

Caring Compassionate Services for Those In Need

Issue #25 – October 2018

Logo Designed by Volunteer Graphic Designer Janet Ochs

WITH GOD, AND VOLUNTEERS, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

How can a small agency like Seton Center operate without volunteers? We can't. We have 8 employees managing the Outreach and DePaul Dental Programs, administration, media, volunteers, with 3 full-time staff in the Family Store. It is only made possible with the assistance of our dedicated volunteers. With much planning and cooperation from the DCM maintenance and grounds staff, we were able to move to our new location and open on June 12. The response of our volunteers is a shining example of the heart they have for our mission. Like true servants, they do not seek public recognition. Most notably, 8 of our outstanding volunteers gave 153 service hours on top of their normal duties to accomplish the move.

From July 2017 Through June 2018

125 Seton Center volunteers

donated 6,099 hours

valued at \$103,787!

Volunteers apply, submit to a rigorous vetting process and receive an orientation to the mission and values of our Vincentian spirituality-based ministry. Every person is assigned a position description so that everyone has a clear understanding of what is expected. Each volunteer is asked to share their special talents and be open to learn new skills.

Office receptionists greet and provide kind hospitality to all who visit Seton Center, make phone calls to remind program participants of events, perform general clerical duties, make sure our partnering resources are up-to-date and each year fold, stuff and stamp over 3,000 newsletters and mailings.



Debbie Fragale

Financial/Life coaches guide community members through the maze of banking and vendor jargon, prioritizing bill payments, sorting through mailings and finding out what they mean.

Home visitation is offered by the Daughters of Charity, Sister Dorothy Folmer & Sister Barbara Maggio. Two members of our local St. Vincent DePaul Society, Leslie Persse & Meg Mason volunteer many hours and miles of travel to provide friendly home visits and transportation.

Gonzaga College High School's annual mission to the area provided 1,000 hours to help 27 neighbors.

Mount St. Mary's University's Department of Social Justice students reached out to 11 area residents during Spring and Fall Days of Service to care for yard work and household tasks they can no longer manage. A student intern began a semester with us in September to organize our statistics tracking and another will begin in January.

Our volunteers are extraordinary and motivated by the mission of Seton Center. Throughout this nation, volunteerism has always been valued as a builder of community. We are proud to participate in this most valuable effort. If you would be interested in becoming a volunteer in this mission-driven, joyful program, please call Missy Miller at 301-447-6102 x 18 or e-mail her at melissa.miller@doc.org.

Sister Martha Beaudoin, D. C., LSW
Administrator

PROGRAM UPDATES

Getting Ahead Program



August 6 Graduation Celebration

Left to right: Co-Facilitator Brian Neville, Jessi Miller, Shawna Ruby, Nancy Allene Saxton, Co-Facilitator Kelly Mays, Priscilla Bateman, Debbie Arnold, Michael Legenzov, Chastity Henning, Makeba McCrary. (Not pictured, Willy Ngiratraol and Co-Facilitator Missy Shank)

Program Coordinator Kelly Mays shares, “The Getting Ahead program would not be possible without volunteer support! They co-facilitate meetings, provide meals and assist in the planning, invitations and execution of each class’s graduation. Brian Neville is an excellent, skilled and enthusiastic co-facilitator. His reliable presence was vital to running an additional group this past summer. I count on volunteers for meal donations and the Graduation ceremony couldn’t happen without their help. Rachael Kobe, Louise Schafer, Monica Dabbs and Mount staff and students Elizabeth Jackson, Molly Maisel and Amara Jerome made our most recent graduation a huge (and relatively easy) success.

I appreciate when volunteers in reception call and remind graduates about Staying Ahead meetings or Build Your Resource workshops. This is a time-consuming task that really makes my job easier. It allows me to do other necessary job duties that would otherwise be neglected. I need them, not only to be effective in my job, but to expand what I am able to offer to participants. Our skilled and enthusiastic volunteers bring additional knowledge, ideas and gifts that I cannot on my own. They enrich our sustainable-change programs and make Seton Center a better place to work and thrive.”

An Investment in Changed Lives!

The beauty of Getting Ahead is it plants seeds that often bloom in unexpected ways. One of our first graduates was in her late 70’s and thrilled because she had never graduated from anything. Her entire family attended her graduation and brought her gifts. Since then, she has inspired changes in her entire family. Seton Center was able to help her grandson finish his high school education and go onto community college!

You can invest in your community’s successes through:

- ◇ Financial donations for \$30 incentive gift cards given to participants or provide for curriculum books and classroom materials.
- ◇ Meal donations, either home cooked or take-out, not only nourish bodies but also build community within the group’s weekly meetings.
- ◇ Prayer and spiritual support are vital to everything we do!

Staying Ahead

Seton Center offers a program to our Getting Ahead graduates called Staying Ahead. This is a support meeting, once per month to help graduates stay in touch, keep each other accountable to their goals and gain support from others. We invite guest speakers each month to help graduates continue to build resources and also to network and build social capital.

In September, Staying Ahead included a shared meal, a discussion on motivation and a great guest speaker! Carrie Sorenson from University of Maryland extension office joined us to talk about the financial and health baggage we carry from childhood and how it impacts our financial and health choices today. She also brainstormed with the group about ways they could get involved with political advocacy with financial legislation in Maryland.

Staying Ahead is a great way for Getting Ahead graduates to gain support and remain motivated while working towards their goals. For more information or to offer support for this program, please call Facilitator Kelly Mays at 301-447-6102 x 17.



PROGRAM UPDATES



Your Resources Workshops

The Build Your Resources program offers varied, relevant, monthly resource workshops available to the entire community, regardless of income level.

October 3, 10, 17 & 24 – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. - *How to Avoid Falling For a Jerk* by the Marriage Resource Center of Frederick County.

October 10 – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. - *Small Steps to Health and Wealth* by Carrie Sorenson from University of Maryland Extension.

November 7 – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. - *Racial Justice in American Communities* presented by Dr. Tim Wolfe, Mount St. Mary's University.

November 14 – 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. - *How to Have the Money Talk* by Jane Helm of Money Mentor Group.

November 28 – 4:00 to 7:30 p.m. - *Credit Café*
Receive a free credit score, a half hour credit counseling appointment, and attend a Master Your Credit workshop by Interfaith Housing Alliance of Frederick. **Pre-Registration REQUIRED** by calling 301-447-6102 x 17 to make an appointment.

December 1 – TIME TBA - *Beautiful Gift Wrap* at the Emmitsburg Library.

December 5 – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. - *Self-Care and Emotional Well-Being* presented by Gerald Rooth of Mount St. Mary's University Counseling Department

December 12 – 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. - *Small Steps to Health and Wealth* by Carrie Sorenson, University of Maryland Extension at the Emmitsburg Library.

Registration for workshops is required by calling Program Coordinator Kelly Mays at 301.447.6102 x 17.

Seton Center's second annual Job Fair is scheduled for Monday, October 8 from 1-3 p.m. at Mother Seton School. Volunteers from the Emmitsburg Lions Club, John Barnhart, Chuck Persse and others will provide traffic control, hospitality, registration and general assistance to employers and job seekers. Mount St. Mary's students blanketed the area with fliers to advertise.

Local employers are invited to attend by registering at www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-emmitsburg-job-fair-registration-44610350760.

Registration for job seekers is not required. All are encouraged to bring a fresh resume and can-do attitude as they meet and talk with employers.

To prepare our neighbors for the Job Fair, Micha Hagans of Frederick County Workforce Services provided 3 free workshops to review their on-line application system, dressing for success and speaking with employers.

Need more information? Call Missy Miller at 301.447.6102 x 18.



Helping Hands – Thanksgiving & Christmas

At Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas each year, eligible families receive food store gift cards for their holiday meals. Children age 0-12 are also provided with Easter baskets and Christmas gifts. If you would like to provide a de-stressed holiday for a family, please contact Coordinator Tina Lamont at 301.447.6102 x 13.

Tina shared, "Volunteers are a vital resource for us in offering their unique skills and talents - organizing gifts, making signs, greeting sponsors, documenting donations, interacting with the clients by showing love and dedication to those seeking assistance during this giving season. They are true representatives of our mission to provide for those less fortunate. Whether they work throughout the year in other capacities or help with specific events, we can always count on them stepping up. These volunteers are dedicated to Seton Center and are a true asset to us. I'm not sure what we would do without them."

Volunteers Help To Make the DePaul Dental Difference



Volunteer Dental Hygienist Apryl Huster sharing a personal dental training with program participant, Florence

16 dental professionals and lay volunteers have offered their time to serve 81 people by:

- ◇ facilitating 13 Health Club workshops
- ◇ facilitating 13 denture and partials personal training sessions
- ◇ preparing 100 dental intake packets
- ◇ making about 70 calls monthly – 840 in one year
- ◇ offering blood pressure screenings

Welcome to Our New Dental Funding Partners

Delta Dental Foundation
Elder Services Provider Council

Compassionate Care Changes Lives

When the DePaul Dental Health Club (DDHC) began last October, the main goal was to improve the personal dental health of adults in Northern Frederick County.

A faithful participant of the DDHC sessions recently shared that he usually has dental anxiety because past dental appointments were usually painful and uncomfortable. Well, after his most recent dental cleaning, he told us that this one “wasn’t so bad”.

So participants’ improved oral care habits have made a difference. Thanks to all who make the DePaul Dental Health Club happen!

The DePaul Dental Health Club

This adult program offers FREE workshops to help folks maintain a healthy mouth and prevent future issues. Whether you have natural teeth or dentures, oral health is important.

Tuesday, October 30 – 1:30-3 PM

Don’t Try This At Home

Home remedies for dental pain are often dangerous and can do more harm than good. Learn why they should be avoided and what you can safely do when you have problems with your teeth.

Thursday, November 15 – 1:30-3 PM

Dental Insurance and Discount Plans

A panel of experts will be on-hand to speak about dental (and health) insurance and discount plans. This session is NOT a sales pitch. We will discuss things to watch out for and questions to ask before making a dental/health insurance decision.

Tuesday, December 4 – 1:30-3 PM

Debunking Dental Myths

There’s a lot of “fake news” out there when it comes to dental care. Come to help dispel misconceptions and learn the truth.

All workshops are held at Seton Center, 226 East Lincoln Avenue in Emmitsburg, open to the general public. Registration for workshops is required by calling Program Coordinator Sister Roberta Treppa at 301.447.6102 x 20.



Volunteer India Chance of Learn2Prevent leading a workshop

SETON FAMILY STORE

We Feel the Love

Operations and Store Manager Kenneth Droneburg shares, “The volunteers have been an enormous part of the Store’s success, especially during the transition to our new location. Without the assistance of volunteers, we would be unable to fulfill our part of the mission of Seton Center.”

Seton Family Store volunteers receive, sort, organize, price, and sell donations in the Family Store. Sharon MacCracken (left) and Tracy Winkler (below), and all volunteers serve generally and in specific niches such as jewelry, purses, scarves, linens, clothing and household goods. These co-workers also cashier, bag purchased items and provide excellent customer service. All who donate are met with compassion from our volunteers, as many are facing life challenges such as the loss of a spouse.



Sharon MacCracken



Tracy
Winkler

In the last fiscal year, Seton Family Store volunteers have helped us:

- ◇ serve 11,371 customers
- ◇ who purchased \$117,094.94 in merchandise and
- ◇ offer \$1,585.25 in clothing and household items to neighbors in need.

We estimate they have also sorted and sent \$30,000 worth of unsellable textiles to benefit the Frederick County Rescue Mission and those they serve. Uncompensated, volunteers help create a joyful, hardworking team that can literally move mountains (of donations) and present them to the public in a clean, beautifully arranged and respectful way.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Outreach Office

Mon—Fri 10 a.m.—4 p.m.
(closed daily noon to 1 p.m. for lunch)

Seton Family Store

Tue—Sat 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

Family Store Donations

Tue—Sat 9:30 a.m.—4 p.m.

Seton Center will be closed:

Thanksgiving (November 22, 23 & 24)

Family Store only is open Sat, 11/24

Christmas (December 22, 24 & 25)

EVENTS AND SALES

Halloween	Oct 31	Pick-A-Prize From Magic Pumpkin
Thanksgiving	Nov 1 – 17	Drawings for centerpiece or grocery gift card – winning ticket drawn on November 19
Christmas	Dec 1	Open House – visit with Santa, enjoy cookies & cider & mingle with your neighbors
	Dec 1 – 15	Drawings for Seton Family Store gift card or grocery card – winning ticket drawn on December 17
	Dec 27 – 30	End of Christmas Sale – check our Facebook page for details.

POISED FOR GROWTH

Ribbon Cutting

On July 10, 2018 Seton Center, Inc. officially opened the new site with a Ribbon Cutting and Dedication Ceremony.

This bright, environmentally-friendly building has been graciously provided to host Seton Center, Inc. by our sponsor, The Daughters of Charity. We are not the owners, but grateful occupants. After nearly 50 years of serving from an abandoned blue school building, this new green space offers dignity and beauty to all who serve here, as well as those who visit to seek affordable clothes, household items and emergency and long-term resources that break down poverty's barriers to success.



From left to right: Maryland House of Delegates District Four Representative Cathy Afzali, Seton Center Director Sister Martha Beaudoin, Province of St. Louise Visitatrix Sister Catherine Mary Norris, Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs, State Senator Chris Van Hollen's Representative Julianna Albowicz, Father Martin McGeough and Senator Ben Cardin's Representative Robin Summerfield.

DON'T JUST GIVE—INVEST!



We've highlighted some pretty generous folks in this issue—the volunteers who help us stretch your giving dollars even farther. And we could not operate without the sponsorship of the Daughters of Charity who cover the costs associated with our physical plant, staffing overhead and administration.

Even with this this phenomenal support, Seton Center relies on your financial gifts to offer our programs, workshop provider fees, gas and food store gift cards, dental procedures, utility shut-off and home eviction funding, program incentive gift cards, meals and refreshments for workshops, graduation materials, fees for applying for birth certificates, driver licenses, educational opportunities, Second Chance Garage vehicles and more.

Moving into the future, our Strategic plan is robust, paving the way for more programs, including business and employment development in our area. We're poised for growth but need your help.

To partner with us to build stronger individuals and communities, please consider offering a donation by:

- ◆ sending a check in the enclosed giving envelope
- ◆ visiting our web site's Get Involved page at www.setoncenter.org/contributions/

Only through your generosity, may we continue to bridge the gaps in resources for our neighbors. Because The Daughters of Charity sponsor our operating costs, 100% of your donation goes directly to those we serve. You'd be hard-pressed to find a better return on your giving dollars than that. Thank you for your renewed commitment to be part of all God is doing through Seton Center.

To be added to or removed from our mailing and/or e-mail lists, please contact us at 301.447.6102 x 13 or setoncenterinc@doc.org. Thank you for helping us be faithful stewards of your gifts.