In the morning, when Donna Scrafano drops off her father, Ed, at Sharing the Caring she feels a sense of relief.

Donna knows her father is in good hands for the day, until it’s time for her to pick him up after work. When Ed became unable to care for himself, he decided he wasn’t going to move out of the family home in Forks Township. That prompted Donna to move in and take care of him.

The idea of having Ed sit at home watching TV alone during the day while she was at work bothered Donna. Having an uncle that participated in Sharing the Caring, Donna spoke with other family members about the quality of care before she enrolled Ed into the program.

“It was all positive reviews,” she said. “There was no family support system in Forks for him. I needed to know that he would be safe.”

Convinced that Sharing the Caring would meet Ed’s needs, Donna enrolled Ed in late 2016. Since then, his cognitive skills have improved, Donna said.

On the ride home, he shares what he did that day. He loves when the kids come to visit and when the group takes walks around Downtown Easton, where he grew up.

At Sharing the Caring Ed has the opportunity to participate in activities that he enjoys, especially checkers. “No one can beat him at a game of checkers,” Donna said.

Ed loves to play a game or two with other Sharing the Caring seniors or students who volunteer from Lafayette College. He also enjoys the craft projects and time with the preschool students when they come for a visit.

“The program is really my main means of support in taking care of him,” she said. “The support is important to me. The staff is great. They call or email me updates. It’s been an all-around good experience.”
A Note From the Executive Director’s Desk

Making An Impact One Moment At A Time

First time visitors to Third Street Alliance are awed by the elegance and opulence of our historic homes. But the real story of the Alliance is how we’ve re-purposed two extravagant old mansions to support vital community-based programs.

I hope this newsletter helps bring our programs to life for you. As you read about our Adult Day program, picture our seniors playing games and doing arts and crafts with our preschoolers. Picture our preschoolers learning about marine and aquatic life in our STEAM lab. Envision a mom and her children carrying vegetables, donated by a local farm, up our Grand Staircase into the residents’ kitchen where they participate in nutrition and cooking classes.

Of course, our newsletters only scratch the surface of what goes on here at Third Street Alliance. I invite you to go to our website to read our digital version of the newsletter, which includes additional photos of events and stories about life here. The online version can be found at thirdstreetalliance.org/reports-newsletters.

Better yet, drop by and experience the Mansion with a Mission for yourself. We’d love to welcome you as a volunteer!

Elizabeth Simon was an extraordinary woman for her time. When her husband died in 1913, Elizabeth took leadership of his businesses which included the day-to-day operations of the Simon Silk Mill. She ran the businesses successfully until she retired in 1930.

At that time, she sold her mansion to the YWCA to allow it to serve the community through educational opportunities and low cost housing for women seeking employment in Easton.

Today, Third Street Alliance continues to offer opportunities to women, children, and families through the homeless services program, The Learning Center and Sharing the Caring adult day care.

Honoring her philanthropic deeds and foresight, Elizabeth’s Circle has been formed to help guide TSA as we continue to meet the changing needs of our community.

For additional information on Elizabeth’s Circle, contact Director of Development, Kim Rose at 610-438-9423 or KRose@thirdstreetalliance.org.

Event Rentals

Need a space for holiday parties or autumn networking mixers? Let the Historic Simon Mansion be the backdrop to your gathering this fall and holiday season.

For rental prices and additional information, contact Wendy Hughes, Director of Administration at whughes@thirdstreetalliance.org.
Timing is everything, at least that’s what shelter resident Luz learned shortly after coming to Third Street Alliance. Luz and her autistic son moved to Miami and then returned to Easton after she was not able to get the needed services and support for her son in Florid. But, upon moving back to Easton her plans fell through. Mother and son lived in a hotel, but the funds rapidly dwindled. Through the Coordinated Entry program, Luz and her son were accepted into Third Street Alliance’s Homeless Services. Luz has been able to get her son into a school that gives him the support and services he needs, and Luz has been able to focus on herself while he’s at school during the day.

Shortly after being accepted into the shelter program, at the request of homeless services director, Janice Thomas, Luz made a doctor appointment. During this appointment, her first doctor visit in three years, Luz underwent a series of routine procedures and tests. A week after that visit, Luz received an emergency call to come back into the office, where she learned her blood sugar levels were high and at a dangerous level – 338. Normal blood sugar levels tend to stay between 70 and 140.

After being rushed to the emergency room and having other tests done, Luz was told she had diabetes. “After I found that out, I felt scared,” Luz said. Starting on the proper medicine has helped Luz control her diabetes. A recent check-up found that her blood sugar levels had gone down, significantly.

Upon coming to TSA, getting to the doctor for a check-up was Luz’s goal. “To some it may sound like a silly goal,” Janice Thomas said. “But, for many, it is a life changing accomplishment. Often times, mothers tend to put themselves on the back burner, even in normal circumstances.”

Making an appointment for a general check-up, pap-smear or breast examination is a goal Janice often recommends to residents as they come into the program. “Being homeless is outside of normal and very stressful,” Janice said. “Being at Third Street Alliance, families have the chance to regroup and start over again. So it’s a great time for them to see a doctor.”

Third Street Alliance works with the Neighborhood Health Centers of the Lehigh Valley, which has a location on Northampton Street in Easton. The center provides routine medical care, physicals, immunizations, sexually transmitted disease and HIV free testing and counseling, pregnancy testing, group visits, behavioral and mental health counseling, as well as assistance with applications for insurances or public benefits and other services. Getting to the doctor wouldn’t have been possible if she hadn’t been able to get into Third Street Alliance, Luz said.

For Luz, there is grace in knowing that her and her son were given the opportunity to be in a safe environment and have the services they need to get back on their feet.
On June 16 Sharing the Caring celebrated its 10th annual Senior Prom. The seniors got dressed up before sitting down to a lunch buffet in the gym. Families were invited to spend the afternoon with their loved ones. Ed was crowned the king of the prom, Jane was crowned the queen and a great time was had by everyone.
Senior Prom!

Just like a high school prom, our families were encouraged to pose with their loved-ones for photos.
Toilet paper.
It’s a necessity, but we really don’t think about it until we don’t have it. We use it several times per day and still it is something that is taken for granted. Homeless Services reality—no one brings toilet paper with them to the shelter! It never makes it to the “Top 10 Things to Bring” list.

Members of two Easton churches, Arndt’s Lutheran Church and St. Paul’s Third Lutheran Church, heard me loud and clear when I shared that fact with them.

The two churches came together for their one-week Vacation Bible School. This year the children focused on familiar stories of the Old Testament. One of the stories was “Daniel In the Lion’s Den.”

The VBS teachers came up with a unique way for collecting toilet paper, while teaching a Bible story and understanding the needs of others.

As the children brought in the toilet paper, they began building the lion’s den. At the end of the week, they had collected hundreds of rolls of toilet paper for the residents of Third Street Alliance.

Thank you to the children (and parents, of course) of Arndt’s and St. Paul’s for recognizing and filling our needs.
You Make A Lasting Impact

There is no such thing as a small donor. When our mission resonates with people from the public, inspiring them to help, to get involved, to raise money, it makes a difference to the people we serve.

This summer our mission inspired many people to help. We want to share a few examples with you.

Our donors included children: a child in the shelter program put a few coins in the donation box, and two girls raised money through a lemonade stand, which they selflessly gave to Shelter Services.

Local musicians Carter Lansing and Dustin Schoof organized Easton Rocks 2, a benefit concert in our gym that featured Easton area musicians. Through sales of tickets, merchandise, food and beer (Thank you Two Rivers Brewing Company), they raised almost $1,300 in one night.

TSA board of director member Kate Curcio shared Third Street Alliance’s mission at work, encouraging her colleagues to donate money or items for our programs.

We are grateful for year-round support. Many employers offer payroll deduction services for donation to non-profits, as well as through United Way, and automatic withdrawals from checking or credit card accounts allow our donors to make a larger impact through affordable monthly donations.

You can help – for information on the many ways you can support Third Street Alliance, contact Director of Development Kim Rose at KRose@thirdstreetalliance.org.
School may be out, but for students at The Learning Center, summer is a time to learn through creative programs and trips funded in part through a grant from Crayola. Students have learned about theatre at the Shawnee Playhouse, got down to sea level at Adventure Aquarium, explored science at the Franklin Institute, and got creative at the Crayola Experience and the Nurture Nature Center in Easton. Visitors to the program this summer included traveling music teachers from Learn, Listen, Play; the Lehigh Valley Zoo, and instructors from the Shanthi Project to teach yoga.

The students keep track of all these experiences by journaling after the trips or the classes, by either writing about them or drawing pictures of the moments they enjoyed the most or something that they learned.

“Many of our students enjoy drawing and this is a way for them to document their experiences and tie in literacy skills at the same time,” said Nancy Frederick, Director of The Learning Center.

For students in the beginning stages of independent reading and writing, such as Kaiden, it’s helping to reinforce what they are learning in school while making it fun, said his mother, Christine.

“He is so proud of his entries and works hard on them, and for me it’s a wonderful memento of his summer and skill to keep for years to come,” she said.

A quieter, but just as important activity, the students enjoy reading with their teachers and completing reading challenges. The classroom set a goal of reading for at least 20 hours this summer, with some students already passing that goal.

Success is fun when rewarded by stickers for completing a particular challenge.

The students grow in confidence and skills throughout the summer by learning to become leaders in the classroom, or finding out that water slides or trying new things aren’t scary.

“Even though many think of the summer as a time for rest and relaxation, the school age classroom continues to enjoy challenges, games, and puzzles every day,” Nancy said.
Students in The Learning Center have been able to experience so much this summer by visiting places, like the Crayola Factory and the Nurture Nature Center, or by organizations coming into TSA, like the Shanthi Project and The Lehigh Valley Zoo.
Schedule your event today!

Looking for a space for your next networking meeting or holiday get together? Let the Historic Simon Mansion act as your backdrop to your event! Rental packages and rates for the season are available. For more information contact Director of Administration Wendy Hughes at whughes@thirdstreetalliance.org