



502 Darr Avenue
Farrell, PA 16121

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2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



Serving our neighbors in need for 40 years

724-346-5777 • princeofpeacecenter.org

DONATE NOW

All of your monetary donations stay local and assist families in the Mercer County area who come to us in need. Thank you for thinking of us and supporting our mission! You may send a check through regular mail or use the link provided to donate online.

GIVE FOR THE FUTURE

Join our Circle of Friends! For \$10 a month (or as much as you choose), you will join other neighbors who care in helping keep families fed and sheltered in our community. Make sure you change your donation to "recurring" and designate it for the Circle!

GIVING THROUGH ESTATE PLANNING

If you haven't already provided for Prince of Peace Center in your estate plans, please put it on your "to do" list. Contact the Center Finance Office at (724) 346-5777 x140 for more information.



<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/popc>

Your donation will
help a family stay
**fed, safe,
and healthy.**

MEMORIAL BRICKS

Two lines with a maximum of 12 characters on each line
(including spaces).

Now you can help Prince of Peace Center to fulfill its mission while remembering loved ones or commemorating special occasions. For a donation of \$100, an engraved brick will be placed in the Memorial Grotto and Garden outside the Center. This peaceful garden provides a space for contemplation and quiet enjoyment of God's many gifts to us, and will continue to exist as a spiritual and calming place for years to come. All profits from donations designated for bricks are used to assist those in our community with emergency needs and concerns.



GIVE IN PERPETUITY

Through a donation to the Sister Benita Repasky Endowment Fund, you can ensure that our community will know your support for years to come. Donations to the endowment can be made at any time, including through end of life proceedings or through an estate.

<https://catholicfoundationnwp.salsalabs.org/cfsrbenitarepaskyendowmentdonationform/index.html>



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Family Supportive Services

In 2023, the Crisis Assistance program helped with \$16,920.00 of emergency payments toward rent, utilities, transportation, and health needs. Over 75% of our clients in crisis come to us to address imminent utility shutoffs. We also put our clients in touch with other agencies that can assist with needs outside of our programming, such as obtaining housing.



Volunteers

Without dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers, we would struggle to maintain our soup kitchen meals, our holiday events and programs, and our monthly food distribution. We also have them to thank for assisting with our fundraisers and lots of behind-the-scenes work in the thrift store. Last year, our 200 volunteers worked over 10,000 hours, and it's very clear that we would be lost without them!

success stories

Joshua A. is a 41-year-old homeless man from Erie. He came to a shelter in Mercer County, and was denied due to active drug use. A caseworker from the shelter brought Joshua to Prince of Peace Center, where he worked with Crisis Intervention Specialist Lisa McCoy. Together they reached out via phone to several recovery centers and other shelters. They finally found success with Oil Region Recovery, an agency in Franklin.

While he waited for a caseworker from that agency to arrive, Joshua received new clothing and personal hygiene items from our other Center programs. He let our crisis specialists know several times that he had never received this level of assistance before while trying to reach out for help.

He said, "I'm used to being told call here, call there, and that's it." Having someone make calls and connect him to resources he could not have reached before was new and very touching for him.

Serena B is a 23-year-old single mother to a one-year old son. She came to the Center for assistance when her son became ill due to lead poisoning, as a result of lead in the home. When she met with our crisis intervention team, Serena reported that the hospital and health department were conducting an investigation on her rental property. She felt she needed a new place to live as soon as possible.

However, her work hours were cut, and she missed work days taking her son back and forth to the hospital. As a result, she was also behind on utility payments in her current home; she was able to catch up on all payments except for the electric bill. Through our Crisis Assistance program, the Center paid the bill in full, and she was very grateful for the help. This payment allowed Serena to focus all of her efforts on finding safer, affordable housing for herself and her son.



AWESOME Program

The Assistance With Education, Shelter, Organization, Money management, and Employment (AWESOME) Program held 31 classes in 2023. Our most popular topic was a one-day class on Grief and Surviving the Holidays. We also held Mindful Youth classes in collaboration with the Buhl Club, Mercer Co. Behavioral Health, and the Buhl Regional Health Foundation. The AWESOME program distributed \$12,851.00 in stipend awards to our participants this year.

40th Anniversary Celebration

Prince of Peace Center celebrated 40 years of serving our neighbors in need! As part of our Mardi Gras-themed anniversary gala, we recognized five honorees who give generously not just to the Center, but to our shared community, whether through financial assistance or the priceless use of their time. We could not continue to serve without support from all aspects of Mercer County. On behalf of our clients, our staff, and our Board of Directors, we thank you all for 40 years with us, too.



Food Program

We distributed 11,402 bags of food last year. Families that sign up for regular monthly bags receive dry goods, canned goods, meat, and dairy, as well as fresh produce when available. As a distribution agency for Mercer County Food Bank, we strive to feed as many families as we can, both through monthly distribution and emergency food bags.



Soup Kitchen

In 2023, we served hot take-away meals on 92 days, averaging 189 dinners per service day. This is a 57% increase in meals served, and we anticipate even higher numbers in 2024. These community meals have no income requirement and no other restriction; anyone wishing to feed their family is welcome to come through our doors.



Mission Thrift Store

The items sold in our thrift store in 2023 raised over \$21,000.00! The money we raise from the sale of donated items helps fund our Family Supportive Services programs, particularly AWESOME. We served 1,028 paying customers and gifted over \$5,800.00 in clothing, household goods, and furniture at no cost to those who came to us in crisis.

FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Whew, what a year 2023 was! On behalf of the staff of the Center, the Board of Directors, and Catholic Charities Inc., thank you for your continued support. I am honored and humbled to have had a small role in celebrating the 40 years of Sister Benita's vision to assist those in need in the valley.

In February, one of our local senior housing high rises had a fire, and all of its residents had to evacuate. We assisted 20 of these displaced residents, temporarily housed in our local hotels, with clothing, hygiene products, and food. Some of the hotel rooms did not have microwaves, and in collaboration with other local agencies and churches, we were also able to provide hot meals to these

residents. The outpouring of care from our community, and the gratitude we received from the residents in return, reminds us of the importance of coming together to help our neighbors in need whenever we can.

We could not continue the mission and work at the Center without such a responsive community. The last several years have brought our neighbors new, unexpected challenges, and Prince of Peace Center has grown and changed to rise to meet them. Truly, the good work at the Center could never be accomplished without the kindness and the willing hands of our neighbors.

Thank you! Jennifer Wallace, CEO

