

March 2021 Update for Ricketts Center

Written By: Jocelyn Charles – Director

Current Staffing:

Hettie Webb – Front Desk

Joy Applebach – Program Coordinator

Indiya Jeffers – Program Coordinator **(New staff as of 4/26/2021)**

Paul Winterbottom – Fitness Center

Current Member Enrollment: 260

New memberships this month: 35 (all adult members for fitness center)

Virtual Learning Program Enrollment: 21

Current Operating Hours: M – Th 7 AM to 8 PM, F 7AM to 5 PM, Sat-Sun 11 AM-1PM (Fitness Center Only)

Programs occurring this month:

- Virtual “Plugged In” School Program
- Soccer for Success
- Karate
- Borough Dance Program
- Fitness Center
- TCN supported *Bread of Life* Shower and Laundry Program
- COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

Virtual “Plugged-In” Program

- Virtual program runs Monday through Friday from 7 AM to 5 PM
- Students attend program daily for class assistance, after school care and activities
- Daily attendance has decreased slightly towards the end of the month
 - Due in part to PSSA state testing taking place
- Little Italy’s Pizza provided pizza lunch every Friday for all students and staff

Soccer for Success

- Soccer program ran Monday through Thursday
- Occurs twice a day from 12 to 1 and 4 to 5
- Lower number of participants due to less students attending virtual program daily
- On average, 5 to 7 attended program daily

Karate

- Karate runs every Monday and Wednesday from 7PM to 8PM
- This month most participants were able to advance their belts through testing
- Program continues to be free to all who wish to take part
- Open to all ages

Borough Dance Program

- No issues with program this month
- Program concluded 4/21/21 for this school year

- No currently scheduled plans for programs to take place at the Ricketts Center but could potentially happen later in the year

Fitness Center

- The Fitness Center has seen steady participation throughout the month
- Daily attendance is between 10 and 15 people
- 35 new adult memberships this month
- Staff makes sure to limit the number of participants in the fitness center at one time
- Boot Camp attendance has grown, with an average of 30 or more participants each night
 - Bootcamp runs every Tuesday and Thursday from 7PM to 8PM
 - Taking place at Pottstown High School track and field
 - Program is open to anyone who wishes to take part

TCN Shower and Laundry Program

- Shower program runs every Tuesday and Thursday night from 6 to 8:30 PM
- Participation has varied and has begun to decrease this month
 - Mostly attributed to transportation
- Van that is usually used to transport participants continued to be out of working order
- An ask for donations for specific supplies turned out great results
 - 70 pounds worth of materials in 2 days

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

- COVID-19 first dose vaccine clinic was held at the Center 4/25/21
- Clinic ran from 9AM to 5PM and was a walk-in clinic
 - No appointments were needed or made for this clinic
- Had an initial rush of participants for the first 2 hours
- In total, 292 vaccines were given
- Second dose of vaccines are planned for May 16th, 2021 from 9 AM to 5 PM
- Talks of possibly hosting other days of walk-in clinics in the future

Future Program Planning

- Summer programming and hours are being developed and planned
 - Hours and programs will be determined by the staffing and available working hours as well as COVID-19 numbers and cases within the area
 - Programming will be different than what community has gotten use to in previous years
 - Will not model “summer camp” style
 - Daily schedule is intended to allow youth and older community members access to the building and activities
- Reopening the gym for basketball is a top priority and focus

Building Updates

- Raised beds were placed around back of the building for vegetable gardens as well as new trees planted in the open field next to the building
 - Continue to work with a master gardener to build up this program for youth in the area
- Continue to work with borough to correct the water infiltration issue on the gymnasium wall and floor
 - Discussions are being had about expected cost for work, current and potential grants, and when work will be able to begin

- Main hold up is around the need for an electrical box to be moved, which involves PECO and the potential for additional cost
- Also working with the borough to improve the current lighting around the outside of the building as well as on the blacktop basketball court

Food Donations

The chart below shows the food donations and contributions from outside sources. Food is provided to family's suffering from food insecurities as well as the youth who participate in our current virtual school programming.

2021 FOOD DONATIONS						
Month	Archdiocese	Little Italy Pizza	Potts. Cluster	Wawa	Kiwanis Club	Misc.
January	482.7	218.2	4513.6	107.6	66.6	102.2
February	396.1	189.1	3932.5	191.6	26.2	
March	550	331.7	4290	164.6	79.9	
April	312.4	234.7	2238.9	123	107.4	
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total Weight	1,741.2	973.7	14,975	586.8	280.1	102.2