



ELIZABETH SETON CENTER annual report 2018-2019



FROM SISTER BARBARA ANN

I sometimes feel that I have come full circle. My family is originally from Brookline, and we lived on Berkshire Avenue. I remember vividly the spirit of togetherness that existed in those days. Growing up, the neighborhood was an extended family to us children. Every parent felt responsible for every child. As teenagers we sometimes resented having so many eyes on us. At times our parents knew what we did before we even got home. The adults seemed to have a code, "All for one and one for all." Now we realize that the adults in our life focused on making the neighborhood a safe and secure place. The love for their own children seemed to extend to all the children. As parents, they respected each other's differences and were there for support rather than to criticize.

While attending grade school and high school, I found that same charism in the Sisters of Charity. They were a group of religious women who valued family, respected each individual, accepted differences, and had a genuine devotion to all those whom they were called to serve. Developing this kind of community is my dream for Seton Center. We are not an organization that keeps ages in isolation. Each generation needs the other if we are to develop into a caring community. That's why bringing our children and seniors together for Intergenerational Programs is so important at the Center.

This Annual Report focuses on four staff members who, years ago, came to the Center as children. **When they attended Seton Center, they referred to themselves as "Seton**

Kids." It's like a second family to everyone.

Even Senior Services Coordinator Judy Gawlas refers to the Adult Day Services program as "The Club."

With a strong sense of belonging, we make each child and senior feel like this is a second home. The children's friends are here at the Center. Even though we may think that they don't realize it, the Adult Day Services clients know that they have friendships here as well.

In a world where too many children and too many adults are locked in isolating conditions, **we want Seton Center to cultivate the social values needed for wholehearted living.** Having staff formed from their own early experiences makes it easier to impart key values to newer hires. Outsiders comment on how concerned the staff seems to be for each individual. Our evaluations always say that the staff is caring and loving, that they treat each person as important and unique. The parents and caregivers themselves feel that their loved ones are in a secure place where they're treated with respect.

All this delights me, and for that I rejoice! Thank you for making our ministry possible!



With a strong sense of belonging, we make each child and senior feel like this is a second home.



Sister Barbara Ann Boss, S.C.
President & CEO of Seton Center

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Intergenerational activities were a hallmark of Seton Center at least twice a week, involving infants to school-aged children with our adults. Abundant smiles and precious new relationships benefit children, seniors, and staff.

july Our Senior Centers advanced from Tier 1 to Tier 2, meaning that we will offer enhanced Exercise & Fitness, Health & Wellness, Arts & Humanities, and Life Skills & Education programming both in Brookline and Overbrook.

august Seton Center staffed a table at the Brookline Breeze Fest to promote our programs. Our music students entertained, attracting visitors to learn about our efforts.

october The Center's parking lot was paved through funds from the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

november For the first time, we actively promoted #GivingTuesday and Give Big Pittsburgh, using social media to strengthen our outreach and raise funds.

december Seton Center received a grant from Women for a Healthy Environment for lead and radon testing. The test results were well below the recommended action levels of both the Environmental Protection Agency and Women for a Healthy Environment. Therefore, no remediation was necessary.

winter & spring Seton Center was awarded grants from The Buhl Foundation and the Mary J. Donnelly Foundation to underwrite our development efforts, from the Jack Buncher Foundation to enhance our marketing efforts, from the A. J. & Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust to continue improvements on our Intergenerational Programming, and from the Allegheny County Community Infrastructure & Tourism Fund (CITF) to build an elevator and improve restrooms in our child care building.

march Fierce storms brought winds that lifted the rubber roofing on the child care building. A roofing company was able to secure a temporary fix, but a much more costly replacement is needed in the near future.

april Our Adult Day Services Open House and other promotional efforts raised the profile of Seton Center among our Brookline neighbors.

may In addition to graduating 36 students into Kindergarten, the Preschool department received a grant from the Let's Move Pittsburgh Champion Schools Program.



THE SETON SPIRIT staff spotlight



The spirit at Seton Center is like a family. A feeling of pride radiates as the children who attended at the very beginning – about 34 years ago – return, some as staff and others with their own children.

Kevin Reitmeyer

Kevin was in the first group of children that attended Elizabeth Seton Center in 1987. At age 12 he left, only to return in high

school and ask if he could work at Seton Center to complete his volunteer hours required for graduation from Seton LaSalle High School. Realizing that Kevin had the spirit of the Center engrained in him, we later encouraged him to apply for a position as a Teacher's Aide. He continued in this position all through college, giving back to the young school-age children the same care and encouragement that he received as a child. After college, Kevin left the Center to pursue a career in communications only to realize that his heart was in teaching. Where did he go? Back to Seton Center! As he pursues his graduate studies in education, he continues to work at the Center. Not only has Kevin become a great asset to Seton Center, but he and his wife have also enrolled their two young children here. Kevin tells a story about his daughter:

"One day I saw Zoey coming down the hall, and I opened my arms to give her a hug. She ran full speed right past me to hug one of the other teachers! I've seen such great things come out of here in 32 years that I want the Center to succeed, grow, and continue. I had a great childhood, and other kids who don't have that can experience it here. Everyone genuinely cares about you and your family. I also want my children to learn how to give back, and I want the Center to be here so that Zach and Zoey can each volunteer when they are high school seniors!"

Sarah Meneskie

Like Kevin, Sarah was part of the original child care class at Seton Center 34 years ago when she was just 3 years old. She now works as a Pre-school Teacher's Aide. When asked, "Why do you work here?" Sarah answered,

"It's a good place to work, a safe place to work. It's good people. I like watching children learn and grow and seeing all the different things they can do. The people here are good at their jobs and are good with the kids. They all work hard at what they do and enjoy the children. There are days that are rough, but we keep coming back. It's a fun place to be."





Michele Werme

Michele is another person that we were delighted to see stroll through Seton Center's doors after many years. She first walked the halls when she entered kindergarten, and her family was experiencing an incredibly difficult period at that time. Michele found a safe, supportive atmosphere at the Center. She made friendships that lasted into adulthood. She reminisced, "I remember people being kind. I remember learning how to tie my shoes here." Michele confided in Sr. Barbara, who helped her family. "I've never forgotten what she did for us, for me, and I'm so thankful," Michele said.

While Michele was working on a B.A. in Developmental Psychology, a friend reminded her of Seton Center and encouraged her to apply for a position here.

Michele once again walked the halls at Seton Center, but this time as an Assistant Teacher. She went on to complete her bachelor's degree, then earned an associate's degree in Early Childhood Education as well as her Director Credential.

Just as Seton Center was there to encourage and support Michele through some hard times, we were also there to share her joys. While employed at the Center, Michele met her husband, married him, and had her son Ryan. Ryan is a special needs child who began his time at Seton Center as an infant. Michele is grateful to Sr. Barbara and the Center staff for being so accommodating and helpful. She explains:

"Seton Center has been wonderful in helping me get developmental supports for my son who was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). I like that Seton Center has given me so many opportunities. When you want to do something and work harder to go through professional development programs, you get it. Anytime I ask and want to work a little more, it's respected and encouraged."

Kayla Eisel

Kayla is a more recent alumna of Seton Center. Believe it or not, Kevin, Michele, and Sarah were all teachers when she attended the Center as a child! When asked, "What's special about Seton Center?" she replied, "The people, the environment, the teachers and the policies. The teachers here at Seton Center are very special. It's a good Center." Kayla's son is also now enrolled at Seton Center.

The highest compliment that Seton Center can receive is, "You provided quality care for me, and I want that same type of care for my child." Years come and go, and our family continues to expand – all the while maintaining the supportive spirit that these staff members have all experienced.



2018-2019 CONTRIBUTIONS

\$15,000- \$25,000

The Buhl Foundation
Jack Buncher Foundation
A. J. & Sigismunda Palumbo
Charitable Trust

\$5,000 and above

Anonymous
Mary J. Donnelly Foundation
Sr. Alice Ruane, SC
Elizabeth Seton Center Staff

\$1,000 and above

Donna Bishop
Gail Britanik & James Ruck
Patricia Cabrey
Richard Creehan
M. Charlene Dorrian
Robert Haas
Mary Ann & Michael Heneroty
Mary G. Jenny
Paula Kaval
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Little Oak Hill Foundation
Betty Jo & Michael Mitrik
Dan & Toni Pellegrini
Women for a Healthy
Environment

\$500 and above

David Aliva & Evelyn Christie
Cheryl Gloeski, The Heritage
Players
Kathleen Hamilton
Leslie Hyde & Lou Santora

\$250 and above

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Julia Cuccaro
Mary Dettmers
Ken & Pamela Dzialowski
Judy Gawlas
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Cindy & David Kail
Meghan Krawchyk

\$100 and above

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Inc.

Glenn & Susan Boss
Mark & Mary Beth Boss
Edward Carey
Michael Churma
Maureen Coyne
Jeff Decker, Decker Service
Everson Ecoff
Anna Marie Eyler
Faculty & Staff, Mt. Lebanon
High School

James Ferlo
Frances Fundis
Robin Gallagher
Monica & Stu Hall
Meghan Hayes
Lorraine Henrickson
Lee Herbermann
Mary Ann Itts
Mary Lynn & Kevin Keyho
Katherine Kotas
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R. M. LaRue

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Sr. Mary Norbert Long, SC
Bernadette Malinoski
Barbara Marasco & Pat
Strellec

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Ellen McKee
Sr. Catherine Meinert, SC
Michael Meyer
Margie Morris
Alison Nicola
Deborah Papciak
Sr. Mary Jean Petrarca, SC
DeJeana Rawlins
Jennifer & Kevin Reitmeyer
Catherine Reynolds

Regina Ann Rose
James Rust
Ian Scully-Szejko, The Heritage
Players
Sr. Joyce Serratore, SC
Janice Stock
Carolyn Vavro
James Viancour
Christopher Wallace

To \$99

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Friends at Amco Credit Union
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Patricia Billante
Deidre & John Blosl
Barbara Boncuk
John Boss
Marcella Boss
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Tina Carder
Eileen Carson
Dolores & Roy Casali
Jean Comber
Kathleen Connolly
Thelma Creehan
Shannon Geissler DeLoreto
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Linda Dimitroff
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Sr. Lyn Dwyer, SC
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Mike Elliot
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Ann Marie Freeman
Jen Frisco
Linda Galati
Jamie Gallegor
Jackie Garfold
Amanda & Timothy Giltinan
Art Gornick
Kathleen & Thomas Gribbin
Sr. Louise Grundish, SC

Sr. Colette Hanlon, SC
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Thomas & Patricia Hays
Niki Herman
Jamie Hudzik & Peter Coughlin
James & Marianne Hudzik
Stacey Hunter
Lynn Illig
Sr. Susan Jenny, SC
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Robert Kasisky
Karen & Timothy Kelly
Tina Khadem
Bernice King
Allison Knight
Barb Lawler
Anna Macri
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Terri McGee
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Sr. Marie Corona Miller, SC
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Angela & Darin Palilla
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 Wuckovich
 Aaron & Nicole Wysocki
 Peggy, Don, & Paul Young
 Margaret Zemba

Memorial & Honorary Gifts

In Memory of Gloria Biddle
 Brian & Sherri Cavanaugh
 Richard Cramer
 Gary & Michele Edell
 Dale Marrison
 Edwin & Patricia Maxell
 Michael Meyer
 Robert Urso

In Memory of Casmir & Grace Bishop
 Donna Bishop

In Memory of Grace Boncuc
 Friends at Amco Credit Union
 Helen Blazanin

Barbara Boncuc
 Kathleen Butler
 Jean Dzialowski
 Ken & Pamela Dzialowski
 James Ferlo
 Mary & Thomas Kannenberg
 Barbara Marasco
 Jennie Petrasic, Brent
 Elementary School
 David & Nancy Robinson
 Charles & Rita Sassano

In Memory of Albert & Elizabeth Boss
 Sr. Barbara Ann Boss, SC

In Memory of Michael J. Corcoran
 Ceci & Tony Brady
 Everson Ecoff
 Art Gornick
 Kathleen & Thomas Gribbin
 Karen & Timothy Kelly
 Allison Knight
 Donna Kriegbaum
 Pat Lanigan
 Terri McGee
 Barb & Jackie Mendicino
 Eric & Laura Mosso
 Marisa Rosneck
 James Rust
 Anne Marie & Paul Shields
 Marian & Ron Selva
 Mark Vujevich
 Christopher Wallace
 Thomas Wilson
 Peggy, Don, & Paul Young

In Memory of Joanne Jankowski
 Thelma Creehan

In Memory of My Grandson Johnny
 Mary Ann Steele

In Memory of Anna Mae Mellett
 R. M. LaRue

In Memory of Sister Cecilia Ward
 Sr. Alice Ruane, SC

In Honor of The Wonderful Adult Daycare Staff
 Michael Meyer

In Honor of Gail Britanik
 Linda Galati
 Sr. Colette Hanlon, SC
 Lorraine Henrickson
 Ellen McKee
 Michael & Patricia Shehron
 Mary Elizabeth & Nicholas
 Wuckovich

In Honor of Sister Susan Jenny, Sister Colette Hanlon & Gail Britanik
 Mary Ann Itts

In Honor of Lois Creehan
 Cathy & Gregg Creehan
 Daniel & Patti Simmons

In Honor of Sister Kathleen Gallagher
 Robin Gallagher

In Honor of Sister Mary Noel
 Mary Dettmers

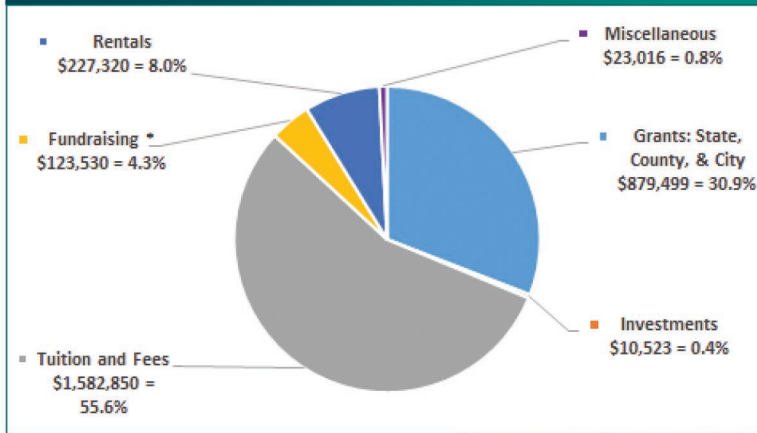
In Honor of Evelyn Paurock
 Patricia Billante



INCOME & EXPENSES fiscal year 2018–2019 (july 1–june 30)

Revenue

Grants: State, County, & City	\$ 879,499
Investments	10,523
Tuition and Fees	1,582,850
Fundraising*	123,530
Rentals	227,320
Misc.	23,016
TOTAL	\$2,846,738



“The way the kids grow while attending Seton is WONDERFUL. The staff really cares. I love the discipline they teach. The routine, the structure, the love ... it’s above and beyond in so many ways. Thanks to all of you.”

—Tina, preschool grandparent

* CITF Grant not included.

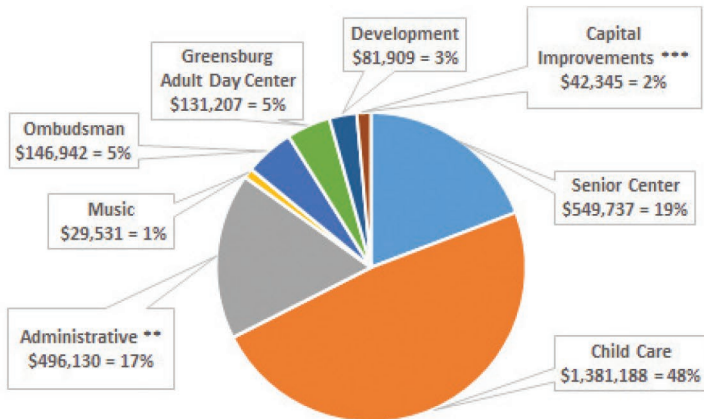
“Your Center has been a lifesaver for me this past year.”

—Carol, a Senior Center participant



Expenses

Senior Center & Adult Day Services	\$ 549,737
Child Care	1,381,188
Administrative**	496,130
Music	29,531
Ombudsman	146,942
Greensburg Adult Day Services	131,207
Development	81,909
Capital Improvements***	42,345
TOTAL	\$2,858,989



** Includes building maintenance, phone, utilities.

*** Parking lot resurfacing.

“Thank you for taking such good care of our daughter. As first-time parents, we were nervous about daycare, but we are so happy with her care here at Seton Center.”

*—Laura & John,
parents*

“I really enjoy working for Seton Center, and I hope to be here until my retirement. I passionately believe in the services we provide and am honored to be part of that process.”

—Kim, a grateful staff member



SETON BY THE NUMBERS

Children's Programs

50 Infants / Toddlers
82 Preschoolers
104 School-aged children

Senior Programs

Brookline Senior Center	313
Overbrook Senior Center	69
Brookline Adult Day Care	49
Greensburg Adult Day Care	44

Ombudsman Program

Serves Westmoreland County seniors in 89 facilities, including 51 personal care homes and 19 nursing homes.

Music Program

The Music Program offers classroom instruction (singing, movement, musical activities, and dance) to our children as well as music enrichment to seniors both in the Senior Center and Adult Day Services. In 2018–2019, Seton Center's Music Program provided lessons in violin, piano, and guitar to 55 children and adults inside and outside of Seton Center.

Community Groups (that regularly utilize Seton Center)

Heritage Players Theater Group
Performs 4–5 plays/year
(one for children)
Narcotics Anonymous
Gamblers Anonymous
Suicide Support Group

2019 Happenings

The Passing of our Two Centenarians

In 2019, we were deeply saddened by the loss of two long-time Adult Day Services attendees – Grace Boncuk (January) and Gloria Biddle (June). We were honored by their presence and proud that, with our help, both were able to remain in their homes until their passing.

Intergenerational Programming

Seton Center's Intergenerational Program improved greatly this past year. With funding from the A.J. & Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust, our Intergenerational Program Coordinator, Amy Ernst, organized regularly-scheduled mutually-beneficial interactions. Beginning last summer, youth and seniors planted a garden, completed crafts, exercised, and more. Younger children decorated cookies, created with playdough, and colored with the seniors. Even the infants visited the seniors for some snuggle time. These interactions work to build care and respect among all ages. The smiles in the intergenerational photos on these pages testify to the power of this program. The positive outcomes and practical ways of achieving them will enhance Seton Center's family spirit well into the future.

Major Grant Award

In April, the Allegheny County Community Infrastructure & Tourism Fund (CITF) awarded a grant of \$250,000 to Seton Center for the construction of an elevator and restroom renovations in the Child Care building. The grant will make the building fully accessible and allow our seniors to visit the children in their classrooms, enhancing our Intergenerational

Programming. The CITF funds will be available in 2019–2020 to reimburse us for construction expenses. We are deeply grateful to all who made this award possible.



2018–2019 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

“I was deeply touched by your kind support at Gloria’s viewing and funeral. It meant a lot to me that you were present during this time of both grief and happiness. I know all of you loved Gloria very much. I am so happy that she was surrounded by such wonderful friends for over a decade and in her last days.”

—Mike, Gloria Biddle’s guardian

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Lois McCafferty

Stephanie McHugh

Toni Pellegrini

James Ruck

Patricia Tylka

*Photographs by Melissa Distel.



THANK YOU for making these successes possible!

We invite you to share our mission for 2020. Please call or email our Director of Development, **Jamie Hudzik**, at (412) 561-8400 or jamie@setoncenter.com to **get involved!**

VOLUNTEER!



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*to our donors, staff,
& volunteers!*

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