

SICM NEWS

Year 46, Number 2, Summer 2014

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Executive Director



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SICM Celebrates Schenectady. .in Style!

SICM held a first-time event, "SICM Celebrates Schenectady" on Friday, May 9 at the Mohawk Golf Club. The evening fea-



Larry Spring and Rev. Phil Grigsby

tured delicious appetizers and delectable desserts, as well as jazz entertainment. At this inaugural event, honorees were recognized for their vision, courage and tenacity in making Schenectady a better place to live.

Awardees include: Community Leader Shirley Readdean, Ellis Medicine CEO Jim Connolly, Schenectady Schools

Superintendent Larry Spring, and the Niskayuna Consumers Cooperative. Over



The silent auction offered many choices

\$3,000 was raised at the Silent Auction, and the entire event brought in \$15,000 to support the programs of SICM.

Many thanks to all who supported this fun and successful event!



Don Wheeler and Debbie Visco welcomed guests to the event



Rev. Phil presents the award to the Co Op Crew (l to r: Rit, Ben, Toni and Don)

Gail Van Valkenburgh Retires from SICM Food Program



Clara Laselle provided one of her "signature" cakes for the festivities.

The weather was stormy on May 22. A tornado touched down in Delanson! However, at 839 Albany Street it was a time to give thanks and celebrate with a reception, as Gail moved into retirement from many years as SICM's Food Program Director.

When Gail Donohue began her affiliation with the SICM Emergency Food Pantry as an intern, she didn't exactly plan on having a career here. As an SCCC student in the Human Services major, Gail worked at the Pantry doing, well, what interns do: helping out wherever she was needed, doing whatever tasks needed to be done. Who would have thought that just a few years down the road, she would be the one directing others in these same tasks?



Rev. Phil gives remarks at the party.

(continued on page 3)

Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) celebrates the partnership of 55 member congregations "relating the resources of the congregations to the human needs of the city," which means ministries of social service, education, witness and social action. The SICM newsletter and more detailed financial and program information is available from SICM at 1055 Wendell Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12308 or (518) 374-2683.

FAX: (518) 382-1871.

Email address: information@sicm.us.

Website address is: www.sicm.us.

SICM's finances are audited annually by an independent auditing firm.

Ministry Notes



Transitions and Possibilities

It is a busy summer with much good news to share! It has been a time of transitions and possibilities. First, we had a festive time to thank Gail Van Valkenburgh for her dedicated service at the Food

Pantry as she moves into retirement. It was a time for celebration. I won't repeat what is elsewhere in the newsletter, but I am glad that the City Council members could take part to celebrate and affirm her leadership (in a resolution) for many years. She began as an intern and ended up as Director! Who knew? Among many other areas, she led the transition to the new facility and as we grew to serving families much more than before. So again, Thanks Gail! And we welcome Shennan, certainly not a stranger, as the Director and she offers her words elsewhere in this newsletter.

I was fortunate to share in two other events. I gave our greetings at a Celebration for Rev Van Stuart and Family in July. I was glad to say a few words as they transitioned from our area to North Carolina. It was part of the worship service at Macedonia Baptist Church whose Pastor is Rev. Leonard Comithier, Jr. I was honored to join Council member Marion Porterfield, who shared a resolution from the City Council, members of the Friendship Baptist

Church family and then the Macedonia Church family. Rev. Stuart came to the area to work for GE Silicones; he is a chemist holding a number of patents. But he then became involved more and more in the church and discerned a call to full-time ministry. He studied in Hartford, was an associate at Macedonia, and then was called as Pastor for ten years at Friendship Baptist. From there he started Palmer Seminary and at the same time started work with SICM in the Spiritually Sound, Physically Fit Program. Then we were fortunate to receive a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant and Rev. Van served as the coordinator for a little over two years at the Safe Parks and Edible Playgrounds Initiative. Part of his legacy in that work is the STEM emphasis in camps we have held at Steinmetz Park and other activities. For health reasons he had to leave that work. We celebrated the time he was with all of us in this area; and certainly wish them Godspeed as they settle in Raleigh, NC. Personally I look forward to keeping in touch since there are others I know in that area as well (as some of you know in my former life I served as a regional staff member for Church World Service/CROP in the Carolinas). While we will miss Rev Van and family, it was an opportunity to visit Macedonia (not far in Colonie) and to share further with members of other churches.

Finally, SICM was a part of the transitional service for Grace Lutheran Church in Niskayuna. I was invited but unfortunately on short notice could not attend; however, SICM was well represented. For many reasons (and I believe demographic), Grace Lutheran decided to close and encourage members to participate in Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Clifton Park. It has particular memories to call and celebrate. Rev. Bill Clasen, a long-time Pastor and named Pastor Emeritus, served on the Search Committee that called me and for many years on the SICM Finance Committee. He helped to guide the transitional issues when Bethesda House spun off from SICM. Rev. Bill led Grace to be the first suburban church to join SICM; originally SICM involved only city churches. Since Grace encompassed the former First English Lutheran Church, they saw their mission as including "the welfare of the city."

(continued on page 3)

SCENECTADY INNER CITY MINISTRY

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The Assembly of SICM includes one clergy and two lay delegates from all member congregations: Alplaus United Methodist, Altamont Reformed, Bellevue Reformed, Bethel AME, Burnt Hills United Methodist, Carman United Methodist, Christ Church Episcopal, Church of St. Adalbert, Duryee Memorial AME Zion, Eastern Parkway United Methodist, Emmanuel Baptist—Friedens UCC, Faith United Methodist, First Baptist, Sch'dy, First Baptist, Scotia, First Reformed, Sch'dy, First Reformed, Scotia, First United Methodist, Friendship Baptist, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Holy Name of Jesus National Catholic Church, Immaculate Conception, Immanuel Lutheran, Lynnwood Reformed, Messiah Lutheran, Mount Olivet Missionary Baptist, New Consecration Temple, Niskayuna Reformed, Our Lady of Grace, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Our Redeemer Lutheran, Refreshing Spring Church, Rotterdam United Methodist, St. Anthony's, St. George's Episcopal, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. John the Evangelist, St. Joseph's, Sch'dy, St. Joseph's, Scotia, St. Luke's, St. Paul the Apostle, St. Paul's Episcopal, St. Stephen's Episcopal, Scotia United Methodist, Society of Friends (Quakers), Stanford United Methodist, State Street Presbyterian, Tabernacle Baptist, Trinity Presbyterian, Union Presbyterian, Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady, Woodlawn Reformed, Zion Lutheran.

continued from p.2

They provided the First English building to what became Refreshing Spring Church and partnered with Elder and Sr. Dix. They retained a very strong mission emphasis supporting all the SICM ministries and often going “the second mile.” The service in May, which included the Lutheran Bishop Marie Jerge, was a celebration of ministry. SICM was a beneficiary of the offering. And it is a transition. While Prince of Peace Lutheran was involved in some aspects of SICM (e.g. CROP Walk), with this transition, we were invited to share the possibilities of partnership at a session this spring and we look forward to further conversation.

Rev. Phil Grigsby

Postscript: Our new Camp@Steinmetz just concluded as I write this. It was a pilot program that we were not sure how it would work. Could the model of Camp Fowler work here? It was also an extension of STEM programs in what became a pilot. Thanks to Ryan Cogswell and dedicated counsellors the camp succeeded far beyond what we had hoped! Thanks also to Rev. Kent Busman at Camp Fowler, church volunteers, and all who contributed ‘stuff.’ If you can get the Daily Gazette it was featured in the early August “Your Niskayuna” section, which also covers the Northside; or check out www.timesunion.com and search for ‘Steinmetz Park’ for the pictures as the program received support from the Times Union Hope Fund. Our next newsletter will have more (including more we want to thank!); and stay tuned for more later on what hopes are for next summer.

continued from p.1

Gail came to SCCC from working at Campbell Plastics; as a displaced worker she was eligible for training as the company closed and moved jobs elsewhere.



Pat Obrecht and Gail share a light moment.

After her internship with SICM, Gail was hired first as the Food Advocate In January of 1997 and then as the Deputy Director, and worked under Pat Obrecht, who was the Director. When Pat retired in 2005, Gail was named Director of the Food Program. From then until this past May, Gail directed the operations of the biggest temporary and food provider in Schenectady County, ensuring that the operation of the Pantry was smooth, efficient and consistent. Her responsibilities were many and varied: ordering food, securing resources, coordinating food drives, supervising employees and volunteers, interacting with guests and, in 2007, overseeing the physical move of the Pantry from a smaller space in the basement of First United Methodist Church to its current location, a fully renovated former supermarket at 839 Albany Street.



Over the years, Gail successfully carried out and enhanced the mission of the Emergency Food Pantry: to provide nutritious food to members of the Schenectady community who are food insecure. The growth of the “business” at the Pantry has been significant. Besides the successful move to the new facility, Gail oversaw the growth in service from 4 times a year, then to 6 times a year, and to the current once per month. Under her leadership, the program was recognized as a model program by the NYS Health Department. Support from HPNAP (Hunger Prevention Nutrition Assistance Program) more than doubled. This increase provided for additional transportation including the current passenger van to take guests home and the larger delivery truck. Gail worked with the Regional Food Bank to add a “mass distribution” time at the end of each month, which helps typically 300 households a month.

In 1997, the year Gail first started, the Pantry served 21,203 people, and provided food for 190,827 meals. In the 2013-2014 fiscal year, the Pantry served 52,033 people and provided food for 468,297 meals. This growth is a testimony to Gail’s steadfast guidance and management of the Pantry.

In addition, Gail provided leadership to add “wrap around” services at the pantry. These services now include help with Food Stamps (Nutrition Outreach, a program of Catholic Charities), Health Insurance (with Healthy Capital District Initiative), and employment (Experience Works). Other services are “in the works.” On May 22 we said farewell to Gail, as she hung up her SICM shirts and donned the attire of a new retiree! Those who gathered at the party included agency staff, volunteers, former volunteers, representatives of the Regional Food Bank, and public officials. Center Stage Deli, a consistent partner, provided the catering. Marion Porterfield and Ed Kosiur of the Schenectady City Council shared a resolution and made a proclamation. We wish her well in this new chapter of her life. ***Thank you and goodbye, Gail—we will miss you!***

SICM Purchases Traffic Division Building: St. Joseph's Place to Move In

SICM recently completed purchase of the former city police department's Traffic Division Building at 837 Albany Street, adjacent to the food pantry. The building was for sale for some time. After careful and prayerful consideration, SICM moved ahead to secure the property. Look for the opening of St. Joseph's Place in the fall. It is a legacy to the late Fr. Michael Hogan, former pastor at St. Joseph's in Schenectady. With the consolidations that have occurred in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, the parish boundaries shifted so that Hamilton Hill is now included with St. Joseph. Fr. Hogan envisioned a ministry of hospitality, much like the "kitchen table" that was always open in the former Sacred Heart/St. Columba's parish. Sr. Ann Christi Brink and Sr. Linda Neil are working to develop this ministry further. Other sisters of St. Joseph, especially retired sisters, will help out. As Sr. Ann and Sr. Linda have articulated, they are not social workers but are providing hospitality for individuals and agency staff who want a place apart. The center will have a prayer/mediation space (but regular services are not planned).

Members of St. Joseph have been hard at work making the space ready. Thanks to them and those who gave furniture items, the space will be ready for opening in the fall. The sisters will not occupy all the building, but primarily on the first floor. SICM is getting estimates for renovations so that the other parts of the building can be used by another agency and other SICM uses. Stay tuned!



Niskayuna Co-op Holds 2nd Annual Summer Carnival to Benefit SICM



Saturday, August 16, was a beautiful summer day, just perfect for a carnival. That's exactly what took place in the parking lot of the Niskayuna Co-op at 2215 Nott Street in Niskayuna. The event featured taste testing, craft vendors, a pick-a-prize raffle, and a Bouncy Bounce! Shoppers stopped by on their way in and out of the store, stopping to buy tickets for some wonderful prizes, to tickle their tastebuds with goodies from Perry's Ice Cream, Smart Chicken, and Global Village, and to watch children delight in the fun



Toni Boughton, Front End Manager, was instrumental in the success of the Carnival.



SICM Interns Katherine Quinn, Ben Taubner and Peter Krauss staff the table at the Carnival.

that only a Bouncy Bounce can provide. Prizes were gift baskets of donated items from TCBY, Niskayuna Wine & Liquors, Uncle Rico's Pizza, Starbucks and more, tastefully assembled by the Co-op's Toni Boughton.

The SICM table was staffed by Board members, Summer Interns and staff members, all of whom helped to sell tickets and provide information about SICM to curious bystanders. The Carnival was visited by local "celebrities," including Family Court

Judge candidate Jill Polk, Congressman Paul Tonko, Ken Litz and Don Bisgrove. Media coverage was provided by the Daily Gazette and the Times Union, and Channels 10 & 13 both made an appearance. We raised over \$500 again this year!

Many thanks to the Niskayuna Co-op and their staff for all their support of SICM throughout the year, and special thanks and appreciation to Ben Wallach, Co-op Marketing Manager, for organizing a fun and successful event. And, of course, thanks to the wonderful support of the Niskayuna community!



Shirley Readden, SICM President, is interviewed by Channel 10's Michael Johnson.



Congressman Paul Tonko chats with Cheryl Gerstler, SICM Board member.



Success Again for SICM's Annual Day(s) of Service

Spring 2014 was very much like Spring 2013. . .and Spring 2012. . .and Spring 2011—at least, when it comes to the success of SICM's Days of Service! We collected goodies from several



Jane Brehm & Jean Dean deliver goodies from Lynnwood Reformed Church

congregations to make up over 300 Easter/Spring Bags which were distributed to the children using the Emergency Food Pantry in the week leading up to Easter. We received goodies from: First UMC Schenectady, Faith UMC, Stanford UMC, Burnt Hills UMC, Eastern Parkway UMC, St. Stephen's Episcopal, Lynnwood Reformed, Niskayuna Reformed, First Reformed Schenectady, First Reformed Scotia, Trinity Presbyterian, Emmanuel

Friedens, Friendship Baptist, Messiah Lutheran, Immanuel Lutheran, Gene & Ellie Rowland, Nancy Virkler and the Henrikson family from Park Avenue Nursery School. Donations were assembled by volunteers from Trinity Presbyteri-

an, Jack and Jill of America, and Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist, and a total of 300 bags were completed! Special thanks to all those who helped decorate the bags, too, including youth from Trinity Presbyterian, and Madaline Stocker, who personally decorated over 100 of these bags at the age of 99.5! All these efforts made for some very happy kids at the Pantry—thanks to all!



Spring Bags



Volunteers assemble Spring Bags

Many thanks to all those who helped make SICM's 4th Annual Day of Service a big success! Whether you baked, raked, setup, swept, lugged or bagged, your hard work was appreciated. Carrie Street Park, Steinmetz Park, Jerry Burrell Park, Hamilton Hill



Over 300 Spring Bags were distributed to children using the Pantry.

Arts Center, Quackenbush Park, Wallingford Park and Hillhurst Park all look nice and clean as a result of volunteers' efforts.

These individuals, from several local congregations (First Reformed-Schenectady, Faith United Methodist Church, Eastern Parkway United Methodist



Lots of helpers!



Thanks, Union College students!



The Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Association spruced up Quackenbush Park.

Church, Emmanuel Friedens Church), Union College (including the Catholic Student Association), Schenectady County Community College (the Science Club), Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Association and others, took time on a dreary Saturday morning to work tirelessly in an effort to make the parks a nicer place for Schenectady children to enjoy their lunch this summer. Also thanks to the City of Schenectady, Commissioner



Julia Miller, Erin Miller and Kaitlyn Gerstler from Eastern Parkway UMC clean up at Hamilton Hill Arts Center.

Carl Olsen and his crew, for providing receptacles for lawn and other refuse, and for dedicated pick ups on the Monday following. All involved proved that "many hands make light work!"



Thanks, SCCC Science Club!

Thank you to all!

SICM Program Updates



Summer Lunch's 20th Birthday!

(This is submitted by Rachel Curtis, who coordinated the program previously and this year stepped in when Allison Williams became unavailable. Allison's husband Leroy became critically ill in the spring and she left to attend to him. We are saddened to report that he passed and Allison and her family remain in all of our thoughts and prayers.)

Summer Lunch is well underway in its 20th year serving the Schenectady Community! On July 9th in Jerry Burrell Park, we celebrated this feat and hosted a birthday-party themed kick-off event. It is also the 40th anniversary of the national Summer Food Service Program. In addition to the children and their families, the day was graced with the presence of: Schenectady Mayor Gary McCarthy, representatives from the Schenectady Police Department, NYS Assembly members Angelo Santabarbara and Philip Steck, Cora Schroeter (U.S. Rep. Paul Tonko's office), Schenectady Superintendent of Schools Larry Spring, United Way of the Greater Capital Region representative Meredith Chimento, SICM President Shirley Readdean and Schenectady City Council members Marion Porterfield, Vince Riggi and President Margaret King. The Reverend Phillip Grigsby was the MC for the press conference. Among other anecdotes, he recalled when SICM started with one Summer Lunch site twenty



Rev. Phil Grigsby with Mayor Gary McCarthy

years ago in Central Park. Girl Scout Troop 1785 of Colonie provided face painting; and the Puppet People of Schenectady, also celebrating their 20th year, provided a puppet show! United Way of the Greater Capital Region donated special tote bags to all the children, and we had two bounce houses for the children to enjoy. Finally, no party is complete without cupcakes, secured from the Mont Pleasant Bakery.



The Puppet People helped with the celebration!

Overall, the season is operating successfully and will conclude at the end of August. This year we reorganized certain aspects of the program. First off, Reverend Phil moved his office to another space at our Wendell Avenue location, opening up a larger room for the program. The staffing is rearranged from past years: there's myself, the Director, along with an Assistant Director (Becky Rose) and an Intern Coordinator (Eileen Ploetz), who are dedicated Summer Lunch veterans. Together, along with Janet Mattis, we started the program off with a team meeting for Site Supervisors and Interns, which was successful in getting everyone acquainted and set up with a team approach from the start. The entire SICM staff has been a great support!

At the core of what we do is the need, which is great within our City: 50.8 % of children in Schenectady live in households at or below the poverty level. The fact that over 80% of the school children qualify for free or reduced price lunch is what qualifies us, at the federal and state levels, to operate the Summer Lunch Program as open sites. In short, these children are *hungry*. Superintendent Larry Spring, mentioned earlier and also honored at our SICM Celebrates Schenectady event, opted for the Community Eligibility Program so that all students attending Schenectady City Schools eat breakfast and lunch free of charge during the school year, without the stigma. As an organization operating the only summer feeding program in our area, we have not yet reached enough of the estimated 8,000 children who experience food insecurity, but we are soaring towards higher numbers.

This year, we have a total of 23 fixed sites, all operating for various spans throughout the nine-week duration; some in collaboration with other efforts to make our community stronger for our youth. Supplementing last year's pilot program, we added a second mobile unit. There was some trial and error involved, but by the end of the fourth week of the program, we served 4,148 meals between the thirteen stops of the two mobile routes. What this translates to, essentially, is that nearly 450 more children per day are being reached that otherwise would not be with just our 23 fixed sites. And these numbers are increasing daily. Over the course of the first four weeks, we served a total of 28,440 meals; this averages out to 1,497 meals per day. Our peak day



Joshua and Jerrmey enjoy their lunch at Steinmetz Park.

was **July 30, when we served 2,144 meals!** We donate what we cannot use to the Bethesda House of Schenectady.

As last year, the Campus Kitchens Project of Union College is providing meals for the Collins Park site in Scotia. We appreciate Union College Chaplain Viki Brooks and others who make this happen. The Collins Park site does not qualify as an open site, although a package of legislation proposed by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand would make it eligible.

The Summer Lunch Program involves many. We are deeply grateful to the volunteers from a plethora of places who take the time to help our community's children. We have volunteer teams from four parts of GE; dozens of congregations; government (Police Department, Fire Department, and Air National Guard) and also businesses such as the Griswold Funeral Home. It takes each one to allow our mission to feed hungry children to be achieved. I am grateful to be involved this year, and am excited for the rest of the season, and would like to thank everyone for their support. In honor of the volunteers, without whom the program would be entirely impossible, we are hosting an Ice Cream Social at Central Park on Sunday September 7th. Hope to see you then!



Summer Interns Lauren and Jessica Fecura engage kids in fun activities when lunch is over, as part of the new Summer Lunch Plus program.

The Summer Food Service program is supported by the NYS Department of Education with funding from the US Department of Agriculture. SICM received additional support this year from the United Way of the Greater Capital Region, the Upstate NY Conference of the United Methodist Church, the City of Schenectady, the Golub Foundation, the Unitarian Universalist Women's Alliance, congregations, and individuals. Thanks to all!



A Letter from the Food Program Director

Dear SICM supporters,

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Shennan Jarboe. I am the new Director at the SICM food pantry. Prior to Gail VanValkenburgh's retirement this May, I served as the deputy director at the Pantry. I bring with me almost ten years of work experience in the human service field as well as a Master of Social Work degree from the University at Albany with a concentration in non-profit management.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Pantry. It started in 1974 as a temporary service to address the rising need for food assistance in the community. This ever expanding program has evolved from an emergency food pantry to a supplemental food assistance program and served over 52,000 people this past year. The Pantry has provided a remarkable 8 million meals during the 40 years it has been in operation!

This level of service was made possible because of the outstanding leadership provided by the previous Pantry Directors, along with the work of our volunteers. I would like to take this time of transition in leadership as an opportunity to recognize all our volunteers who have shown tremendous dedication to the Pantry. Years of committed volunteer service ranges from one year up to 35 years! We have volunteers that share one day per month, one day per week, and even some who share several days per week. This community of volunteers astonished me from my first day at the Pantry when I was welcomed with open arms. The general sense of lightheartedness and humor amongst the staff, volunteers, and guests adds a much needed element of fun to each day at the Pantry.

I look forward to working with all staff, volunteers, and community partners to continue the service we provide at the Pantry and to build on the legacy left by my predecessors.

Thank you all for your continued support during this exciting time!

Shennan



Shennan Jarboe, new Food Program Director at SICM



More SICM News. . .



WELCOME NEW SICM OFFICERS

At the May Assembly, SICM delegates approved the slate for SICM officers for 2014-15. We welcome: Shirley Readdean, President; Rev. James McDonald, Vice President; Pat Obrecht, Secretary; and Randy McGough, Treasurer. Rev. James and Pat were re-elected to their positions; he is Rector at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, and Pat is an active member of Bellevue Reformed and retired SICM Food Program Director. Shirley is an active member of First United Methodist, and remains very involved locally with the YWCA and regionally with the Upstate NY Conference of the United Methodist Church. She tells us she has "timed out" of service on national UMC boards so now can be more involved locally! Randy is an active member of St. Kateri Tekakwitha and also very involved as a Commissioner with the Schenectady County Human Rights Commission and providing leadership for the End Poverty Schenectady Initiative.

Subsequent to the Assembly, the nominating committee heard back, and recommended Sr. Ann Christi Brink to join the Steering Committee as well. She is a Sister of St. Joseph and one of the team initiating the St. Joseph's Place ministry, which will begin at 837 Albany Street. She knows Schenectady from her prior experiences, which included as Principal of St. Luke's School. Welcome and thanks to all!

Over 3,000 Children's Books Donated to SICM this Summer!

SICM was fortunate to receive donations of children's books from several sources this summer. In June, the Penny Harvest Group of Veeder Elementary School in Colonie presented SICM with a donation for the Summer Lunch program AND a donation of over 1,000 books to be distributed through the Summer Lunch Program. The students raised money all year long and selected organizations representing their areas of interest. SICM was chosen for its Summer Lunch Program. First Reformed Church of Schenectady also donated many books for the program. Marshall & Sterling Insurance Group celebrated their 50th Anniversary by donating several hundred children's books, as well. The kids at Summer Lunch not only ate up their lunches, but ate up the books, too!



SICM Named "Charity of Choice" for CDPHP Workforce Team Challenge

On Thursday, May 16, over 9,000 people came out to participate in this annual walk/run, which benefitted four different charities this year, SICM being one of them. A team of SICM staff and volunteers made up the "SICM Striders" to walk/run the route, and another team served water to participants at a water station in Washington Park. CDPHP made a check presentation at Schenectady's Central Park (chosen for its Summer Lunch location) on August 19. SICM received a check for \$6,400. Many thanks to all who made this event a success!



SICM Striders: Shennan Jarboe, Cheryl Gerstler, Rev. Stacey Midge, Rachel Curtis, Jack Sweeney



Water stop volunteers Sharon Carter, Joanne Cogswell, Anna Mattis, Eileen Ploetz, Ryan Cogswell, Debbie Visco



Dr. John Bennett, President and CEO of CDPHP, presents a donation check to the "Charities of Choice, including SICM, represented here by Rev. Phil.



7th Annual Harvest for the Pantry*
Sunday, November 9, 4-7pm
First Reformed Church of Scotia

**Pick-a-prize items now being accepted!*



Rev. Phil Recognized with Community Hero Award for Leadership & Service

The Schenectady Foundation's Celebration of Community brought together more than 300 people on May 20th to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Schenectady's charitable sector and to honor the people who are its champions. Twelve extraordinary individuals representing 10 organizations received Community Hero Awards for Leadership & Service, including SICM's Executive Director, Rev. Phil Grigsby. The Foundation is awarding a grant of \$10,000 to each of the Community Heroes' organizations to strengthen their programs and help achieve their missions.

Nominated by Rev. Dr. James R. McDonald, Rev. Grigsby works both smart and hard, doing whatever is required to get the job done. He has been a voice for justice, for equality, for compassion whenever community needs and circumstances have called for such a voice.

Congratulations, Reverend Phil!



Rev. Phil & Rachel Curtis

Bright Ideas!



This is where we like to share examples of good ideas that our supporters have:

A group of friends who get together for a cookie exchange (at the holidays) bid on a gift basket (made and donated by the hostess) instead of exchanging gifts. The hostess matches the amount raised and then donates the proceeds to the Emergency Food Pantry.

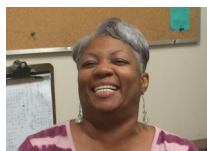
Last summer a gentleman renovated his house to include a home theatre. When he invites guests over to enjoy the theatre, he asks them to make a donation for the Summer Lunch Program.

In lieu of filling a stocking for a grown child or spouse, consider making a donation to SICM, then "surprising" the recipient with a letter of acknowledgement in the stocking.



SICM Staff Update

The Emergency Food Pantry has a few new faces. With the retirement of Gail VanValkenburgh, we are pleased to announce that Shennan Jarboe is the new Director of the Food Program. Shennan came to SICM almost two years ago and has served as Deputy Director during that time, all the while observing and learning from Gail. Another addition is Shelly Ford, the new Deputy Director at the Pantry, who only had



Shelly Ford

to move her things a few feet into her new office: she comes to SICM from Catholic Charities, where she was the NOEP Coordinator. Yet another new face at the Pantry is that of Oron Tucker. Oron is the van driver, transporting guests and their groceries back home after visiting the Pantry. He has been with us since April. The Pantry is in very capable hands!



Oron Tucker



Rachel Curtis

We welcome Rachel Curtis as the new Summer Lunch Director. Rachel is not new to SICM, however; she came to SICM several years ago as a Summer Intern with the Summer Lunch program, and has now taken over the reins after completing her Bachelor's degree at Union College and working in the Human Services field the past few years.

Welcome (and welcome back!) to all!

**Please
Note**

The Pantry is in need of empty bottles (ex. plastic 20 oz soda bottles, or other small bottles) or containers that we can use to make dish detergent go further. We use the bottles to "break down" detergent so we can provide it to more families. Please drop off donations at 839 Albany Street, or at the SICM Office, 1055 Wendell Avenue.

Thank you!



@SICM_NY



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Schenectady Inner City Ministry

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, Sept. 7 Summer Lunch Ice Cream Social
Wednesday, Sept. 10 SICM Assembly, Emmanuel Friedens
Special Guest Speaker on Vatican II: check our website
Saturday, Sept. 27 AIDS Walk, Washington Park
Sunday, November 9 7th Annual Harvest for the Pantry

For more information and updates, check www.sicm.us



The Last Word *by Shirley Readdean*

Elisha said “give it to the people so they can eat.” (II Kings 4:43); Jesus said “you give them something to eat” (Mark 6: 37).

SICM has said to the Schenectady community, “let us feed the children a summer lunch.” This year SICM celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Summer Lunch Program, and the 40th anniversary of the Summer Lunch Program. The community continues to respond with volunteers, donations, and other collaborative activities.

I want to thank the interns, volunteers, donors and grantors for coming together to provide lunches for many of Schenectady’s young people. It is amazing that over 75 teams from congregations, businesses, civic groups, government, and others come to help out with our children.

I have come to believe that this program provides more than just lunch. Watching the camaraderie among the kids and the volunteers, as they greet each other, it is easy to see that friendships are developing, that will in many cases be on-going. A number come every year and look forward to renewing friendships.

I also want to mention the new day camp at Steinmetz Park. This program is being carried out in cooperation with Camp Fowler, located in Speculator, New York. Many children will have spent their summer engaged in arts and crafts, field trips (including going to Camp Fowler), and other fun activities. For a number of years I was blessed to work in a similar camp and could see first hand how this work transforms young people. SICM Summer Lunch program feeds the body, and the spirit.

I look forward to a time when we will not have a need for “feeding programs.” Hunger should not be a program need in this community. Something needs to change!

Once again I thank all who have made these programs possible.

Shirley Readdean, SICM President

(Shirley was elected President at the most recent SICM Assembly. She is an active member of United Methodist congregations, and a lay leader at First United Methodist in Schenectady. She is President of the Albany District and has provided leadership on several national UMC boards. She is also very active with the Schenectady YWCA, and most recently was the recipient of the Kay Rozendaal Award.)