



Seamen's Church Institute
of Philadelphia & South Jersey

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Our Executive Director

Helene Pierson



Helene Pierson was appointed Executive Director of Seamen's Church Institute in July of 2016.

She brings to her post over 16 years of non-profit management experience and has expertise in multiple areas of administration and operations. Prior to moving into the non-profit world she held a variety of corporate management positions, including 16 years with the Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News.

SCI's Board of Directors, in announcing Ms. Pierson's appointment, saluted her "outstanding management expertise, education, experience in accounting and business administration, and great communication, collaboration, and fundraising skills."

Ms Pierson joined SCI with a strong commitment to the well-being of all people and to advocating for those who face injustice. This passion now applies to representing seafarers in the ports of Philadelphia and South Jersey on both sides of the Delaware River.

She is quick to salute the dedication of SCI's Board, staff, and volunteers. "I am constantly impressed by their fierce commitment to our mission," she says. "We have many challenges ahead of us, from making sure SCI stays financially healthy to dealing with the understandable but difficult issues raised by increased security in our ports. But I have every confidence that we will continue to thrive and serve the port community."

Ms Pierson is a faithful Roman Catholic laywoman who has rich experience with faith-based non-profits. Her achievements have been extensively recognized from within the organizations where she has worked as well as the communities she has served. Most notably, she was named the Philadelphia Inquirer's Citizen of the Year in 2010 for her work at The Heart of Camden, Inc., a faith-based organization providing economic development in the streets of Camden, NJ.

In 2011 she was honored with the EMBA Alumni Award for Service to Community from Drexel University, where she received her MBA in 2000. She has also served as Director of Community Development and Project Manager for Stand Up For Salem, where she completed over 170 community development projects and secured significant new grants for the organization.