

November 2021 Update for Ricketts Center

Written By: Jocelyn Charles – Director

Current Staffing:

Hettie Webb – Front Desk

Joy Applebach – Program Coordinator

Paul Winterbottom – Fitness Center

Current Member Enrollment: 422

New memberships this month: 23

Current Operating Hours: M – F 10 AM to 8 PM, Sat – Sun 11 AM – 1 PM (Fitness Center Only)

Programs that occurred this month:

- After-School Programming
- Soccer for Success
- Karate
- Fitness Center
 - o Current upgrades
- *Bread of Life* Shower and Laundry Program
- Red Royal Diamonds Dance Team
- Voting Day Services
- Community Thanksgiving Dinner

After-School Programming

- After school program began this month
- Program runs from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm
- Youth participation has grown over the month
 - o On average, between 14 and 20 students are seen daily
- Programs include homework help, soccer, game room activities, recreational gym use, and snack
- Currently looking into other programs and resources to bring more youth in

Soccer for Success

- There continues to be a limit (25) of youth who can participate in the program due to COVID restrictions and the program taking place indoors
- Participation has grown slightly but still has not reached the set limit of 25
- Program continues to be curriculum based but has its struggles
 - o Participants are slightly less engaged with curriculum based skills training
 - o Become more engaged and interested when they get to have game play

Karate

- Karate runs every Monday and Wednesday from 7PM to 8PM
- Program continues to be free to all who wish to take part
- Open to all ages
- Participation continues to grow with more youth joining
- Current participation stands between 8 and 15 each night

Fitness Center

- The Fitness Center has seen steady participation throughout the month
- Daily attendance averages between 10 to 15 participants a day
- Outdoor Boot Camp has been temporarily placed on hold due to weather conditions
 - Instead, fitness center and gymnasium are open to those who wish to participate from 7pm-8pm
 - Number of participants are kept low to coincide with current company COVID protocols
- Upgrades to facility equipment began over this month
 - Through grant funding, older pieces of equipment are beginning to be replaced
 - New floor mats as well as safer, more functional equipment has been purchased
 - Process is being done slowly in an effort to ensure older equipment is removed before new equipment is brought in
 - There is a concern of too much undo stress being placed on facility floor if all is brought in at once
- Current upgrades to fitness center are intended to offer more options and to expand community usage
- Fitness Center Coordinator (Paul Winterbottom) has begun working with Community Health and Dental as well to assist younger clients in health and wellness goals
 - Upgrades to equipment will help facilitate these efforts

Bread of Life Shower and Laundry Program

- Shower program runs every Tuesday and Thursday night from 6 to 8:30 PM
- Participation continues to increase
 - See on average between 3 and 6 people per night
- Laundry services were able to begin again this month after resolving issues with the washing machine
 - Laundry continues to only be one wash and one dry per night

Red Royal Diamond Dance Team

- Program runs Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:00
- Learned this month that the RRD dance team won first place in the Halloween day parade

Voting Day

- The Ricketts Center served as a polling station on November 2nd
- Once again hosted 3 districts for polling – districts 6, 7.1, and 7.2
- Entire day was able to go by smoothly with no issues
- Unclear at this point if all 3 districts will be voting at the Ricketts Center permanently
 - District 7.1 is the original district for the Ricketts Center
 - Districts 6 and 7.2 were temporarily placed at the Ricketts Center during the pandemic as their respective places closed
 - At this time, there is no word that either former location will be allowing voting to resume at their facilities

Community Thanksgiving Dinner

- The Ricketts Center handed out plated Thanksgiving dinners on Monday, November 22nd, from 5 pm to 7:30 pm
- Each meal came with a meat (choice of turkey or ham), 4 sides, a dinner roll, a small desert, and a bottle of water

- Food was cooked and provided by Ricketts Center staff, Pottstown Hospital, and Joule 4 Jesus Ministries
- All meals were pre-plated, bagged, and placed on tables for community members to take
- Joule 4 Jesus Ministries also had tables set up with giveaways of different toiletries and children’s pampers
- In total, roughly 175 meals were served

Food Donations

The chart below shows the food donations and contributions from outside sources. Each month shows the total weight of food donated. 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	330	200.4	2839.4	128.6	74.6	
June	502.4	50.6	3519.2	163.6	33.7	
July	1,003.9		3607	158.1	50.6	
August	672.3	34.5	4159	166.9	23.3	
September	641		3898.8	147	23.4	
October	563.4		1928.7	110.4		
November	530.2		1536	90.9		
December						
Total Weight	5,984.4 lbs.	1,259.2 lbs.	36,463.1 lbs.	1,552.3 lbs.	485.7 lbs.	102.2 lbs.