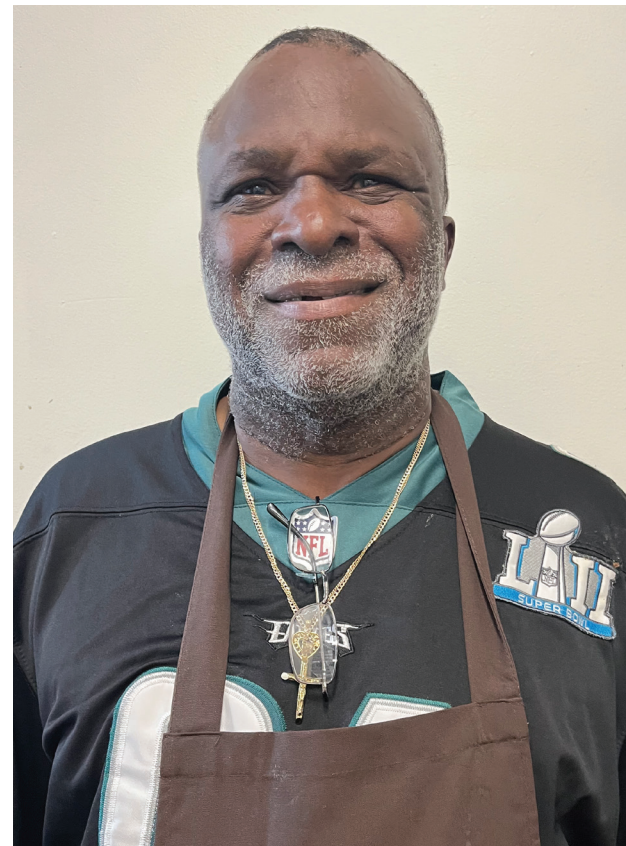
# We are Grateful for our Volunteers!

## SJH Volunteer Spotlight: Craig Kilby

Craig Kilby, better known as “Forty” to family, friends, and staff, is one of our many dedicated and valued SJH volunteers. Craig has been a member of the SJH community for over 20 years, dating back to his time as a resident of the Good Shepard Program—a twelve-bed, drug and alcohol-free residence for medically fragile men located next door to SJH on Race Street. After transitioning out of the program, Craig stayed connected by volunteering 3-4 days a week.

His volunteer role varies from counting the number of individuals entering the building to helping put casseroles away. His favorite part is interacting with the residents, guests, and staff.

Craig is grateful for this opportunity and shared, “Being a part of the SJH community has helped me reconnect with my faith and find joy in helping others.” Thank you, Craig, for your dedicated and selfless service.



## SJH Volunteer Spotlight: Paul Antony



Paul Antony learned about Saint John’s Hospice through an online search. Eager to serve, he sought agencies in Philadelphia that are prominent in working with individuals impacted by poverty. Deeply aware of the issue of homelessness as a 14-year Philadelphia resident, Paul wanted to be part of the solution.

One of the things that struck Paul on the first day he volunteered at SJH was how inviting it felt. According to Paul, “Staff and other volunteers recognized I was new to the organization and made me feel welcome like I was making a real difference.” Thank you, Paul, for your hard work and commitment to the service of others—we are so glad you are a part of the SJH community.

# Thanks to All Who So Generously Supported SJH and Its 60 Years of Service to the City of Philadelphia



*“We come to you also tonight, Lord, to ask your continued blessings upon us and upon all those who are part of the Saint John’s Hospice Community.”*

*-Fr. Sean Bransfield, Chancellor, Archdiocese of Philadelphia*



*This is a segment of the prayer written by Father Sean Bransfield in honor of the SJH 60th Anniversary Gala. The poem in its entirety can be seen at [www.saintjohnshospice.org](http://www.saintjohnshospice.org).*

*Presented by: Connelly Foundation*

*Sponsored by:*

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**LAURA DRAKE**

Thank you to the Reading Terminal Market for providing dinner and refreshments. Your generosity has been tremendous.