



Face To Face

Germantown

Fall 2010

109 E. Price Street • Philadelphia, PA 19144 • 215-438-7939 • www.facetofacegermantown.org

Open House

Saturday, October 23, 2010

5pm-7 pm

Face to Face Dining Room
109 East Price Street, Germantown, PA 19144

Face to Face is a human services organization which provides free meals, nurse-managed healthcare, legal and social services, art and writing studios, and children's after school care and summer programming. Through intentional volunteer-client relationships, Face to Face creates experiences of hospitality, mutuality, and transformation in the Germantown community and beyond.

This year we are proud to highlight the extraordinary accomplishments of our Legal Center. Meet our dedicated legal team and hear first-hand how there is positively impacting the lives of our clients

R.S.V.P. by October 15th to
Katy Otto- Director of Development
215-849-0179 or
katy@facetofacegermantown.org

**We would like to thank
Valley Green Bank and
Villanova University School of Law
for their generous sponsorship of this event.**

From our Executive Director Mary Kay Meeks-Hanks



Dear Friends,

I like to think of Face to Face as a warm and inviting quilt that wraps each person in hospitality as they step through the door. Each of our programs is a patch in that quilt with every participant adding to the richness of the design as they share their individual creativity and vitality with others.

One of the things that makes Face to Face so unique is that it is a place where everyone has the opportunity to be recognized, to be received warmly, to know and be known. Clients, guests, volunteers, and staff – *all of us have an opportunity to meet one another "face to face", to understand how our lives are woven together, to see beyond the differences our society creates – socioeconomic, racial, educational, and cultural – and to discover that, person to person, face to face, we are connected. It is in that experience of mutuality, that we are each transformed. That transformation has the power to affect the very structures that separate us!*

I hope you enjoy this patchwork of stories!
As always, thank you, thank you, thank you for being part of Face to Face.

Gratefully.

Connecting Through Computers

Every Wednesday morning, diverse groups of people come to Face to Face and head upstairs to get to work. Some are looking for employment, others are



writing letters to family members, utility companies, or landlords, and many are sharpening their keyboard skills; but they are all being guided

by our knowledgeable and patient computer teacher, Sheila Sharpe. "Most of my students range in age from 50 to 75," says Sheila. "Young people, who come here, often already have great internet skills and use our computers to search for jobs. It's the more mature demographic that needs the most assistance."

Sheila's interest in Face to Face goes beyond her very important volunteer position. On weekends, you can often find her sharing a meal with her students and friends in our dining room as they catch up on each other's lives. She also attends our art and writing classes where her experience and creativity is an asset to all. When asked what it is about Face to Face that fuels her dedication and involvement, she doesn't miss a beat before replying, "Face to Face is a wonderful place with many options available to people. Social and legal services, nursing care, meals, the washeteria – this place helps to make people feel a part of things rather than outcasts." What does she wish for Face to Face? "More computers!" she answers, readily admitting that she feels frustrated when she cannot always satisfy client demand. We agree, Sheila, and are working on it! Meanwhile, thank you for the wonderful connection you make between the people of Face to Face and the world of technology.

This past summer, Face to Face lost a beloved friend. Alice Renzulli was a vital and engaging presence here and at St. Vincent de Paul Church. She met everyone with a smile and a word of encouragement! We miss you! We love you!



Family Ties



When siblings attending the After School Club were absent several consecutive days, our staff worried that something was wrong. A phone call confirmed that an unexpected housing and financial crisis was wreaking havoc in their lives; a crisis that ultimately resulted in the loss of the teaching position held by their mother, Tameeka, and the family's home.

As soon as our Director of Social Services, Susan Willson, learned of the family's situation, she moved quickly to see how she could help. Providing hours of emotional support, crisis management, and by contacting the right people, Susan was able to work with Tameeka to accomplish what would have been very difficult to do on her own. A single mother of four young girls, Tameeka recalls how she was feeling during that stressful time, "At Face to Face, I didn't have to prove I was needy. They trusted me and treated us as humans – and it meant the world to me."

Meanwhile, the After School Club staff continued to support her daughters, even supplying them with snacks when they learned that the girls were the only ones in their classes without anything to eat during break time. "Face to Face jumped in to help us like a family. The empathy and lack of judgment were what made the difference."

Our unique wrap around approach to client needs at Face to Face enables us to address more than one issue at a time. It is not unusual for our Legal Center to consult with our Social Services Program or our Dining Room to steer someone to our Health Center. This method allows each service to work together as a team and to serve the person as a whole which, for the most part, provides more efficient, long-lasting results.

This fall, Tameeka returned to her teaching position in the Philadelphia School District and her girls are back with their friends in the After School Club. Tameeka and her girls are a good example of the way the quilt of Face to Face wraps around each person!





SPOTLIGHT ON ... Mutuality in Action

On any given Saturday, a young man guides clients through the legalese of the consent form which must be signed before they may receive foot care, a particular ailment of the homeless, from our foot care nurse and volunteer podiatrist. "I want the clients to fully understand [the form] and know that they do have rights and will be treated with respect and dignity." At only 23, Marvin Marcelin speaks as if he is already a well-seasoned Face to Face volunteer.



After learning about the organization from a brochure, Marvin first worked in the Dining Room, but as a pre-med student at Drexel University, was quickly drawn to the Health Center. Under the guidance of Director Donna Whitehead, Marvin developed techniques for sensitively and effectively working with clients both to collect information as well as review the data contained on their charts so that they might better understand their health issues and conditions.

"I don't see people my age volunteering unless they are really guided to it," Marvin notes. Yet, he describes his experience in the Health Center as having a significant impact on his education – a subject at the forefront of his mind as he prepares to take the MCAT next spring. He plans to focus on primary care, after discovering through the relationships he's built at Face to Face, how critical it is to a person's comprehensive health and well-being.

Marvin reminds us that the creation of community is integral to our mission. "I enjoy talking to the people who come to Face to Face. They love to tell their stories, and love to see a young, motivated person interested in their lives. I recognize a lot of people by face and they recognize me." Marvin has gotten so much from his experience. He values the lessons he's learned from the clients' positive attitudes and hopeful view of life more than anything. His story truly captures the essence of mutuality!



Face to Face Wraps Up Summer Camp 2010

"The bird on the motorized bike was, by far, the funniest moment of the whole camp this year," said Camp Director, Amy Koslowsky, "and we have the pictures to prove it!" Yes, at this year's summer camp, a bird really did sit on a motorized bicycle and ride in circles around the room as the children, shrieking with laughter, watched in disbelief and amazement.

Amy, a teacher in the Philadelphia School District and director of our After School Club has been running our camp since 2008. Holding a Masters Degree in Education, as well as, a dual certification in Elementary Education and Art Education, her knowledge, experience, and expertise make her an invaluable staff member and an absolute pro at heading our fun and educational camp.

Despite the unusually hot and humid weather, the campers walked through our gates at 8:30 AM every Monday through Friday during the four week camp and began their day with a nutritious breakfast. "The children survived the heat with smiles on their faces, as only children can," remarked Amy. After breakfast, the fun began! During the morning hours, the campers rotated through various specials including soccer, art, dance, music, tai chi classes, and sports. Lunch served as a perfect break time and then it was back to an afternoon packed with activities. In addition to the Animal Show, there was a Science Show, a Dance Performance, a historic walking tour of Germantown, field trips to a local pool, a visit from the Philadelphia Eagles Book Mobile, and even a bowling trip. When asked about his first experience at a bowling alley, one little boy told us, "Bowling was so much fun!" Stretching his arms out as wide as he could, he continued, "I knocked a pin this big down in one shot!"

If you ask Amy how she manages 108 registered campers ranging from ages four to twelve with so little trouble, she will tell you that her secrets include a wonderful staff, dedicated volunteers, and a basic rule that the campers are taught during the first days of camp; the children must always respect themselves and others.

This year, a host of teachers from the Philadelphia Public School System were hired to serve as adult staff, providing hours of priceless guidance and leadership. One teacher who was dealing with a tragic situation in his own life said, "I really appreciated coming to camp. The energy of the kids helped me to get through a rough time." Additionally, we employed thirteen counselors-in-training, ages thirteen to eighteen, many of whom grew up attending Face to Face summer camp. As well as learning life-long job skills such as punctuality, commitment, and time-management, our CITs took part in Arts and Spirituality classes and financial management sessions, purely for their own enrichment. Finally, volunteers, especially devoted and longtime Face to Face supporter, Harry Campbell, could be found distributing meals, playing with the children, and keeping the equipment in tip-top shape.

The weeks flew by very quickly and camp culminated with a final show where parents and guardians had the chance to applaud the art, tai chi demonstrations, music, and dance that the children had been practicing all month. It was a wonderful night and a perfect conclusion to another successful summer camp at Face to Face!



Benchmarks

Amy Glass began volunteering at the legal center as a summer intern in 2008 when she had just completed her first year of Widener

University Law School. She continued to volunteer with us regularly throughout her second and third years of law school. In addition to working at the clinic during regular client intake hours, Amy also helped to prepare and present a landlord/tenant workshop for our clients and participated in an informational workshop on LIHEAP and utility assistance programs.

Amy has helped to train other law students and has worked closely with the volunteer attorneys. She completed her studies at Widener Law School in December 2009 and took the Bar exam in February 2010. Two weeks after being admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar, Amy tried, and won, a case in Municipal Court on behalf of a Face to Face client.

Amy begins a judicial clerkship in September for Judge Jerome O. Herlihy in the Delaware Superior Court. She plans to continue to as a volunteer attorney at the legal



**Philadelphia Insurance
Companies and
Face to Face**
present the
19th Annual Turkey Trot
Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 25th

5 Mile Run/ 1 Mile Walk

The fun begins at the Northwestern Ave. entrance
of Forbidden Drive in Chestnut Hill

Register online at www.len-mark.com or
in person on race day from 7:30 am

\$30 - online registration thru 11/18

\$35 - 11/19 thru Race Day

9:00 am - 5 mile run

9:05 am - 1 mile run/walk

Sponsorship opportunities are available and welcomed
For more info contact: Katy Otto - Dir. of Development
215-849-0179 or katy@facetofacegermantown.org



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