

# BOTTOM LINE



Solid Rock Youth Center (SRYC) Partner Newsletter

January 2016

## Family Focused on all Families

Over this past year, we have focused on our youth's families. It is challenging to see the disconnect in these kids over family and what it means to them. To that end, we have one family night every month.

We kicked off the season with our Fall Festival (see pictures in sidebar!) and had an amazing time, playing fall games, eating fall-themed food and serving the community as a family. We collected teddy bears for the Morrisville First Responders and presented the toys to them on that night. We had over a hundred and fifty in attendance.



A firefighter hangs out with the youth at our Fall Festival Sept 2015

In October, we invited the kids to bring in their little siblings, grades 3 and up, to join them for a night of fun. Our Music Festival was held in November and celebrates the musical achievements of our youth. The whole family was invited to come hear these talented kids play. They were amazing and the community and parents were proud of each of them! On the first Saturday in December, we participated in our annual town wide Christmas celebration. Families enjoyed a cookie share, a musical program downstairs, live nativity, hot drinks, carolers, and Christmas games, activities, and picture opportunities.

And all of that was only in the first half of our year! We still have lots to come. Including a rap

and hip hop concert in just two weeks with female artist Virtuoso. February, March, and May will feature family nights where the whole family can enjoy our regularly scheduled games and activities, such as pool, air hockey, computers, band equipment, and more.

All are welcome once again to attend our Art Show in April. Last year blew away our expectations in terms of both the local artists showing how they create their work and the student art show. This year will also feature free giveaways, such as face-painting and caricatures. This is truly an interactive family experience with the arts and should not be missed by anyone, no matter their age!

We are also adding to our programming that focuses on special needs and their family members. We are continuing our Caregiver's day and our Real Friends night and have added to them both with a night for the younger special needs children and a brand new family support group. You can read more about all of these in the following article!

We hope hearing about all the amazing things we are doing with families has gotten you excited about the SRYC and what it is doing. This is only the tip of what we can achieve when we work together and we are looking forward to the rest of the year and the future as we continue to serve the youth of Morrisville and their families.

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*"The SRYC is a wonderful resource for Morrisville, it's youth and their families. SRYC's unique combination of fun and faith in a safe and welcoming place is unparalleled in Lower Bucks. It is a gem in the heart of downtown Morrisville."*

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*- Dan Jones*



Our Real Friends Night Oct 2015

Caregiver's Day  
March 2015



## Growing Despite Finances

The youth center completed supported by private and in-kind donations. It also receives a grant from one local source. While the SRYC is applying for new grants, these grants are not guaranteed and its foremost support is still the private sector. In light of its financial situation, the SRYC operates on a minimal budget of around 12,000 dollars a year, though it really needs 15,000 to operate at peak efficiency. You can see a generalized break down of where that money is used in the chart below. Without a steady support system, beyond what was mentioned, the youth center has had a difficult time meeting its budget. Last year, payment for the final two bills had to be delayed until 2016 funds were received. The delay in general funding is an ongoing battle. Our operation is successful due to the 13+ volunteers workers who serve the SRYC on a regular basis.



Despite this seeming hardship, the youth center's continues to grow with attendance and programing, proving it is a vital need in our community. It recently extended its operating hours and the most exciting new addition is the expansion to the special needs programing.



We established our Real Friends nights and Caregiver's Day two years ago. This March will mark our third Caregiver's Day. Caregiver's Day is an all day spa experience for moms of children or wives of husbands with special needs or disabilities. This year we are hoping to serve around 30 ladies. They are treated to massages, a hot lunch, haircuts/styles, manicures, fellowship, crafts, and more. That night, the older kids are invited to come back and hang out at the youth center for Real Friends night. During this time, we match regular attendees with a friend who has special needs. This allows them to become acquainted with the youth center more easily. We follow a unique program throughout the night by playing calmer music and providing fun, low key activities. The goal is to help the special needs teens to feel comfortable attending every night and gives our regular attendees a chance to make friends with someone they might not normally reach out to. We are adding to Real Friends night by inviting special needs kids as young as five to join us that evening for games, popcorn, and a movie downstairs.

In addition, we are also starting a new family support group, called Shinning Lights. This is for the whole family to attend together. The kids will be doing activities in the youth center, while the parents and older siblings meet. They will be able to come together and share life with one another through networking, resources, support, encouragement, and hope. The group will meet every third Thursday from 7 to 8 PM.

Would you consider supporting these and other important programs by giving monthly to the SRYC? This helps us to ensure these programs not only continue, but flourish as well, and it is the most stable way to support the SRYC's general fund. Thank you!

## Advisory Council

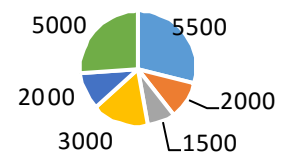
The Advisory Council is made up of adults and teens from the community of Morrisville and the surrounding area who care about the youth center and want to see it fulfill its mission to be a safe and engaging place for teens to hang out and learn.

The council helps to guide the youth center's direction and keep it improving and growing.

We are always looking for qualified people from the community to join us in guiding the youth center to be a place where all youth feel welcome and safe. We want the community to see this as their youth center and be proud of it."

The Advisory Council is currently looking for people to serve on its Fundraising Committee to help raise the funds needed to build its new youth and community center across the street from it's current location. If you would like to help with this endeavor, please let us know by emailing: [director@solidrockyouthcenter.com](mailto:director@solidrockyouthcenter.com)

## SRYC Funding Needed



- Current Staff
- Programming
- Games & Computers
- Equipment
- Future Staff
- New Facility Planning

## Donate with Ease

There are other simple ways to donate to the youth center that don't cost you anything! While it does not replace larger gifts, it is a great way to supplement them. Check them out!

### **Smile.amazon.com:**

Every time you shop at Amazon, they will donate to us. Simply go to the site, and type Solid Rock Youth Center, Inc. and select us. It will say "Supporting: Solid Rock Youth Center" in yellow at the top of the page.

### **TD Bank Affinity:**

Simply register your account for the SRYC at the bank and at the end of the year TD makes a donation to the youth center based on how much is in your account. We also receive \$25 for any new account created. You can go to any TD location, or fill out a paper we have. Just put in Solid Rock Youth Center AG009!

### **Goodsearch/Goodshop:**

Each online search or shopping trip (at 5,000+ stores) through their site, means they will make a donation! Simply download their search bar or shop through the site.

## Moving Forward

We just had an event at the youth center that had 30 kids. We spread out over the whole church to play one of their favorite games, Gorgon.



Donut Game at Costume Party Oct 2015

Somehow, it still seemed like we were out of space and this wasn't even our

largest event of the year! On average, we have eighteen to twenty kids a night. It's an awesome problem to have, but one we are finally ready to address as we mentioned in the last newsletter.

We have bought and paid for the property across the street. An impressive feat! Owning it free and clear, we are ready now to move forward to build a new community and youth center that will benefit all of Morrisville and the surrounding towns. The new building will have a fully functioning Café, a gym, computer lab, offices, arcade, banquet area, and stage, plus more. Of course, such a building does not come free and we are beginning to raise funds for it now. We are looking to raise 1.5 million dollars, some of which will be offset with in-kind donations of equipment and skilled labor. We also have several grants we are pursuing. Your help is needed as well. Every small gift adds up! Gifts of \$100 dollars enable us to start paying for the permits, gifts of \$500 to pay for skilled labor, gifts of \$1,000 to pay for equipment, and gifts of \$5,000 buys needed supplies, a gift of \$75,000 pays for a two-stop elevator.

It is amazing for us to envision how God will move this project forward and we hope you will also be part of it! If you would like to donate to this exciting project, please note on your check that it is for the "Building Fund." Thank you for your generosity!

*If you would like to donate to the SRYC, please send a check payable to SRYC at the address on the back of the newsletter. For one time donations you will receive a tax deductible receipt within the month or for monthly donations at the end of the year. Please write on the memo line if it is a one time or monthly donation and if you would like it to go to a specific project.*

[www.SolidRockYouthCenter.com](http://www.SolidRockYouthCenter.com)

# A Letter from our Board President

The Solid Rock Youth Center (SRYC) was started in 2005 to fill a desperate need in the Morrisville community. It provides a safe, secure and fun environment for Morrisville youth to develop into mature adults with strong core values which will enable them to be productive members of society and the local community.

Morrisville is a working class town and the SRYC has been a member of the Morrisville Business Association for a number of years. It has the support of the business community, local elected officials, as well as state and federal representatives. It has served as a favorite spot for local law enforcement officials and the court system to place youth for community service.

Due to the lower income demographics of the Morrisville community, financial support for SRYC has been limited and is greatly in need of operating funds for support. Only the Executive Director is paid at a minimal rate on a part-time basis. The fact that it has been able to maintain its mission effectively is a tribute to the many volunteers who recognized its value to our community. Additional funding from you would allow the SRYC to further enhance its current programs and hire additional staff to increase their effectiveness. It would also allow them to move forward with their vision for the future by building a dedicated facility for its purposes. I would personally like to thank you for your partnership with this valuable part of the Morrisville local community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gary L. Taylor

Board President

## Contact Us

Open:

Friday and Saturday nights

6:30-9:00 PM

Grades 6-12

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Office hours

Wed. 10am-5pm



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