



# THRIVING ON THIRD STREET

ISSUE 1, VOL. 2022

Inspiring and equipping women, children,  
and families to live, learn, and thrive.



## Early Learning Scholarships Provide Opportunities for Women and Their Children to Succeed

**T**hird Street Alliance needs your help to raise \$20,000 for the Learning Center scholarship fund.

The Elizabeth Mulrine Scholarship Fund was created in 2016 to help shelter families enroll their children in The Learning Center. The fund honors Elizabeth, the founder of Bistro, and her dedication to Third Street Alliance, and provides positive early learning experiences to children staying in our shelter.

Elizabeth was moved to create The Bistro in 1996 after she delivered leftovers from a catering event to Third Street Alliance and was overwhelmed by the gratitude of our residents.

Since that time, The Bistro has grown into Third Street Alliance's signature fundraising event, and over the past 26 years, has raised more than \$750,000 to support our work.

Early learning scholarship funds are so important to the community, as well as women and children residing in our shelter. Often families enter the shelter without access to benefits, including Child Work subsidies. Scholarship funds help bridge the gap until women are able to secure employment and qualify for ongoing child care subsidies.

"Incredible early learning opportunities, like those at The Learning Center, help children to see their first successes," Elizabeth said. "This early foundation allows our children to see their true potential and propels them to strive for and perpetuate success as they grow."

For Jasmine, one of our recent shelter residents, having access to The Learning Center provided her with peace of mind that her daughter was in a safe and caring setting while she searched for and began work.

Her ability to count on our Learning Center program while she was working enabled her to retain employment, save money, and successfully exit our shelter into stable permanent housing. Since leaving the shelter in January, Jasmine's daughter has remained enrolled in our Learning Center and is flourishing.

"The teachers are so caring and wonderful to my daughter. She is learning so much, too," Jasmine said. "Third Street Alliance has been a blessing to us, providing us the resources and opportunity to get back on our feet."

What started as a small event to help support the programs for the women and families in the shelter has grown into our keystone fundraising event and something very special for Elizabeth.

"The first interaction that inspired the Bistro showed me that food doesn't just nourish the body, but nourishes the soul," Elizabeth said.

This year, our virtual Bistro is your opportunity to support the Mulrine Scholarship Fund. Please join us on March 25 for the opening of the online auction and on April 2 for our virtual program. To register online, go to [Bistro2022.givesmart.com](http://Bistro2022.givesmart.com). For sponsorship opportunities, visit our website at [thirdstreetalliance.org/bistro](http://thirdstreetalliance.org/bistro).

"I look forward to the day when we can celebrate together again at Third Street," Elizabeth said. "Until then, whether we are together in person, or just in spirit, our giving benefits the unending work of serving each other."



# A Note From the Executive Director's Desk

"The promise of spring's arrival is enough to get anyone through the bitter winter." This quote from Jen Selensky really resonates with me this year.

It feels as though the two-year COVID pandemic has been one long and bitter winter; but now, it seems as though spring really is here. Third Street Alliance survived this long winter with generous support from our community, and we are so grateful to you.

Now, your support is propelling us into this new spring. As parents return to work, more families are enrolling in our Learning Center. Your support allows us to provide arts enrichment, behavioral health, and scholarships for children from qualified families.

Your generosity also allows us to provide support for families looking to exit shelter into stable housing, especially as they navigate the very competitive rental market in the area.

We are grateful for your support of our 2022 Bistro – it will help carry us through 2022 with the promise of seeing you in person at our Spring 2023 Bistro.



*Mis - Zanetta*

## The Simon Society: Making an Impact Beyond Your Lifetime

Imagine you could provide a gift to Third Street Alliance that would last forever.

That you, regardless of your current age or financial status, could help to ensure that our mission is continued far into the future.

The Simon Society, Third Street Alliance's legacy donor society, is a group of individuals dedicated not just to the strength of our agency today but to safeguarding our ability to continue to provide vital programs and services to women, children, and families for years to come. Each of our members has made a financial commitment to Third Street through a planned or legacy gift.

Legacy gifts can take many different forms and several have positive tax implications for the donor and their loved ones. By naming Third Street in your will, as a beneficiary of an IRA or life insurance policy, you are making an investment in our community's future.

Third Street is fortunate to have so many generous supporters who believe in our mission, and through your annual donations, allow us to continue to fight against homelessness, provide opportunities for economic advancement for women, and quality education for area children. Will you consider helping new generations of women and children by joining The Simon Society?

For more information, or if you have already named Third Street in your legacy plans, please contact Beth Archer, Director of Development at 610-438-9423 or [barcher@thirdstreetalliance.org](mailto:barcher@thirdstreetalliance.org).



# One Year Later: Students Learn Skills to Overcome Stress

As students around the country reentered the classrooms in the fall of 2020, it quickly became clear to educators that the children needed extra support with their educational and emotional stability.

Many of our students in The Learning Center were also exhibiting stress-related behaviors including increased anxiety, irritability/anger, depression, difficulty concentrating, restlessness, loneliness, and general nervousness in older children.

Third Street Alliance mobilized quickly to respond to this need by launching the agency's Behavioral Health Initiative, embedding a behavioral health specialist in The Learning Center to assist classroom teachers to identify and address challenging classroom behaviors and help parents understand and access outside support for their children when necessary.

We were able to respond so quickly, in part because the Behavioral Health Initiative was the Fund-a-Need for Bistro 2021, and, thanks to generous support from our community, we raised more than \$16,000 in one night to help fund the program.

Thanks to you, our community and community partners, our students now receive social-emotional support in the classroom with the addition of the center's new early learning behavioral specialist, Michelle Petro.

"In less than a year, I have seen young children learn to take a deep breath when they're frustrated or overwhelmed and begin doing it on their own without prompting. I have seen children begin sharing with others who have struggled in the past," Michelle said. "These are huge skills for these young children, and they will continue to benefit from them as they grow older and face new challenges."

Michelle's work is focused on helping teachers assess and develop positive interventions to behavioral challenges. She also works to build relationships and encourage open dialogue with parents. When parents work together with our staff to identify challenges that a student is facing, we have a better chance of finding a solution to support the child. Michelle helps to refer parents to supportive services, such as Easterseals or the IU-20. In total, 17 students were referred for additional support services in the past year, and the majority are still receiving services.

Michelle enjoys building relationships with each student and being a friendly face in the classroom each day.

"Building a relationship of trust is one of the major keys in being able to assist a child in de-escalation and redirection," she said.

Once a student is calm, Michelle is able to teach the student to engage in positive behaviors including self-soothing methods, such as breathing techniques, and talks with them about what they can do the next time they feel "big emotions," such as anger, sadness, or frustration.

As our Behavioral Health program moves into its second year, we continue helping our community's youngest members learn developmentally appropriate coping mechanisms and resiliency.

Through your generous support for this initiative, you are providing opportunities for building self-esteem, empathy, self-regulation and helping our students gain tools that will benefit them for the remainder of their lives.



## Additional Funding for this Vital Endeavor Includes:

Easton Rotary Foundation  
Easton Kiwanis Foundation  
Vollrath Foundation  
Will R. Beitel Children's Community Foundation  
The Shafer Family Charitable Foundation  
Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation



41 North Third Street  
Easton, PA 18042

Join us for the

# 26th Bistro Event!

**Online Auction opens March 25**

**Virtual Program will be held April 2**

Purchase 50/50 Raffle Tickets &  
Pre-Register for the Online Auction at  
<https://Bistro2022.givesmart.com>  
or scan the QR Code

