

April 2022 Update for Ricketts Center

Written By: Jocelyn Charles – Director

Current Staffing:

Jocelyn Charles - Director

Hettie Webb – Front Desk

Haley Speltzer – Lead Program Coordinator

Joy Applebach – Program Coordinator

Paul Winterbottom – Fitness Center Program Coordinator

Current Member Enrollment: 575

New memberships this month: 54

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/Changes
- Building Updates

After-School Programming

- Program runs from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm
- Youth daily attendance has jumped significantly during the month of April
 - Last month saw an average of 25 to 30 youth a day – April saw an average of 45 to 50 youth a day
- Started to see more middle school and a few high school youths attend regularly
- Unfortunately, we continue to see a pattern of poor behaviors entering the building from a few new and older youth
 - Each action and behavior were directly and instantly addressed
 - A few youths had to be dismissed from the building for a day due to actions but seemed to be more mindful of expectations upon their return
- An increasing concern has been the actions and behaviors of youth outside of the building on any Ricketts property
 - Issues of monopolizing space and bullying on the outside basketball court
 - Unit director had to go out to address such behaviors several times over the month
 - Sometimes, response from youth was accepting but others, it was met with closed ears and snide remarks
 - Most youth feel they do not need to listen as they are outside on the “public” court
 - Numerous issues of youth hanging out front of the building entrance area after dismissal times, using inappropriate language and physical “play”

- Currently working on how to solve the outside concerns as staff authority is often called into question
- Exploring options of community member assistance

Adult Programming

- An increase in adult participation continues
- Young adults come in to use the gymnasium during the 11-2 adult hours
- Continue to have a consistent group of adults who come on Tuesday and Thursday nights to play ping pong

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 continues 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 growth in participation throughout the month
- More adults have signed up to receive assistance from Paul
- Outdoor Boot Camp began at the end of the month on Tuesday, April 26th
 - Boot Camp is being held at the Pottstown High School track
- A partnered Community Health & Dental event was rescheduled for Saturday, April 23rd, from 1-3 pm
 - Event was intended to connect clients of Community Health & Dental with Ricketts Wellness department and fitness center
 - Unfortunately, no priorly confirmed participants showed up for the event

Bread of Life Shower and Laundry Program

- Shower program runs every Tuesday and Thursday night from 6 to 8:30 PM
- There have been little to no participants over the month
 - Program organizer and I are not sure what has contributed to the decrease
- Decision was made to move showers and laundry to the morning starting May 2nd
 - This move was made for a couple of reasons
 - There seemed to be a need for access in the morning time
 - An increase in need for evening activity times conflicted with the need to close 2 nights a week for showers
 - There is more flexibility and ability to add more days of service in the morning

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 proceeding throughout the month of April
- Games were changed from 3 days a week to only 2
 - Games occur every Tuesday and Thursday 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
- Planning process began this month for a youth basketball league to take place this summer outside

Program Goals/Outlook/Changes

- Continue to look towards adding 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

Building Updates

- Outside basketball court updates are to begin in the month of May
- Work to be done includes new fencing, blacktop repairs, new bleacher installation, and new lighting
- All work will be done as weather permits throughout the month

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	702.3	1644	61.9	
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
Total Weight	2873 lb.	7332 lbs.	318.4 lbs.	lbs.