

March 2022 Update for Ricketts Center

Written By: Jocelyn Charles – Director

Current Staffing:

Jocelyn Charles - Director

Hettie Webb – Front Desk

Joy Applebach – Program Coordinator

Paul Winterbottom – Fitness Center

Current Member Enrollment: 521

New memberships this month: 38

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
- Adult Programming
- Soccer for Success
- Karate
- Fitness Center
- *Bread of Life* Shower and Laundry Program
- Red Royal Diamonds Dance Team
- Basketball
- Program Goals/Outlook
- Building Updates

After-School Programming

- Program runs from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm
- Youth daily attendance continues to rise as the year progresses and the weather begins to break
- We continue to see more middle school age youth coming in
- Notice a pattern of youth coming in
 - Those with known poor behavior problems and attitudes are choosing to not sign up and stay on the outside playground
 - Those youth that do sign up for programming tend to run back and forth from outside to inside relaying messages and coaxing others outside
- Staff have been monitoring for negative behaviors and actions both inside and outside the building
 - Goal is to prevent the potential for any negative actions on the grounds as a whole

Adult Programming

- There has been an increase in adult community members taking part in daytime building usage
- Young adults have been coming in to use the gymnasium during the 11-2 adult hours
- We have also seen a consistent group of adults who come on Tuesday and Thursday nights to play ping pong
- An adult basketball league has also begun at the end of this month
- League consists of 3 games a week (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday) from 6-8 PM
 - Each night only has 2 teams allowed in the gym

- There are no spectators or extra individuals permitted in the gym at this time

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
- Youth seem to not show interest in the curriculum-based soccer
 - Current group of youth tend to opt out of participating when curriculum is introduced

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
 - New treadmills and ellipticals were delivered this month
- The planned March 12th event with Community Health & Dental was postponed due to poor weather
 - A new date has not been determined as of 3/30/22

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 have decreased over the month of March
- There have been little to no participants over the month
 - Program organizer and I are not sure what has contributed to the decrease

Red Royal Diamond Dance Team

- Program runs Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:00
- All positions filled up quickly after opening
- Team continues to perform at Pottstown School District events and other local events
- Fundraising efforts continued throughout the month to help pay for team equipment and uniforms

Basketball

- Basketball programming was brought back to the Ricketts Center towards the end of the month
- A local community member has organized and instituted an indoor adult basketball league
- Games occur every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 6 to 8 pm
- Only 1 game a night with 2 teams in attendance

- No spectators where/are allowed in the games as we continue to follow COVID protocols and due to limited space within the gymnasium
- Current adult league is a test run and lead up to an outdoor summer youth league

Program Goals/Outlook

- Moving forward, we will be looking to add more adult programs and building usage during the daytime hours
- Looking to add such things as yoga and Zumba classes as well as different educational classes for adults in the community
- Also looking to expand and further develop out after school programming to include more activities and to curb negative behaviors of youth
- A new staff member was hired under the title of Lead Program Coordinator at the end of this month
 - They are slated to start the first week of April

Building Updates

- Through works with Pottstown Parks & Recreation, the outside basketball court upgrades began this month
- During this month, contracts were signed to begin working on new fencing for the outside court, repairs to the surface of the blacktop, new bleachers secured, and new lights purchased
- All work is to begin once weather conditions permit

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.

2021 FOOD DONATIONS				
Month	Archdiocese	Pottstown Cluster	Wawa	Misc.
January	610.1	1,770	128.3	
February	757.5	1536	51.7	
March	803.1	2382	76.5	
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
Total Weight	2170.7 lb.	5688 lbs.	256.5 lbs.	lbs.