We welcome Janice Thomas as Homeless Services Director

We are pleased to introduce Janice Thomas as Third Street Alliance’s new Director of Homeless Services. Janice brings a diverse range of work experience from the corporate and non-profit arenas. For the past decade, Janice has worked with families in various Pennsylvania-based nonprofits, including The Center for Humanistic Change in Allentown, and Lancaster-based agencies The Mix at Arbor Place and Compass Mark.

Janice believes there are endless possibilities for partnerships. She has impressive program development and management experience with more than twenty years in Human Resources, thirty years in youth development, excellent leadership skills and strong organizational/planning skills.

She has spent the last two decades creating partnerships that offer a wide range of support and opportunities for children, youth and families.

Janice earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Virginia State University in Sociology with a concentration in Juvenile Justice. Originally from New Jersey, she has lived in Easton since 2014. Janice is devoted to her husband of twenty-one years, Leon, and their two children, aged nineteen and fourteen.

“I believe there is great value to partnerships. I will work to bring in programs that focus on financial, mental, physical and spiritual wellness. My goal is not to just restore Third Street Alliance residents to where they were prior to entering the shelter, but to assist them to realize and appreciate their self-worth.” - Janice

Our annual “Chip Away at Homelessness” Golf Tournament, benefiting Third Street Alliance for Women and Children and Safe Harbor Easton, was a day of fun had by all. It was the perfect day for a golf outing at Riverview Country Club. Throughout the event, we awarded hundreds of dollars in prizes and gift cards to local restaurants and establishments. One lucky golfer even won a Golden Ticket to participate in the Landis Cup’s $1,000,000 shootout! Thank you to everyone who made this day possible, and for all of our golfers who came out and supported Third Street Alliance for Women and Children. We hope to see you next year!
Message from the Director

Summer has flown by in a whirl of activity here at Third Street Alliance. In June, we celebrated graduation for 10 of children who are transitioning from our pre-K classroom to kindergarten in the fall. We added four new children to our infant room. Children in our school-aged summer program enjoyed building robots, taking field trips, playing outdoors, reading loads of summer books, and attending our annual summer carnival. We are also almost fully enrolled for the school year starting soon.

Adults in the Sharing the Caring program enjoyed their senior prom, gardening and other outdoor activities. They are using a new computer to access games and puzzles to help enhance memory and cognition.

Three resident rooms in our shelter received makeovers and we’re on target to complete three more before December. As I write this letter, our new security system is being installed. When you next visit Third Street Alliance, you’ll be buzzed in through our foyer doors, and all child care and shelter spaces will be accessible through a state-of-the-art keyless entry system. We also will be able to monitor safety and security of people in our buildings through a series of CCTV cameras in publically accessible areas of our facility.

Over the summer we welcomed new staff members: Janice Reed, our Director of Homeless Services; Nancy Frederick, our new Learning Center Director; Jessica Reed, cook; and Kintara Cousins, infant teacher. We’re also saying goodbye to a familiar faces: Anca Babie, Learning Center Director; Emily Eckert, infant teacher; and Linda DeRoner, pre-K teacher. They are leaving us for other opportunities. We’ll miss them, and we know you join us in extending best wishes to them for the future.

This summer, we also have been involved in some public policy issues that I know will be of interest to you. First, on a daily basis, we hear from homeless women and families about the difficulty they have in identifying and accessing shelter and housing options. Thus, as part of the Lehigh Valley Regional Homeless Advisory Board, we recently participated in a summit to discuss the development of a coordinated placement system for homeless individuals and families. The goal of this project is to establish a system that provides a standardized method for assessing the needs of homeless individuals and families. We will keep you updated as this process begins to unfold.

Secondly, as we move into the fall, we are closely monitoring negotiations related to the Pennsylvania state budget. We are committed to the Pre-K for PA Initiative (http://www.prekforpa.org) — the important budget goal through which every 3- and 4-year-old in the commonwealth has access to high-quality pre-kindergarten by 2018. Like so many of our colleagues agencies, we are concerned that the currentimpasse means children, families, the elderly and individuals with health problems are being denied essential services. If you haven’t yet done so, please contact your State Assembly Member, State Senator and the Governor to urge them to get a budget passed now!

We hope you had a wonderful and relaxing summer and look forward to seeing you this fall!

Around the Mansion

Special Thanks to the following community organizations and foundations for their recent support of Third Street Alliance:

An anonymous donor and the Charles Hoch Foundation for our new and improved security system.
Crayola for their support of our summer Learning Center programming.
The Reidler Foundation for general operating support.
PetSmart for supporting our Shelter Pet program through Peaceable Kingdom.
Kiwanis Club of Palmer for their support of our new Learning Center STEM programming.
Walmart for providing shelter supplies.

Leaving a Legacy
Making a Planned Gift to Third Street Alliance

For over a century, the Alliance has provided the community with quality programs and services. As society changed, we changed, planning ahead to meet the needs of future clients. Careful planning is key to success.

If you have already included Third Street Alliance in your Will, please contact the development office at (610) 258-0271 so that we can appropriately add your name to the Simon Giving Society. Your planned gift will make a difference in the Alliance’s financial future, and to the individuals and families we serve now and in years to come.

Update on Jessica, Shelter Resident

Since our last newsletter, Jessica has made great strides in her journey toward independence. She’s been in recovery from her addiction for 14 months and, in May, was hired on full-time as the Kitchen Manager here at Third Street. As KM, she oversees all of the ordering, cooking, and serving of meals to our students in the Learning Center and the adults in Sharing the Caring.

Jess is excited to be saving her paychecks so she can rent a home by the end of September and be permanently reunited with her children. We hope she stays on staff here at TSA once she relocates as she is doing a fantastic job organizing the kitchen and managing the workload. Jessica’s determination to provide a new life for herself and her family is inspiring us all and we know her dream of eventually going back into the medical field is now within reach. “Thanks to my faith in God and support from Third Street Alliance, I am on my way to a great future!” Please say a hello to Jessica if you see her in the kitchen or the hallways of the Simon Mansion. We are SO proud of her!
**Happenings in the Learning Center**

We have been having tons of fun while working diligently this summer and enjoying a few field trips and other outings. One of our most memorable and challenging projects has been putting together the LEGO robots we received as part of our new S.T.E.M. initiative grant from the EASD. There were many instructions and lots of preparation of the pieces and we’ve gotten two built so far. Miss Pam has been helping us learn how to program them using YouTube videos and we’ve been testing their ability to push differently-weighted objects around the room. These robots have not only tested the objects, they’ve been teaching us patience and persistence. Good life lessons every day in the Learning Center! See http://thirdstreetalliance.org/our-programs/child-care/ for more info!

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**An Update from Sharing the Caring**

Summer has bloomed abundantly in Adult Day Services! We’ve been working hard on our memory and motors skills games. Then it is time to unwind with gardening, music, and trips to Centre Square. Excursions for ice cream are also a sweet way to beat the summer heat. We’ve been taking advantage of the fresh produce from the garden by helping to prepare our lunches—and the best part is that we practice important motor skills along the way.

The Montessori Method we use helps clients feel a connection to others and their surroundings by creating a smaller and less complicated world. Activities are broken down into simpler step-by-step tasks to eliminate the possibility of failure while the staff or caregiver provides praise thus increasing confidence and other feelings of worth. Activities that involve the use of all senses and repetition can help clients remember how to do tasks they once did on their own. “Sue” said she has noticed her mother is more grounded in reality since starting the program. She bases this on the fact that “Mom is more connected with people and talks instead of singing everything”, which is something that concerned her. We want each and every client and caregiver to see improvement and we are grateful we are here to help!

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“The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others.”

—Albert Schweitzer
We’re going GREEN! Please be sure to provide us with your E-MAIL to receive timely newsletters, program updates and event information so that we can be even better stewards of your gifts. To be added to our Email list, please contact bmitman@thirdstreetalliance.org or visit our website.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**Join us for our Fall FUN and FUNd-rai$er$!**
*Go to our website for more information, registration and to purchase tickets*

**Sept. – Dec. (1st/3rd/5th Fridays) – Dancin’ on the Odds Lesson/Dances 7-10pm**

**Saturday OCT 17th – SOCK HOP/ Y-TEENS Reunion DANCE* 7:30pm $20 in advance, $25 at the door**

**Saturday NOV 14th – Tables & Wares Expo* $15 in advance, $20/door 10am-5pm**

**Simon Mansion 2015 Tour Schedule**
- Saturday, September 19 & 26
- Saturday, October 3
- Saturday, November 7
  All tours are FREE and open to the public.
  **We Need Docents!**

Visit our Website for wishlists & more pics!

**Sewing Room Success**
Nancy Boccadoro, our Sacred Sewing Room volunteer coordinator, has been coming to work with the residents for the last few months and helping them make all kinds of great projects: aprons, purses, quilts and teddy bears, just to name a few. We are so thankful for everyone’s sewing talents and for the love and kindness they are sharing with our residents each week!

Classes are held each Wednesday and Thursday evening. If you’d like to join in the fun or donate items on our wish list please let us know!

**Brochures and flyers are available at the Alliance. Stop in to see us!**

www.ThirdStreetAlliance.org