In the fight against homelessness in the Lehigh Valley, Third Street Alliance is on the front lines, continuing to take steps to find assistance to help those in need.

On Oct. 26, TSA hosted a program on the topic of Coordinated Entry for the many agencies that will be referring people to the system. Along with the Alliance, representatives from Valley Youth House, Safe Harbor of Easton and the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley spoke about Coordinated Entry and took questions.

At the end of 2016 TSA became a walk-in center in the Coordinated Entry System, a pilot initiative started by the Lehigh Valley Regional Homeless Advisory Board. Additionally, the Lehigh Conference of Churches in Bethlehem and Allentown, and TSA, along with 2-1-1 toll-free phone line, assess households and individuals experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness in order to provide referral to available housing, emergency shelter beds and other resources.

The presentation, led by Alisa Baratta, Executive Director of TSA, and Zenayda Alicea, Coordinated Intake Specialist at TSA, walked through the process of Coordinated Entry and ways people can get on the list for services.

“It is important for a variety of stakeholders in the region to get to know this system, so that timely and effective referrals can be made,” Alisa said.

Within the next few months, TSA anticipates launching a Rapid Re-Housing program and will continue to work in close partnership with colleague agencies in the Lehigh Valley Regional Homeless Advisory Board to use data from the Coordinated Entry system to develop evidence-based solutions to end homelessness.

These solutions will include homeless prevention and diversion programs, increased shelter beds, rental assistance and affordable housing for families, single adults and transition-age youth.

“The expansion of programs and the launching of new and innovative programs will only help those dealing with homelessness,” said Janice Thomas, Director of Homeless Services.

To watch the full program, go to our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/thirdstreetalliance.
A Note From the Executive Director’s Desk

Grateful For All The Good Done At TSA

Psychologist and author Paul Bloom has observed that people are constituted so that simple acts of kindness, such as giving to charity or expressing gratitude, have a positive effect on our long-term moods. Bloom suggests that the key to a happy life is a good life: a life with sustained relationships, challenging work and connections to community.

It seems to me that Third Street Alliance is an allegory for Bloom’s observation. From the individuals and families who drop off new sheets and towels for our shelter, to the local business whose employees have designated Third Street Alliance as their holiday charity, to all the donors who support our annual campaign -- every day we see people from the community engaged in simple acts of kindness and philanthropy having a positive impact not just on their own moods, but on the lives of the people we serve. You bring joy to and inspire gratitude in everyone who finds comfort and support here at the mansion with a mission.

The work here is good and challenging -- and it is sustained by relationships with staff, volunteers, donors and the greater community. In this season of giving thanks, please know that we are grateful for all that you do to help us realize our mission.

Donation Impacts Current and Future Residents

At Third Street Alliance, shelter residents coming into the shelter can only bring one bag of items.

What would you bring in that bag? For many women, feminine hygiene products don’t make that list, or they can be too expensive to purchase.

This is where Katie and her friends helped out. After taking up a collection of hygiene products, Katie brought several boxes filled with the items into TSA. The products will be put into the shelter rooms welcome basket, that also include towels and sheets for new residents.

An updated Wish List can be found on our website, thirdstreetalliance.org/wish-lists.

Below are just a few items that the shelter constantly needs:

- Bedding/linens in Twin Size only— bed sheet, comforters, plastic mattress covers and pillows
- Cleaning supplies for the bathrooms and kitchen, as well as brooms, dust pans, mops, cleansers, scrubs brushes, spray bottles, sponges, paper towels, etc.
- Clorox or Lysol cleaning wipes
- All purpose cleaners
- Pine Sol
- Mild Abrasive cleaners
- Gift cards to Sam’s Club, Walmart, Kmart, Target, CVS, Rite Aid, Lowe’s & Home Depot.
The support that Third Street Alliance receives from the community is special to us. In the last few months, we’ve had some great groups donate to TSA. Our friends at Stoke Coal Fire Pizza in Easton held a fashion show at the restaurant on a Saturday night in August. A portion of the ticket sales, as well as other donations, came to TSA. Pictured in the bottom right-hand corner is event organizer John Embardino with Director of Development Kim Rose.

Vicky Byrns was familiar with TSA from being in downtown Easton and passing the mansion often. She decided to submit TSA to her employer, William Grant & Sons, Inc, foundation, which gives money to charitable organization. The William Grant Foundation awarded $1,000 to TSA on Vickey’s recommendation. Pictured below is Sarah McLafferty (left), Kim Rose, Ana Oliveria, Vicky.

Then there is the Hackett Park Disc Golf group, consisting of mainly men, who have a disc golf tournament in the fall. Pictured below with Kim, Gabe Monck (left) and Tim Riley had just a few months to get trained and organize the fundraiser.

With a lot of catching up on the planning the second-year fundraiser for TSA, the group raised more than $3,000 through playing fees, hole sponsorships and additional donations from players.

They raised $500 during this first-time event.

For a full list of donors, see the next pages.
our donors in 2017!

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- First Presbyterian Church
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Spectrum Floors
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St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. Lukes Old Williams Lutheran Church
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
St. Paul’s Third Lutheran Church
St. Peters Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. Peter’s Lutheran Church
State Cafe and Grill
State Theatre
Stemie’s 1818 Tavern
Stephanie Miller
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Terra Cafe
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The Edge Restaurant
The Learning Experience
The Will R. Beitel Childrens Community Foundation
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Thomas Costello
Thomas Snyder
Thomas Urglavitch
Thys Van Solkema
Timothy Rose
Todd Garrett
Tony Rotondo
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Tracey Colonna
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William Grant Foundation
Williams Center for the Arts
Wilson Area Intermediate School
Women of Wisdom, Red Hat Society
Women’s Board at Easton Hospital
Yergey Brewing
Yukato Yoga
Yvonne Mirakovitz
Yvonne Toth
Zandrea Mitchell
Zoellner Arts Center
Rapid Re-Housing is a Vital Part of Reducing Homelessness

The TSA Blog posts feature some of the smaller acts of impact that happen each week in the Mansion With A Mission. Read one story from our blog and then read the rest at www.thirdstreetalliance.org/hsa-news

By: Janice Thomas
Director of Shelter Services

In August, I received a welcoming email from Jackie Gisonti, Independent Living Intake Coordinator for Valley Youth House. The agency was accepting referrals for its Rapid Re-Housing for Homeless Families Program, which started October 1st.

In the first week of October, seven families from the Homeless Services Program at Third Street Alliance have found stable housing, all thanks to the Rapid Re-Housing program.

The fundamental goal of Rapid Re-Housing is to reduce the amount of time a person is homeless.

The program is an intervention that helps families and individuals living on the streets or in emergency shelters move to permanent housing through assistance that may include time limited financial assistance and supportive services. It is an important component of a community’s response to homelessness.

Rapid re-housing models are applied across the country through the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) and are found to be highly successful and a cost-effective intervention for most homeless families.

It’s exciting to be aligned with a strong agency like Valley Youth House to meet the housing needs of some of our families. The seven families that were selected will experience the benefits of this, and they are in a position to be more successful because of the services they will continue to receive.

You’re Invited!

Nov. 11
Sock Hop
7-10 p.m.
Get those dancing shoes on and come down to the Sock Hop. Tickets cost $20 and include beer and wine and snacks. Proceeds benefit Third Street Alliance.

Nov. 25
Holiday Events at TSA
12-8 p.m.
Get into the holiday spirit in the Historic Simon mansion with pictures with Santa, a Gingerbread House Contest and a child’s choir at TSA. Also, Bob Swain the Bike Guy will be in the gym!

Nov. 28
#GivingTuesday
All day
Make your impact on Third Street Alliance by donating online and sharing it on social media by tweeting or posting with the hashtag #GivingTuesday or #TSAGivingTuesday.

For more event information, visit www.thirdstreetalliance.org/events
Feeling Forever Young
Intergenerational Activities Allow Seniors and Preschoolers to Form Connections

A preschool student in The Learning Center wanted to feel the head of the elderly man he was sitting next to during an activity in the adult day program. He wanted to feel the difference from his own hair. The older man gladly let the boy touch his head.

When the boy’s mother heard the story, it brought her to tears, as it was a chance for her son to build a friendship with an elderly man, which was something he couldn’t do with his own grandfather.

Bonds like this are made between the preschool students and seniors in the adult day care during intergenerational programs at Third Street Alliance.

“They give us energy,” says Marge, a client with Sharing the Caring
At least once a week, the children and the seniors get together for activities such as coloring, putting together puzzles, playing games with balloons or molding with Play-Doh. Imagination is used by both generations.

“The most important thing about the program is not necessarily the activity itself, but the result,” says Mahpareh Fakhraie, Director of the adult day care. “We want them to laugh with each other, smile at one another and look forward to seeing each other next week.”

The preschool children have the opportunity to interact with someone who is aging and see that it’s a normal process of life and learn respect for the elder, Mahpareh added.

“They brighten up our day,” says Mea.

The children learn that seniors can still have fun.

“The students learn compassion and patience; they learn how to express themselves and also work with adults in a different capacity,” says Nancy Frederick, Director of The Learning Center. “In the setting of our intergenerational program, the students and adults have the ability to join together in a friendship relationship.”

The students are able to develop a special relationship with the seniors, or a similar relationship they would have with a grandparent. They also learn compassion, helping others and being thoughtful toward others.

Before the children leave for another week they hug or high-five their senior friends.

“They make us feel young again,” says Jane.
Wielding a marker and his guitar, artist William Christine encourages children to engage in activities to help them understand the creative process.

In the Preschool classroom, he tells a story about a chipmunk that got caught up with a flock of geese going south for the winter season. During the telling of the story the students “honk” like geese and flap their arms as if they were wings.

“The children are very open to new experiences. They haven’t developed self-defeating attitudes like ‘I can’t draw,’” William says. “I try to help children feel good about exploring new languages of expression and to believe they can always succeed at doing that.”

From activities the students convey their experience through art, with William teaching the kids how to draw, making suggestions on how to hold a crayon or how big to make a circle.

William visits the Preschool, K-Ready and Pre-K Counts classrooms as part of an arts residency program coordinated with the Allentown Art Museum. The program at TSA is funded generously by a grant from the Palmer Township Kiwanis Club.

“The arts lend a way for our students to communicate, express their feelings and work through ideas and problem-solving,” says Nancy Frederick, Director of The Learning Center. “While engaging in the arts, there is no ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ way, it’s our own way.”

Students are encouraged to explore shapes and colors and William challenges them to find more than just what meets the eye. One recent activity in the K-Ready classroom was letting the students manipulate cut-out shapes to make a Jack-o-Lantern.

During William’s first day with the Pre-K Counts students he taught them how to draw a cartoon dog.

Students are encouraged to explore shapes and colors and William challenges them to find more than just what meets the eye. One recent activity in the K-Ready classroom was letting the students manipulate cut-out shapes to make a Jack-o-Lantern.

William challenged the students to make the pumpkin look happy, sad or angry with the shapes.

“Much of the art is about problem solving, so we try to use artistic problem solving in various art forms,” William said. “I found I enjoy this work because the children are at a golden age in which their learning is not separated into subject areas.”

For the upcoming holiday season William is working with the Pre-K Counts classroom to create a gingerbread house. At the end of the school year the students will showcase their projects with an art show for parents.
Top left: K-Ready students preform an experiment, finding out which types of apples hold up to liquid.
Top Right: Students gave out wooden bracelets for Do Something Nice For Someone Day.
Bottom: City of Easton employees held Trick-or-Treat for the students in the Learning Center.
To be added to our mailing list, please contact londrusek@thirdstreetalliance.org, or visit our website.

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.” John F. Kennedy

In 2016, you helped raise more than $2,000 on #GivingTuesday!

Join us this year, donate online and share your impact on social media, using the hashtag #TSAGivingTuesday and tagging us on Nov. 28.
Donate at thirdstreetalliance.org/donate