EECM’s Golden Gala

Our 50th Anniversary is a major success as over 200 guests and sponsors celebrated our history and mission.

It was a night to remember. On Saturday, May 21st, over 200 generous guests gathered at Rodef Shalom Congregation to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of East End Cooperative Ministry. The ballroom was simply beautiful, decorated in gold and EECM purple as Gala guests enjoyed gourmet food from Fogo de Chao and danced the night away with the highly popular band NO BAD JUJU.

Generous sponsors and host committee members made sure the EECM Golden Gala was a successful financial fundraiser for our organization. Honorary Event Chairs Myrna Zelenitz, Phil Hallen and Mark Bibro joined the chorus of thanks as EECM honored our founding and member congregations: Calvary Episcopal, Eastminster Presbyterian, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Shadyside Presbyterian, Church of the Ascension, First United Methodist, Rodef Shalom, Sixth Mt. Zion Baptist, Third Presbyterian, East Liberty Presbyterian, Saint Jude Parish, and Temple Sinai.

2022 actually marks EECM’s 52nd anniversary, but due to the pandemic and our focus on health and safety, the Golden Gala had to be postponed and rescheduled to this year.

A tribute video highlighted our history and uninterrupted 52 years of service to the homeless, the food insecure, and Pittsburgh Public School children and youth. Five plus decades of dedication from staff, volunteers, board members, funders and community partners were celebrated and acknowledged.

A special Big Raffle was held with the winner taking home $2,500 in cash. Congratulations to Renée Haynes-Johnson from Eastminster Presbyterian Church!

Here’s to our next 50 years and may they be just as successful . . . and giving!
CAROLE’S CORNER

I hope you enjoyed reading about our EECM Golden Gala. I can’t describe how full my heart was on that special and inspirational night as we honored our founding and member congregations. From our board members to our donors, so many of our gala guests came up to me to express their overall pride in our organization. Our staff and volunteers did an outstanding job organizing and executing a terrific golden anniversary celebration of the EECM mission of changing the lives of our neighbors impacted by poverty. And to all of our sponsors, volunteers, and guests I say THANK YOU!

At the gala, we premiered our new EECM tribute video. It includes beautiful shots of all the services we provide with interviews from our congregation partners, our staff, and of course those we honorably serve. We want you to see the video too so please look on our website eecm.org to watch it.

I also want to update you on some other exciting upcoming news. Representatives of the Steelers community outreach team will be joining me for lunch and a tour of EECM to discuss upcoming collaborations as the Steelers become more involved with what we do. Speaking of future happenings, keep in mind there are several big events over the next few months affecting those whom EECM serves. Your generosity helps EECM sustain our daily community meals, pantry food distribution, children and youth services, and more. Please remember EECM during Critical Needs Day on August 9th. Critical Needs will take place online at pittsburghgives.org from 8:00 am to 11:59 pm, and donations will be matched pro rata on that day.

While the warmth of summer is upon us, our EECM Coat Drive committee is already meeting to make this fall’s collection of winter coats the biggest and best yet. They are also working on our Holiday Gift and Toy Drive. The dates for both the coat drive and gift drive will be forthcoming.

On behalf of our board and staff, thank you again for all you do to help us fulfill our mission of changing the lives of people facing the impacts of poverty.

– CAROLE BAILEY, PRESIDENT & CEO

PENS GAME REPLAY

PENS4PURPOSE PROGRAM DONATES $10 PER TICKET BACK TO EECM

Our very own Pittsburgh Penguins played a truly exciting game on April 14th at PPG Paints Arena. It was a 6-3 victory against the New York Islanders that put the Pens in the playoffs for the 16th season. Friends and family of East End Cooperative Ministry were in attendance as part of the Pens4Purpose program. This meaningful program donates $10 per ticket sold to the supporting organization. We thank the Pittsburgh Penguins for supporting our mission and community! Let’s Go Pens!
The 2022 Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was a truly inspiring event. On April 30th, our most dedicated volunteers turned out to celebrate with one another and reflect on the past two years of creating a community of hope together.

The last two years of this annual tradition were postponed by the ongoing pandemic, so coming together this year was a welcomed and joyous occasion for everyone.

All of us at East End Cooperative Ministry are inspired daily by every one of the volunteers who dedicates their valuable time to our mission. We thank YOU!

If you are interested in joining this community of hope by volunteering, please visit eecm.org/volunteer.

ABOVE CENTER TO BELOW RIGHT
Patrice Johnson for her work in the Food Pantry
Gregg Caliguiri for his work in the Community Kitchen
Meryl Lazar for her work with SewForward
Alana Clinton for her work with Children & Youth Services
The Elders from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for their group efforts helping wherever they’re needed.
Only 9% of EECM’s total budget is spent on administrative and fundraising expenses, which means that more than 90% of the revenue goes to providing vital services to all those who rely on us for opportunity, transformation and hope.

**SEWFORWARD SPOTLIGHT**

Sydney Hardiman has been the Sewing Program Manager of SewForward for nearly two years and her 20 years of experience in the business of sewing has taken the program to new heights!

SewForward is a cut and sew studio doing high quality small batch manufacturing for businesses, while teaching free sewing classes to help individuals with barriers to work discover financial freedom, creative expression, and entrepreneurship. This workforce development program of EECM is changing lives.

Working with local businesses such as PackPack, Otto Finn, Love Pittsburgh, Hannahtopia, Salon Blue LLC, and Secret Sak, SewForward provides services ranging from pattern development of personal accessories to sample making and product production. SewForward can assist with adding that professional touch to any design, and bring concepts to life. Make your project a reality by contacting Sydney for a free consultation at (412) 345-7141 or sydneyh@eecm.org

Classes are in session twice a week for a total of four weeks. Please reach out to Sydney via email to sign up for the next class that begins on July 11, 2022 and be sure to follow SewForward at facebook.com/SewForward and instagram.com/eecmsewforward for all your sewing related news, tips, and tricks.

Happy Sewing!
MEET OUR STAFF

ISAAC COMPTON

was born and raised in Pittsburgh. He earned a degree in computer science from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He accepted the call to preach in 2002, and spent seven years as an assistant youth pastor and an associate minister at Mt. Ararat Baptist Church. For 14 years he taught theological studies and computer science at Imani Christian Academy. Minister Compton is currently the youth pastor of Tried Stone Baptist Church in Rankin, a position he has held for the past eight years. Isaac has been married for 20 years to the former Kristina Alexander. They have two sons, Isaac Jr. & David.

In 2011, he joined the staff at EECM as the Education Program Manager. Isaac facilitates program administration, manages the department’s integrated program calendar, tutoring, IT instruction, planning, and budgeting. He also provides staff and client support, administers intake and assessment, supervises interns and volunteers, and coordinates relationships with strategic partners including Pittsburgh Public Schools, elected officials, and other stakeholders.

He chose to work at EECM because he believes in the program in which he participated as a youth. His experience is proven evidence that the program works. He grew up coming to Open Gym and working the Summer Camp. He was one of the first Americorp volunteers working onsite. In fact, it was his time with EECM and AmeriCorp that paid for his college education.

SARRIS SPECIAL DELIVERY TO EECM!

THANK YOU SARRIS CANDIES AND KDKA RADIO HOST MARTY GRIFFIN FOR CHOOSING OUR CLIENT FAMILIES.

EECM became inundated with Jelly Beans to distribute just in time for Easter! KDKA Radio Host Marty Griffin was asked by the Sarris Candy Company who should get a whole pallet of their Sarris Jelly Beans. Griffin didn’t hesitate and suggested East End Cooperative Ministry. The Monday before Easter, a Sarris truck pulled up to EECM’s loading dock and dropped off 1,500 bags of jelly beans. CEO, Carole Bailey, went on Griffin’s radio show and thanked him, the Sarris family, and all who donate food and other items to assist our families, especially during holiday times.

Our food pantry made sure our client families got bags of jelly beans for Easter baskets.
EECM is proud to present our latest promotional video now live on eecm.org! A few months ago, we collaborated with the ever-talented Haji Muya of LKF Entertainment Films to produce a short video with interviews from our community leaders, volunteers, and staff.

The video premiered at our Golden Gala on May 21 and we are excited to share with everyone! View and share the video on our channel: youtube.com/user/EECMPittsburgh.

Be sure to post #EECM!