

PCC Celebrates Fifty Years of Service in 2017



PCC on Jamison Avenue in Southeast Roanoke

In the "History of the Presbyterian Community Center 1967-1998," Collier S. Harvey dedicated his story "to the staff and volunteers who have given beyond the call of duty to provide food for thousands, home repairs for hundreds, a helping hand for a host of people, tutoring for children and adults, and camps or pool passes for lots of youngsters growing up in Southeast Roanoke. These are the tangible ministries. Who can measure the results of a loving smile, a listening ear, a warm hug, or just being there for residents of the area?"

As we celebrate the 50th year of the PCC in 2017, time has not changed the heart of this special ministry. Bolstered by your support, our staff and volunteers continue to provide food and financial aid to thousands each year. Although we no

longer make home repairs, we do cast a substantial safety net to keep families safely in their homes. Since 1997, Pathways for Youth has been the face of the original PCC commitment to Southeast. Our message to Pathways students and families remains consistent: education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty. Over the last 20 years, one of our most notable achievements in Pathways is the growth of the high school group and its 100% graduation rate since 2008. This is directly attributable to the academic tutoring, and the continuing loving smiles, listening ears, warm hugs and other enriching activities of staff and volunteers in this dynamic after-school program.

During this special year for the PCC, I invite you to stop in for a visit and take a tour of our building. Even better, consider volunteering with us for one hour each week and discover what a difference you can make in the lives of so many.

Karen McNally, Executive Director

Pathways Graduate Francis Luc Pursues Dream

Francis Luc's journey from southeast Roanoke to college through the Presbyterian Community Center's Pathways for Youth program reflects his determination, dreams for the future and plans for a successful career. Francis enrolled in Pathways in 2010 as a 7th grader at Jackson Middle School. His mom is from the Philippines and has raised Francis and his younger brother on her own as she works full-time.

Francis was an excellent student and knew he wanted to go to college. While in Pathways, he spent many hours doing community volunteer service, tutoring younger students and enjoying a trip to New York City after his junior year. Pathways staff

helped prepare Francis for SAT's and the college application process. They guided his mom through the financial aid applications.

He decided to attend Virginia Western Community College in the Culinary Arts Program to pursue an interest in cooking. We are happy to report that he is excelling in his classes and is proactive about increasing his experience in the culinary field. He recently accepted an internship at a local restaurant. He visits the PCC weekly for tutoring and advice about classes. Occasionally he uses the PCC kitchen to practice meal preparation and recipes. Staff and students love those visits as he prepares enough for all to sample!

Congratulations on your accomplishments, Francis. We look forward to working with you as you continue your journey.



Francis at work in PCC kitchen



Special delivery of breakfast foods to PCC pantry from Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church

Paying It Forward

A 56-year-old client has lived in an efficiency inn for 10 years. During that time he worked steadily in a job he enjoyed. His car quit running. Unable to afford repairs, he could not get to work on time and lost his job. He fell behind in paying rent and received an eviction notice. With no income or food, he came to PCC for help. We were able to help him catch up on his rent and supply him with groceries. Since that time, with a small inheritance from his parents, he has repaired the car and is working in another job. Now, he has begun to "pay it forward," bringing food donations to the PCC pantry each month to help others.

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If we have inadvertently omitted your contribution, please contact Karen McNally at 982-2911.*

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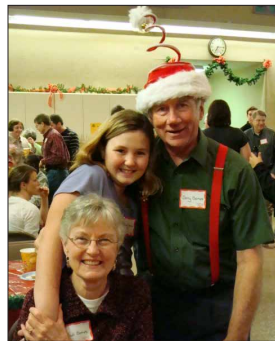
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Happy Anniversary!

Longtime PCC volunteers Judi and Jerry Barnes celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 2. The following persons made donations in honor of this happy occasion.

Tom & Mary MacMichael
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Brian and Katherine Slack
Allan & Teresa Wulff



Judi and Jerry Barnes with
Pathways student in 2011.

Kroger Community Rewards Help PCC

Kroger's Community Rewards Program allows you to register your Kroger Plus card to benefit the PCC each time you shop. Enrolling is simple, just pull out your Kroger Plus card that we all carry on our key rings or in our wallets and go online to krogercommunityrewards.com. Click Register, answer a few questions and under the "Community Rewards" section, then enter this number to have your purchases support the PCC: 82294. Once you have registered, Kroger will donate 5% of your purchase to the PCC.

The Kroger Community Rewards Program has been a great source of support for the Presbyterian Community Center programs. We would appreciate your enrollment on behalf of the PCC!

Cheryl Poe, Director of Volunteer Services