

## February 2022 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: 483

New memberships this month: 23

Current Operating Hours: M – F 10 AM to 8 PM, Sat – Sun 11 AM – 2 PM (Fitness Center Only)

Programs that occurred this month:

- After-School Programming
- Soccer for Success
- Karate
- Fitness Center
- *Bread of Life* Shower and Laundry Program
- Red Royal Diamonds Dance Team
- Black History Month
- Program Goals

### **After-School Programming**

- Program runs from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm
- Youth daily attendance continues an upward trend
  - More of our middle school youth are attending on a regular basis
- With the higher attendance and older age groups, we are beginning to see more issues with poor language use and poor coping skills
  - Many of our older youth have had more issues with attempted fights and negative outburst
  - Staff at Ricketts have done a great job with controlling any potential issues and addressing negative behaviors as they occur

### **Soccer for Success**

- We have continued non-curriculum-based soccer play as we attempt to look for additional staffing and volunteers
- Continuing to evaluate the best way to provide fun soccer play while keeping to certain COVID precautions

### **Karate**

- Karate program is brought to us by The Philadelphia School of Korean Karate
- Karate runs every Monday and Wednesday from 7PM to 8PM
- Program continues to be free to all who wish to take part
- Must be at least 7 years old to join
- Program is open to the entire family, parents and grandparents included
- Program instruction has grown to include a Master black belt

- Once a week the usual program instructor is accompanied by a Master black belt to help with the more advanced students

### **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 continues to be on hold do to current COVID 19 numbers
- Upgrades to facility equipment continue throughout the month
- Partnership with Community Health & Dental continues to grow
  - An open house/joint health event has been planned for March 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Intended to display the partnership between both organizations and to introduce clients in Community Health & Dental's health program to the Ricketts Center and our Health and Wellness programming

### **Bread of Life Shower and Laundry Program**

- Shower program runs every Tuesday and Thursday night from 6 to 8:30 PM
- Sign-ups for the program seem to be steady but participation continues to be slow
- Those wishing to use the laundry services has increase
  - Where we would see maybe one person a week or every 2 weeks signing up, now there is someone scheduled each program night

### **Red Royal Diamond Dance Team**

- Program runs Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:00
- New enrollment began February 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Everyone was made to re-enroll to the program
  - It was a first come, first serve basis
  - 35 total spots were open

### **Black History Month Programming**

- In honor of black history month, the Ricketts Center was decorated with dozens of photos and information on influential African Americans throughout history
- An event was held on the last day of the month, February 28<sup>th</sup>, by Hearts of Humanity Community Development
  - Focused mostly on those in African American history that contributed to agriculture
  - Event was open to the entire community

### **Program Goals**

- A men's basketball league as well as a summer youth league were planned this month along with community members
- Looking to bring 2 great programs back to the Center with a positive atmosphere and structure
- Continue to interview for open position within the Ricketts Center staff (Lead Program Coordinator)
  - Once this position is filled, more activities can be discussed as well as the possibility of additional program hours

### 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 after school and evening programming.

<b>2021 FOOD DONATIONS</b>				
<b>Month</b>	<b>Archdiocese</b>	<b>Pottstown Cluster</b>	<b>Wawa</b>	<b>Misc.</b>
January	610.1	1,770	128.3	
February	757.5	1536	51.7	
March				
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
Total Weight	1367.6 lb.	3,306 lbs.	180 lbs.	lbs.