



GUESTS GOBBLE CARVERSVILLE FARM TURKEYS



Hosting hundreds for dinner? No problem for Chef Andre. With more than 25 years of experience in restaurants, hospitals, schools and casinos, he's been there, done that. Still, there was something about this year's holiday, his first Thanksgiving at Philly House. "I was nervous that we'd have enough," he admitted.

Like any family, planning for Thanksgiving happens well in advance – for Philly House nearly three months ahead. "It's a huge help to know what resources I'm going to have. Our donors make a big impact on what we can offer."

Key to that planning this year? **Philly House's first Thanksgiving with support from Bucks County's Carversville Farm.** "I'm overwhelmed by their generosity," Chef tells us. "Each week we get hundreds of pounds of meats, vegetables and eggs. For Thanksgiving, it included 35 heritage organic turkeys of more than 20 lbs. each."

And feeding the nearly 500 Thanksgiving guests? "It couldn't have been smoother," Andre smiles. "Thanks so much to Carversville Farm and the hundreds of others who contributed, we even had some leftovers!" That's about as traditional as you can get!



OUR DONORS MAKE A BIG IMPACT ON WHAT WE CAN OFFER.

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Mail a check to:

Philly House

P.O. Box 297

Philadelphia, PA 19105

WEB phillyhouse.org

PHONE 215.922.6400 X1005

EMAIL info@phillyhouse.org

VOLUNTEER

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PHILLY HOUSE

HOPE LIVES HERE

WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER



CEO CORNER: HO, HO, UH-OH. IT'S JANUARY SAD.



January and February: The SAD months.

Whether you're a Christian or not, it's easy to get caught up into the push to be happy and joyful in the days and weeks before Christmas and New Year. The birth of our Savior is truly something to celebrate, and we magnify it with decorations, songs and parties.

Is that why we can feel a January malaise? The parties are over. The bills are due. It's cold, and you're probably spending more time inside than out. It's just a little "post-Christmas depression," right?

For you and me, probably. For our homeless guests, it can be much more intense, and we see it daily. **When it comes to mental health issues, January and February are the toughest times of the year at Philly House.**

Doctors call this SAD, Seasonal Affective Disorder. It gets a lot of attention in the fall. The descent into shorter daylight hours triggers news outlets to run stories about the cause and how to identify the symptoms, usually followed by "see your doctor." A lot of people make vacation plans to migrate to warmer climates.

As a staff, we're especially watchful for signs of depression this time of year. Of course, the most visible signs are drug overdoses. Seeing someone slouch over in a chair or laid flat motionless on the floor is a sure sign! Our Staff always carry naloxone (Narcan) to be ready to reverse an opioid overdose. During this season, suicide attempts and drug use amongst our shelter guests escalates our urgent efforts to administer God's transforming love to bring hope as a solution.

Of course, we're not medical doctors and we don't diagnose. **Our job is to build trust so that we can get them to someone who can and treat their SAD.** It's a major step in getting them off the street and lead them to become stable and self-sustaining.

You play a key role in this. You fund our staff's training and our ability to spot this major, often subtle issue that changes lives. Your support keeps our doors open!

Thank you so much.



TEAMING UP FOR PRAYER AT PHILLY HOUSE.

“We’ll keep you in our prayers” seems like a platitude these days – words to mouth when you can’t figure out what else to say or do. But at Philly House every guest will tell you, “we’ll keep you in our prayers” is no platitude. It’s a promise. In fact, they have hard evidence.

Over the past year, **each Monday, a Philly House volunteer prays over each of the 150 beds at Philly House, leaving a card with a handwritten note of encouragement for the guest.** “The guests collect and look back at them,” says Volunteer Coordinator Jaqi Watkins who oversees the effort. “So many times, I’m told that the prayers changed their life.”

But the prayers don’t stop there. Each week prayers are gathered anonymously from Philly House guests, volunteers and staff, and emailed to our “online prayer team” who commits to praying for each person in need. “It’s a powerful program for everyone – anyone with an issue and those who pray for them,” Jaqi tells us.

Want to join the team, onsite or online? Have a concern or joy to share or celebrate with prayer? Contact Jaqi Watkins at 215-922-6400 extension 1007 or jaqi@phillyhouse.org for details.



PIT STOPS FOR HOMELESSNESS.

Making pit stops for adjustments makes winners of the most successful NASCAR, Formula 1, IndyCar teams. They fuel up and change tires, and most important, evaluate their plans so that every lap counts!

At Philly House we make PIT stops, too, but this time to count and survey the homeless in Philadelphia. And the purpose is very similar. We want to know how well we’re doing, to see what needs changing, and help every guest “win the race” against homelessness.

We’re not alone. The Annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is a national program to find as many homeless persons as possible, mandated each January by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Hundreds of volunteers systematically canvass the city, all in one-night, above ground and below.

WANT TO JOIN THE PHILLY HOUSE PIT CREW?

You’ll be trained and paired with an experienced counter to drive a specific area, offer services, and tally answers to survey questions. To join, Jaqi Watkins at 215-922-6400 extension 1007 or jaqi@phillyhouse.org for details.

**BECAUSE YOU CARE...
BECAUSE YOU GIVE**

JAN. 1 – NOV. 30, 2023

89,250 Meals served

1,651 Total Sheltered Men

251 Seniors Sheltered (age 60+)

109 Average Sheltered Men per night

30 “Code Blue/Code Red Nights”

143 Placements into Long-term Housing

524

Total engaged in Spiritual Care

2,771

Total Case Management Engagements



PHILLY HOUSE
EST. 1878

Your support makes this ministry possible. Thank You!

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