

## THEA WOMEN'S CENTER AT ST. FRANCIS INN: A Safe Haven



*"I remember when I was homeless, sleeping in a place with no hot water, no electricity, and my feet were so infected I couldn't even walk. A sister from the Inn said to come in and I was able to take a shower there. They took me in and made me feel like a part of their family."*



For many of us, we will never truly understand what it feels like to be without a home. But for Susan, a faithful attendant of the Thea Women's Center at St. Francis Inn, that was her reality. Struggling with alcohol addiction, Susan lost her job, her spouse, and eventually her home. She had reached rock bottom, with only a small piece of cardboard to shield her from the outside world.

While living on her own, Susan befriended a woman named Laura, who shared in her struggles. Working as a prostitute and suffering from a crack addiction, Laura was grateful for someone to lean on. The two braved the streets of Kensington together, protecting one another from their dangerous surroundings.

*"Me and Susan were homeless together. When she'd sleep I'd watch her, and when I'd sleep she'd watch me,"* said Laura.

After nearly losing faith, Susan and Laura finally found sanctuary at Thea Women's Center where they both received support from other women. Today, they view the Women's Center as a life-changing experience, crediting the Center for their recovery.

*"The doors are always open for the people who want help. This place is for everybody,"* Susan said.

In time, Susan and Laura reached sobriety, obtained jobs, and reconnected with family members they had not spoken to in years. They built life-long friendships with the other

women from the Center, and now serve as mentors to young women who come to the Center for the first time. The Thea Women's Center finally provided Susan and Laura with the things they had been searching for: respect, dignity, and a judgment-free environment that they now call home.

You can make a difference in the lives of those affected by homelessness and addiction. With a donation to The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia's Helping Hands Fund, you can ensure that women like Laura and Susan are provided with a safe haven as they work to improve their quality of life.

If you are interested in learning more, or to donate visit [www.CatholicFoundationPhila.org](http://www.CatholicFoundationPhila.org).

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER: A note from Shannon Jordan



### CFGP: Making a Difference

Pope Francis has said, that "to change the world, we must be good to those who cannot repay us." With his recent visit to Philadelphia, it's time to focus on community, those who have less and need help. Our neighbors and friends rely on us more than we sometimes realize.

At The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia, we see where the greatest needs lie and where the greatest differences can be made.

By becoming a partner of the Foundation, YOU are making an impact in areas that need help most. Whether it is through a Community Impact Award, a grant, or a distribution, we make sure that you are making a difference in the lives of those around you.



## INVESTING IN THE FUTURE: Recently Awarded Grants

At CFGP, we understand that meeting charitable goals can sometimes be difficult when done alone. With your help, CFGP is proud to have recently awarded the following organizations financial support that will help fulfill their charitable missions.



### SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES SCHOOL \$13,000 Grant Recipient

St. Francis de Sales School was awarded a grant from CFGP to support the school's SAILOR (Science and Arts Innovative Learning On the River) program.

St. Francis de Sales' SAILOR program, sponsored by the Independence Seaport Museum, teaches students core STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) concepts while having them participate in hands-on learning through boat building. Last year, 12 students participated in the program, visiting the Delaware River every Tuesday to construct their boats. By the end of June, the students had created two boats. St. Francis de Sales hopes to send another 12 students through the program for the 2015-16 school year.

Through the SAILOR program, the students have truly transformed their educational experience, learning the fundamentals of core curriculum subjects while learning to work together as a team to achieve a common goal.

*"You can't take the pennies of the poor and then deliver an inferior product,"* said Sr. Mary McNulty, St. Francis de Sales' Principal. *"You have to deliver the best. We have to, because these parents are sacrificing to have their children go here."*

### COMMUNITY CENTER AT VISITATION \$5,000 Grant Recipient

CFGP awarded the Community Center at Visitation a grant to support their year-round Youth Sports Program. The Youth Sports Program, designed as an "open gym" concept, was available to children ages 8 to 18 years old to offer a safe environment for them to play. Unfortunately, due to a lack of financial support, the program was recently discontinued.

With the help of CFGP and other donors, the Community Center at Visitation is now able to revamp and re-open their Youth Sports Program. The new and improved program will feature fit tests, personal training, and a variety of sports including: soccer, flag football, basketball and volleyball.



*"We don't charge for our services, so there isn't any real stream of revenue coming in. It really comes down to a partnership with organizations like the Foundation. We really wouldn't be able to exist without that, so we are so grateful."*  
- Sister Betty Scanlon, Executive Director of the Community Center.

### PROVIDENCE CENTER \$5,000 Grant Recipient

Imagine living in a part of the city with the highest poverty rate, and a murder rate five times higher than the city average. For the children and youth who attend Providence Center, this is their reality.

CFGP awarded Providence Center with a grant for their educational programming.

Providence Center, located in North Philadelphia, serves as a positive space for learning in an area suffering from extreme poverty and a surplus of violent crimes. Providence Center works to provide hope through education for children, youth, and adults in their community. The Center offers several programs, including English as a Second Language (ESL) for adults, homework assistance and tutoring for youth, and leadership training for teens.

Providence Center's leadership program, Teen Leaders, hires local high school students during their sophomore year to serve as role models for the other children at the Center. They also provide emotional support to the children due to their similar backgrounds, having overcome the same challenges that the younger children currently face.

## NEWS & EVENTS

### AWARD WINNER

CFGP is excited to announce that we are a multiple recipient of the 2015 NCDC Lumen Awards. CFGP received first place Lumen Awards in the following three categories:

- **Best Prospecting Campaign** - Major Gift and Appeal Brochure/Video for the 2015 Catholic Charities Appeal
- **Best Major Donor Appeal** - Major Gift and Appeal Brochure/Video for the 2015 St. Charles Seminary Appeal
- **Best Publication without a Gift Envelope** - 2015 Catholic Charities Appeal

The National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC) is the largest membership association of charitable religious fundraisers in the US. NCDC is the fundraising resource for Catholic organizations and their sponsored ministries, providing education, advocacy and leadership.

The NCDC Lumen Awards were created to acknowledge excellence in fundraising and to enrich the Catholic development community. The winning pieces will be on display at the 2015 NCDC National Conference where they will be eligible for "Best in Show" awards.

### CFGP PHILANTHROPIC WORKSHOP SERIES

Continuing to serve as a resource to the community, **CFGP's Philanthropic Workshop Series** are fantastic educational tools for parishes, schools and organizations in the community who are seeking to learn and implement stronger fundraising tactics and philanthropic practices.

Join us on **Tuesday, November 10th at 9:00 am** for a **FREE** training session of the **Parish Data Systems (PDS) Church Office Software**. Amy Mensch, certified trainer for PDS, will discuss basic instructions on how to utilize PDS, best practices for maintaining the database and analyzing data to generate reports you actually need.

Registration will begin at 8:30 am at St. Helena Church, the Empress Room.

Please R.S.V.P. by calling 215.587.5650 or email [RSVP@catholicfoundationphila.org](mailto:RSVP@catholicfoundationphila.org)

## COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARDS

CFGP is happy to announce the launch of The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia's Community Impact Awards. These awards recognize the great work of these various charitable organizations and provide them with immediate financial assistance.

Through your donations to the CFGP Field of Interest Funds, the following awards have been given in the community:

### St. Rose of Lima Catholic School

- Textbooks for their first and second grades

### Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School

- New white board for their expanding classrooms

### Thea Women's Center at St. Francis Inn Ministries

- Operating costs for one month

### St. Edmond's Home for Children

- Educational summer program, "Camp Rainbow"

### Catholic Community Choir

- Props and costumes for their production of *Sleeping Beauty*

### Red Hill Farm

- Continue their student farm project

### CORA Services

- Early Years Program

### ADROP

- Unity Health Clinic operating costs

### Don Guanella Village

- Provided household items for residents

### Chester City Family Service Center

- Building of an emergency shower space for families

### Gesu School

- New uniforms for students in need

### St. Lucy Day School for Children with Visual Impairments/Archbishop Ryan Academy for the Deaf

- Innovative digital reading program



## FORMING A STRONGER COMMUNITY FOR YEARS TO COME

### ENDOWMENTS

CFGP Endowment Funds were established to provide grants and address the long-term needs of the community.

### Pope Francis Endowment for Social Justice

### Endowment for Priestly Formation

### Endowment for Religious Vocations

### Catholic Charities Appeal Endowment Fund

### The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia Endowment Fund

### Schools of Special Education Endowment Fund

### CFGP Field of Interest Endowment Fund

With your support, CFGP has helped thousands in the community. But there are still so many in need. You can make a difference. Visit [www.CatholicFoundationPhila.org](http://www.CatholicFoundationPhila.org) to donate.

### MISSION ADVANCEMENT SERVICES

## The Art of Asking.®

Fulfilling the mission of your organization takes money – successfully asking takes skill. Through the Mission Advancement Services (MAS) offered by CFGP, we provide development services and strategic counseling for parishes, schools and other organizations.

Serving nonprofits large or small, MAS customizes approaches to meet an organization's specific challenges, goals and vision.

Services we offer:

- Increased Offertory Programs
- Annual Appeals
- Stewardship
- Feasibility Studies
- Capital Campaigns
- Major Gift Consulting
- Planned Giving
- Grant Writing
- Board Management
- Event Planning

### INCREASED OFFERTORY PROGRAMS

MAS Increased Offertory Programs are offered to parishes who want to foster and strengthen the connection between a financial commitment and the mission of the parish.

Through data analysis and a customized communication strategy, this program creates awareness of the needs of the

parish and encourages increasing and renewing financial commitments. The program also highlights the importance of boosting annual giving to keep up with the parish's growing expenses.

Recently, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Montgomery County saw a need for an increase in their Sunday offertory and to grow the use of their electronic giving. Since partnering with CFGP, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Parish is now expecting a \$120,000 increase in their offertory and the parish also doubled the amount of electronic donors.

*"Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Parish is very pleased with the results of our Increased Offertory Campaign. We saw an increase in Sunday contributions and e-giving participants. The strong action plan developed by CFGP was helpful in the process of soliciting our parishioners. The communication between CFGP and the Parish Office assisted to promote a positive campaign outcome."*

- Tammy W. Brock, Business Manager of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Parish.

If you are interested in learning more about Increased Offertory Programs or other fundraising techniques, please visit [www.CatholicFoundationPhila.org/MAS](http://www.CatholicFoundationPhila.org/MAS). We understand the Art of Asking.

# CFGP MESSENGER

For supporters of The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia  
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