



Mr. Walsh of Chester Community Charter Middle School offers thumbs-up with a delivery of 685 pounds of food from the children.



The Soccer Hall of Fame with help from representatives of Sons of Ben and Father Judge High School deliver more than three hundred new and used winter coats to help warm families.



Paula Calhoun of MUSIC CHOICE and family generously donated 531 pounds of holiday food supplies, 102 pounds of personal care items as well as diapers, wipes and household supplies. Their first partnership with BC is overwhelming. Many thanks!



(R) Rev. Robert McDermott and Pat Carlin from St. John Fisher Parish deliver a truck load of toys, clothes, and personal items as Christmas gifts for BC families.



Mike DiFurio (middle) of A.B.A.T.E. and a BC Volunteer facilitated a Christmas toy drive with Sgt. Paul and Sgt. Jaclyn of TOYS FOR TOTS for our clients' children. This is only a portion of the gifts BC distributed for Christmas. The smiles on parents' faces and the repeated "God bless you" were rewarding.



Members of Gallagher Benefit Service Inc. collected 951 pounds of food and personal supplies as Christmas donations for BC families.

Feinstein Challenge

Alan Feinstein
37 Alhambra Circle
Cranston, RI 02905

Please, use MY money to help your neighbors in need!
March 1, 2014 through April 30, 2014

My name is Alan Feinstein. For the past 16 years, I have been giving away \$1 million each year to anti-hunger agencies throughout the country.

This year, I am doing it again... **WHATEVER YOU DONATE TO THIS AGENCY, I WILL ADD MONEY TO IT. THE MORE YOU GIVE, THE MORE OF MY \$1 MILLION THEY'LL GET - THANKS TO YOU!**

Why am I doing this? Because I believe each of us was put here on earth to do what we can to help those in need. You got this letter because we feel that YOU believe that, too.

My money started this campaign but it is YOU who will help decide how many needy people in your city or town will be fed this year.

This has become the greatest grass roots campaign ever to fight hunger in our country. Your donation makes you a partner in it with me!

My \$1 million will be divided proportionately in full among the agencies receiving donations

Sincerely yours,
Alan Shawn Feinstein



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Stamp



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WINTER 2014

THE Bernardine Center TIMES

A NEWSLETTER OF THE BERNARDINE CENTER

A Ministry of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters

Seeds That Nurture

Sister Sandra Lyons, Director

Having harvested many pounds of beans, collards, squash and cucumbers during the past summer months, we have cleaned up our community garden beds, fed them with mushroom soil and compost and now allow them to replenish themselves for the next spring planting season.

We, too, can benefit from a period of replenishment and inner nurturing after several seasons of political and economic turmoil, especially where low-income families are concerned. My perception from the stalemate and in-fighting on Capitol Hill and in my own state legislature is that to be a person who is poor, who is low-income, is to be an outcast, a pariah, a castaway. The House of Representatives voted to provide increased subsidies to already profitable corporate agribusiness, but significantly cut the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP. Extended unemployment compensation is denied. It seems from federal and state budgets that people who are poor are not worthy to be helped; they are not entitled to eat healthy meals three times a day because they are unemployed, underemployed or maybe they're even working two full-time jobs at minimum wage. How different are the lives of the members of Congress who likely eat regularly, receive health insurance without a second thought, and continue to be paid while stalemating and accomplishing nothing for the common good, yet who feel entitled to diminish those who are different, poor and marginalized.

Jesus models compassion and gospel justice for us, emphasizing special attention to the poor and socially impoverished in society. In Matthew 11: 5, Jesus speaks to John that "the blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. Many of our lawmakers today defy the gospel by denying sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, healing for those with disease and illness by denouncing the poor, denying them services and safety net programs.

How can this be? Why do the rich and those in government "service" feel so privileged that they banish the economically poor to the margins?

As a Catholic and a Franciscan Sister, I have been immersed in my church's treasure of Catholic Social Teaching. Key themes of CST are:

- 1) The life and dignity of the human person – each person is sacred; each person is valued, even if poor, disabled, a "foreigner."
- 2) Call to family, community, and participation – persons are social and have a right to participate actively in society seeking together the common good. All are invited to the table, but too often many are turned away.
- 3) Rights and responsibilities – there can only be a healthy community when human rights are protected and responsibilities are met, to one another, to our families, to the larger society.
- 4) Option for the poor and vulnerable – the basic moral test of society is how the poor and vulnerable are treated. We are instructed to put the needs of the poor, the exiled, the weak before the desires of the rich.
- 5) Solidarity – Jesus calls us to be supportive of one another while together we work for gospel justice.
- 6) Care for God's Creation – All is gift and we are called to share Earth's gifts – healthy food, clean water, nontoxic air - with one another as a requirement of our faith.

(United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, USCCB Publishing, Publication # 5-315)

So as our garden appears to sleep through the winter but subtly transforms itself to blossom forth with a new spring harvest that will nourish families seeking assistance at Bernardine Center, let us too put aside unrest and crippling prejudices and reflect on our mission to live in the midst of God's people instead of separate from them, so that we may be transformed with a new creativity and gospel justice that nurtures with compassion those struggling at the margins.



Mission Statement

The Bernardine Center provides a helping hand to low-income Chester area residents by distributing emergency or supplemental food and supplies.

The Bernardine Center also offers educational, spiritual and advocacy programs to help clients build better lives for themselves, their families and communities.

All the ministries of the Bernardine Center are rooted in Franciscan hospitality and the social teachings of our Catholic Christian tradition.

Bernardine Center

In-kind and Monetary Donations

October 16, 2013 through January 31, 2014

A.B.A.T.E.
 Allan & Marilyn Holmstrom
 Allison Dorsey
 Allison Snyder
 Amelia Martinelli
 Andrew Kiszka
 Andrew & Anne Merz
 Angela Petty-John West
 Anne Coffey
 Anne Fiur
 Anonymous
 Anthony & Kathleen Alosi
 Anthony Zweier
 AquaCap
 Archdiocese of Philadelphia
 Arthur & Carol Finley
 Barbara Keosayan
 Bernardine Franciscan Sisters
 Betty Parris
 Bill & Maureen Olphert
 Bill & Theresa Cupples
 Bob & Maura Gustafson
 Bob Mitchell
 Brinker Organization
 Candy Schreiber
 Carol Seeley
 Carolyn Nelson
 Cass Englert
 Catherine Galvin
 Cathy Larkin
 Charif Showkri
 Charles & Ann Zech
 Charles & Barbara Tart
 Charles & Natalina McLaughlin
 Charles Butera
 Charles Nardini
 Chester Community Charter Middle School
 Christine Blidan
 Christine Shiiba
 Chuck Marshall
 Church of Saint Kevin
 City Team
 Community Arts Center
 Congregation Ohev Shalom
 Congressman Pat Meehan
 Cub Scout Troop Pack 264
 County Savings Bank
 Curves-Havertown
 Dave & Barbara Shustock
 Dave & MaryAnn Fiebert
 Dave & Stacie Lospinosa
 David & Marilyn Lemmerman
 David Chominski
 Debbie Kelly
 Dee Paper Box Company
 Delaware County Office of Behavioral Health
 Delaware County Community College
 Delaware County Juvenile Probation
 Delores Luniewski & Debbie Luniewski
 Diane S. Coburn
 Dominican Sisters of Peace
 Donna Carango
 Dorothy Sienko
 Douglas Gobrecht
 Dr. Ana & J. Sanders
 Dr. Jane Brennan
 Ed & Arlene Burke
 Edward & Marianne Gunther

Edward Lane
 Edwin & Mary Youtz
 Eliot Mansk
 Elizabeth Moore
 Essington Boy Scouts
 Etta Crane
 Eugene F. & Christine Bradley
 Frances Bell, RN
 Frances Rhoda Stier
 Francis I. Corey, Jr.
 Frank & Mary Fee
 Fresh Baked Theatre Co.
 Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc.
 George & Peggy Kau
 George & RoseMary Alexander
 Geraldine Randall
 Gerry DeFonzo
 Giant Food Store (WestChester)
 Gil & Joan Bardsley
 Harry Saina
 Hatboro Needlework Guild of America (NGA)
 Helen Chominski
 Helen Serra
 Holy Child Academy
 IMA Consulting
 Jack & Connie Kopko
 James & Bette Ortoleva
 James & Charlotte Hyer
 James & Mary King
 James & Patricia Merz
 James McCabe
 Jamie and Chris Heckman
 Jane P. Gaudet
 Janet Czarnota
 Jason Naum
 Jean McGarrey
 Jennifer Strada
 Jessica Carango
 Jessica Curlett
 Jim Judge
 Joan McLaughlin
 Joan Wagner
 Joe and Elizabeth O'Leary
 John & Jo Ann Carey
 John J. & Loretta Smith
 John Strasinski
 Joseph & Magdalena Bellesorte
 Joseph Szczepaniak
 Josephine Curry
 Josephine Novak
 Josie D'Amico
 Judith A. Boudwin
 Judith Burns
 Just Pizza (Kent & Mary Ann Drake)
 Kathleen Lee Hornberger
 Kevin & Janet Haggerty
 Kevin Nederostek
 KeyStone Center
 Kimberly Braun
 Kimberly Clark Corporation
 Lambert T. Payne
 Latifah Beard
 Leon & Patricia Harenza
 Lillian Cosenza
 Linda Locklear
 Lisa DeProphetis
 Lori Wilson
 Lorraine Iacone

Louise Eyre
 Lucy Giancristoforo
 Madeline Gudelunas
 Marcie Pastuszek
 Margaret M. Desmond
 Margaret McIntyre
 Margaret Ziegenfuss
 Maris Grove Residents Outreach Club
 Marjorie Hicks
 Marjorie R. Lucci
 Mark Dillard
 Martindale's Natural Market
 Mary Cummings
 Mary Farley
 Mary Moyer
 MaryEllen McTeague
 Michael & Maureen LeFevre
 Michalene Chabon
 Mildred DeMarcantonio
 Minaret Court 154- Daughters of Isis
 Mr. & Mrs. John Powell
 Music Choice
 Nancy Gray
 Newcomers & Neighbors
 Needlework Guild of America (Ruth Mitchell)
 Norbert & Carmella Poloncarz
 Notre Dame de Lourdes School
 Oksanna Fallon
 Our Lady of Angels Convent
 Our Lady of Charity Parish
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 Pat Schnell
 Pat Strain
 Patricia Burns Horwitz
 Paul Cacciatore
 Peggy Cully
 Peter & Leondina Caracci
 Phil Stine
 Phyllis Lucas
 Polish Club
 Polish-American Heritage Assn.
 Prospect Park School
 Ramon & Marylou Laboy
 Regina D. Langevin
 Regina DelRaso
 Renzi's Steaks
 Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
 Rev. Francis J. Mulranen
 Rich Brown
 Richard & Alice Zaleski
 Richard & Teresa O'Flynn
 Richard T. Murray & Mary O'Gorman
 Rick & Denise Riley
 Rita Lerza
 Rob & Lili Rodriguez-Rivas
 Robert & Isabelle Morrison
 Robert & Maura Gustafson
 Robert & Rosemarie Naef
 Robert Godbey
 Robert S. & Donna Clancy
 Rodger & Claire Menold
 Ron & Cheryl Hodgins
 Sacred Heart Parish
 Sarah Barrar
 Shanna Lawler
 Sharon Black
 Sister Danielle Marie Kubelsky
 Sister Francesca Therese Bozzo

Sister Jacinta Respondowska
 Sister Maria J. Riedel
 Sister Marilisa Helena da Silva
 Sister Marinetta Harenza
 Sister Rose Colanzi
 Sister Ruth Ann Rogozinski
 Sister Shaun Patrice Malone
 Sister Veronice Plewinski
 Soccer Hall of Fame
 Sons of Ben
 St. Anastasia Parish
 St. Bernardine of Siena Convent
 St. Francis DeSales Parish
 St. Francis of Assisi Academy
 St. James Alumni
 St. John Chrysostom Parish
 St. John Chrysostom PREP
 St. John Fisher Parish
 St. John Vianney Convent
 St. John's Boy Scout Troop # 605
 St. Joseph Guild (Aston)
 St. Joseph Villa
 St. Joseph Parish
 St. Madeline Parish
 St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Church
 St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish
 St. Mary Magdalene Communitiy
 St. Mary Magdalene Parish
 St. Thomas More Convent
 St. Thomas the Apostle Parish
 State Government
 Stephen & Patricia Dolan
 Stephen D. Pollard
 Susan J. Whartnaby
 Susan Sutsko
 Swarthmore Rudledge School
 TE Middle School
 TEFAP - Government Program
 The Ken Margolis Family Giving Fund
 The Philadelphia Foundation
 Thomas G. Roletter
 Thomas J. Feys
 Thomas J. Lyons
 Tom & Terri Smedile
 Tom & Tish Gallagher
 USCI Affinity
 Vince Provost
 Vincent & Felicia Lindsley
 Vincent & Veronica Anderson
 Walter & Bernadette King
 WIC- Cindy Barrar
 Wilhelm F. & Terry Moller
 William & Marie Duffy
 William & Patricia Cassels
 William & Sharon Chalker, Jr.
 William H. Dickson

Bernardine Center is grateful to
Ethel Sargeant Clark Smith
 Memorial Fund
 for a \$5,000 grant
 toward the purchase of a new cargo van.

Bernardine Center is grateful to
Dapplecroft Fund of
The Philadelphia Foundation
 for a grant of \$5,000 to be used
 where it is most needed.

Bernardine Center is grateful to
Catholic Human
Services Foundation
 for a \$10,000 grant
 toward the purchase a new cargo van.

Bernardine Center

continues efforts to meet the needs of those who seek assistance, but it can only succeed in partnership with many others, especially loyal donors, and volunteers . Thank you!



Widener University nursing students provided a Halloween Party of fun and games for Bernardine Center's clients' children. (L) Tahlia and (R) Tatyana



Bill Chambers of Delco's Department of Behavioral Health, informs Marylou, BC Food Pantry Manager, that the County Food Drive donated 3,133 pounds of food to BC for Thanksgiving.



Michelle Montgomery of W.W. Smith Charitable Trust meets with Sr. Sandra for a site visit as part of the process for awarding grant funding.



Marylou and James (Goodwill Trainee) empty our new cargo van of donated food that Marylou picked up on her way to work. This is an example of another winter blessing received by grant funding – our old van had no working heat.



Jamie and Chris Heckman and family deliver 2,590 pounds of food from a huge food drive they planned and implemented with space provided for their fun food drive by the Garrettford Fire Hall with featured Horn Band "Groove Place."

Bernardine Center's Food Pantry Benefits from Generous Donors!



Sarah Barrar, through her "Loving Coins" program, donated 790 pounds of fresh produce to Bernardine Center's food pantry to help families with healthy eating.



Principal, Mrs. Susan Lowe, and John Tyson of Notre Dame de Lourdes School provided BC with 1,603 pounds of food collected by students and staff.

St. Francis of Assisi "Souper Bowl" fundraiser provided food to support BC's food pantry. Pictured are Tom Wimer, Tina Laboy, Marylou Laboy, Food Pantry Manager, and Deacon Tim with Jimmy Glace who packed, unpacked, and weighed 3,430 pounds of collected food seen in the boxes around them.



Sons of Ben held a "Kick Hunger 2014" Charity Event at the PA Convention Center in January. Marylou (L) and Sr. Sandra (R) pose with Philadelphia Union soccer players – (L-R) Jimmy McLaughlin, Antoine Hoppenot, and Sheanon Williams.



Sons of Ben present Bernardine Center staff, Marylou Laboy and Sr. Carolyn, with a check for \$10,108 raised from the "Help Kick Hunger 2014" Charity Event. SoB from L-R: Bill Gusler, Ami Oristaglio and Lorenzo Rivera. Sons of Ben also donated 906 pounds of food and infant items.

