



The Anchor

A window into the ministry to seafarers who keep global commerce flowing

**Seamen's Church
Institute**
of Philadelphia and South Jersey

Winter 2016

The First 127 Days

Helene Pierson, Executive Director

As I write this message, 1000s of items have been pouring into the center to fill the almost 4,000 ditty bags that we will serve to seafarers that come in the Philadelphia and South Jersey ports between Thanksgiving and the New Year. I've been fortunate to be the other end of the giving hammock before, and although I'm new to this ministry, I knew that the goods would show up on time. It comes in the form of much needed warmth of knitted hats and scarves, and the simplest of items such as a toothbrush, shaving cream, and a razor. There are not yet any stores out on the high seas, and the staff can tell you, these gifts are much appreciated.



Volunteers pack ditty bags at SCI offices.

We also brought back the SCI Gala which was held in conjunction with the wonderful exhibit showcasing our work at Independence Seaport Museum. The exhibit, *Compassion in Action*, is on display at ISM's 2nd floor community space through early March. Please go see it. The Guardian of the Seafarer Gala was a wonderful night of delicious food, music, and gathering with our sup-

porters. We are especially thankful that Bishop Daniel Gutierrez who is our organization's Honorary President was able to join us for the invocation. We are in awe of the new energy he brings from the West Coast to the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. He also started his work here just a few months ago, and we can feel the buzz about his presence here at the center. We are looking forward to continued partnering to serve.

My favorite day since starting was engaging with a young woman seafarer, Glaiza Gofredo (we call her Liza), for whom we did some shopping while she was out at sea, and we needed to make some exchanges. We went to Best Buy, and we had lunch and talked about her life. She had been on a six month contract on one of the fruit ships that came to the Holt Terminal in Gloucester every two weeks. Quite a few of our staff had grown to know her well. She was from the Philippines, and thrilled to get a break from the mostly male ship and head out with another female for some one on one time. She is a Cadet and is now back in the Philippines and back to school to continue to elevate her rank, and we wish her well.



Helene and Glaiza sharing conversation and lunch

As you will receive this letter just about the time of Thanksgiving, I'd like to say that I am most grateful for the people that have brought their passion for the seafarer back to SCI. Among them are former board member David Reid, a businessman who served on our board that has come back as a volunteer port chaplain; Uwe Schulz, another former board member that has a good bit of knowledge in financial matters and investments and can be an asset to the team here; and Tom Itaas, who was an employee here over a decade ago, and has returned to bring back the Christmas dinner for the Seafarers, which will be held here on December 12th.

God Bless and thank you all for your support through the first 127 days of this wonderful organization of service that has been around for three centuries.

From the heart,

Helene Pierson

Gifts from people like you allow us to minister to 30,000 seafarers annually. Please consider a gift to SCI. You may use the envelope included or visit us online at www.sciphiladelphia.org. For gifts of stock, contact Christine Polit at 215-940-9900 x 104 or cpolit@sciphiladelphia.org

Compassion in Action Exhibit Highlights SCI

A new exhibit at the Independence Seaport Museum, *Compassion In Action*, offers an inside look at the day-to-day life of men and women seafarers who visit the Philadelphia and South Jersey Ports along the Delaware River through the lens of SCI. Using videos, historical images and artifacts, original paintings by Carole Goddard, along with a variety of everyday items that resonate with individual seafarers, the exhibit uses stories to show how SCI has adapted over the years to best help the seafarers' changing needs – especially with the evolution of new technologies and security.



"We are excited for the opportunity to tell the story of our work through this community exhibit space," says Helene Pierson, Executive Director of Seamen's Church Institute. "We have been quietly serving the seafarers of the region in Philadelphia and South Jersey for three centuries, and are thankful to be able to share our work with the broader regional community."

Compassion in Action opened to the public on October 21, 2016 and will be available at the Independence Seaport Museum through March 12, 2017.



Upcoming Speaker Series

As part of the *Compassion In Action* Exhibit, the Independence Seaport Museum is hosting a "Words of Action" Speaker Series. Much thanks to Henry Holcomb, former SCI Board member and current volunteer, for being the kick off speaker on November 19th. Upcoming speakers include:

December 17th - Father William Rex, Port Chaplain, Lutheran Minister, Seamen's Church Institute and Seafarer's International House

January 21 -- Patricia Johnston, Seamen's Church Institute and Craig Bruns, Chief Curator at Independence Seaport Museum

February 18 -- Jason Zuidema, Executive Director of the North American Maritime Ministry Association

All speaking series are included with regular museum admission and will take place from 1pm-3pm in the Community Gallery.

Photo Gallery



Pastor Bill and Pastor Lee attend the ICMA AHoy Training and Immersion Course in Manila



Commodore McKinley of Teach Fleet and a visitor to the Camden Ship Yard Museum event sponsored by SCI



Executive Director Helene Pierson and Chaplain Bradley Gow representing SCI at the Diocese of Pennsylvania Convention



SCI staff attend the Christening of the West Virginia at the Philadelphia Shipyard



Bringing Back the SCI Gala!

After a year hiatus, the SCI Fall Gala is back! Over 125 guests gathered at the Independent Seaport Museum on November 12th to break bread and share in the mission of Seamen's Church Institute to serve seafarers.

Thank you to all of our event sponsors, donors, and attendees!



Bishop Gutierrez gives the invocation at the SCI gala



Over 125 attendees came out to this years gala!



Captain Anderson of the US Coast Guard addresses the attendees



L-R Roy Denmark, SCI Board Chair, Helene Pierson, SCI Executive Director, and Captain David Cuff, Gala Event Chair, with Teach Fleet ship auctioned at gala



Carole Baxter, SCI Board Member, with William Penn, greeter and MC for the event

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Philadelphia and South Jersey**

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Santa Run 12/3/2016

Ditty Bag Delivery

**Christmas Service and Holiday
Feast for Seafarers 12/12/2016**

Spirit of the Port 2/23/2017

Honoring Eugene Mattioni

**SCI Golf Tournament
5/1/2017**

