Third Street Alliance’s new Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics Lab was unveiled on April 1, 2016. The new STEAM lab is part of a larger STEAM curriculum implemented last year in the Learning Center Classrooms. The lab complements hands-on classroom learning and presentations from local college students, STEM professionals, and presenters from Da Vinci Science Center. Funding for the lab was made possible by a multi-year grant from the Easton Kiwanis Foundation, the first part of which was received in November of 2015, and support from the Palmer Kiwanis Club, The Rider-Pool Foundation, and product from Olympus. Programming in the Lab will be appropriate for children 3 years and up.

Equipment for the STEAM Lab includes:

- 7 computers
- 4 digital cameras
- 2 Kinder Robots
- 4 Lego Mindstorms (robots)
- 3-D printer
- Smart Television
- Digital microscope and slides
- Midi keyboard and microphone
- Printer.

Ensuring every child has a high-quality early STEM education is one of the best investments our country can make. Young children’s innate curiosity makes them the perfect candidates for budding scientists. As children explore the world around them parents and early educators need to find opportunities to encourage this natural desire and foster a passion for exploration. Young children are also some of the earliest adopters of technology reaching for tools of all kinds as soon as they are able.

We are fortunate to have a group of students from Lafayette College assisting with STEAM activities.

Sonia and Tonina shared their experiences:

“It’s critical to incite curiosity about the world, by bringing mentors and role models into their classroom and afterschool programs in a fun and innovative way. Encouraging them to ask questions, and think from a multi-faceted lens, the kids can look at the problems of the world in a new way. We encourage the kids to be excited and passionate about what they love, and to be passionate about trying new things.” Seeing an “Ah ha!” moment: “We were doing interactive math problems, where we acted out basic arithmetic problems using candy and before the activity a girl said that she hated math. After the activity, however, she came up to me and said she never realized math could be so fun! To this day, she still says that she enjoys math.”
ADULT DAY SERVICES

Spring is in the air at Sharing the Caring! All of our seniors are happy that Spring has sprung and are looking forward to warmer weather and sunnier days. In the coming weeks we will be planting seeds in our two garden centers; one will grow vegetables and herbs while the other will have flowers. Through garden therapy, older adults can focus on living things, outside of themselves. According to studies, garden therapy for older adults increases alertness, level of socialization and overall happiness. This form of therapy also taps into the strengths and preserved abilities of the person and stimulates the individual's natural abilities which are in line with Montessori Method for Dementia Care.

In May, we will be welcoming Cariss Cole from Home Instead for a presentation on “Protecting Seniors from Fraud.” Please do consider joining us. Topics to be covered include: identifying warning signs of scams, learning about some of the fastest growing crimes, tips to keep seniors safe and uncover the best practices for fraud protection success. The presentation will be on Thursday, May 12th at 10:00 AM at the Third Street Alliance. Please RSVP to Mahpareh Fakhraie, mfakhraie@thirdstreetalliance.org or call 610-258-6271 ext. 226.

From the Executive Director’s Desk

I often tell people I have the best job in the world. I work in an organization that does amazing things to help women, children and their families. We are located in an incredible historically preserved mansion that has been wonderfully re-purposed to support our mission, and I work with the best team possible. Here is a picture of the amazing employees of Third Street Alliance. Their commitment to and passion for our mission makes this organization an amazing place to work.

This past March, our Board of Directors approved a new mission statement for the organization. It is crisp, clear and concise, and will light our way for many years: Third Street Alliance for Women and Children provides a safe and healthy space for women and children to live, learn and thrive.

As you read through our newsletter, I am sure you will agree, this Mansion with a Mission is thriving! Enjoy the beautiful spring weather, and please stop by for a tour on Saturday, May 14—we’ll be open from 11am-2pm.
Homeless Youth Count

From May 16-19, 2016, Lehigh Valley Regional Homeless Advisory Board (LVRHAB) will be conducting a count of youth ages 16-24 who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability in the Lehigh Valley. Third Street Alliance and other members of the LVRHAB will be reaching out to young persons who are “couch surfing,” temporarily staying and moving between groups of friends, living in motels or hotels, staying in an emergency shelter, homeless, or have other temporary housing situations. Our goal is to establish an accurate count of homeless youth and identify gaps in services & barriers to access so we can appropriately allocate resources. If you are interested in volunteering to assist with the Homeless Youth Count in the Easton Area, please contact Alisa Baratta, Executive Director.

Homeless Services

The mansion has become home to so many children and families. A lot of emphasis is placed on the adults and helping them to become self-sufficient, but we tend to forget about the children of homelessness. It’s not easy for them. A few months ago, we started “Family Fun Nights.” Why? Because we realized that the children of Third Street Alliance have the same wants, needs, likes and dislikes – regardless of their current circumstances.

Family Fun!

There was a lot of laughter during the recent Family Fun Day as we played kickball and basketball. Parents, kids and staff came together in Third Street’s gym and had a great time! The shelter staff is planning more events to get everyone outside in the Spring.

The kids and their families were invited to a Pajama Movie Night and together they watched Disney/Pixar’s Inside Out. The movie told the story of a young girl who had to relocate with her parents from the Midwest to San Francisco. The movie focused on her emotions – Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust and Sadness. The shelter families were able to identify and relate with how the main character, Riley, navigated a new city, house, and school.

The Simon Society

It is because of the industry and philanthropy of Herman and Elizabeth Simon that we are able to offer our programs and services in the extraordinary and historic Simon Mansion. We honor their legacy through The Simon Society, which recognizes those visionary women and men who have made a planned gift to Third Street Alliance. By making a planned gift you will help ensure that Third Street Alliance continues to transform the lives of women, children and families for future generations. Among the planned giving options you may wish to consider:

Bequest – You can leave a philanthropic legacy by naming Third Street Alliance in your will.

Charitable Gift Annuity - By establishing a CGA with Third Street Alliance, you will receive a guaranteed income for life and several tax benefits in return for an outright gift today.

Life Insurance Beneficiary – You can name Third Street Alliance as owner and beneficiary of your life insurance policy or as a percentage beneficiary of the policy.

Gifts of Securities – You can transfer securities with unrealized long-term gains directly to Third Street Alliance, rather than liquidating and donating cash.

Become a member of The Simon Society today. Make our future your legacy.
UPCOMING EVENTS
@Third Street Alliance

Dancing on the Odds
$10 Lessons 7pm
Dancing 8pm—10pm
May 6, 20: Fox Trot
June 3, 17: Country Waltz
July 1, 15, 29: Rumba
August 5: Dancing
August 19: Hustle
Sept 2, 16, 30 Two Step
October 7, 21: Tango
November 4, 18: Ballroom Waltz
Dec 2, 16, 30: East Coast Swing

Tae Kwon Do
8 weeks $58**
Beginners
Tues & Thurs: 6-7pm
Colored Belts
Tues & Thurs: 7-8pm
Sat: 8-9am
Advanced Belts
Sat 9-10:30am
** Discounts for additional family members

EVENTS to BENEFIT Third Street Alliance

Listen to Your Mother
Sunday, April 24 2pm
Steel Stacks – Red Cinema
Tickets: $25
http://listentoyourmothershow.com/lehighvalley/

BW NICE Red Shoe Luncheon & Fashion Show
Friday, April 29
11am – 2pm
@ Steel Stacks
Tickets: $75

The Learning Center

In March the pre-kindergarten classrooms learned about Holi, the Hindu Spring festival. The children participated in a color celebration with cornstarch and color kits.

“Mr. A”, an intern from Northampton Community College taught a few lessons about soundwaves. He later brought in his guitar to show the students the soundwaves through the guitar strings and the “can and string telephone” method.

The Learning Center celebrated together for the Week of the Young Child from 4/11/16 - 4/15/16. We had a volunteer reader from the Easton Library come and share the PA One Book, Kite Day with our students. We also had activities to go along with the book and each child in the Pre-Kindergarten rooms received a voucher for their own copy of the PA One Book.

The classrooms planned a walking trip to the library to pick up their new books. We also celebrated our students by having themed days, such as Wild, Weird, Windy hair day, Wacky mixed-match clothes day, and a field day of fun activities with our families.

We are beginning to prepare for a Spring Show on May 13th. Each classroom will perform a song, dance, or skit for that day. We are planning a STEAM lab grand opening day coming soon. Families and the community will be invited to tour our new lab. We have added our Pre K Counts classroom in February and they are currently in full swing, learning to identify and write letters and also learning about the weather.

Red Shoe Artistry

When BW NICE gets to work they accomplish great things. This organization (Business Women Networking Involving Charity & Education, Lehigh Valley chapter) selected Third Street Alliance as their charity, and they have been working hard. This group has been very generous and kind to the staff, residents and all of the children at the agency. They have donated items from our wish list, given an auction item to the Bistro, volunteered in Bistro preparations and at the event, and so much more.

On Friday, April 29th BW NICE will host their second annual “The Red Shoe” – an annual luncheon and fashion show to celebrate women in business. The event will be at the ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks, located at 101 Founders Way in Bethlehem. Proceeds will help support Third Street Alliance and BW NICE.

The Preschool room planted a small garden in the playground area with the help of teachers and donations from families.

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BW NICE member, Kristina Cole, leads students in their creative renderings of red shoes for the upcoming Red Shoe Luncheon & Fashion Show.
2016 Historic Mansion Tours

Visit the home that Herman Simon built in 1902 “for the ladies.”

Saturday, May 14
Saturday, September 24
Saturday, October 1
Saturday, November 5

Tours 11 AM to 2 PM
Tours run every half hour
Last tour leaves at 1:30 PM

Tours are free, donations appreciated

Guides are needed, to volunteer please contact Kim krose@thirdstreetalliance.org or 610.258.6271 ext.234
2016 BISTRO!

Oh, What a Night!

The mansion sparkled like an elegant woman wearing her finest jewels. From the luminaria lined entrance into the sparkling drawing room, guests were given the experience of Simon Mansion hospitality. Greeted by John O’Keefe, Board President, everyone was given a warm welcome and invited to enjoy the Bistro. Chris Solliday, at the grand piano, provided background music to groups of old and new friends engaged in conversation and bidders checking out the auction items. The 20 bears in our “Beary” special necklace raffle were quickly purchased, and a record number of other raffle tickets were sold.

As everyone gathered in the main Bistro “ballroom” a sumptuous feast prepared by Elizabeth Mulrine was enjoyed to the music provided by Skuba Entertainment. A spirited live auction was led by Richard Dotta. Following the program with presentations by John O’Keefe, Alisa Baratta and Janice Thomas, two special Fund-A-Need auctions were held:

The Elizabeth Mulrine Scholarship Fund
This year, in honor of Elizabeth Mulrine, founder of our Bistro Fundraising event, we have established The Elizabeth Mulrine Scholarship Fund. This fund supports low income and homeless families allowing them to access our childcare, after school, recreation programs and adult day services.

Historic Preservation
In our last newsletter, we told you about the refurbishment of the leather walls in the Simon Library. Now, we are moving on to our second historic preservation project - the ceiling in the Simon Library and the wall and ceiling murals in Hermon Simon’s office. These hand-painted murals have been damaged by over 100 years of sun and heat exposure. We have coated the windows to minimize future damage, but now must repair and restore paint that is flaking.

If you have an interest in making a financial contribution to help support the scholarship or preservation work, contact Kim Rose.

Thank You!

An event of this magnitude would not be possible without a committee of dedicated volunteers. When chairperson Joyce Welken was challenged by Executive Director Alisa Baratta to raise $50,000 this year there was no hesitation on the part of the committee to be certain the goal was obtained. Through securing new sponsors, high quality auction items, and selling more tickets the goal was not only reached, it was exceeded by $10,000. Many thanks to Joyce and the committee: Leslie Alfieri, Jacque Cooper, Linda Faust, Sandee Kennedy, Jackie Matthews, Elizabeth Mulrine, Suzanne Robertson, Crystal Rose and Beth Seetch for planning this impressive 20th Anniversary Bistro.

Thank you to our attendees, bidders, volunteers and community partners for your generosity.

And our sincere gratitude to the woman that started the Bistro, Elizabeth Mulrine. Over the past twenty years $440,000 was raised, enabling Third Street Alliance to impact countless lives.

Elizabeth Mulrine is an example of the profound difference one person can make. How will you make a difference? We invite you to join our team. Third Street Alliance offers many ways you can provide support—through monetary donations, donations of goods and services, and volunteer opportunities. For information please contact Kim, krose@thirdstreetalliance.org or 610.258.6271