**PRE-K Counts Comes to Third Street Alliance**

We are proud to announce that Third Street Alliance has been awarded a contract from the PA Department of Education to open a new Pre-K Counts classroom. Our Pre-K Counts classroom will provide a full-day classroom experience for twenty 3 & 4 year-olds who are preparing for kindergarten. The curriculum for this classroom focuses on preparing children for reading, writing and math, as well as paying attention, following directions and getting along with others.

Children living in families earning up to 300% of the federal poverty level (or $72,750 for a family if four) qualify for this classroom. For more information contact: Nancy Frederick, Learning Center Director.

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**Message from the Board President**

As I begin my first term as board chair, exciting things are happening at Third Street Alliance. We have a pre-K counts classroom in the making, a dynamic new leadership team, and wonderful new board members to welcome to the TSA family. In addition, we continue to have long-standing support from familiar faces in all areas of the Alliance. These relationships make me proud to be involved. The quality and care of the people at TSA prove to me every day that our mission and programs are strong.

A major milestone this year is our 20th annual Bistro event on March 26th. The 20th on the 20th will be a wonderful event, as we share our stories and reflect on what we’ve been able to accomplish over these past two decades.

While we celebrate our past accomplishments we also have important work ahead. There will be new opportunities for our programs to support the city’s evolving master planning process. In addition, TSA will embark on a new strategic planning process to help us define our future goals and plans for success, solidifying our place as an anchor in the community. I’m thrilled to be a part of Third Street Alliance, and honored that the organization has put its trust in me. I hope to see you at the Bistro on March 20th!

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**Third Street Alliance for Women and Children**

**2016 Board of Directors**

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*Lafayette College*

Joelle Newnam, Vice-President
*The Advisory Group*

Robert Pretopapa, Treasurer
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Alisa Baratta
*Executive Director*
*Third Street Alliance*
A Message from Alisa Baratta, Executive Director

There is a whirlwind of activity at TSA right now – launching a Pre-K Counts classroom, prepping our new STEM Lab sponsored by Easton Kiwanis, and getting ready for Bistro. In the midst of all this busyness, I want to send our congratulations and best wishes to Brooke Mitman, our former director of development, as she takes on her new job: executive director of the Easton Area Community Center; and to Brian Buchman, former K-Readiness teacher. Brian and his fiancée have moved to Washington DC area in preparation for their wedding.

I’d like to welcome to our team: Kimberley Rose, our new director of development. Kim most recently served as director of development at the Sigal Museum. In February we welcomed three new teachers to our Learning Center staff: Lydia Stachina, Pre-K Counts teacher, Nicole Magro-Smith, K-Readiness teacher, and Stephanie Miller, Older Toddler teacher. We also send kudos to Zandrea Mitchell who is transitioning from Older Toddler teacher to become our family engagement specialist.

Finally, warm welcomes to Janice Alleman, Ana Luhrs and Rob Pretopapa who were recently elected to the Third Street Alliance Board of Directors. Janice is a CPA with Abraham, Borda; Ana is the research librarian at the Kirby Library at Lafayette College; and Rob is a wealth advisor with One Financial Services. Rob has been elected treasurer, and Janice joins him on our finance committee. Ana, a parent of a child in our Learning Center, serves on our planning committee.

Preservation work on the leather walls of the Simon Library is now complete. Designer Michelle Costello painstaking dyed new leather to match the original 1902 leather panels on the walls. She and her team spent two days fitting and attaching the new panels. The crew from Eisenhardt Mills installed new tacking and nails. Our thanks to Costello Design Studios, Eisenhardt Mills and a generous anonymous donor who supported this preservation project.

LIVE...

Being homeless can leave you feeling afraid and alone, as if no one cares. The staff of Homeless Services has the opportunity to walk with the residents as they travel the road to self-sufficiency. They listen to their many trials and celebrate the amazing victories. In January, the staff introduced three new resident programs:

FAMILY FUN NIGHT is a social/recreation program hosted by the Homeless Shelter staff for residents and their children - we watch movies, play games and get to know each other better.

RESIDENT OF THE MONTH recognizes a resident who is going above and beyond the program expectations.

CAUGHT recognizes residents doing something good for someone else, i.e., assisting new residents getting acclimated to the program or paying it forward!
LEARN...
As we enter the new year, the infant and young toddler classrooms are focused on shapes and colors. Older toddlers are working on socialization, self-help and independence skills. Pre-school and K Readiness classrooms are working on letter recognition, numbers and phonetics.—even learning their addresses and phone numbers. The school-aged program is engaged in STEM activities and a new weekly Yoga class. Our new Pre-K Counts classroom opens in February.

Early Intervention Assessments
We know that young children who are experiencing homelessness are at greater risk for developmental delays and exposure to toxic stressors that can interfere with healthy social-emotional well-being. Nancy Frederick, our Learning Center Director and Janice Thomas, our Director of Homeless Services recently attended a training to learn more about connecting children and families experiencing homelessness to early intervention services. Through a collaboration of these two programs, we now have a system in place to conduct assessments of shelter children in need, and to make timely and effective referrals to early intervention services.

THRIVE...
The New Year at Sharing the Caring begins with great hopes for an enriching year filled with new friends and new experiences. In 2015 we transitioned into a Montessori-Based Dementia Program which give our seniors opportunities to use their hands and their five senses to activate and stimulate their minds. In this sensory process all aspects of the individual are equally important: physical, emotional, cognitive, social, spiritual, and aesthetic. The Montessori Method in Dementia Care also encourages a cooperative atmosphere where peer teaching and social interaction are important for success. One activity our seniors enjoy is “Back to School” where worksheets are given such as connect-the-dot, mad minute math problems, word comprehension, definitions and etc. This has been great to help rebuild lost skills, strengthen writing abilities, sequencing, strengthens complex thinking and it encouraged everyone to talk about their school days of past. Everyone is given a worksheet on their level and those with greater strength are able to help their peers.
THANK YOU TO OUR 20th BISTRO SPONSORS!

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Third Street Alliance
41 North Third Street
Easton, PA 18042

March 20, 2016, 6pm—8pm.

Please join us for our biggest fundraiser of the year

2016 marks our 20th Annual Bistro and our dedicated volunteer committee, led by the inimitable Joyce Welken, has planned an incredible evening. This year’s Bistro features fabulous food created by Bistro founder and caterer Elizabeth Mulrine, wine & beer bar, music by Earl the Accordionist, entertainment by DJ Adam Skuba and a live auction called by Richard Dotta.

One Item Up for Auction at the Bistro—A beautiful LXM Little Martin Guitar – ideal for travel, student practice, or just playing. Value: $429

This guitar was signed by Chris Martin IV. Value: Priceless

Tickets available @ www.ThirdStreetAlliance.org