



A window into ministry to seafarers who keep commerce flowing

The Anchor

Summer 2016

SCI Announces New Executive Director

The Seaman's Church Institute of Philadelphia and South Jersey (SCI) is pleased to announce the appointment of Helene Pierson as its new Executive Director. Ms. Pierson brings almost 15 years of non-profit management experience to our organization and has expertise in multiple areas of administration and operations. Ms. Pierson has been extensively recognized for her work from both within the organizations she has worked, as well as with the external communities she has served. Most notably, Ms. Pierson was named the Philadelphia Inquirer's Citizen of the year in 2010 for her work at The Heart of Camden, Inc., a non-profit that served the community in Camden, New Jersey. Her most recent position was helping the community of Salem, NJ.



"We are very pleased to have Helene join SCI as our new Executive Director during these challenging times. She brings with her outstanding management expertise, education and experience in accounting and business administration and great communication, collaboration and fundraising skills," Roy Denmark, SCI's Board President said. "We are confident that Helene will successfully navigate SCI into the future which will enable us to continue to perform our primary function of serving the many seafarers who come to our Port."

"I look forward to serving the needs of the seafarer community in my new role while supporting our organization's strong ministry of hosting and serving the human needs of the hard-working visitors to our local ports. In my previous roles, when there has been injustice in the community I served, I've been a strong advocate, and I see myself becoming the same for the seafarer community as well," Pierson said.

The former Executive Director, Peter Stube, will remain at the organization for a few months to help with transition. After 37 years in the active priesthood, Peter is looking forward to a slower pace of life which will involve some ministry, but also more time for children and grandchildren. "During my time at the helm, we have restructured the institute to more fully engage the rapidly changing maritime life and industry," said Stube. "We gained our own nonprofit tax status for the first time in our history when we acquired 501 (c) (3) in November. We revised our bylaws in order to reflect our current ways of functioning."

"The Board of SCI is grateful for Father Stube's leadership of the organization for the last three and a half years," said Denmark, "We thank Father Stube for all that he has done for SCI and wish him Godspeed in his upcoming retirement."

Helene Pierson is a faithful Roman Catholic laywomen who has rich experience in grant writing and fund raising and faith based nonprofits. She is also a proven administrator of nonprofits in Camden, NJ where she worked for the Heart of Camden a faith based organization that has provided economic development in the streets of Camden, NJ. She did exceptional work there. We could not have identified a better person to carry SCI into its next chapter of life. I rejoice that this essential ministry will continue under the faithful stewardship of Helene Pierson," said Stube.

Want more news from SCI? Sign up for our semi-monthly eNewsletter by logging on to:

Madmimi.com/signups/119127/join

Washing Machine and Seafarer Ministry?



When a washing machine on board broke, the crew called SCI to see if we could help them out! We took some quick measurements to make sure the model we wanted would fit in the back of the minivan, then rushed off to Lowe's! Our staff helped the crew haul the box into the van, and then it was back to the ship to get the new equipment up and running! Hooray for clean clothes!

The Little Things Count During A Hospital Stay

When we get wind of a seafarer in the port with a medical crisis, we pray and hope for the best, but often prepare ourselves for the worst. Recently, we got a phone call that a seafarer was in a hospital over in Camden due to heart problems. We weren't sure who he was, what his condition was or how long his recovery would be, all we knew was that we needed to be there! We got his name from his agent and headed over to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital to see what we can do.

When we finally made it up to the hospital room, we were grateful to find the seafarer in stable condition. He was an older gentleman from Greece, a representative from the ship's company on board to oversee repairs. He had already been through surgery and was lethargic, but recovering well.

His immediate medical needs were taken care of by the company and the hospital staff, so it became our job to make him as comfortable as possible. He had a phone capable of calling home in his suitcase, so we called several agencies to find out where his luggage ended up and brought it to him. He hadn't brought any exercise clothes, so we went out and bought him a few pairs of sweats so he could do rehab and physical therapy more comfortably. We sent visitors almost every day, always bringing reading material other goodies to try to occupy the many hours in the hospital.

After a few weeks, and the seafarer was strong enough, he was put on a plane back to Greece to continue recovering at home. This story is not one of a major, dramatic SCI intervention where we saved the day. However, we carried out another aspect of our mission that is just as important: making seafarers feel at home. If at the end of the day all we've done is make seafarers feel more comfortable when they're thousands of miles from home, then it has been a successful day. We are grateful for all of our partners that joined us in taking care of this seafarer during his stay with us, and most of all we are so glad that he returned home healthy!

Golf Outing Winners

Our Golf Outing was a huge success! Many thanks to all of our sponsors and supporters, especially our hosts, PMTA. Congratulations to our winners, the team from Benefits Processing, pictured here!



Food, glorious food!

Few things can bring folks together like food can—check out how SCI uses food to connect with seafarers



Does this look like your kitchen home? This is a typical ships galley, where a cook prepares food for all the crew on board!



This chief mate had not had shore leave for 4 months when he arrived in Philly. His first stop once off ship? Jim's, for a cheesteak!



Pastor Lee went out of this way to take a Korean Captain out to lunch to a local Korean restaurant, and some other crew tagged along! Doesn't the food look good!?



The All-American crew on board the Charleston got a special treat when their Captain decided to buy pizza for dinner! SCI picked these guys, and their pizza, up at the shop and delivered it all back to the ship. What a nice break from shipboard food!

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WHO KEEP COMMERCE FLOWING**

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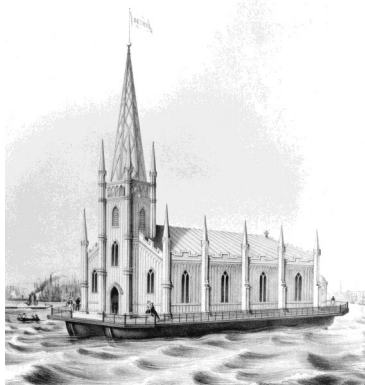
SCI's Gala & Exhibition:

Guardians of Seafarers

Saturday November 12, 2016

Independence Seaport Museum

6:00pm-8:00pm



An event featuring SCI's exhibit in the
museum's Community Gallery

Other Upcoming SCI Events:

- Teach Fleet at the Camden Shipyard & Maritime Museum *November 13-15* - an interactive educational experience of model ships built out of Legos. The exhibit will give visitors the chance to explore SCI's work and the maritime industry at large!
- Ditty Bag Packing Day:
Wednesday, November 16th - save the date for our annual day of volunteering to assemble the thousands of holiday gifts that go out to seafarers during the winter season. Look for more details coming soon!