

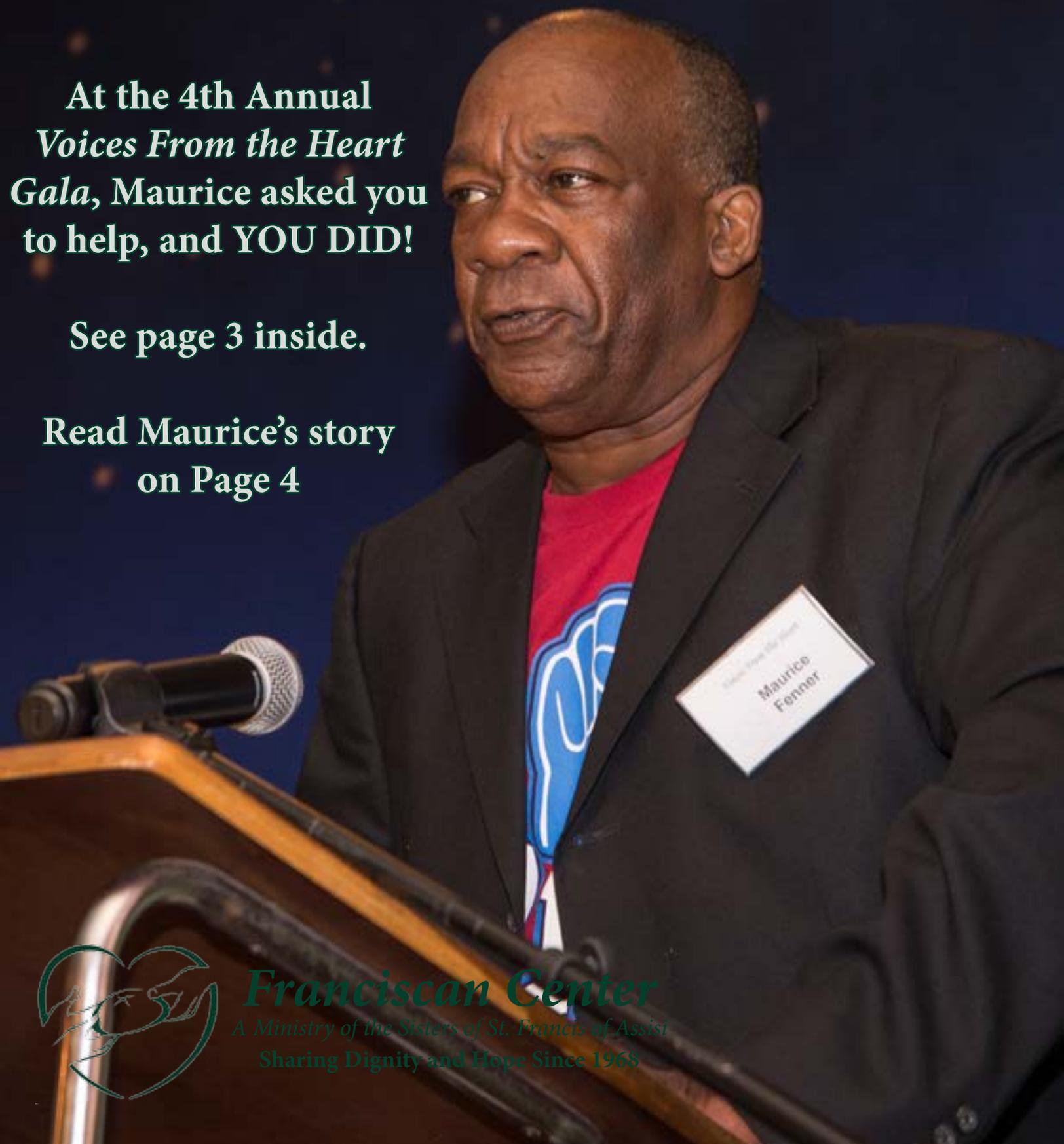
Hands of Hope

News from the Franciscan Center

**At the 4th Annual
Voices From the Heart
Gala, Maurice asked you
to help, and YOU DID!**

See page 3 inside.

**Read Maurice's story
on Page 4**



Franciscan Center
A Ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi
Sharing Dignity and Hope Since 1968

Dear Franciscan Center Family,

The new fiscal year, which started on September 1st, is off to a great start! We are helping more people than ever, which is a blessing and a curse. The lines at the Center are getting longer as there is no sign of relief for the population that we serve. We strive to be a sanctuary for individuals and families in need, but the Center can only help as many people as our resources allow.



This is where you can help. As the fall season quickly passes us by, the cold, harsh winter is right around the corner. Please try to keep in mind that there will be thousands of people right here in Baltimore this winter that will not have electricity to heat their homes, their refrigerators will be absent of nutritious food and the clothes on their backs will not keep out the brisk winds and wet snow.

Please consider getting involved by sharing your time, talent and resources. There are many opportunities to assist in our efforts, and you can read about them in this newsletter. On a daily basis there are many volunteer opportunities at the Center. Our annual Giving Tree program is also underway, designed to collect clothing and other items over the holidays through your church, corporation, school or civic groups. Or you could start or join a team to help raise funds through the Souper Bowl of Caring online fundraiser to support the Center's Food programs.

Please join us in our fight and get involved. Your donation could be the one that turns somebody's situation around or even saves a life. May God bless you with the rewards of generous heart.

Peace and All Good,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Metzger".

Christian J. Metzger
Executive Director

2016 Franciscan Center Board of Directors

Timothy Michels, Chairman
Chesapeake Employers' Insurance

Matthew Franke
Stifel

Kenneth Gillespie
Baltimore City Community College

Sr. Linda Greenwood, OSF
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi

Sr. Lorraine McGraw, OSF
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi

Tracey Wilson-Oakley
Northrup Grumman

Steven Sarnecki
OSIsoft, LLC

Lisa Sliker
OLPH Church

Thomas Spray-Fry
Lincoln Financial Services

Sr. Mary Therese White, OSF
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi

What's YOUR story?



"Each one of us has a story; a story of grace, a story of sin, a story of journey, many things. And it's good to pray with our story."

~Pope Francis

With these words, Pope Francis shared the essence of what it means to be Franciscan – the spirit that animates the Franciscan Center's ministry of service to poor and hungry citizens of Baltimore.

Each person whose life we have touched with this ministry throughout the past 47 years has his or her own special story – and each one has become a part of OUR story. St. Francis of Assisi challenged each of us to "preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary, use words." Clearly, our stories are our most profound prayers.

We'd love to hear YOUR story. Please take a moment today to share how the Franciscan Center has touched your life and what that has meant to you. As we approach our 50th year of service to the Baltimore community, we're starting a book of memories from past and present clients, volunteers and staff – the story of love that is the Franciscan Center. From time to time, we may also share some of these stories in our quarterly newsletter, website and social media sites. Check out Debbie's story on Page 6.

Please contact Meg Ducey to share your story at (410) 467-5340, Ext. 117 or mducey@fcbmore.org. We won't use your name unless you want us to.

*Bless you for the many wonderful ways in which you've shared our story!
We look forward to hearing from you!*

Unforgettable evening capped with record-setting auction

By Adrian Martin

Development & Marketing Coordinator

You came, you danced, you listened and you opened your hearts.

The Franciscan Center's 4th Annual *Voices from the Heart Gala* on Saturday, September 19th was a magical event, and the friends and supporters who shared the evening with us made this year's Gala our most successful yet. We're still savoring the memories!

The event exceeded our expectations, raising more than \$85,000 to benefit poor and hungry men, women and children of Baltimore. YOU made that possible, and we'd like to take this opportunity to say, "thank you"!

Our "Fund-a-Cause" live auction raised more than \$41,000 in gifts and pledges for the Center's Community Dinner, funding this critically important program through 2018 and beyond. In addition, our silent auction raised nearly \$5,000 – another record amount.

"We are overwhelmed by the generosity of our sponsors, donors and guests," said Meg Ducey, the Franciscan Center's director of development and marketing. "What a beautiful blessing! Special thanks to Maurice Fenner, whose inspiring testimony touched the hearts of all those in attendance."

We want to extend a big "thank you" to Robert Lang of WBAL Radio, our Master of Ceremonies, and to the Radio King Orchestra's RKO Combo, who rocked the house with swinging jazz music until the very end of the evening.

Sister Eileen Quinn of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi was the first speaker to take the stage, and she spoke about the Franciscan Spirit of Blessing. The room was alive with that spirit throughout the evening!

Congratulations to Mr. Hugh Warns of Stifel, whom the Center honored with its 2015 *Spirit of St. Francis Award*. Hugh has been a life-long friend, volunteer and supporter of the Franciscan Center, as well as a former board member. We are grateful for the opportunity to recognize him for his kindness and steadfast support.



The RKO Combo performs at the 4th Annual *Voices From the Heart Gala* on Sept. 19.



Hugh Warns, center, was named the recipient of the 2015 *Spirit of St. Francis* award. He stands with executive director Christian Metzger and 2014 recipient Bill Knott.

You could hear a pin drop when it was Maurice Fenner's turn to speak. Maurice is a regular guest at the Center, and his words were direct and to the point. He stressed that the need for the Center's services grows each day.

This extraordinary event would not have been possible without the help and support of our volunteers, donors and staff, as well as our friends at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Thank you, one and all!

Please plan to join us in September 2016, as the Franciscan Center's *Voices from the Heart Gala* hits its fifth-year milestone and moves to a Thursday evening. Details to follow in January. We look forward to seeing you there!



The NFL Season is underway – and together we can tackle hunger in Baltimore this winter!

The Franciscan Center invites Businesses, Churches, Youth Groups and Community Organizations to sign up for our **Souper Bowl of Caring** and help raise funds to benefit the Center's food programs – happening now through February 7, 2016, the day of Super Bowl 50.

Prizes will be offered to the top three fundraising teams, and the top two teams will receive 10 tickets to a pre-season Baltimore Ravens game!

For more information or to register, please visit www.fcbmore.org/events/souper-bowl-of-caring or contact Adrian Martin at (410) 467-5340, Ext. 114 or amartin@fcbmore.org.

Fenner: 'I'm here for all the people in my community'

By Adrian Martin

Development & Marketing Coordinator

He is known around the halls of the Franciscan Center as "The Mayor of 22nd Street."

Lifelong Baltimore resident Maurice Fenner, 65, has been coming to the Center for more than 20 years. On days he comes in for a meal, Fenner can always be found chatting up staff members, volunteers and other guests.

It's no surprise that he was given his honorary moniker, and he used it to great effect when the Center needed him at the 11th hour. When our original speaker for the 4th Annual *Voices From the Heart Gala* had to cancel, Fenner stepped in.

For the occasion, Fenner donned the formal duds that he received through the Center's Attire-4-Hire program, save for the shirt that his daughter gave him for Father's Day. Fenner also expressed to the crowd how much the Franciscan Center meant to him. He explained how much help the Center needed, as he has seen the lines outside grow longer and longer over the past few years.

Fenner's words touched the hearts of everyone in the room. Moments later, the crowd donated more than \$41,000 in a matter of minutes to fund the Center's Community Dinner for a further three years. Fenner, who was invited back on stage by executive director Christian Metzger and Master of Ceremonies Robert Lang, was overwhelmed by the support.

"I just want to say to all the beautiful people that donated, or didn't even donate; just being here, that you have the spirit of God in you," he said to the crowd. "I'm going to tell my friends and everybody I know who's sending them food. Thank you very much."

Special thanks to all of our sponsors, donors and volunteers for making the Franciscan Center's 4th Annual Voices From the Heart Gala a success!

DRESS CIRCLE

Daly Computers, Inc.
BGE
Stifel

Mezzanine

Bitumar
DePalo & Sons, Inc.
Radio King Orchestra

Balcony

Adele and Stephen J. Considine
Erachem Comilog, Inc.
Johns Hopkins University
Alison and Christopher Sheaffer
Talen Energy
WR Grace Foundation, Inc.

Media

Baltimore Business Journal
Fox45
WBAL Radio
WBFF TV
WJZ
WYPR

Donors

Baltimore Medical System, Inc.
Mr. Edward Countess
Mr. Jerome J. Frank
Mr. Arthur J. Lyons
Mr. Herbert Sledge
Mr. & Mrs. Vince Oakley
Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. David West
Ms. Joan Carolan
Ms. Lisa Sliker
Ms. Carolyn L. Smith
Sister Angela Perrizo, OSF
USALCO
Wheelabrator Baltimore

In-Kind Donors

Adler Entertainment, Inc.
Blondell's Accent on Events
Mr. Chris Chamberlain
Cindy's Skylight Liquors
Coastal Productions Studio, Inc.
Ms. Kathryn Conklin
Ms. Adele Considine
Fairfax Valet Parking
Kevin's Katering
Lynwood Square Liquors

Miller's Minuteman Press
Mr. Fernando Tosti
Philadelphia Distilling
Trio

Auction Donors

American Visionary Art Museum
Applebee's
Baltimore Coffee and Tea
Baltimore Museum of Industry
Baltimore Orioles
Baltimore Spa & Salon
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
Bluestone
Center Stage
Mr. Christopher Chamberlain
Cheesecake Factory
Kathy Conklin
Adele Considine
Earthwalk Center for Wholeness
Fogo de Chao
Glory Days
Carolyn Gutermuth
Historic Ships in Baltimore
Hyatt Regency Baltimore
Katie King
McCormick & Company, Inc.
Medieval Times
Mom's Organic Market
National Aquarium in Baltimore
Outback Steakhouse
P.F. Chang's China Bistro
Pickles Pub
Pizza Hut
Raimondi's Florist
Red Brick Station
Royal Sonesta Harbor Court Baltimore
Smyth Jewelers
Talen Energy
Wegman's
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Weinberg

Gala Event Planning Committee

Ms. Christine Ciavardini
Ms. Kathy Conklin
Ms. Adele Considine
Ms. Meg Ducey
Ms. Mollie Franke
Mr. Adrian Martin
Mr. Pat Monaghan
Mr. Wayne Ruth



Maurice Fenner stands with Robert Lang as he thanks the crowd during the 4th Annual *Voices From the Heart Gala* on Sept. 19.

In big ways and small ways, YOUR KINDNESS MAKES OUR MISSION POSSIBLE

As we look ahead to cooler days, ever-greater numbers of men, women and children are coming to the Franciscan Center seeking assistance.

Here are just a few ways that you can help us to help our neighbors in need.

You helped us share **CHRISTMAS IN JULY** – and gave Baltimore-area children the tools for a successful school year. Please help us **SHARE HOLIDAY WARMTH** with families and individuals in need this winter!



This fall the Franciscan Center is collecting new and unwrapped winter clothing and personal hygiene items for poor and homeless men, women and children of Baltimore. We will distribute these donations at Christmas and throughout the chilly winter months. Check out our website for a detailed list of items needed, at: <http://fcbmore.org/events/giving-tree/> or contact Angela Hall for more information, at: 410-467-5340, ext. 113, or ahall@fcbmore.org.



Help make a holiday miracle on #GivingTuesday – Dec. 1st!

Once again this year, the Franciscan Center is participating in the national #GivingTuesday initiative, asking our friends and supporters to create a holiday miracle by helping us raise funds for much-needed kitchen equipment.

The State of Maryland has donated **\$3,884** toward the cost of this equipment – but we must match that amount dollar-for-dollar – and we only have until the end of December to raise those funds! Any additional funds raised over this goal will go toward the Food Program at the Center. You make this holiday miracle happen by donating online at <http://fcbmore.kintera.org/2015givingtuesday> on #GivingTuesday – December 1, 2015.

Contact Adrian Martin for more information at: 410-467-5340, ext. 114 or amartin@fcbmore.org.



YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE in our community – and earn SIGNIFICANT TAX SAVINGS

Through a generous grant from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, the Franciscan Center has a limited number of **COMMUNITY INVESTMENT TAX CREDITS** to share with our donors.

Your donation of \$500 or more to the Franciscan Center can earn a 50% Maryland tax credit – over and above the federal and state tax savings you already receive based on your donation!

Please contact Meg Ducey today for more information or to reserve your Community Investment Tax Credit. Meg can be reached at: (410) 467-5340 ext. 117, or by email at: mducey@fcbmore.org.

Thank you for your support! Your kindness makes our mission possible.

Give back with a smile

The Franciscan Center is thrilled to be a part of the **AmazonSmile** program and you can, too!

It's very simple to activate. Go to smile.amazon.com, sign in to your Amazon account, type in our name and that's it! From that point on, when you sign in, 0.5% of any product you purchase that is marked "eligible for AmazonSmile donation" will come to us! All of your donations will fund our programs that provide services to Baltimore's most vulnerable citizens.

Millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations, and with the holidays coming up, that 0.5% will go a long way. Your support is very much appreciated!

“Blanket Baltimore 2015” to share warmth as winter winds blow!

The Franciscan Center is honored to partner with the Hyatt Regency Baltimore Inner Harbor and Target Baltimore East in Canton again this year to help “blanket Baltimore” with warmth during the chilly winter months ahead.

The Hyatt has pledged to collect 1,000 new blankets of any size this holi-



day season to benefit the Franciscan Center and the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVET). The Center will distribute blankets at our **Christmas dinner and celebration on Tuesday, December 22nd** – and in the chilly months that follow. What a beautiful blessing!

Blanket donations will be accepted between Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2015 and New Year’s Eve. Go to



<http://bit.ly/HyattBlanketsBmore15> for additional information about the drive, a donation link and real-time Blanket Baltimore ticker to follow the donations.

Reigle empowering clients through power of keyboard

By Adrian Martin

Development & Marketing Coordinator

Walk into the Franciscan Center’s Technical Resource Center during the week between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., and you will find Debbie Reigle in full teaching mode.

In January, Reigle will celebrate eight years as the Center’s technical resource coordinator. Clients seek her assistance with learning basic computer skills, filling out job applications and building resumes. The TRC helps 5-7 people per month find jobs.

“Those are only ones I know about,” Reigle is quick to add. “When they don’t come anymore, that means they probably got a job. Our mission is to take the obstacle of not having a computer or Internet service out of the equation.”

Reigle said the TRC’s clientele is diverse, from people looking up information about local homeless shelters to college students who have assignments they need to complete but have no Internet access at home.

Reigle also handles many of the Center’s empowerment services. This includes the Attire-4-Hire program, which provides formal wear – 100 percent donated – to men who need

Franciscan Spirit In Action

In each issue, we will share the story of a Center staff member or volunteer to highlight what they do and how they embody the Franciscan spirit.

suits for job interviews, jobs and important formal functions.

The TRC partners with the South Baltimore Learning Center, which offers GED classes at the Center in the spring and fall. Several of the city’s reentry programs send clients to the TRC to apply for jobs as well.

“Since I’ve been doing this, the partnerships that we’ve made across the whole city are so beautifully rich,” she says. “We’re invited to drug court graduations now, and it’s beautiful to see a kid come straight back to you when you don’t even think they notice you in the room and gives you hug.”

Reigle’s road to the Franciscan Center was unconventional, if not remarkable. She started out in the defense industry as a technical writer, specializing in military aircraft. She was laid off from that job and began working for a printing company near the Center, where she began volunteering in addition to other non-profits like the Marian House. She was soon offered the job of expanding



Franciscan Center technical resource coordinator Debbie Reigle answers a client’s question.

a technical resource program in its infancy, and she accepted.

Fast forward eight years, and the empowerment services department is going strong and transforming lives. In addition to the Attire-4-Hire program, the computer lab received a much-needed upgrade last year with the help of generous donations. Reigle can now teach her clients on state-of-the-art equipment, and in FY2015, the TRC was accessed more than 3,400 times!

For Reigle, the real satisfaction comes in the success people enjoy simply because she showed them how to use a computer.

“Little things make a big difference,” she says. “I love the job and I love what we do in here.”