



P.O. Box 589
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www.StPaulsCenter.com

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OUR MISSION

With the strong belief in the dignity and value of every human life, the mission and purpose of the St. Paul's Center is to provide a warm, nurturing, home-like environment where each mother will have the opportunity to become equipped and empowered to make a successful transition to independent living and to a better life for herself and her children.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- DONATE**
Items from our wish list
- PARTICIPATE**
In our fundraising activities
- VOLUNTEER**
To provide child care
Drive mothers to appointments
- SPREAD THE WORD**
About the great work we do
Encourage your family and friends to help

Visit www.StPaulsCenter.com For More Information



Transforming Transitions

Spring 2016

The newsletter of St. Paul's Center for homeless mothers and their children in Rensselaer County



For The Love of Bags & Bling Returns!

Last year's event was more successful than we could have imagined. More than 200 people attended an event filled with new and gently-used handbags to purchase, to win in raffles or to bid on in auctions. Music, great food and drinks, psychic readings, chair massages, and more rounded out this "different from the norm" event. Phone calls and emails received from attendees after the event reinforced what we knew – we have to hold this again and make it even better! Attendees loved the ticket prices (\$10 prior to the event; \$15 at the door), the hors d'oeuvres, the amazing prices, to network with new friends, and to have a great deal of fun attending something different that supported homeless families.

More info in "Upcoming Events!" on Pg. 3



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Happy 10th Birthday to St. Paul's Center!

From the Executive Director

The Center opened its doors on Oct. 6, 2006 and since then, more than 2,000 homeless mothers and their children turned to St. Paul's Center for shelter, support and encouragement. In addition to opening the shelter, this last 10 years have seen the implementation of services and programs all with the goal of helping homeless families improve their quality of life and ensure stable housing.

Homelessness is complicated and influenced by many factors. Success is often dependent on more than the efforts of the individual family and the Center team. Many other organizations and St. Paul's Center supporters step up to lend a hand too. Providing support services, donating furniture or other household items, and diaper or hygiene product drives come in handy during a time of need. Financial donations, leading children's activities, making breakfast for the families, or working on the shelter building all impact the quality of a family's stay. Each of these efforts demonstrates to homeless families that they are deserving of this assistance. That belief increases a sense of empowerment as families work to turn their situations around.

A constant struggle for many homeless families is finding affordable housing. The affordable housing stock in Rensselaer County continues to shrink making it difficult for a family living in poverty to remain in communities where their children attend school, where they have a job, and where friends and family live. Looking to the future, St. Paul's Center is working hard to establish a permanent supportive housing program that will include case management and feature rent that is no more than 30% of a homeless family's income. Permanent supportive housing programs like the one we are developing, continues to prove effective in addressing homelessness across the county.

As we move forward, we hope that you will continue to play an important role on our team. Ending homelessness is something most likely to happen when we all work together. Supporting St. Paul's Center is an investment each and every one of us can make – an investment that benefits our community.

Warmly,
Tracy

Sending Hugs to The Women's Business Council

St. Paul's Center had the great pleasure of being selected as the 2015 Adopted Non-Profit for the Capital Region Chamber's Women's Business Council (WBC). With that distinction came the opportunity to raise funds for the Center and to engage the entire WBC membership in opportunities that would build their understanding of homelessness.

It was an amazing year-long experience that was enriching and beneficial beyond imagination. Three WBC members joined the Board, three more are volunteering to help organize events, and another two are using their expertise to deliver workshops for homeless mothers. Center staff also benefited by attending the WBC monthly education programs. By the end of 2015, the WBC raised \$11,500 for the Center.

The Women's Business Council is made up of professional women dedicated to empowering women. It was the perfect partnership!



Capital Region Chamber



Upcoming Events!

Save the Date – Come to our Birthday Party for Big Kids (Adults)!

There's been a lot of hard work by many that has made the last 10 years successful and the next 10 years look so bright. A party reminiscent of the birthday parties we had as kids, will be held September 17th at the YMCA's Adventure Camp on Rt. 155 in Guilderland. Food, carnival games and other planned activities are guaranteed to bring back fond memories. Win raffle tickets playing games, challenge others to horse shoes or bocce, climb the rock wall, and more. Check our website for more event information, sponsorship opportunities, and for ticket prices. Come celebrate with us!



Happy 10th Birthday St. Paul's Center!

For the Love of Bags & Bling Returns! (Continued from Pg. 1)

On Tues., July 19, 2016, at the American Legion Melrose Post at 200 Columbia Turnpike in Rensselaer (Rts 9 & 20), from 5:30-7:30 pm, we will not only feature handbags but jewelry, scarves and other accessories will round out the fine offerings! Tickets can be purchased online at www.stpaulscenter.com

Do you have items you'd like to donate to the event? Would you like to sponsor this event, one filled with women who are the major influencers in their families and at work? Call Tracy at 454-2910 or email her at tpitcher@stpaulscenter.com.



Upcoming Restaurant Giveback Nights!

We recently revived our Restaurant Giveback Program! In the past, St. Paul's Center would have one Restaurant Giveback Fundraiser per month, adding more revenue that helped our cause. Our resident VISTA Fellow Ben decided to pick up the mantle and revive this program.

What does this mean for you? You get to have a delicious meal from a fantastic restaurant, and St. Paul's Center receives a portion of your purchase at the restaurant! All you have to do is bring a flier with you to the restaurant, or just mention St. Paul's Center when paying for your meal. That's it!

May 12th, 2016: Bellini's Corner (624 New Loudon, Road Latham, NY 12110)
June 8th, 2016: Pizzeria Uno (601 Troy Schenectady Rd, Latham, NY 12110)

More to be announced, Watch our Facebook Page for more information!



St. Paul's Center Board of Directors Expands Further in Knowledge, Experience & Passion

Jennifer Rexius

Jennifer Rexius is the Director of Catering with the Albany Marriott, a Leadership Tech Valley graduate, and brings eight years of Board experience and strong organization and planning skills to the Board.

"I was introduced to St. Paul's Center through the Capital Region Chamber and Women's Business Council. Helping the homeless and those in need have been on my heart a great deal and led me to seek out ways to get involved. I have created "Blessing Bags" that I keep in my car for people in need I see while traveling. St. Paul's Center and the work it does has re-appeared a number of times in my various personal and professional circles...it became clear that the Center was the right opportunity for me to make a difference. I have been blessed in countless ways and feel that my talents are being called to serve my community alongside the people of St. Paul's Center."

David Paul Moore

David Paul Moore is Pastor of West End Presbyterian and First Presbyterian Churches of Rensselaer. David has an MBA and Master of Divinity, and his experience in administrative leadership, development and communication is broad and deep. Both churches lead by Pastor Moore have been supportive of St. Paul's Center and the homeless families served in a variety of ways.

"Organized in 1823 the First Presbyterian Church, Rensselaer, is the oldest, continuing worshipping community in the City. Throughout the decades we have had warm relationships with other faith communities, including St. Paul's Lutheran. We are grateful for their facility re-purposing as a homeless shelter for women and children. Our partnership with the shelter is a positive way to continue our long-standing support of the homeless and express our faith witness in the community."