



SETON CENTER CHRONICLE

FALL 2019 | ISSUE NO. 29

The Seton Center Chronicle is the official quarterly newsletter of Seton Center Inc. intended to share our results and future needs with friends, neighbors, partners, and benefactors. In order to make more funds available for our life-changing outreach programs, **we will only print a limited number of newsletters.** You may pick up a printed copy at the Seton Center or Family Store, or **elect to receive the electronic version by signing up on our website at SetonCenter.org.** We thank you for your support!

Seton Center Outreach is open Mon-Fri, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
(closed for lunch 12:00-1:00 p.m.)

Seton Family Store is open Tue-Sat, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Donations accepted Tue-Sat, 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



Our Mission is to work with our neighbors to build a hopeful future in the spirit of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton through a focus on self-sufficiency and well-being of the whole person.

BRIDGES TO SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Building partnerships to end poverty and promote sustainable living in Frederick County

On October 3, 2019, Seton Center held its first **Bridges to Sustainable Communities Symposium** at The Mount. The objective was to *introduce the Bridges initiative to different agencies and sectors in Frederick County* and make connections for future partnerships. The Bridges initiative is one we use with great success at Seton Center; our Getting Ahead program is part of it.



Seton Center Case Manager Kelly Overholtzer moderates a panel discussion with Jacqueline Scott, Director of Howard County Department of Community Resources and Services; Marchelle LeBlanc, Director of Howard County Getting Ahead Program; and Phil DeVol, author of Bridges to Sustainable Communities and keynote speaker.

Over 60 people, representing organizations such as Frederick County Public Schools, Frederick County Government, United Way, and other nonprofits and civic agencies, attended. Many expressed interest in receiving follow-up training and assistance in implementing Bridges programs in their sectors.

Thanks to sponsorships from **The Ausherman Foundation** and **Mount St. Mary's University**, as well as help from our Board, we were able to bring this proven solution to end poverty to our friends in Frederick County. *The more we engage the community, the closer we get to building bridges out of poverty and making Frederick County a sustainable, more hopeful place to live.*

Without our generous donors and sponsors, we would be unable to bring this message of hope outside our immediate area. **Together, we are making positive change happen!**

Will you partner with us in Building Bridges in Frederick County? Contact Sister Martha at martha.beaudoin@doc.org or subscribe for more info: bit.ly/SCBridges



Upcoming Outreach Events

Dec 4: Stress, Depression, and the Holidays, 6:00-7:30p

Dec 5: Drop-In Tech Cafe, 4:30-7:30p

Workshops are Free. Pre-Registration Required (except for Tech Cafe). Call Kelly at 301.447.6102 x17 or visit SetonCenter.org/events.

Seton Center Outreach has partnered with Frederick Community College to offer **FREE GED classes** to individuals of any age seeking their high school diploma. Our goal was to fill ten seats, but the need proved even greater and **we were blessed to have 16 students apply!** At the end of this 8-week course, participants will have the opportunity to test for the Graduation Equivalency Diploma (GED). Unfortunately, the fee for the tests cannot be waived. It will cost them \$11 per test and they will have to take up to 4 tests each. If they fail any component, they will have to pay to retest.

“We have a fantastic group of 16 students who are really motivated to succeed. They are all on track to hopefully be able to pass all 4 GED exams by May 2020. The space here at Seton Center is amazing and you have been wonderful hosts.” -Jay Wilcox, Instructor



Will you to sponsor a student? Visit SetonCenter.org/Give, then select *Special Programs* as your designation.

Fred's Story

Fred has faced challenges in his life. Born with physical and cognitive challenges, Fred has faced surgeries and struggles in finding resources to adequately care for his unique needs. Recently, Fred came to Seton Center's Outreach Office to ask for advice and partnership. With a monthly income of just \$500, he was unable to keep up rent and health insurance payments. **Because of your donations, Case Manager Merri was able to help Fred secure more affordable and accessible housing.** She also assisted with his application for SSI. He is now eligible for Medicaid and reduced his health insurance costs by \$200 per month. Fred is on the path to a sustainable life and more hopeful future.

The **Seton Center Outreach Office is not a crisis center.** We are a partnership that works with neighbors like Fred to guide them towards their goal, whether it is to stabilize their living situation, improve their health care, or complete their GED. The **Seton Center Outreach Office offers partnerships** that allow clients to better their lives. But it is only possible because of donors like you! Your gifts enable us to provide hope in many forms.



Can we count on your partnership for the future? Please prayerfully consider becoming **a sustaining donor and setting up recurring gifts** through our new donation system. **Your regular gift will ensure we have the funds available** to assist neighbors like Fred, to continue offering Getting Ahead and other resource programs, and to provide access to dental health services and education.

Set up your recurring gift today at [SetonCenter.org/Give!](http://SetonCenter.org/Give)

Upcoming FREE DDHC Workshops

CALL 301.447.6102 X20
TO REGISTER!

November 22 • 1:30-3:00 PM

Tools of the Trade: Learn about the various tools dentists use to keep us healthy and demystify the fear behind dental treatment!

December 5 • 1:30-3:00 PM

Preventing Gum Disease: Learn how to keep gum disease from compromising your oral and overall health.



Making the Community Smile, One Client at a Time: A DePaul Dental Success Story



Through the DePaul Dental Program, we referred Paul to one of our partner providers, Monocacy Health Partners Dental Clinic. During an initial exam in January 2019, they noticed a lesion in his mouth and referred him to Dr. Mistry for a biopsy. The diagnosis was a benign cyst that needed to be surgically removed before any further dental work could be done. *A generous donation to Seton Center allowed us to help Paul* with the cost of full mouth extractions when he had the cyst removed in July 2019. After a 6-week period of healing, Paul was fitted with a full set of dentures at Affordable Dentures in Hagerstown, another partner provider.

Through your kindness today, we can help more people like Paul. Make your gift at SetonCenter.org/Give!



It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like *Christmas!* at Seton Family Store

Thanks to our generous neighbors who have kindly passed on their Christmas decor, gifts, cards, paper, and more to us, we can offer a cornucopia of merchandise. **Stop in each week as new items are brought out.** Get a head start on holiday shopping so you can spend more time with your family!

And remember, every dollar of your purchase goes into our Outreach programs, so you are giving while you are receiving!

The **Christmas Giving Tree** is up through **December 7th**. Choose an ornament and purchase the item on the tag, either new or through our store, and place in the bin under the tree. These items will be given to our homeless neighbors to help keep them warm this winter.



Buy a Bag, Save the World!

We are all about our community here at the Seton Family Store. Not only the people, but our environment! **For \$1.50, you can purchase one of our new reusable canvas totes** and help keep a plastic bag off the street. A portion of each bag purchase goes toward Outreach services. Plus, **bring the bag back every time you shop between now and December 31st to receive an additional 50 cents off your entire purchase!**

A Small Town Christmas Craft Fair

**Saturday, November 30
10:00am-3:30pm**

Come browse handmade arts and crafts from local entrepreneurs and hobbyists. **Find unique gifts for your home and for that special person this Christmas!**

Refreshments for sale.
PLUS free cookies and cider for store patrons.

There's even a rumor Santa will make an appearance!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

We are pleased -and blessed!- to welcome a number of new volunteers to our Seton Center family:



Above, Emily Taylor helps sort donations to our Family Store. Below, Lauretta Greenbacker greets visitors in the Outreach Office.



- **Pat Orner** is serving as an Outreach Office Receptionist and Family Store Cashier
- **Lynne King** is one of our Tech Guides, using her teaching background at our monthly Drop-In Tech Cafe to help visitors with technological issues they may have.
- **Tommy Downs**, a Getting Ahead graduate, is also a Tech Guide, putting his Cybersecurity knowledge to good use.
- **Mike and Alice Shorb** assist with the Weis bakery pick-up and delivery and help in the Family Store sorting room.
- **Lauretta Greenbacker** is an RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) volunteer serving as an Outreach Office Receptionist.
- **Jean Rippeon** is a dental hygienist with Catoctin Dental in Thurmont and assists the DePaul Dental Program with monthly dental health coaching for our clients.
- **Jason Andrew** is assisting with the recycling and interior environmental services to help our staff keep Seton Center a clean and welcoming space.
- **Emily Taylor** works at Mount St. Mary's University in Patriot Hall. Her experience, especially working at Boscov's, is a valuable asset in her work to help sort, hang, and tag clothing donations.

Our Partnership with Mount St. Mary's Continues to Offer Mutual Benefits

Student Interns from The Mount not only enhance our Volunteer Program and bring a genuine enthusiasm for learning our mission, they also enjoy important real-world experiences.

- **Ashley Torkornoo** is studying Communications at The Mount. She has been working with our Marketing Manager to open new pathways in sharing our mission.
- **Tim DeRosa** studies Business and Theology at The Mount. He serves in the Store, receiving hands-on experience in management and customer relations.

*We are also grateful for the **Office of Social Justice**. Their Day of Service in September included matching Core Students with a neighbor to help prepare her yard for fall. Additionally, the **Office of Social Justice** provided 13 staff and student volunteers to assist with parking and excellent hospitality for our Symposium in October.*

We would love for you to become part of our team. Contact Missy at melissa.miller@doc.org or visit SetonCenter.org/Volunteer for a list of current opportunities.

Time Equals Treasure

From July through October, our volunteers gave 2,334.5 hours of their time, a value of over \$43,000!