



Keystone Opportunity Center

Providing Help • Offering Hope

Housing the homeless, feeding the hungry, and educating adults and families in Bucks and Montgomery counties

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.**

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



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!**



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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.

In spring I visited our Senior ESL class. I asked the students why, at their age, they were investing so much time into learning English. One gentleman had a pained expression on his face. He flatly said he was a burden to his daughter.



Students in Keystone's Senior English as a Second Language course are learning English so they can speak to their grandchildren, tell them their story and share the traditions of their families.

Whenever there is an issue with the grandkids, he has to keep interrupting so he can ask his daughter to translate what they were saying. Now that he is learning English, he said, he spends time with his grandkids, asking them about school and sharing stories about their relatives. And he doesn't feel like a burden to his family any longer.

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

Keystone Staff and Board

Arlene E. Daily
Executive Director

Malcolm P. Friend
Director of Resource Development

James Kelleher
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Keystone Opportunity Center

104 N. Main Street PO Box 64183
Souderton, PA 18964
Office: 215-723-5430

www.KeystoneOpportunity.org



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.



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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:** Uninvest 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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Questions?

Contact: Malcolm Friend, Director of Resource Development

Email: mfriender@keystoneopp.org

Phone: 215-723.5430 ext 103



Keystone Opportunity Center

P.O. Box 64183, Souderton, PA 18964

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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.



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



424 students educated by Keystone

10 students got their High School Equivalency diploma

Relaunched Family Literacy Program



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.



Keystone Opportunity Center

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Administration Offices located at

104 N. Main Street in Souderton

Phone: 215-723-5430

Fax: 215-799-0739

www.keystoneopportunity.org

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Keystone Opportunity Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community organization, donations to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. The official registration and financial information of Keystone Opportunity Center may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling toll free, within PA: 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



Keystone Opportunity Center

The mission of Keystone Opportunity Center is to help community members in need by offering a comprehensive array of social services that educates, encourages and empowers them to become self-sufficient.

