

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

We did it! OCS is open!



We have been waiting for this day a long time, for years actually. We have officially moved into One Church Street. The list of thanks yous will continue to roll out. For today, thanks to our Steering Committee - Andrea Fettinger, Tom Bell, Nancy Brown, Mike Parry, Ann Rhodes, Alistair Morrison. They are the people who helped YOU raise \$2.4 million so far, and they are the people who will not give up until the project is completed (phase 2 ahead!!) So grateful!

Scroll down for the month's recap and details about our

upcoming Nourish to Flourish Dinner hosted by John and Sunday Blackmon.

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

July 27, 2024 – FIRST DAY!! Thanks to our dedicated Pantry volunteers. And thanks to the gentleman who brought all those fresh cucumbers to give away. (Favorite cucumber recipe?)



July 26, 2024 - Not a fan of the term but I'm going to do a photo dump because there is just so much to see. MOVING DAY!!







July 25, 2024 – I'm just going to post some amazing pictures of our move today with thanks to all of our stalwart Food Pantry volunteers who worked so hard today to get the Pantry from 26 North Market Street to One Church Street. Let us know how we did. Zoom in on our artist renderings and then check out the space we created. We think it looks pretty great! Thanks to our contractor VMJR and CT Male, architects.









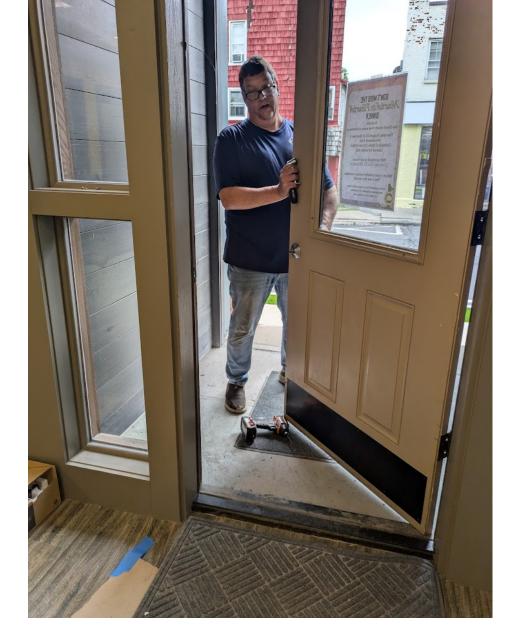




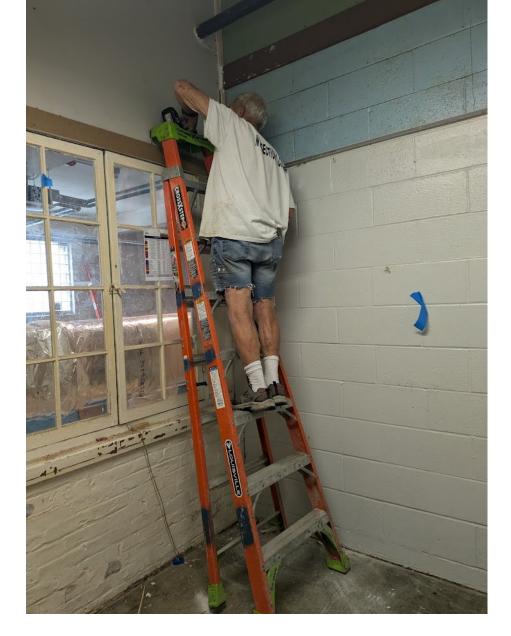
July 24, 2024 – Pantry volunteers, locksmiths (Stewart and Bergen), security system folks (Brewer), carpenters (Yankee Hill Painting & Repairs)—it's all happening at OCS! We have some additional work that needs to be completed in the back storage room and Food Pantry Office area before the moving folks arrive on Friday. Yep, looks like the next time the Pantry opens their door on Saturday morning, it will be officially at One Church Street!!



Mary and Pat helping to get things ready for Saturday. That donated fridge needed some elbow grease and TLC which they were glad to provide. Thanks FP staff and volunteers!



The building would not be complete without the expertise of Alex who walked us through exactly the right solutions to our security/lock issues. He helped us make exactly the right decisions. Thanks, Alex!



Ok, not a good picture of Richie, but his work ethic is well-reflected! This is the office for the Food Pantry being completed.

July 23, 2024 – Another day of working and moving and finishing the details today at OCS. So grateful to Clark and Jonathan (VMJR), Ruby & Quiri for the fab appliances, Mike Lawlor getting our phones ready...so many people doing so much for our community.







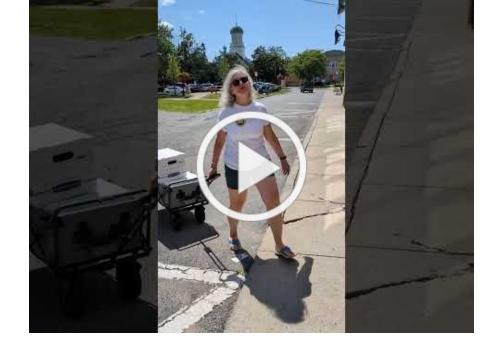
July 22, 2024 – Yesterday was a busy day–served our meal at NOAH, took folks through the building (elevator ride, anyone??) and moved a piano! Thanks to everyone who is part of this great adventure. This week should be moving week! We'll keep you posted!







July 19, 2024 – We have been waiting for this day a long time, for years actually. And today we learned that we can officially move into One Church Street.



July 15, 2024 – The history of our city comes together at One Church Street, and we welcome successive generations of people who spent time in this building when it was still the YMCA. People like Alex Stewart. Alex, from Stewart and Bergen locksmiths, is helping us establish better building security with the right keys and locks. While talking to him, he told us about his father, Archie Stewart, who was a scuba diving instructor in this very building! In fact, Archie was one of the top five scuba YMCA instructors in the country at one point. So Stewart and Bergen used to be a locksmith and scuba shop!! Wetsuits and keypads, scuba tank fill ups and flippers. Who knew?

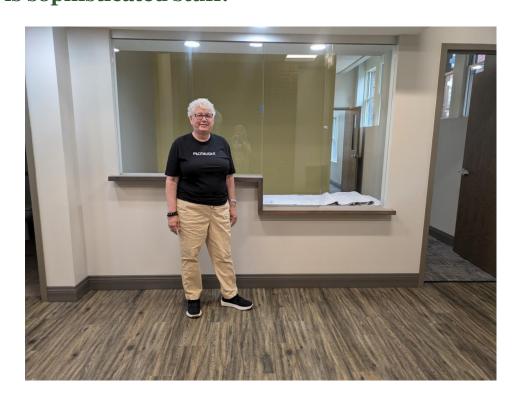
Make sure to share your stories with us so we can hold on to them and make sure that others hear them. Today I loved hearing about Archie Stewart and his history with One Church Street, and we are grateful to work with his son.



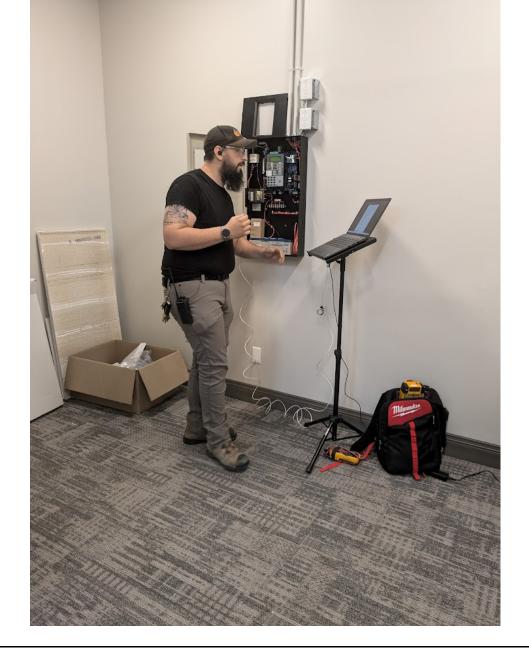


July 11, 2024 – A late night post as I think back over the

day...met with Lisa who has some GREAT ideas for collaborative work with OCS as well as an art project in the wings. (Learn more about her project at https://pilotlightchefs.org/.../teacher-appreciation.../) Chatted with 'Brother Rocky', my favorite elevator builder/technician who assured us we were ready to 'launch' our elevator, and learned more about the fire safety system that will need to be inspected next week. This is sophisticated stuff!







July 9, 2024 – Every day is one step closer to Opening Day! Today was clean up day. Jose and Benny took care of all the construction dust that has been generated and our windows have never looked so clear and sparkly! Thanks to them. Outside and in the back, 'Jonathan-squared '(both men are named Jonathan) are taking a look at our AC unit which is malfunctioning, but it will be ready to cool us down by Day 1! So grateful for the team of people who are working to get us up and running. We'll keep you posted!

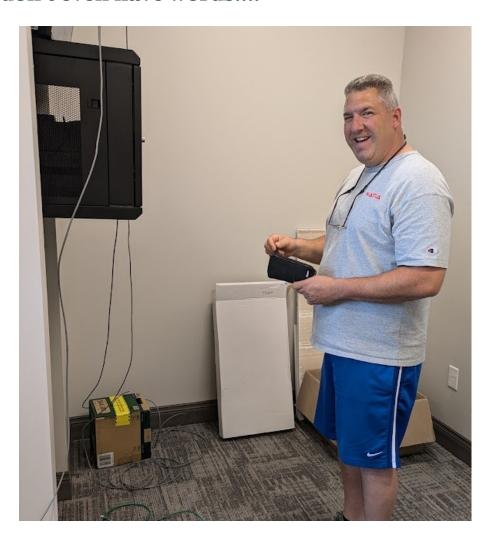






July 8, 2024 – We are getting closer and closer to moving

day! Today our security installer, Joe Brewer, was getting in some final work on the cameras he installed. We are serious about your safety and the safety of everyone in the building. And Mike Lawlor was pulling the wiring through the walls so we can hook up our phones and computers. Internet is IN but we will not have an open network in order to keep our signal strong. Are you getting excited yet? I don't even have words....







July 1, 2024 – Notice anything different about our building? Yup! OPENING SOON! We'll keep you posted about the details. We'll be moving our office and our Food Pantry into the new space within the next month.







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