

“Imagine No Hunger”

The Hospitality Center is being featured as one of the agencies to support during the run of the play “Grand Concourse”, at Theater Horizon, Norristown. “Join artists, students, and the passionate workers in our community who feed the hungry as we come together to put a face on hunger prevention in Montgomery County.” We are encouraged by the community support and grateful to Theater Horizon for featuring us. Visit www.TheatreHorizon.org to learn more about this project.



@norristown.hospitality.center

A portion of the cost of printing this newsletter was donated by Minuteman Press in Norristown. Thank You!

Get updates on upcoming events and a behind the scenes look at donors, volunteers, staff, and clients!

Norristown Ministries Inc. Hospitality Center

**Empowering those
experiencing Homelessness
and Poverty**



SPRING 2017

Norristown Ministries Inc. Hospitality Center • 530 Church Street • 1st floor • Norristown, PA 19401 • 610-277-1321 • hospitalitycenter.org

The Hospitality Center was created from true and simple love for people. It is a home during the day for anyone who otherwise would be left hungry, weary, or living on the streets.

Our Mission

“Motivated by God’s love, the center provides basic needs and social services to empower those experiencing homelessness and poverty.”

Partner With Us



The Center relies solely on your support through donations of money and time and your fervent prayers.

- Make a monetary gift to the Center
- Designate your United Way contribution to the Hospitality Center (United Way Southeastern PA #06283, United Way Tri-State #036-649)
- Volunteer: 610-277-1321, x108 or volunteer@hospitalitycenter.org
- Donate needed items
- Continue to pray for the work of the Hospitality Center

A Note from the Director



“It made me feel human again” - This was a comment made by one of our clients who received a free hair cut from our volunteer barber at the Center. It made me think of the enormous impact that the Center has, and in this particular instance, the dignity it restored to this woman in that

moment. A small act of kindness has the power to alter someone's life experience. On days like this, I am reassured that we are effectively carrying out our mission and impacting lives positively. I want to take this opportunity to encourage you, that through your support of the Hospitality Center, you are making a difference.

Sunanda Charles
Executive Director



Norristown Ministries  Hospitality Center
Presents...
FREE Admission
Concert & Silent Auction
Featuring...
The Montgomery County Concert Band
Friday, March 17, 2017
6:00 pm Auction
7:30 pm Concert

Come see the 60 member Montgomery County Concert Band perform along with their Jazz band.

The Silent Auction will include a variety of items such as local restaurant certificates, sports and theater tickets, beautiful gift baskets, and a variety of overnight packages.

Stay up to date with our incoming auction items as we prepare for the big day by following us on **Facebook** and **Instagram**.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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“Join us for the joy of it. Join us for the blessing.”



I am Paulette. It has been my privilege to volunteer at the Hospitality Center since it opened 20+ years ago. It is one of the great privileges of my life. As a Christian I understand that each individual is a unique treasure created by God. I have always longed to communicate love and respect especially to those who are devalued by society. But how? We cannot just walk up to a person living on the streets and build a relationship or offer comprehensive help. The Center allows for just that. While skilled case managers help people navigate the obstacle course to self-sufficiency, we volunteers do the less skilled jobs and just enjoy each individual. Join us for the joy of it. Join us for the blessing.

Paulette Whitekettle is deeply passionate about her support for the Center’s mission. She has supported the Center in various roles- volunteer, board member, fundraiser, prayer warrior, you name it. She has been instrumental in bringing in varied resources to the Hospitality Center over the years. Paulette has overcome huge setbacks in relation to her health in the last three years, and continues to attend the Center every week. Paulette’s favorite thing to do is sit at the table with clients and have conversations with them and walk beside them in their sharing/journey.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner



The Hospitality Center is able to serve over 1000 clients annually, thanks to more than 75 regular volunteers. Whether they serve in the kitchen, mailroom, pantry, driving deliveries, or organizing a fundraiser, the center could not function without them. We hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on January 26th to honor our volunteers who

serve us throughout the year. Special thanks to Church on the Mall for permitting us to use their sanctuary as a venue for our event.

Volunteer Survey

As important stakeholders in the Hospitality Center's mission we would like to hear from our volunteers and are currently in the process of creating a survey. Please keep an eye out for our survey over the next few weeks. If you volunteer with us, we would like to hear from you!

Dental Screenings



In partnership with the HealthLink Dental Clinic, the Hospitality Center organized a dental health screening for clients at the Center on January 27th.

Eighteen clients were screened for oral cancer, abscesses and cavities. When necessary, referrals were made for free or subsidized dentures. Following that, our case manager was able to refer four clients to the local dentist, two of whom were able to receive services like extraction and consult for dentures. The center would like to thank HealthLink Dental Clinic for their support, and look forward to partnering with them in the future.

Pictured: Bella Amado, Dental Hygienist and Clinical Director with Dr. Bernie Dishler, Volunteer Dentist & Board Member

Messiah United Methodist Church raises \$7,000



Messiah United Methodist Church raised \$7000 during their Christmas Challenge in December of 2016 for the Hospitality Center. Deacon Kent Barbay presented a check for \$7000 to Rich Whitekettle, President of the Board of Directors (pictured with Sunanda Charles, Executive Director). We are grateful to the Messiah United Methodist Church for supporting us in our mission. Do you have a creative idea to support us? Please contact outreach@hospitalitycenter.org for more information.

Sharon “You guys really helped when no one else would.”

Sharon came to the Hospitality Center homeless, and with a long history of addiction. Susan Giancola our case manager, worked with Sharon to address her mental health needs, housing needs and other basic needs of food, daytime shelter and clothing. Sharon was temporarily housed in a shelter and started receiving mental health treatment through a referral made by her case manager here. Sharon came to the Center regularly seeking emotional support during this time. She utilized our computer services at the Center and was able to create a resume and apply for jobs online. She got called to an interview at Giant and has been working in their bakery since early November. Sharon also received support in the form of tokens to get to her job for the first few days. Sharon now has her own apartment and has maintained it for the past three months. Sharon is also on Methadone maintenance and is progressing well. On being asked about her experience at the Hospitality Center, Sharon said “I know you really care about me. You know me on a first name basis. I know I can always come here. Even though I’m progressing, things go wrong. Like they cut off my food stamps, so I came here for two days to make sure I eat before going to work. You guys really helped me when no one else would.”