



Third Street Alliance for Women & Children provides a safe and healthy space for women, children, and families to live, learn, and thrive.

Fall 2018

Gratitude Beyond Words

Anna has lived in our shelter since January 23.

Since then, she welcomes new residents to Third Street Alliance with a warm smile and a kindhearted offer: if they need anything, to let her know.

Anna does this because she remembers her first days in the shelter and for the first month using food banks in the area to provide meals for her and her son.

"I was overwhelmed and wasn't sure what to expect when I first came here," she said. "I was scared, I know what that is like."

An adopted child, Anna was kicked out of her family's home after discovering she was pregnant with her now 3-year old son and was in and out of friends' apartments and houses. She then moved in with her son's father and they were friends. But over time he became threatening and violent toward Anna.

Knowing she didn't want her son growing up in that environment, she left and called 2-1-1 and was referred to Third Street Alliance.

"Anna is doing really well," said Janice Thomas, Director of Homeless Services.

Anna admits that it was difficult for her to come to a shelter. *"I thought, I'm going to be sleeping with someone in the same room, my stuff will be stolen."* But what Anna has found at Third Street Alliance is a caring staff, and a safe environment. *"Here I feel secure. I think I changed for the better. I'm happier, and I look for ways to better myself."*

While at Third Street Alliance, Anna discovered a new passion for childcare, and is currently enrolled in childhood development classes at Northampton Community College in Easton. After she completes that program, she plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in early childhood education.

Anna is grateful for the care she is receiving for her and her son, so much that when she thought of the opportunities she has been given through the generosity of others, for the first time since she was in the shelter, she was moved to tears.

"I'm just very thankful," she said.



Thank you for...

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www.ThirdStreetAlliance.org





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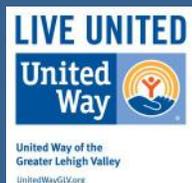
Third Street Alliance for
Women & Children

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Partnering with United Way
of the Greater Lehigh Valley



Thank you for supporting
Third Street Alliance through
your United Way donations.

A Note From the Executive Director's Desk

Gratitude is Bountiful in the Mansion

The leaves in the Bixler Courtyard are finally changing color and the toddlers on the playground are dressed in jackets and hats. Fall is here and winter is just around the corner.



This is the time of year when Third Street Alliance comes alive with the spirit of joy and gratitude. Our phones and email boxes are full of messages from people who want to support children and families in our shelter and child care programs – companies, families, scout troops, church groups and friends. You, our donors, talk about the joy you get from giving, and your joy is infectious and seems to multiply every year.

We are grateful for all the support you provide to us and we know that your gifts have a huge impact on the families we serve. We are blessed to be able to relay to you the gratitude we hear from a mom who can go to work knowing her child is in a safe and caring child care program, or another mom who needs children's cold medicine for her child, or a woman who needs the encouragement to go on her first job interview, or the family that is about to leave the shelter because they just signed an apartment lease.

The joy and gratitude is pervasive and you, our supporters, have created this atmosphere. Thank you for being a part of the Mansion with a Mission. Our best wishes to you and yours during this holiday season!

Ways to Give on #GIVING TUESDAY

On November 27, millions of people around the world will support their favorite causes, coming together to celebrate #GivingTuesday. Please join in supporting Third Street Alliance by:

-**Giving online** through our Facebook page or website, www.thirdstreetalliance.org/donate.

This year, we have an anonymous donor match of \$750 for new #GivingTuesday donations, which will allow your dollars to double. Begin a Facebook Fundraiser for us that day and encourage your friends to give too!

-**Giving time by Volunteering.** Contact Wendy Hughes, Director of Administration, for more information. She can be reached at 610-258-6271 ext. 201 or at whughes@thirdstreetalliance.org

-**Giving items from our Wish Lists.** The lists are available on our website at www.thirdstreetalliance.org/wish-lists. Shop from our Amazon Wish List through the Amazon Smile program and .05 percent of your purchase is donated to the agency. The link to our Amazon Wish List is available on our website.

However you can make an impact on November 27, share on social media and remember to tag us (@ThirdStreetAlliance).

Thank You!

A Safe Place to Learn

Getting children ready for school and dropped off for care is a challenge for working parents. But Maria is confident that she found the perfect place for her school-age son, Jamie.

On school days Maria drops Jamie off at Third Street Alliance's School Age Child Care (SACC) program. Here Jamie has breakfast and an opportunity to socialize with other students before walking to his bus stop.

"I know he's safe and comfortable," Maria said. "They are always on top of things with Jamie and if anything is wrong, they reach out to me and let me know. They give him his independence, but if he's struggling they will help him."

Returning to Third Street Alliance at the end of the school day Jamie receives a snack and has time to do homework.

What the SACC program provides to him goes well beyond a snack and homework. Head SACC teacher Tina Eckhart knows what the children are learning in school and organizes activities to enhance the children's learning.

"In our class we do many activities around reading and writing," Tina said. "The younger children work on sounding out words while we help the older children break down the words to hear each letter and spell them correctly."

Children are given assistance with their homework assignments from the team of SACC teachers and volunteer tutors from Lafayette College. When homework is finished, Tina arranges themed activities for all the students, games and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) activities are supported by the Lafayette volunteers.

"Here we expand on the skills the children are learning in school and we go even further," said Tina. "We are always letting the children know what the real world expects from them as they grow up. We challenge them every day to be the best kids that they can be."

SACC provides a place for students, ages 5- to 13-years old, a safe and secure learning environment all year long.

For more information about the SACC program, contact Nancy Frederick at NFrederick@thirdstreetalliance.org or by phone at 610-438-9413.



Every few months the SACC students take part in STEM demonstrations with Da Vinci Science Center in the gym.

Stability and Preservation



If you have been by Third Street Alliance over the summer months, you have seen parts of the project to repair both the Simon mansion and the garden at the Bixler-Ward House.

The project was completed this fall with reconstruction of the Bixler-Ward porch and installation of storm water drainage. The foundation of the Simon mansion has been stabilized and repairs were made to the front façade of the building.

We are grateful to C&D Waterproofing and Eclectic Architecture for their work in making our buildings safe and to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development for providing funding for this project.

Challenge Accepted!

Volunteer Spotlight

Each year, the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley hosts The Volunteer Challenge, matching local businesses with nonprofits to complete a project for the charity.

The projects are ranked according to dollars raised from online voting and the winning projects claim bragging rights for the next year.

This year, AblePay Health partnered with Third Street Alliance and won the small business category with their project, painting the homeless services offices. AblePay's employees and their children were able to complete the project in a day.

"It was a great opportunity for us to teach our children the importance of giving back to their community by using their free time to help another organization and its people," said Ryan Werling, Senior Vice-President at AblePay.

While AblePay's only intention was to participate in the challenge, it was a proud moment for the team when they did win.

"It was a great opportunity for our entire team to do something for the staff at Third Street Alliance," Ryan said. *"It was a very proud moment for us and we were very happy that our Third Street Alliance partners were present with us at ArtsQuest for the event!"*

Third Street Alliance is grateful to all the corporate volunteers that have participated in past Volunteer Challenges, and we thank them for their dedication and hard work.

This was the third year that a project at Third Street Alliance has won the challenge.

In 2016, Valley National Financial Advisors also won, in the small business category, after completing welcome caddies for new shelter residents. The following year, Crayola's Young Professionals took home the People's Choice Award after completely renovating a storage area into a multi-purpose activity room for the shelter residents to use.

We look forward to participating in the 2019 Volunteer Challenge.



Top: Volunteers from AblePay Health pose with Wendy Hughes after painting the homeless services office.
Bottom: The kids have fun painting on the weekend.

Third Street Alliance for Women & Children

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Easton, PA 18042

To receive the newsletter electronically, please contact londrusek@thirdstreetalliance.org. Visit our website to find an enhanced version of the newsletter at www.thirdstreetalliance.org/newsletters-reports.

Sock Hop!

Nov. 17, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

**\$20 ticket includes
drinks and snacks**

Additional refreshments available for purchase

**Dress in your favorite era from the
'50s to the '80s!**

Prizes will be awarded for best
male and female costume

Tickets can be purchased at
the door or online
www.thirdstreetalliance.org/sock-hop

Gingerbread House Contest

Nov. 24, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Open to all professional, student and amateur
gingerbread house builders!

Enter this year's contest by signing up online.
Registration is \$5.

Homes can be dropped off at Third Street Alliance
Nov. 19-21 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or on Nov. 24,
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Professional and student homes will be judged by a
panel of judges. The public can vote or put in a
winning bid for their favorite home.

Professional and choice student homes will be
auctioned off with proceeds benefitting
Third Street Alliance.

Stepping Up In Red Shoes

Stephanie Altieri volunteers at Third Street Alliance by babysitting the children living in the shelter while their moms attend workshops.

She enjoys coming up with positive, fun activities such as painting pumpkins or throwing ice cream parties.

"I really love the kids, and knowing their moms are getting some much needed training and education while I'm there," Stephanie said. *"I could have been one of those women, but I'm not, and sometimes you just need help getting over the hump,"* she said.

Stephanie is part of the Lehigh Valley chapter of BW NICE (Business Women Networking Involving Charity and Education). This all-women networking organization raises funds and awareness of a local organization that is fighting against domestic violence. The group was founded by Diane Simovich and provides women at all stages of business and personal life with support, education and resources while raising funds and awareness supporting a local organization in the fight against domestic violence.

BW NICE adopted Third Street Alliance as their charity in 2015, and many of its members support the agency by volunteering for events, sitting on our board committees, and mentoring shelter residents who wish to become business owners. The group has raised more than \$20,000 for Third Street Alliance in that time through their annual Red Shoe Luncheon and Fashion Show, as well as various other fundraisers through the year.

"While many networking groups raise funds for the local community, the consistency of partnering with a single nonprofit organization allows a deep relationship to foster between the charity and us," said Carrie Fellon, Chapter President of BW NICE. *"Volunteering or serving on committees at Third Street Alliance inevitably involves visits to the Mansion with a Mission. We're able to bring each of our unique personal and professional skills to the table and help where TSA feels it needs us the most."*

Carrie, a financial planner, sits on the Finance Committee for Third Street Alliance.

The relationship between The Mansion with a Mission and the ladies of BW NICE is uncommon, says Janice Thomas, Director of Homeless Services. It does not matter that the women of BW NICE do not know all of the names or stories of the women living at Third Street Alliance.

"The only thing they know is that they live in the mansion with a mission, period," Janice said. *"The ladies of BW NICE care about the mission of the agency and the residents reap the benefits from them understanding what we are doing. They give without asking."*

The association with Third Street Alliance is one of the main reasons Karen Hickey joined BW NICE. She helps on the Sock Hop committee and purchases and delivers gifts for the family that BW NICE adopts each year at holiday time.

"I strongly believe in their work of the prevention of the effects of domestic violence. No one should live in fear in their own home. When we help those trying to escape domestic violence and get a better life, we help shape the future of our community," she said. *"It has brought me joy like no other,"* she said.



The BW NICE Lehigh Valley executive committee.
Photo credit: Doreen Sutcliffe

Meeting Notice:

BW NICE of the Lehigh Valley meets
at 8:00 a.m. on the
2nd Tuesday of the month
at Best Western, 300 Gateway Drive,
in Bethlehem.

Cost: \$18 for members and first time
attendees; \$25 for non-members

For more info:
www.bwnice.org/lehigh-valley-chapter/