Keystone Opportunity Center Relaunches the Family Literacy Program

There is nothing more influential to a child than their interactions with their parent or care giver. That’s why Keystone’s Family Literacy program is such an essential child-development tool. In the 2018-2019 school year, Keystone was able to re-launch Family Literacy after a hiatus when State funding was no longer available to the agency. The course is one where parents/guardians come together to class. It includes ESL and parenting education for parents, developmental activities and Kindergarten readiness for children, and interactive learning for parents together with their children. It will be several years before the state opens applications for funding, so please consider a gift to Keystone Opportunity Center for vital programs such as this.

Keystone Opportunity Center Launches Second Food Distribution

Keystone expanded its food pantry distribution in 2019, thanks to an expanded partnership with Philabundance. Keystone now offers Fresh for All, a farmers’ market-like distribution in the parking lot of Grace Bible Church in Souderton, one day per week. Approximately 150 people pick up 20-40 pounds of produce, doubling the amount of food that Keystone distributes in the community. Keystone helps thousands of people every year with nutritious food. Your donations of food are essential in this work, but please make a monetary donation to provide the facility and staff to run this program.

Keystone Opportunity Center Completes “The Sprout Initiative” Pilot Program

In 2019, Keystone was part of an anonymously-funded one-year school-based homelessness prevention pilot program. Through our partnership with the North Penn School District, Your Way Home Montgomery County, and United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey, Keystone helped families at risk of homelessness to stabilize their housing. Educational outcomes of children in secure housing are much better than for those who are homeless or in insecure housing, but current government funding is limited to those who are classified as homeless. Private funding is needed to reach people before they become homeless. Keystone has a community case manager who provides homelessness prevention services for members of our community. Her position is fully supported by your donations, so please keep help us keep up the vital work of homelessness prevention!

Make Your Year-End Gift Today!
Mail: 104 N. Main Street, PO Box 64183, Souderton, PA 18964
In-Person: Monday through Thursday 9 am to 4 pm, Friday 9 am to 12 pm
Online: www.KeystoneOpportunity.org/give
Client Stories

I wish you could hear the stories of those we serve. You’d be astounded—as I am, every day—at what your friends, family and neighbors are going through. Let me tell you about a few:

Each winter we host a holiday celebration for clients where we give them the gift cards that our donors have so generously dropped off. At the end of last year’s event, a woman approached me to ask if she could help clean up. I told her she did not need to do that because this reception was for her. She should just rest and enjoy. She insisted, saying that Keystone has saved her. The low-cost housing we got her into, the social worker who helped her get her benefits, and the food she gets from our food pantry have turned her life around. “I finally feel human again,” she told me as she grabbed a broom and started sweeping bits of cookies that others had dropped on the floor. On through the night, side by side with the staff, she pushed that broom, trying to repay Keystone Opportunity Center for changing her life.

Over the summer I was witness to the end of the life of one of our clients. He was a very talented person, once having traveled the world as an artist. But his health waned, and so did his finances, until all that was left were stories about how many times he expressed how grateful he was to Keystone for giving him a place where he could afford to live. I am glad he had a safe place to call home at the end of his life. I think of him often—how success one day doesn’t ensure security the next. May we all find security, and may we be part of helping others to find it, too.

These are only a few stories, but the thread through them all is that their only hope is the help they get at Keystone Opportunity Center.

And the only reason we can provide that help is because of your donations.

As 2019 comes to a close, please give generously to Keystone Opportunity Center. Your neighbors need you.

Arlene E. Daily
Executive Director,
Keystone Opportunity Center
What it Means When You Give to Keystone Opportunity Center

- It means a child will not go to bed hungry
- It means a family will be moved from a crowded room in emergency shelter into a safe apartment of their own
- It means a veteran with a disability will finally get their benefits
- It means a family living in their car will be connected with services
- It means a senior who got behind in their utility bills won’t lose their heat
- It means a young person can get their GED/High School Equivalency and get a decent job

Keystone Opportunity Center impacts the lives of thousands of people in Bucks and Montgomery Counties every year. When you make a gift to Keystone Opportunity Center, you help those who are striving to reach self-sufficiency.

More than $0.91 of every dollar goes directly to our programs of housing the homeless, feeding the hungry and educating adults and families.

The programs at Keystone Opportunity Center change lives! And they rely on your support.

2019 Community Champions

In 2019, we launched the “Community Champions” awards, for organizations or groups that make a big difference in the lives of our clients. Receiving the awards at our Spring 2019 banquet:

- **Champion of Housing:** Univest Financial – for their many levels of support, including allowing the use of several properties in which we house clients who cannot afford today’s expensive rental market.

- **Champion of Food:** Tyma Trachtenberg Dental Community – for organizing numerous dental practices into collaboratively collecting food, supplies and monetary donations to benefit the clients of Keystone Opportunity Center.

- **Champion of Education:** Souderton Mennonite Church – for hosting the majority of our education classes in their building, and going the extra mile to run Family Literacy for one year while we were unable to do so.

- **Champion of Client Assistance:** Moyer Indoor/Outdoor – for providing 1,000 gallons of heating oil each year for our clients in need.

- **Champion of Welcoming the Stranger:** Zion Mennonite Church – for allowing us to use one of their buildings for 20 years as a day center for our emergency shelter program.

- **E Richard Aichele III Corporate Partner Award:** Penn Community Bank – for a donation so significant that it allowed us to launch and run a program for a year.

We are only as strong as our support network. Without support from businesses and individuals, Keystone Opportunity Center would not be able to run any of our programs. Please remember us in your annual giving!

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**Online:** www.KeystoneOpportunity.org/give

Questions?

**Contact:** Malcolm Friend, Director of Resource Development
**Email:** mfriend@keystoneopp.org
**Phone:** 215-723.5430 ext 103
SAVE THE DATE

2020 Spring Banquet
Honoring Community Champions
Friday, May 8, 2020
Indian Valley Country Club

Tickets on sale January 1, 2020
Sponsorships now available
Email: mfriend@keystoneopp.org
Phone: 215-723-5430 ext 103

With Your Help, We Made an Incredible Impact in 2018.

**FOOD**
2,713 visits to Keystone’s Food Pantry
Distributed 258,840 lbs of food in 2018
Took over Fresh For All food distribution in Souderton

**LITERACY**
424 students educated by Keystone
10 students got their High School Equivalency diploma
Relaunched Family Literacy Program

**HOUSING**
Housed 41 families, 178 people through Bucks and Montgomery Counties
334 appointments with Community Case Manager
Launched Sprout Initiative

Help us make an even greater impact as we end 2019.