



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

spring 2009

## FIVE YEARS OF SECURITY

Nationwide all maritime facilities are now required to institute the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program. Over 1.1 million workers in the maritime industry have enrolled in this program in order to meet the credentialing requirements to work in these secure areas. Each applicant undergoes a criminal and terrorist background check, and once cleared, receives the new TWIC card which allows the worker unescorted access to secure facilities.

This June all maritime facility security plans come up for a five year review by the U.S. Coast Guard. As this review and renewal is a mammoth undertaking, many terminal operators have had outside auditors review their plans for compliance. These audits revealed that few terminal security plans complied with the requirement to provide TWIC Escort Training for those TWIC card holders responsible for non-credentialed individuals in secure areas.

It was a rude awakening for SCI when terminals suddenly refused to allow our chaplains to escort seafarers to terminal gates for shore leave because we did not have this training. The net result was no shore leave for our seafarers. SCI serves 28 terminals on the Delaware River.

As we began contemplating the chaos of trying to get SCI's 17 TWIC card holders to each of these 28 terminals for training, the adverse impact on other maritime businesses occurred to us as well. We realized SCI had to assist in crafting an efficient solution.

To address the new training requirement and to streamline the process of coming into compliance across 28 terminals, SCI put together its own comprehensive training & certification program, and had it reviewed by the US Coast Guard to make sure it met all security regulations. The Captain of the Port has since recommended terminals use our program to meet the security requirements for escort training.

Providing a standardized training program not only benefits SCI but also ship agents, marine transportation services and many others who must escort non-credentialed people in and out of marine terminals—a value added service to the port.

**THE REV. JAMES D. VON DREELE**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

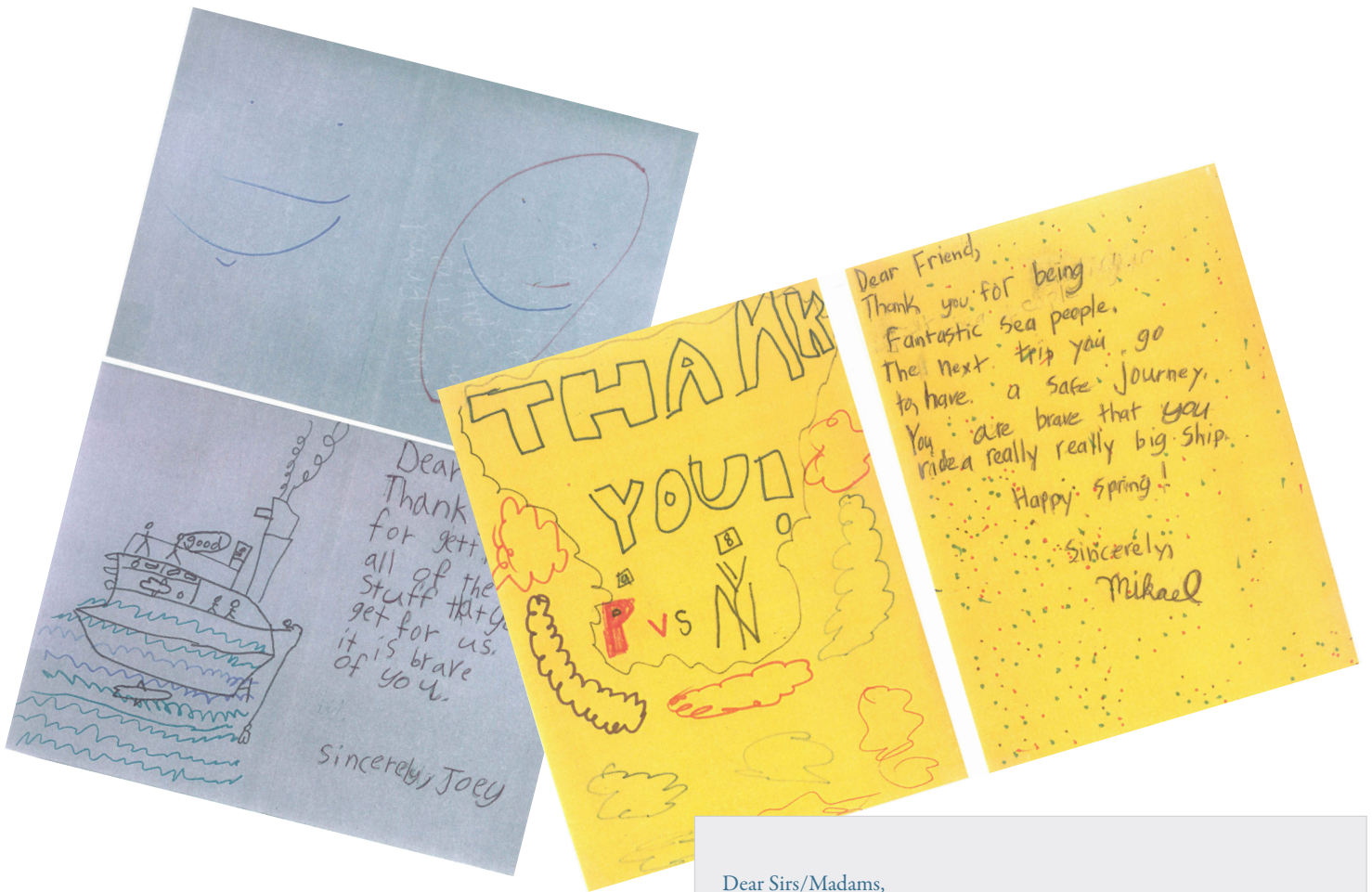
### SCI'S YOUNGEST FUNDRAISER

**GAIL HARBAUGH** of Trinity Episcopal Church in Solebury PA, a long time friend and supporter of SCI, has always taught her granddaughter by example the importance of contributing to her community.

So when Gail ran a Trinity fundraiser, "Grandma's Attic", she invited her granddaughter, **HEIDI WORTELL**, to participate. Heidi, an 11 year old budding entrepreneur, spent the day working her own booth raising money by selling the jewelry, artwork, and baked goods she had made.

Gail then brought Heidi to SCI for a tour of our Center and to learn about our mission to the seafarers. Heidi purchased three 60 minute phone cards with the money she had raised to donate to seafarers in need. When we distributed the cards the seafarers had tears in their eyes when they heard Heidi's story.

Heidi's Mom, Linda, says "Heidi is always looking for something good to do for someone."



## KIDS MAKE THE CONNECTION

### *No Seafarers – No Chocolate*

Earlier this spring Father Jim Von Dreele was invited to address the first through fourth grade students at St. Peter's School in Old City Philadelphia. Father talked to the students about how items on their store shelves were delivered by seafarers manning the ships visiting the ports of the Delaware River. To assist the students in making the connection, Father Jim led the kids through the global cocoa bean supply chain. Imagine how delighted the children were not only to learn where chocolate comes from, but that the cocoa bean terminal was only a few short blocks away from their school.

When the children began to understand that seafarers endure long separations from their families, and many dangers at sea to deliver the goods and fuel they use every day, not to mention the ingredients for chocolate, the students decided to say thank you. The students of St. Peter's lower school all baked cookies which we delivered to the seafarers. They also wrote thank you letters which we hung in the center. The following is an e-mail we received from the Captain of the M.T. Vega Spirit after reading the children's letters:

Dear Sirs/Madams,  
Good Day!

In behalf of my officers and crew, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to the efforts your church have extended to us during our portstay in Sunoco Fort Mifflin. My officers and crew were really happy and grateful for the opportunity to be in touch with their families at an affordable cost as well as to buy things in Best Buy/Walmarts after a month of unfavorable weather at sea. They have comfort reading all the letters from people recognizing the effort of seafarers like us whose only happiness is to provide decent lifestyle for our families far from home. We have been so many places around the world but your services were the best. We hope that other Seaman's Club in USA ports or around the world will also follow somehow pattern your services to us—seafarers. My officers and crew are very eager to be back to Philadelphia and enjoy the superb facilities inside your Seaman's Club. Kindly extend our best wishes and regards to all the children who wrote those lovely inspiring letters to us. We will do our best not to fail them and keep them proud—we hope someday we will have the chance to meet them—sharing also our talents like painting, playing musical instruments, sports, acting, etc...

Again, thank you so much for a lifetime experience in Philadelphia. We hope more institutions/private sectors support your church in order to continue the legacy since 1843.

Best regards,  
Master/Capt.V. Brian P. Conde Jr.  
*M.T. Vega Spirit*

## PIRACY – ANOTHER DANGER FACING SEAFARERS

The news that John Cronan of Lower Merion was an engineering officer aboard the *Maersk Alabama* cargo ship put a local face on the plight of modern seafarers, and on issues that should be of concern to all of us. We at the Seamen's Church Institute salute Capt. Richard Phillips for risking his life for his crew, and the bravery and discipline of those he led. We also hope their actions draw long-overdue attention to the plight of seafarers.

U.S. merchant mariners are paid well, but they move only a tiny percentage of the world's commerce. The overwhelming majority of seafarers are from third world nations. They work for meager wages and support extended families, even whole villages living in poverty. They keep the global economy working by spending 9-10 months at sea at a time. To transport 90 percent of what you and I use every day, they endure loneliness, heat, cold, 40-foot-high waves, and yes...piracy.

Many of the seafarers visiting SCI in Philadelphia are crewmen whose vessels have come under attack or have been captured by pirates. Their first-hand accounts are harrowing, but also inspire us in the courage, determination, and selflessness demonstrated by survivors.

You may recall SCI hosted the crew of the vessel, *M.V. Irene E.M.*, for 10 months as they were detained as witnesses to an environmental violation at sea. April 14, 2009 the *M.V. Irene E.M.* was attacked in the middle of the night and seized. Crew members had a few brief minutes between the alarm and the hijack. Negotiations for release of the vessel are still continuing as of this printing and the crewmen remain hostages.

With funding from a grant from the Abington Foundation, SCI implemented a pastoral care training program for our Ship Visitors so they have the skills to better assist seamen with emotional and spiritual issues. Some may be traumatized from an encounter with pirates, while others may be suffering the effects of depression due to long separations from loved ones.

Your continued support of SCI provides the resources necessary to properly care for very vulnerable people while they are far from home delivering us the goods that make our standard of living possible.

### RECENT VISITORS

Crew members of the *Luzon Strait* enjoy an evening at SCI.



### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Each year SCI cares for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of our 40,000 visiting seafarers bringing a moment of grace to the lives of the stranger in our midst. The SCI community continues its work improving seafaring life here on the Delaware and around the world.

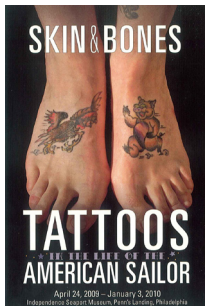
Today, you can make an immediate difference in the life of a mariner whose labor makes our standard of living possible. Each \$208 dollars you send provides one ship visit and transportation for one crew.

Now more than ever, we are counting on your continued financial support. Please make the most generous gift you can, as soon as possible, and send your contribution in the enclosed envelope to:

THE SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE  
475 N. 5th Street,  
Philadelphia, PA 19123

All contributions are tax deductible.

Thank you in advance for your kind support!



### COMMUNITY

THE INDEPENDENCE SEAPORT MUSEUM ON PENN'S LANDING has mounted an exciting and provocative exhibit that delves into the beliefs, traditions, and power of the tattoo in American maritime culture. Tattoos were introduced to this country by seamen, so if you have a tattoo today, thank a sailor. For more information visit the museum on the web at [www.phillyseaport.org/tattoo](http://www.phillyseaport.org/tattoo) or call 215.413.8655.

Visit the Seamen's Church Institute on the web at [www.sciphiladelphia.org](http://www.sciphiladelphia.org) or call us at 215.940.9900.



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### CHAPEL OF THE REDEEMER DEDICATED JUNE 18, 2009

The Seamen's Church Institute of Philadelphia and South Jersey had a double celebration June 18—the dedication of its new chapel, and the discovery of a church bell that dates back to the seafarer ministry's founding in 1847. The bell had been missing for more than 150 years.

The new Chapel of the Redeemer is the centerpiece of the SCI's Seafarer Center serving visiting seamen, the maritime industry, All Souls' Church for the Deaf, and the local community. The bell was originally cast for the Floating Church of the Redeemer, which was mounted on a barge. It was dedicated in 1849 and was a key part of the early history of what is now known as Seamen's Church Institute.

Fr. James Von Dreele, the Executive Director of SCI, said, "We are blessed to have the iconic symbol of our ministry back with the purchase of this bell. We were completely surprised to see it surface after 150 years. Perhaps it was the providence of God that brought the bell to us as

we consecrate a new Chapel of the Redeemer." The existence of the Floating Church's bell was unknown until Craig Bruns, Curator of Philadelphia's Independence Seaport Museum, notified SCI it was for sale on eBay, the internet auction. Dennis Colgan Jr., founder and former Chief Executive of Barthco International—and longtime member of the SCI board—went to work immediately enabling SCI's purchase and restoration of the bell, a gift of the Board of Directors.

This inscription on the bell documents its significance:

*Presented to the Floating Church of the Redeemer  
By the Teachers and Scholars of Christ Church  
Sunday School Philadelphia 1849*

*"The abundance of the sea  
shall be converted unto the Lord"  
Isaiah LX5*

Christ Church was where George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and others worshipped while they worked to establish the United States. It remains an active Episcopal congregation near the Philadelphia waterfront.

The dedication of the Chapel was celebrated by more than 175 people, including members of the SCI Board of Directors, donors, representatives of local churches and members of the maritime business community. Assisting Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, the Right Rev. Rodney Michel, with the Rev. James D. Von Dreele, Chaplain to the Port and Executive Director of the Seamen's Church Institute, the Rev. Judith Meckling, Vicar of All Souls' Episcopal Church for the Deaf, and the Very Rev. Joy Segal of Southwark Deanery officiated at the service.

