

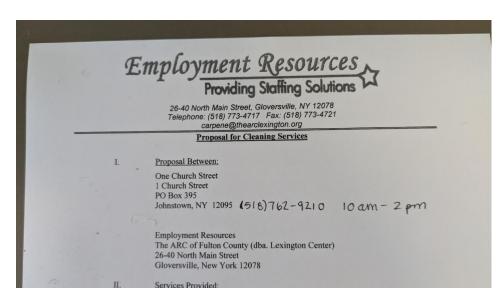
Our mission is to be a vital resource by nourishing our community in body, mind and spirit.

A Busy First Month @ OCS

Scroll down for the month's recap.

Don't forget to share this email with your friends!

August 28, 2024 – And it is official – we will partner with a Lexington work team as they become our official cleaning crew at One Church Street! We are so pleased that our desire to become a center for resources in the community allows us to work with and promote the good work that Lexington provides. Can't wait to meet the team!!!



August 28, 2024 – The pics below are images from yesterday – Food Pantry delivery day. I nearly swoon when I see so many fresh veggies come out of the van,

thanks to Kristina and her mom, who went to the <u>Regional</u> <u>Food Bank of Northeastern New York</u> yesterday. But it is hard work loading, unloading and putting all this on shelves.

By the end of today, shelves will be empty again but our guests will have nutritious foods to share with their families. Approximately one ton of food per week arrives, is unloaded by volunteers, and heads home with our guests.

And have you ever heard of Super Milk? That container needs a cape!!!



August 24, 2024 – We're here at <u>Harmony of Art 2</u> and giving away free tomatoes and peaches!! One Church Street – nourishing our neighbor!!

Today was a GREAT day. Tiring, but I met so many new friends. When you are willing to give away free gifts, to engage, to teach, you cannot imagine how many people are delighted by a free peach or a cup of tiny tomatoes. And then, one man went to a local orchard and came back with a bag of apples for us to give away because he was so impressed with our desire to share with others. And yes – we gave it ALL away. Special thanks to Barbara and Dan Cameron. They have been the best helpers two years in a row and they were such a blessing to me today.







SOOOOO...Does anyone remember the organic banana smiles from last year? Well this year we had beautiful yellow watermelon and guess who posed with his slice of yellow watermelon? (Hint: it's Sawyer Fredericks!)







These ladies came all the way from Manhattan and were so thrilled to get delicious, fresh veggies and fruit.





Donna and Harold adopting one of my 'kids'.

August 22, 2024 - What an extraordinary night of gathering friends, families, volunteers, supporters and folks who are just learning about OCS!! We are grateful to Union Hall Inn Restaurant, Caroga Arts Collective, Marissa Mae's Confections LLC, and our sponsors John and Sunday Blackmon. It felt like a family reunion in the

best way!



Nancy and Andrea checking people in.



Our CAC musicians, Stephanie Price-Wong and Debbie Price.





Our sponsors John and Sunday.





Nancy Brown speaks passionately about our project.





What does it take to bring together an event like last night's Nourish to Flourish? Vision, commitment, creativity and hard work. Some scenes of the work that went into Nourish to Flourish...

August 13, 2024 – We were also privileged to give a tour to some special NBT visitors today. Our Treasurer, Billy Easterly (Asst VP and Branch Manager here in Johnstown) and Alicia Brockway (VP and Business Banking Regional Manager) came through the building on their way to a meeting, and I was able to show them the whole building. Alicia was impressed by our hard work, fundraising and by the beauty of our renovated facility. We were impressed that they came to see us! Don't they both have great smiles? I guess that's just how people feel when they walk through this building and realize how hard we are working to nourish our neighbors. Thanks, NBT!!



July 24, 2024 – How much Good News? Hmmmm....how much time do you have? All Good News! So grateful for our community.



Theresa delivering veggies she purchases from a local Amish family to support their farm. She donates them to our guests.



Lexington employees April, Emily and Sherry came to speak with us about a cleaning crew AND about volunteering for the Pantry. Partnering with Lexington Center has been a core goal of our OCS project. Today that goal became a reality!



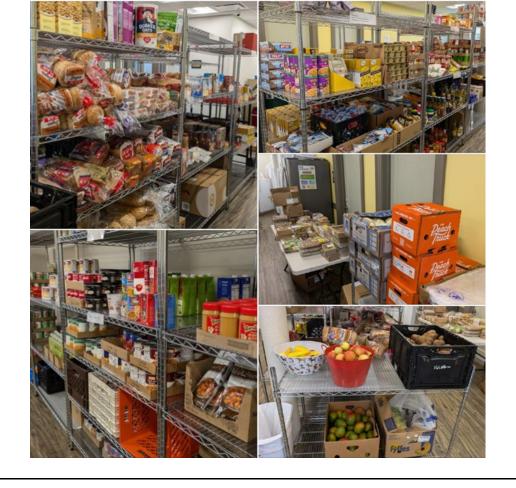
Rick rolls in some of the MANY cartons of food and veggies that will be given away tomorrow. A team of 8 volunteers helped unpack and stock shelves for our neighbors. Brilliant idea to purchase those dollies, Rick!

August 10, 2024 – Welcome, Maddie! Maddie is a senior at Siena (check out the shirt!), and she is volunteering at our pantry on Saturdays when she is able. Today she was the fridge and freezer person; she bagged up the meats, dairy and other cold items that were chosen from our list.

Thanks for caring about your neighbors, Maddie! And yes, you are a 'saint' in our book!



August 8, 2024 – This is what our Pantry looks like before we give away tons of food – literally! The day of the ribbon cutting we had depleted our stock in order to make the move easier and we had also just given away most of the food at the Pantry. But you can see now how beautiful and full the shelves are to welcome our guests. By next Monday? Empty again and requiring many volunteer hours to bring food back into the Pantry, to restock the shelves, the freezers and the refrigerators.



August 5, 2024 – Today was a full day – or was it a day-full...a day FULL of gratitude and celebration with our community for our grand Ribbon Cutting of OCS, to Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce, to the Brown family, especially Dee and Dick Brown, to our Steering Committee, Sunday and John Blackmon, representatives from our elected officials (Assemblyman Smullen, Senator Walczyk, Congresswoman Stefanik), and to our Johnstown Mayor, Amy Praught – forgive me if I have missed you or your name! We are FULL of gratitude and excitement because of your generosity and support. Look for more good news ahead! (There's always more good news, right?)



The Ribbon Cutting ceremony.



The certificate from the City of Johnstown that literally made me

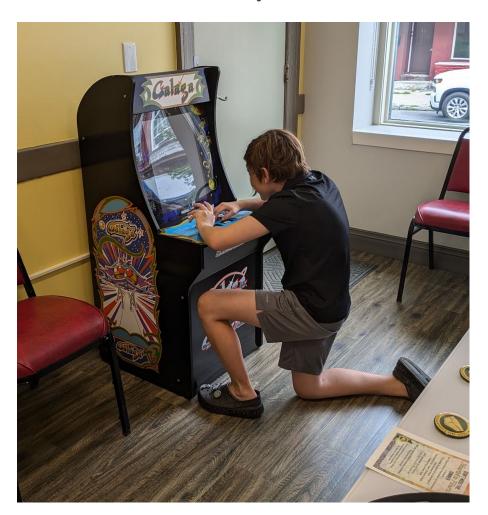
tear up. It meant so much to be supported by our community – thanks to Mayor Praught and the City Council for being present today to help launch us!



Dee and Dick Brown standing in the Food Pantry in front of the sign commemorating their generosity as sponsors for the Pantry space.



Our beautiful healthy spread of snacks to share with our guests today.



See! Someone likes the video game! Go Declan!

August 5, 2024 – Today is beginning with beauty. Doris installs the quilt she made for me, a quilt that mirrors the bigger quilt that's in the Sunday School area. Doesn't this brighten my office space and radiate light and joy? Thanks Doris!



August 3, 2024 – Vinnie gets it. He understands that not everyone who comes to the Pantry is an adult. He understands that families come in together to get the food they need. But does it have to be a chore? Well, today Vinnie from Toying Around called me and said he had a 'heavy gift' for OCS. Gold bars? Bags of coins? Nope. A child-sized arcade game for the little ones who end up waiting while mom or dad or grandma get the food they need. Vinnie also pointed out that it is reminiscent of the old Y that had a pool table and other games for kids to play. Thanks for really thinking about our neighbors,

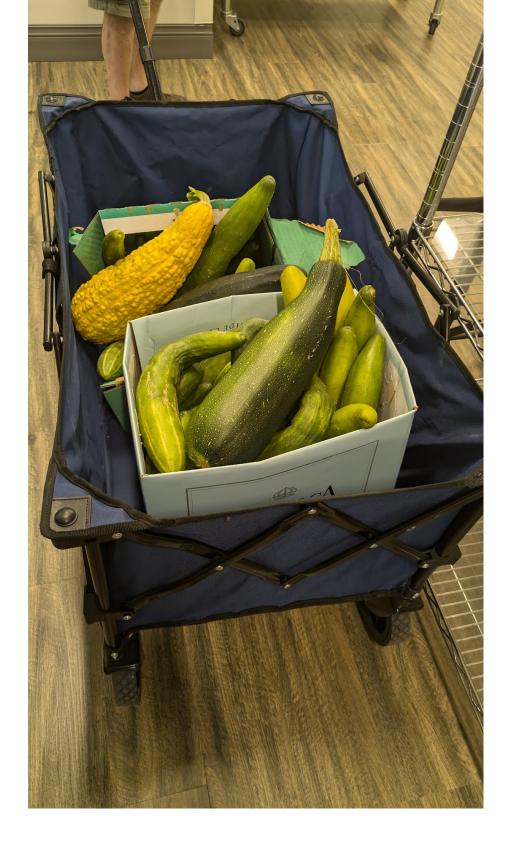
Vinnie, and thanks for being such a Superhero to us.





August 3, 2024 – A VERY busy day at the Pantry – even after it closed! Tom B. is installing some plaques and our 'donor gratitude' TV for the reception area. Two lovely ladies dropped off boxes of cukes and squash, and someone else came in with cantaloupes (we gave away most of them during Pantry time). Also – if you want the recipe for Zucchini Pancakes – let me know! They are yumadelic!







August 2, 2024 – We are ringing again!! The phone for OCS is now connected and ready for YOUR call. Reminder – the phone number to contact OCS is the same as the main office of St. John's church: (518) 762-9210. Office is staffed Mon-Thurs 10 am-2 pm and Fridays 10 am-1 pm, so you can leave a message for us outside those hours.



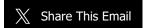
August 1, 2024 – Thanks to reporter, Tyler McNeil, for following up with us about opening OCS this past week. We are so grateful for all the opportunities to share this good news with our community. Remember – this building was purchased as a gift to all of you! (FYI – Miss Bobbi Jo made the shirt for me a few years ago – the reporter loved it!)



Long-awaited One Church Street opens in Johnstown

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