



TRACK MINISTRY NEWS

Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Pennsylvania Division, Inc.

www.rtca-pa.org

Sharing God's Love at Philadelphia Park

SUMMER 2016

Greater Needs - Greater Benevolences!



The pantry started small only a few months after Chaplain Rick arrived and it has grown through the past few years to include some refrigerators and freezer. Many still did not even know that this service existed, but many more know now after the long hard winter of 2016. It was as if the LORD was preparing us for this. Unless the race schedule changes there will be more winters like this – but with your help, we will be ready!

We knew that when the Governor took away about a quarter of the race days at Philadelphia Park, and that the reduction would happen almost completely between Christmas and the end of February, the winter would be difficult for many here at the track. Some were able to collect unemployment, most had horses to continue to take care of, but without any income and the ability to pay wages. Everyone here loves horses so the workers continued to care for the horses of the trainers who could no longer pay them.

Without pay how could they eat? Fortunately with your help the Chaplaincy was able to see that no one went hungry. There was a lot of shopping to be done and it wasn't easy seeing that our pantry did not get empty.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN



The major difference between a Chaplaincy and a Congregation or Parish is that the Chaplaincy is ministry to a closed community. The communities that chaplains' minister in have varying levels of 'closed-ness', for instance a prison is much more closed from public access than a hospital.

The backstretch of the racetrack at Philadelphia Park is becoming more closed than it used to be. In fact, as you know, security is a growing issue in our world and the racetrack is not immune from this issue. Here at the racetrack there are some new rules to make sure benevolences can be delivered to the Chaplain and that the level of security necessary can be maintained. The bar codes that some have will cease to be used as of June 15, 2016.

In order for anyone to directly deliver food, clothing or any other item(s) to be donated to the Chaplain, racetrack security will have to receive specific approval to let the person through from

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ... ‘The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’

– Matthew 25:37-40 (NIV)

the Chaplain, each and every time. This means that the Chaplaincy will have to be notified (email, phone, etc.) ahead of time so that the Chaplain can then inform security that it is OK to let the person(s) through the gate.

If this does not happen ahead of time, and there will be times for reasons of emergency, the donated items may have to be left with security at the gate and they will transfer the items to the Chaplain at their earliest convenience. The track management has promised me that no one bringing donations to the Chaplain will be turned away.

These new rules only heighten the sense of and reality of the isolation that faces our backstretch workers. Please do not let them lessen your needful and valuable ministry to these who can rightly be called “the least of these brothers of” ours.

Thank you for your understanding and your support,

Chaplain Rick



Our 'New' Secretaries – Bobbi Templeton and Carmen Harris:



God has mightily and providentially called Carmen Harris and called back Bobbi Templeton to be the administrative assistants for the Chaplaincy. Bobbi will be here from May until October helping to train Carmen for one thing (Then it will be back to...retirement somewhere south for the winter). During the summertime the office hours will be the same as usual. When Bobbi leaves Carmen will only be working about 10-12 hours each week.

Carmen is a great blessing and we are happy to have her for as long as she can work. She speaks Spanish and has been blessing the backstretch workers since the middle of March.

There will be a need for another person to work in the office about 10-12 hours a week by the time Bobbi leaves. If that is you or someone you know please contact us. The hours can be flexible as the Recreation Hall is open seven days a week from 8 am – 9 pm.

Racetrack Chaplaincy 2016 Easter Party



Upcoming Special Events:

- ◆ 7/1 – Independence day family field day
- ◆ 9/17 – Pennsylvania Derby
- ◆ 10/29 – Harvest Celebration
- ◆ 9/2 – Family event & bookbag/school supplies given out
- ◆ 12/17 – Childrens Christmas Party

CONTACT US

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Needs:

BOOKBAGS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES

HELP WITH PURCHASING AND PREPARING CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

We have many basic needs for household items, clothing, and food. Donations can be accepted seven days a week from 8 am – 9 pm. For special arrangements do not hesitate to call the office. Please do call ahead and/or email so we can send a thank you, and leave time for us to get back to you so you know that security has been notified that you are coming.

If you are not sure whether we can use what you have to donate feel free to call, but most likely we can use it or have a friend who needs it.

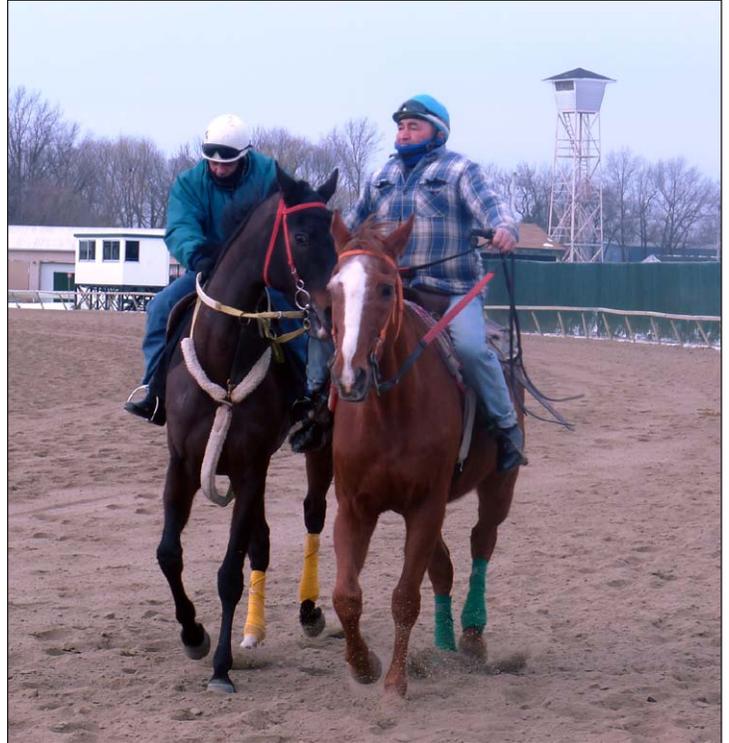
We now especially need REFRIGERATORS, MICROWAVES, WORK BOOTS/SHOES (of all sizes), BELTS, SPAM, BAKED BEANS, RED BEANS, CANNED SOUPS, STEWS/CHILIS, CANNED FRUIT, AND TOILETRIES.

Evidence of God's Work at the Track

Bernadette said with tears before the group, "I had stopped drinking for ten years and then I started seeing this man that worked at a bar. I stopped before I can stop again." This was the first time she admitted the need and the desire to stop – completely. She went on to say, "If I am going to do this right this time I need God and all of you."

We talk a lot of the feeling that, "I just can't do it." We always say that what may be impossible by you alone, with God and the help of God's people can be done. What is impossible to do by oneself, is possible with God. It was so confirming to hear these words coming directly from her and back as testimony to all of us of her new conviction.

Stephen came into the office on a cold rainy day. He had not wanted anything to do with the Chaplaincy for the few months that he had been here. He said, "I hear you help people with shoes 'Chap', I have to walk a horse over to frontside today and it is real muddy and my shoes are full of holes." I quickly told him I would check and see if we had something that would 'work' for him. Praise the LORD; we had a brand new pair of boots and just his size!!! As I always do I told him how happy I was to be able to give him the shoes because of the people who love Jesus who gave them to me. He has been coming to chapel services now!!! Pray that he give his life to Jesus.



Racetrack Chaplaincy Joyful Thanksgivings:

The Rev. Dr. Nicholas Salios went to be with the LORD on Sunday, May 15, 2016. Nick was truly a founding father of this ministry. Nick was a great source of wisdom and inspiration to everyone who knew him and that was certainly the case for this ministry. It was such a comfort to know that only a phone call away was the answer to just what you needed to know. He will be greatly missed.

We thank the LORD for his many years of service to this ministry and to so many churches all around this region. We thank the LORD for the support of his family. Pray especially for **Rose**, his dear wife and our partner in this ministry.

Thank you **Rose** for the great blessing that you were to Nick. You and Nick are quite a team. **Rose** is certainly to be considered a founding mother of this ministry!