

POTTSTOWN CLUSTER OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES  
57 N. FRANKLIN STREET  
POTTSTOWN, PA 19464

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Pottstown, PA

INSIDE THIS ISSUE • WELCOME NEW DIRECTORS • SPRING GOLF FUNDRAISER • PAYING IT FORWARD



The flyer features a background of green grass with a white golf ball on a tee. The text is arranged in several sections:

- 6TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING** (Large yellow text)
- Friday, April 29, 2016** (White text)
- Help Shatter Hunger in Pottstown** (White text)
- For more information visit: [www.pottstowncluster.org](http://www.pottstowncluster.org) (White text)
- Pottstown Cluster** OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES (Black text)
- Nourishing Lives. Strengthening Families. (Red text)
- SPRING 2016 (White text)

## EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

From time to time, PCRC receives letters from community members who have been helped in one way or another from our various programs and services.

Here are two letters that were received at PCRC and we want to share with others:

*Dear Cluster,*

*Although this is late, you are not forgotten. My husband has been ill and in the hospital, so I got a little behind. We wanted to show our gratitude for the food basket for Thanksgiving and the gifts you gave to our family for Christmas. Everything was truly appreciated.*

*Thank you for your kindness and for the Food Pantry too.*

*Bob and Peggy*

*Dear Friends,*

*I want to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to all of you for getting me through a very tough time. Your support has helped me more than I can express in this short note. I think the kindness and emotional support you have given me has done more for me than the groceries and the check to my landlord which I greatly appreciate.*

*Please show this note to whoever needs to see it. Also, please let the people responsible for my rental assistance know that it kept me from being homeless.*

*God Bless all of you!!*

*Beth*

## MEET OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF SUPPORT SERVICES



Jenn Brown has over 20 years of experience working with children and families in the private non-profit and for profit sectors. She holds a bachelor's of arts degree in Psychology from

Alvernia College (now known as Alvernia University). Her career began in Salt Lake City, UT working with troubled juvenile female status offenders and juvenile male sex offenders in the group home setting. Returning to Pennsylvania Jenn began working in a private non-profit foster care agency. She obtained her masters of education degree in Elementary School Counseling from Kutztown University of PA.

Upon graduation in 2003, Jenn began working as a behavioral health consultant with children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders. During 2004-2014, she was employed by Family Services of Montgomery County, lastly serving as the program director of the Pottstown Family Center. In the spring of 2013, Jenn began teaching at Chestnut Hill College as an adjunct faculty member. For the past year and a half, Jenn has been employed by Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities. Predominantly working within the Housing Resource Center, and most recently became PCRC's Director of Support Services. In her current position, she oversees the Housing Resource Center, UP3 Program, Casework Services, and Chaplain Services. Additionally, she holds certificates of completion for Institute of Family Professionals' Trauma-Competency, United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania's Emerging Leaders Program, the Community Action Association of Pennsylvania's Family Development Credentialing Portfolio Advising, and is certified as an infant massage instructor, through Infant Massage USA.

## WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

In 2015, PCRC's Food Pantry distributed over 600,000 pounds of food; the Dry Goods Department distributed over 35,500 clothing items and 18,000 personal care items; and over 12,500 individuals were served a meal through our Community Meals Program. On a monthly basis, PCRC will serve over 500 families. Without the daily support of our dedicated volunteers, these statistics cannot be accomplished. Our volunteers are the foundation of our programs and their commitment to our mission is what allows us to continue serving the residents of the Greater Pottstown area. Each year we honor our devoted volunteers at a Volunteer Luncheon. This May, once again we will gather together to show our appreciation for their hard work, loyalty and friendship. We welcome all volunteers to join us in celebration. The event will be held on May 16th at Morningstar Fellowship Church. Hope to see you there!

## PAYING IT FORWARD



PCRC staff member, Larry Matthews and Lori Calvario, student intern for PCRC

PCRC has provided emergency home heating assistance to Pottstown residents that have a difficult time financially with making ends meet for several years during the winter months.

This winter, PCRC changed the criteria for obtaining oil using a pay it forward approach. Anyone needing oil is asked to pay \$25 which will be applied to the next person needing oil. Or, if a client is unable to pay the \$25, PCRC invites them to attend a seminar on money management and budgeting in an effort to assist clients in making financial adjustments in spending that help to manage their household budgets.

As of February 26, 2016, 18 individuals paid it forward which totaled \$450 in oil assistance to other households and on February 17, 2016, 7 clients attended the seminar facilitated by Larry Matthews, PCRC staff and Lori Calvario, student intern, pictured on left.

## MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors serves as the governing body of the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities. Individual board members make a significant commitment to the operation in assuring PCRC remains committed to our mission, has the financial resources to support programs, promote awareness in the community about the work of PCRC and ensure the overall operations of the organization are adequate and appropriate. Members serve as volunteers for an elected three year term and may serve two consecutive terms. We are grateful to the dedication of Allan Altschull, Mary Ann Glocker, Paul Kennedy, Amy Lehman, Robert Rettinger, Marianne Lynch, Joseph Major, Frank Cebular and Richard Knarr for their continuous service to the board.



Gail Cooper – retired principal of the middle school.

### We welcome the following new members

**GAIL COOPER** – a ten year resident of Pottstown and the retired principal of the middle school. She is dedicated to helping the PCRC help Pottstown residents because she states “our entire community is helped by their efforts. I am honored to have joined the board of directors this fall”.



Stephen Aloï – Store Manager, Wegmans Collegeville.

**STEPHEN ALOI** – Store Manager, Wegmans Collegeville. Steve has been in the Food Retail Business for over 20 years. He has actively worked with the PCRC for the last 5 years.



Vernon Ross – Director, Lockheed Martin Corporation.

**VERNON ROSS** – Director, Lockheed Martin Corporation. Vernon has a background in computer science and educational leadership and innovation, with extensive community and service and board participation. He is also well connected in the religious community in Pottstown and brings the ability to bridge industry and religious experience to the PCRC endeavors.

We also want to express our thanks to the following Board members who completed their service in 2015: Paul Prince, Rob Blye, Merrill Weber, Rev. Mary Etta Mest and Mark Gibson. These members supported the PCRC by providing leadership on the governance committee, leadership on the property committee and administrative support.

## POTTSTOWN MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER JOINS PCRC COMMUNITY MEALS PROGRAM

PCRC is pleased to introduce the new volunteer team for the third Friday Community Meal that is held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Pottstown Memorial Medical Center's Administration prepared and served their first meal on Friday, February 19, 2016. PCRC wishes to thank Rich Newell and his team for volunteering and serving the community in such an impactful way. Go PMMC!!



*Pictured from left: Rich Newell, PMMC President & CEO; Sue Keown, PMMC Chief Quality Officer; Debbie Konarski, PMMC Chief Financial Officer; Tammy Straub, PMMC Chief Nursing Officer; John Haney, PMMC VP for Physician Management; Rich McLaughlin, PMMC Chief Medical Officer; Tom Simoneau, community volunteer; Lisa Kania, community volunteer and head cook; Matt Shelak, PMMC Chief Operating Officer.*

## OUR MISSION

Through interfaith cooperation, the **POTTSTOWN CLUSTER OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES** provides tangible services, support and spiritual guidance to address the basic needs of persons within and beyond the Greater Pottstown area. We coordinate our programs and referrals to help clients improve their overall stability.



## AN UPDATE ON OUR NEW BUILDING



In July 2015, the PCRC Board approved the purchase of 61 N. Franklin Street, Pottstown. The building is directly to the north of our current property at 57 N. Franklin Street. Our staff has grown and in our efforts to address our mission to help our clients improve their overall stability, this new facility will be critical to our existing programs. The building had been vacant for years and when the opportunity arose to purchase property adjacent to our current facility, the Board believed the purchase was the best opportunity for additional space, with the convenience of having all of our services in the same vicinity. Our long-term intentions are to use the building for our work as part of Montgomery County's Your Way Home program and operation as a Housing Resource Center, and, to operate classrooms. To date, we have been taking basic steps to stabilize and preserve the property from further deterioration, including turning the power back on, repairing broken windows, making the heating system functional, and installing and repairing gutters and downspouts to stop water infiltration. There will be other needed renovations and repairs prior to our occupancy. We have retained a local land use attorney and are currently working with the Borough of Pottstown on zoning and occupancy compliance issues. We look forward to sharing additional information with you soon regarding our progress on this property.

# PCRC GETS A BIG BOOST FROM OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS

At the beginning of 2016, PCRC has been extremely blessed by the support of two major business partners.

## FIRST NIAGARA PROVIDES \$20,000 TO PCRC

On January 28, 2016 First Niagara Bank Foundation awarded \$20,000 to PCRC for use in general operating support of the Food and Dry Goods Pantry and Understanding Poverty to Plan and Persevere programs.



From the left: Renee Murdock, First Niagara Community Development Officer–Eastern PA; Allan Altschull, PCRC Board President, Bob Rettinger, First Niagara Branch Manager–East End/Pottstown and PCRC Board Member; Barbara Wilhelmy, PCRC Executive Director; Mary Ann Glocker, PCRC Board VP; and Tamera Hrynkow, First Niagara Area Manager.

## WEGMANS FOOD MARKETS COLLEGEVILLE – CAMPAIGN TO WIPE OUT HUNGER

On February 9, 2016 Wegmans Store Manager, Steve Aloï along with his top cashiers from the Collegeville store, presented PCRC a check in the amount of \$55,118.29. The funds were raised during **Wegmans' Care About Hunger Campaign**, which ran October 19 through December 20, 2015. During the campaign, customers and employees could contribute \$1 to \$5 or any other amount at checkout, with 100% of the proceeds going to a designated nonprofit organization whose services are addressing hunger. PCRC has been the beneficiary of Wegmans hunger campaigns for the past six years and each year the campaign exceeds the prior year in total donations collected.



Pictured from left: Steve Aloï, Wegmans Store Manager and PCRC Board Member and Wegmans Cashiers. In back: Barbara Wilhelmy, PCRC Executive Director and Allan Altschull, PCRC Board President.

**HELP SHATTER HUNGER IN POTTSTOWN**

# 2016 GOLF OUTING

**FUNDRAISING EVENT**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2016**

Let's do it again! Join us in teeing up the 2016 golf year at Brookside Country Club in a fun filled best ball scramble event that benefits the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities.

By all accounts, golfers and dinner guests had an exceptionally good time last year and the event raised over \$34,000 to help provide food and clothing for hundreds of struggling families right here in our community.

**THE SIXTH ANNUAL PCRC GOLF TOURNAMENT** will begin with a shotgun start at 9:45 on Friday, April 29, 2016.

Please visit PCRC's website at: [www.pottstowncluster.org](http://www.pottstowncluster.org) to register to golf as a single, pair or foursome!

The registration fee of \$125 per golfer covers green fees, cart, continental breakfast, snacks at the turn, and a delicious dinner with two bar drinks!

Even if you're not a golfer, join us for dinner at \$40 per person which includes the two bar drinks.

We hope to see you there!

George Bell,



Golf Committee Chairman

