Girl Scouts deliver ‘taste of home’ to Emmanuel Dining Room

No matter where we live, there will always be childhood memories that remind us of home: family vacations and gatherings, holidays and graduations and favorite foods.

But when you’re homeless, those memories can get lost.

Enter the members of the Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay, Troop 1093 of Middletown, who stepped up recently with Operation Taste of Home and a gift of Girl Scout Cookies to Emmanuel Dining Room.

Because it’s our mission to treat people with dignity, respect and compassion, it’s always nice to offer those we serve a treat such as a Girl Scout Cookie. But why give just a pack of cookies when you can give someone a box of cookies?

Why give one box when you can give 16? ReeNee LaFate, Program Director of Emmanuel Dining Room said, “We send a special thank you to the Girl Scout Troop1093 for the 16 boxes of delicious cookies that they worked hard to earn to donate to the Emmanuel Dining Room.”

Our thanks and appreciation to the members of Troop 1093, and Claudia Peña Porretti, the Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay Chief Executive Officer for making this happen.

This week’s hero is ReeNee LaFate, Program Director at Emmanuel Dining Room

When the pandemic hit, ReeNee masterfully shifted from sit-down meals to take-out at all three locations, so the homeless, poor and newly unemployed would not go hungry. ReeNee juggled countless details, including added sanitation, staff protection equipment and take-out supplies.

She also managed a flood of donations the ministry has been grateful to receive. ReeNee joined the ministry in 2016 as Assistant Manager of Sacred Heart Village II, leading Emmanuel Dining Room since February 2018.

We congratulate ReeNee with thanks – and virtual hugs!
Shower of cards celebrates first Guild president’s 90th birthday

Barbara Kreuer, who served as the founding president of the Ministry of Caring Guild, has been one of the most steadfast and generous supporters in the ministry’s history – and she’s still at it.

Although it may be difficult to believe, the former President of the Board of Directors, member, and leader marked her 90th birthday this month. Her family had planned a party but had to cancel the event because of health precautions during the coronavirus pandemic.

So Development Director Priscilla Rakestraw, who has been friends with Barbara most of her life, came up with a fun way to celebrate. “A card shower!” Priscilla said.

Priscilla secretly circulated a notice of her idea, including Barbara’s address at the Village of St. John. And soon, cards started to arrive.

Lots and lots of cards, from all over the country! In addition to more than 100 cards from well-wishers, Barbara also received an extra special gift from Priscilla: A framed copy of her birthday card shower notice.

Our prayers
We remember our colleagues and their families: Mazzie Butler, sister of 4-year-olds’ teacher Laytina James (GACC), passed away; Brother Ronald and Guild Liaison/Executive Assistant Louisa Teoli (Admin) have serious medical issues; Bob Keefer, father of Marie Keefer, Deputy Director, Human Relations (Admin) is ill; CFO Bill Hayes (Admin) is receiving hospice care.

Staff news and notes

Lori Richardson, part-time Drug & Alcohol Counselor and pool shelter staff (HH I) resigned and will not be returning from layoff.

Jose Santiago, Interim Financial Data and Statistical analyst, will not be returning from layoff.

HR Coordinator CeCe Middleton has returned from layoff, and will cover afternoon reception hours (Admin).

Sister Kathleen Pollard, OSF, who filled in on receptionist duties (Admin) returned to service as Guardian Angel Child Care Site Manager.

Wilma Forrest has retired as the site manager at HH I and MLL after a little over 20 years.

Mental Health Counselor Chanel Grundy resigned and will not be returning from layoff.

Development Director Priscilla Rakestraw has been appointed as a Deputy Director.

Anne Hudson resigned as General Ledger Accountant.

Chef Bill Bradley has reduced his FXN hours to 9 a.m.-1 p.m. weekdays.

Chef’s Assistant Gordon Corbitt (FXN) is also working weekends at EDR West.

Gwen Chapman (IB) temporarily is providing support at EDR South.

Linda Richardson returned from retirement as part-time SHV I Service Coordinator and FXN Program Director.

Staff vacancies
General Ledger Accountant – Admin
Custodian (2) – CCC and GACC
Security/Doorman – SHV I
Cook – CCC
CNA (PT) (2) – CCC and GACC
CNA (FT) – HOJ II
Mental Health Counselor (PT) – AB
Drug & Alcohol Counselor (PT) – AB
Staff (FT) – HH I
Assistant Manager – SHV I

Longtime ministry supporter Barbara Kreuer enjoys a flood of cards wishing her a happy 90th birthday.

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