

## A Note From Barry Martin, Program Director



Every day at St. John's Hospice, we witness the positive changes in the lives of those we serve. Through our day guest services, residential program, Coffee House, and Good Shepherd program, we provide individuals with the support they need to make meaningful life changes.

One recent initiative that has made a significant impact was our fourth annual Boot Up Philly event, which was an overwhelming success. Not only did we distribute essential cold-weather items to over 1,080 individuals, but we also heard inspiring stories of hope and determination while

connecting guests with valuable resources such as clothing, food, legal assistance, and medical care. The generosity of our volunteers and donors demonstrated the incredible power of coming together to support vulnerable and marginalized individuals and families in our city. Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, sponsored, and contributed.

As we approach the end of 2024, I encourage you to reflect on the importance of year-end giving. To continue fulfilling our mission and serving people experiencing homelessness, St. John's Hospice must raise \$2.7 million annually. Every donation makes a difference as we look forward to 2025 with hope and optimism.

Thank you for partnering with us in our mission of service. Your gift to SJH has a direct impact on the thousands of individuals we serve each year. Please know that we are humbled by your generosity and grateful for your ongoing support. I wish you a joyful holiday season and a new year full of happiness and health.

## What's Cookin', Toots? Tootsie D'Ambrosio, SJH Event & Volunteer Coordinator

To me, feeding someone shows a special kind of love. It was the kind of love that Jesus showed—the miracle of the loaves and fishes, the ultimate miracle of turning His own body into the Bread of Life. I always pray for the miracle of the loaves and fishes for St. John's Hospice. We get that miracle every day, thanks to the wonderful people who make casseroles for us. We are so grateful!

Looking back over the years, I realize that it's been a while since we've had new recipes for our casserole program. Even the Israelites must have been tired of eating only manna in the desert for 40 years. So, I'm looking for new casserole ideas. If anyone has a great recipe, please share it with me, and I will be sure to include it in the next newsletter.

If you are interested in seeing your casseroles at work and would like to join us to serve lunch, please give me a call at (215) 313-8421 or email me at MDambrosio@chs-ADphila.org. Your contribution to our mission has an incredible impact on those we serve. Thank you all for everything you do for SJH.

Love, Toots

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# Newsletter

WINTER 2024

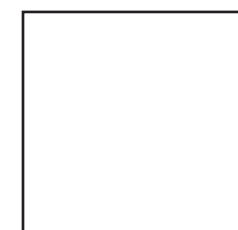


Programs providing crucial, life-sustaining services with dignity, respect, and compassion to individuals experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia.

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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1221 Race St  
Philadelphia, PA 19107



# We are Grateful for our SJH Family!

## SJH Employee Spotlight: Tyrone Finger

Tyrone Finger was excited to pursue a college education, and, like many, he took advantage of his newfound freedom. Tyrone's new environment introduced him to diverse academic disciplines and people from all walks of life. Unfortunately, it also brought exposure to substances and the pressures that come with them. Recognizing the need for help, Tyrone learned about SJH's Good Shepherd Program.

After entering the program in 2014, Tyrone found the stability and compassion of Christ to be exactly what he needed. Reflecting on his experience, Tyrone says, "It's the best place for anyone who wants to change their life. It takes a lot for a man to accept where he is and come here seeking help and redemption."

With support from SJH's dedicated staff, Tyrone rebuilt his life one step at a time. After just five months, he graduated from the program and secured an apartment. Inspired by his success, Tyrone stayed connected with SJH and was later offered a role as a weekend resident aide. Since then, he has been promoted to a full-time housekeeping position.

Tyrone is more than just a staff member at SJH; he is an inspiration and mentor to many. We are incredibly proud to have him on our team!



## SJH Donor Spotlight: Fran Connell-SJH Advisory Board Member



Francis Connell (Fran) serves as an SJH board member and volunteer. His work helps individuals experiencing homelessness rebuild their lives.

When reflecting on his work, Fran said, "Serving at St John's for me is seeing and feeling Jesus' message of 'Love thy neighbor' lived out in a profound way. Those men and women being served are a real blessing to us in the process. I am also reminded of how special our dedicated staff is, bringing this care and love to those they serve every day in countless ways! God is truly present in this sacred place!"

Through the selfless actions of Fran, and supporters like him, our mission is strengthened. Together, we can help others find stability and hope for a better future.

# Boot Up Philly



Thank you all for your support of Boot Up Philly, which took place on October 19, 2024. **Your generosity provided 1,080 individuals with cold-weather clothing, supplies, and access to vital services!**

Our generous sponsors, Independence Blue Cross, Merakey, Benebone, and SJH donor, Laura Drake made the event possible. We would also like to thank the Philadelphia Region of the Order of Malta, the Knights of Columbus, St. Mary's Interparochial School, St. Dominic Church, and our CSS family, including Nutritional Development Services, Visitation Homes, and the Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence for standing with us in this important work.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the event! Your kindness and commitment to making a positive impact are truly inspiring, and they allow us to serve individuals facing homelessness and poverty in a greater way each year.

*We at SJH wish you a joyful holiday season and express our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support of our mission.*