



Winter 2024

## The Royer-Greaves COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Vol. 7, No. 2

Visit our [website](http://www.royer-greaves.org) to learn more about Royer-Greaves.

### Dear Royer-Greaves Community,

At this time of year, we're all seeking warmth – not just from furnaces and fireplaces, but from friendship and family, gatherings and celebrations, giving and receiving. The kind of warmth we feel deep in our hearts.

This is the kind of warmth that abounds at Royer-Greaves, and through this newsletter, we hope to share it with you. In this issue, you will read how our students and adults are gaining vocational and life skills and experiencing the joy of giving to others, all through the power of sandwiches. You will meet three new Royer-Greaves staff members. And you can photographically visit our classrooms, gym, and outdoor spaces – take a look at what happens here, and you'll see the warmth we're talking about.

Royer-Greaves is a non-profit that depends on support from foundations, businesses, and individuals who believe in our mission. If it's in your heart and your budget, it's not too late to make a 2023 donation at [Royer-Greaves.com](http://Royer-Greaves.com). Thank you.

*Wishing you comfort, joy, and warmth,*



Executive Director  
VICKY MAYER



Deputy  
Executive Director  
DEBRA JEROME

## The Power of a Good Sandwich



### Royer-Greaves Students and Adults Acquire Vocational Skills While Helping Others

Every week, a group of Royer-Greaves students or adults goes shopping, makes sandwiches, and delivers lunch to people who are experiencing housing and food insecurity.

The Royer-Greaves sandwich-makers have a visual impairment along with other disabilities. With staff support, the sandwich teams plan the meals, shop for ingredients, then form an assembly line to layer bread, meat, and cheese. They wrap the sandwiches and make sure every brown bag gets one, along with a bottle of water, a piece of fruit, and a small sweet. They then help deliver the bounty to [Good Samaritan Services](http://Good Samaritan Services) in Phoenixville.

"Through making and delivering sandwiches, participants learn a vocational skill set and skills of daily living, including planning, how to comparison shop, assembling skills, team work and organization," said Jim Powers, Royer-Greaves strategic planning consultant and one of the staff members who coordinates the program. "They also experience the joy of giving."

Sandwich team member John M. embraces all of it. "I like putting on my food service uniform, making sandwiches with my friends, and then delivering the lunches," he said. "I really feel good about helping other people."

### Behind the scenes support

The sandwich-making program is primarily funded by the Drishti Foundation, with additional support from area ACME Markets.

Drishti was founded by high school and middle school children with a mission to support visually impaired people in their pursuit of education, health care, and job readiness, said Treasurer and Co-Founder Phani Raparla. "When we were made aware of this program, which helps students and adults develop work

*"I like putting on my food service uniform, making sandwiches with my friends, and then delivering the lunches. I really feel good about helping other people."*

– John M., Royer-Greaves adult and sandwich program participant



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skills it seemed like a fantastic way we could contribute," he said. Drishti has also donated hand-held radios and the funds raised in the most recent Drishti Dash walk and run to Royer-Greaves and Drishti volunteers regularly help around campus. To learn more about Drishti, visit [drishtiusa.org](http://drishtiusa.org). Click on donate/contact us to inquire about volunteering.

### More than a meal

Good Samaritan provides emergency, transitional, and affordable housing, along with support services, to people in Chester and Lancaster counties. Those enjoying the Royer-Greaves sandwich lunches are often taking a break from completing job applications or working toward their driver's license, said Julie Morrow, who coordinates donations in Chester County, and Mandy Ramos, director of community engagement. The recipients appreciate the food, but it's much more than that, they said.

"A simple lunch that was put together for you says 'you're valued, you're worth something, you're loved,'" Ramos said. "One sandwich communicates a lot," Morrow added. "You never know how that's going to change someone's life."



Royer-Greaves sandwich makers along with students from Delaware Valley Friends School, who volunteered to help.

## Thank You for Your Generous Support – It's Not Too Late to Give!

Royer-Greaves has received more than \$310,000 in individual and corporate donations and bequests and more than \$46,000 in grants through November of 2023. We are deeply grateful to all who have supported us this year and remind those who have not yet made a 2023 donation that the needs of our adults and students are many. This is the perfect time to offer your support.

- Donate by credit card or PayPal at [www.Royer-Greaves.org](http://www.Royer-Greaves.org) or follow the QR code below.
- Prefer to donate by check? Contact Development Director Nicholas Voight at 610-644-1810 ext. 232

Every dollar received furthers our mission to teach and support students and adults with vision impairment along with other disabilities in achieving their most independent and fulfilling lives.



## Foundations & Businesses Supporting Royer-Greaves' Mission

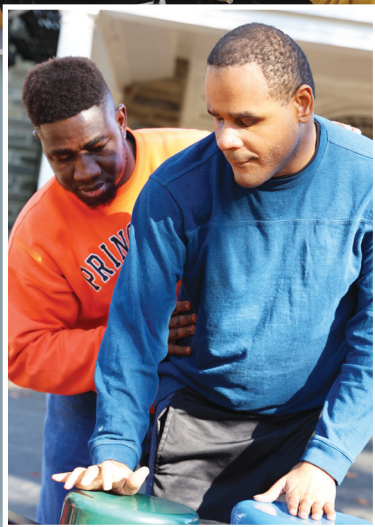
*We are honored that the following foundations and businesses value our mission and have entrusted us with their philanthropy:*

ACME Markets  
Amazon Smile  
Assured Partners  
BMC Benefit Services  
CCRES  
The Communication Solutions Group  
The Drishti Foundation  
First Bank Charitable Foundation  
Genuardi Family Foundation  
Harriet Fredericks Foundation  
Ipath Cloud Solutions  
Kistler Tiffany Foundation  
Kennett Square Lions Club  
Lower Providence Presbyterian Church  
Network for Good  
The PBM Lions Club  
Sylvia W. and Randall M. Kauders Foundation  
T/E School District Alumni Association  
United Way  
Vanguard Employee Matching Gift Program  
Windmill Foundation

If your organization awards grants or otherwise supports area non-profits, please contact  
Royer-Greaves Development Director  
Nicholas Voight at 610-644-1810 ext. 232.



# Learning, Growing, and Having Fun Together at Royer-Greaves!





# Introducing Three New Members of the Royer-Greaves Team

## JAMES GIBBONS, Director of Operations



James Gibbons

Jim credits his father, who was president of Horn and Hardart Baking Co., with instilling in him a desire to serve others. One Thanksgiving, his dad helped a man who appeared to have no home up from the sidewalk, sat him in the front of the restaurant dining room, and told the manager to give him anything he wanted. "That's where it all started," Jim said.

Jim's career has largely been in facilities management, but food service and serving others has remained a key focus. Prior to Royer-Greaves, he was vice president of operations at the Beaumont retirement community, where he managed safety, daily operations, and budget. As director of operations for the Malvern Institute, he and staff presented those in treatment, who could not be with their families, with a fancy Thanksgiving meal of the caliber served to dignitaries during his 20 years with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Jim saw the Royer-Greaves job posting when he was looking for a new way to "make a difference in people's lives and serve a purpose." Witnessing the strong relationships among staff members and their commitment to serving Royer's students and adults showed Jim he had found the place he wanted to be.

"I am here to make a difference in any way possible for the staff, the students, and the adults," he said. Jim is happily married and enjoys spending time with his wife, children, grandchildren, and dog.

## DANIEL RODRIGUEZ SÁNCHEZ, Human Relations Manager

Daniel was drawn to the HR manager role at Royer-Greaves because he values the children and adults who Royer-Greaves serves. "My wife has family members who are visually impaired and others who have an intellectual impairment, and I have the pleasure of knowing them," he said. "When I saw this available position in a school that works directly with this population, that was one of the main reasons I decided to apply." He loves that he gets to interact with students and adults daily, and also that no two days at Royer-Greaves are ever the same.

Daniel is an Industrial-Organizational Psychologist with extensive experience in hiring, talent management, benefits and compensation. He has managed HR departments for a variety of food manufacturers, including Beyond Meat (Devault Foods) as well as a transportation company and a linen and uniforms company.

At Royer-Greaves, Daniel is working to build strong relationships with employees and perspective employees. "I want them to know that somebody is here for them in HR who is able to help them with everything they need regarding a job or personal situation," he said. He is also updating department practices and moving away from paper and toward new digital technologies.

Daniel is married to Yarmila and they have a 9-year-old son, Rique. Family time revolves around his son's soccer games, watching Netflix, and playing with Perla who, technically speaking, is his sister's dog.



Daniel Rodriguez Sánchez

## NICHOLAS VOIGHT, Director of Development and Community Outreach



Nicholas Voight

Nick brings extensive experience in non-profit development, fundraising, and special events when he joined Royer-Greaves. "I am at a point in my life where I want to be a part of something that makes an impact," he said. The more he learned about Royer-Greaves and the more people from Royer he met, the more Nick realized this was a place where he could make a difference and this was a team he wanted to be a part of, he said.

"My number one goal is to get our name out there more in the public, to promote the community we serve and to build connections with other organizations," Nick said. "Growing our connections will allow us to raise more money to help more people." Awareness is key, he said, because Royer-Greaves serves a relatively small group of people. Royer doesn't have a long list of wealthy alumni. The number of people who even know someone with visual impairment paired with another disability is relatively small. When community members, elected officials, business leaders and foundation boards learn about the people who Royer-Greaves serves, they want to be involved, Nick said.

Before Royer-Greaves, Nick served as the Timothy School's director of development. Earlier, he was senior gift account manager at Independence Mission Schools and Annual Fund & Special Events Manager at Crozer-Chester & Delco Memorial Foundations.

Nick and his wife Gloria have a 14-year-old son, Nick Jr. In addition to coaching CYO basketball and baseball, Nick is a Mummer who plays percussion with Fralinger String Band.