

longevity of the staff. It's a testament to how well the Board has operated to maintain such a good working environment."

Lead Pre-K teacher Heather McDermott, who this year celebrates her 35th anniversary, says, "We have parents who were students send their own children here, and I regularly bump into parents and grandparents of former students and hear all about their accomplishments and how Trinity helped start them along their journeys in life. How fortunate are we to be part of that?"

Parents like Giovanna Chiti whose three boys all attended TPG. Carlo Makarechi, 26, graduated from McGill University and lives in DC working for Patients for Affordable Drugs. Bijan Makarechi, 24, graduated from Yale, lives in Vancouver, and works for Hootsuite. Julian Makarechi, 22, is a senior at Temple. Chiti lives in their family home near the school and recalls, "Trinity was a place where I felt my boys were safe and surrounded by warm and loving teachers. My fondest memories are of the annual Halloween parades around Fitler Square. And the

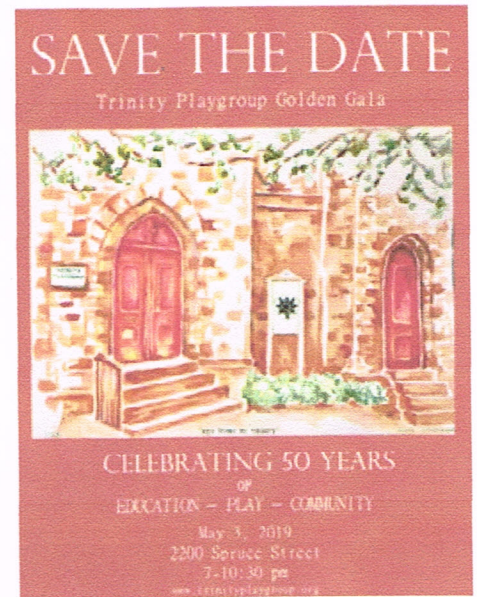
Trinity mothers! I am still friends with them now after so many years."

Director Christa Cywinski, who last year celebrated her 20th anniversary alongside teachers Angela Esposito and Marie Matlock, cites the many ways generations of parents have made lasting impressions on the school. "They've built the log cabin in our side yard, donated books, toys, puzzles, blocks and trains, made dance party mix tapes. These donations are still loved and played with today! They've helped with renovations, organized the annual Halloween Parade, cared for classroom fish over breaks, volunteered on the Board and Fundraising Committee, read and shared talents in the classroom. Contributions like these have created a culture of support and stability over the years and serve as TPG's backbone."

Celebrating 50 and Beyond

TPG hosts its Golden Gala Auction, a tribute to families, friends and faculty, past and present, on May 3. The Gala is a chance to celebrate this special school and the place it holds in the hearts of hundreds of Philadelphia families. Do

you have photos of your little ones standing in front of that iconic red door? Are you an alum just passing by and feel inspired to snap a pic? If so, please upload at <https://trinityplaygroup.org/tpg-at-fifty/> You can also find more information about the auction, share a fond memory or leave a testimonial about what makes TPG special to you.



It's Academic

Philanthropy Blooms in Greenfield School: Students Raise Thousands for Six Nonprofit Organizations

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Led by the Student Voice Club, the students of Albert M. Greenfield School, at 22nd and Chestnut, raised over \$3800 for nonprofit organizations providing services in six categories of need. An after-school club consisting of 12 middle school students in grades 6 through 8, the Student Voice Club stands for philanthropy, leadership, community, and voice. Members believe that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference in the world. Teacher John Neary, leader of the club, teaches them: "Like a pebble dropped in a pond, our actions create an expanding, outward wave."

Earlier in the school year, the Student Voice Club ran a schoolwide charitable campaign called "World of Change," a multi-state project founded by Matt Hoidal in Maine. The Club gave each classroom six empty mason jars, each one representing an area of need: Hunger, Housing, Health, Literacy,



Teacher John Neary (l.) with members of Greenfield Student Voice Club and recipients of donations.

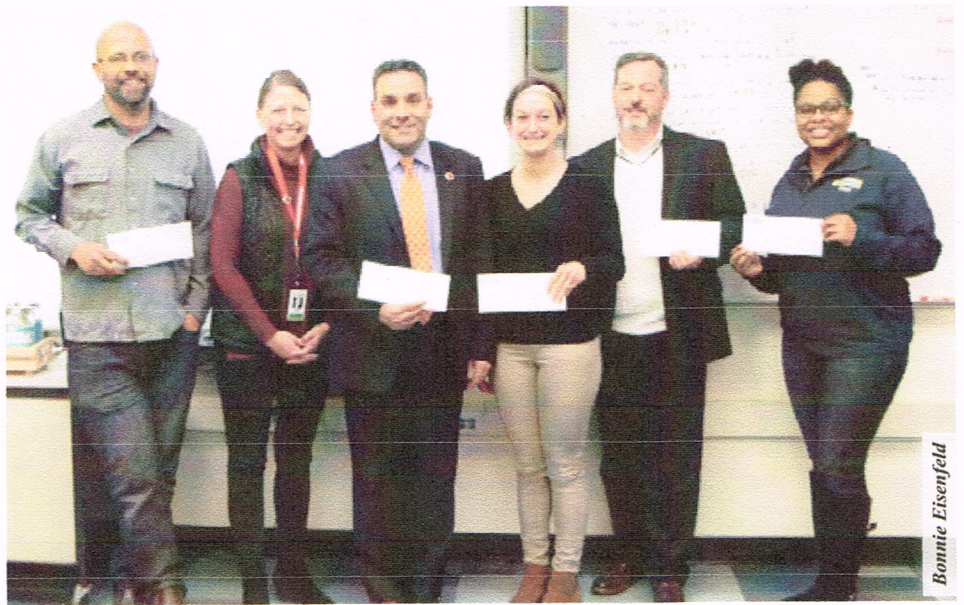
Recreation, and Financial Literacy/Employment. The Club nominated three organizations for each area of need. For two weeks, Greenfield students collected and donated coins to the jars of their choosing. The entire Greenfield community—students, teachers, staff and parents—voted on which organization would receive the money in each category.

On Monday, January 7, Neary presented checks to five of the six nonprofit organizations. Each organization accepted the check and gave a short presentation about what they do. Four of the winning organizations were Philadelphia-based: MANNA (Food/Hunger, \$815.88); Philadelphia Reads (Literacy, \$464.77);

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Project HOME (Housing, \$686.62); and the Center for Literacy (Financial Literacy/ Employment, \$410.85). The American Red Cross (Health, \$996.28) is international with a local office right near the school. Child's Play (Play/Recreation, \$494.94) is international, based in the state of Washington, and did not attend.

MANNA provides free, medically tailored nutritional meals for people with serious illnesses in the Philadelphia area. **Philadelphia Reads** runs the Reading Olympics and provides books and literacy programs to underserved Philadelphia children, families, teachers, and schools. **Project HOME** helps homeless people in Philadelphia by providing affordable housing, employment opportunities, education, and health care. They also run the Hub of Hope, located in the Suburban Station concourse, a walk-in engagement center for homeless people, offering showers, laundry service, and medical care. **The Center for Literacy** teaches reading, writing, math, technology, life and work skills, including financial literacy,



Five of the six nonprofit organizations that received donations from Greenfield School students. From left: Representatives from Project Home, American Red Cross (2), Philadelphia Reads, Center for Literacy, MANNA.

to a diverse population of adult learners to help them achieve their personal and employment-related goals. **The American Red Cross** collects blood, provides support and communication to armed-services families, offers training including

first aid and CPR, and provides clean water, safe shelter and hot meals to victims of all kinds of disasters, from small house fires to multi-state natural catastrophes. **Child's Play** provides toys and games to children at over 100 hospitals worldwide.

Save the Date for a Celebration of Center City Living



May 9, 2019

6-10pm at The Philadelphia Ethical Society
for more information go to centercityresidents.org



Poet in the Park

Bonnie Eisenfeld



Marshall James Kavanaugh, "Dream Poet for Hire," set up shop in Rittenhouse Square on a sunny day in February to write "personalized, spontaneous, typewritten poems about absolutely anything," for a small donation. You can request a poem at marshall.kavanaugh@gmail.com and he will send it to your mailbox.