

# 2025 It's Time for A Change

1 January 2025



## Here's what happened in 2024 year and what's to come!

Welcome to our community year-end newsletter!

2024 has come and gone in a flash. It has truly been a pleasure serving the community through various programs and services. From our Spring Fair to our Holiday of Hope it has been great working with the community, sponsors, and our partners.

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to all of our staff and volunteers who have continued to support us during these challenging times. Your generosity and dedication have allowed us to keep our programs running smoothly and effectively.

We had a wonderful year and are thrilled to share with you the past activities and the latest developments in our mission to make a positive impact in our community.

Finally, we want to remind everyone that our center relies on the kindness and support of our community. If you are able to donate your time, talent, or resources, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most. Thank you for this past year and your continued support!

Enjoy our year end newsletter!

*Motivated Team*

### In this newsletter you can expect:

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Community Updates

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Past Year's Events

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Clubs

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Center Highlights

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Notes to Remember

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## Some Event Highlights

### Community Workshops

Our community workshops continued to be a cornerstone of our programming. From gardening tips to technology tutorials, we offered a diverse range of topics designed to empower and educate. Thanks to our expert facilitators and eager participants, these workshops have been both informative and engaging.

### The Gift of Life- Donors 1



Throughout the year, Motivated partnered with Gift of Life to share information at each event regarding the importance of becoming a donor. Saving a life is so important and giving someone a fighting chance at life is a great gift. To learn more and to become a donor, visit Donors 1 at [www.donors1.org](http://www.donors1.org) or visit our community center and a representative will walk you through the process.

### Summer Youth Program

The Summer Youth Program provided a safe and fun environment for young community members to learn and grow. With activities ranging from arts and crafts to sports and leadership development, the program was a highlight for many families. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the coordinators and volunteers who made it possible.

### Reading Captains

Through the Reading Captains program, Motivated was able to share the joys of reading at each of the center's event by distributing books and materials for families to start their own library.

### Looking Ahead

As we look forward to 2025, we are excited to continue building on our successes and addressing the needs of our community. We invite everyone to stay engaged, share their ideas, and join us in making the upcoming year even more impactful.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support and dedication. Together, we are stronger.



## Annual Back to School Fair

Taking place every August, this year's event was a true blessing for all community members. Families were able to obtain essential school supplies and access resources and items from various local organizations and businesses. Councilwoman Jamie Gauthier also visited to express her support.



## Holiday of Hope

Our annual Holiday of Hope event brought the community together in the spirit of giving and celebration. Through generous donations, we were able to provide gifts and meals to families in need, ensuring that everyone experienced the warmth and joy of the holiday season. A special thank you to all who donated and volunteered their time.



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## Center Highlights



### Crafting Classes

This year's crafting classes were a resounding success! Participants had the opportunity to hone their skills in making beautiful Thanksgiving centerpieces and festive holiday wreaths, adding a personal touch to their seasonal celebrations. As the workshops continue into the new year, there will surely be even more exciting opportunities to explore new techniques and projects. For those interested in joining future sessions or learning more about what's in store, be sure to visit the website for all the latest details on upcoming workshops. Whether you're a seasoned crafter or a beginner eager to learn, these classes offer a wonderful chance to unleash your creativity and connect with fellow enthusiasts.



### Workshops

Throughout the year, the center played a pivotal role in empowering families by hosting a series of resource workshops aimed at enhancing their quality of life and preparedness for the future. Notable among these workshops were partnerships with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and sessions on Wills and Estate Planning. The Habitat for Humanity workshops provided families with invaluable resources and guidance on obtaining free home repairs, thereby ensuring safer and more secure living environments. Meanwhile, the Wills and Estate Planning sessions equipped participants with the necessary knowledge to manage their assets effectively and prepare for unforeseen circumstances. Additionally, the workshops addressed broader health and wellness topics, offering families the tools and support needed to foster holistic well-being. Through these initiatives, the center reinforced its commitment to building stronger, more resilient communities.



Thanks to one of our learners, Tristen and his family for helping support the Holiday of Hope with a donations of toys.

### A Few Notes To Remember

- The food pantry will be open each Saturday from 10 am to 12 pm.
- The Center re-opens Monday, January 6th at 8:00 am.
- Remember we are made up of mostly volunteers so if you would like to volunteer at our pantry on Saturdays, or help with incoming donations on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Friday mornings, please contact our office at 215-921-6263.



### Bingo

Bingo has a unique charm that brings people together, fostering a sense of community and excitement. This year, our community bingo sessions have been a highlight for many participants, providing an opportunity for socializing and friendly competition. Held twice a month on Tuesdays from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM, these gatherings have become a staple for those seeking a fun and engaging afternoon activity. Participants enjoy not only the thrill of marking off numbers and shouting "Bingo!" but also the camaraderie and laughter that fills the room. With a variety of prizes and themes, each session offers something new, ensuring that everyone leaves with a smile and a sense of belonging. Whether you're a seasoned player or a newcomer, bingo is a delightful way to connect with others in the community.

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## Center Highlights



### Cyber Schooling

It sounds like the students at Commonwealth Charter Academy have had a successful year, and it's great to hear that you are looking forward to a strong finish. If you're homeschooling a student enrolled in a cyber school and want to enhance their educational experience, consider joining the center's instructional support program. This program offers additional resources and guidance to help students thrive in their learning journey. For more information or to enroll your student, please reach out to our office. We're here to support your child's educational goals and ensure they have the best possible learning experience.



### Senior Cooking Class

Chef Bernard Talley's cooking sessions have become a delightful highlight for seniors, offering not only an opportunity to learn culinary skills but also a chance to engage in a social and interactive environment. Known for his exceptional culinary expertise, Chef Talley brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to each class, making cooking accessible and enjoyable for all participants. Every Tuesday evening at 5 PM, the kitchen buzzes with excitement as seniors gather to explore new recipes, techniques, and flavors under his guidance. As these sessions continue into the new year, attendees can look forward to further enhancing their cooking abilities and sharing in the camaraderie that Chef Talley so warmly fosters.





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## Center Highlights



### Spring Health Fair

The success of this year's Spring Fair is a testament to the vibrant community spirit and dedication of everyone involved. With a record-breaking number of attendees, the fair offered something for everyone, featuring an impressive array of local vendors showcasing unique crafts and delicious foods that highlighted the area's rich cultural tapestry. Families enjoyed a wide range of activities, from engaging games to creative workshops that kept children entertained and inspired. The atmosphere was further enlivened by talented musicians providing live performances that had everyone tapping their feet and singing along. This collective effort not only brought joy and laughter to the community but also fostered a sense of togetherness and celebration. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the organizers, vendors, volunteers, and attendees who all played a crucial role in creating such a memorable day.



### Thanksgiving Giveaway

The Thanksgiving Giveaway at Christy Recreation Center marked a significant milestone for Motivated, showcasing both the organization's dedication to community service and its ability to bring people together. This year, the event reached new heights, successfully providing over 500 families with essential holiday staples such as turkeys, stuffing, corn, and a variety of other festive foods. The overwhelming turnout and the positive impact on the local community underscored the spirit of generosity and unity that defines the holiday season. Participants and volunteers alike experienced the joy of giving and receiving, making it a truly heartwarming and memorable occasion. Such events not only address immediate needs but also strengthen community bonds, reminding everyone of the power of collective goodwill.



Pantry guest served hot apple cider while waiting for their turn to shop.

### MOTIVATED FOOD PANTRY

Motivated is a beacon of hope and support for the residents of West Philadelphia, offering a diverse selection of foods and essential items to those in need. Every Saturday, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, the pantry opens its doors to the community, welcoming everyone with open arms and a spirit of inclusivity. This initiative not only provides vital resources but also fosters a sense of community and care, ensuring that no one feels alone in their struggles. By serving the community with dedication and compassion, Motivated is making a positive impact, one helping hand at a time.





## Center-wide Clubs

It's wonderful to hear about the positive impact these clubs have had on the youth! Each club offers unique opportunities for personal development and skill-building. The Fearless and Motivated (FAM) club likely empowers youths by fostering confidence and resilience, while the Photography club allows them to explore creativity and visual storytelling. Reading Boot Camp encourages literacy and critical thinking, potentially igniting a lifelong love for books. The Upcycling Arts Therapy club not only nurtures artistic expression but also promotes environmental awareness by repurposing materials. Lastly, the Aquaponics club introduces innovative agricultural practices, teaching sustainability and science. By continuing these initiatives, you're not only enriching their present lives but also equipping them with valuable skills for the future.







## MEET THE MOTIVATED STAFF



Ms. Kiara & Ms. Lottie



Ms. Verna & Ms. Veronica



Ms. Gwen



Mr. Jay



Ms. Kiyanna



Ms. Jazz



## Black History Month

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us honor the trailblazers like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Madame C.J. Walker, and others who paved the way with their remarkable accomplishments, groundbreaking inventions, and unwavering commitment to promoting peace and unity.

Everyone who enters the center this month will see posters showcasing the individuals who have made this world a better place for all of us.



*Thank you for reading and have a great Year!*

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