



HEARTS OF PALM CENTER

A Capital Campaign
of St. Mark's Episcopal Church

HOPC News & Notes, May 26, '24

"I think we both feel that we have an important responsibility... It's how we see our place in the world - to give back to deserving causes."

Tom Arenz

"You can't do anything if you are hungry. You can't pay attention, work, receive incoming information. You can't grow."

Barbara Arenz

Donor Spotlight

Barbara and Tom Arenz are a powerful testament to the significance of community engagement and philanthropy. In this candid conversation about their gift to the Hearts of Palm Center, they reflect on their shared commitment to making a positive difference in their community and beyond.

Would you share your background with the Episcopal Church?

BARBARA: Well, in addition to St. Mark's, we've been members of Christ Church in Greenwich, Connecticut for 32 years. I've been on the vestry there; and we've served on committees, and fundraisers together. I also have an active role in the historical rectory which sits on that campus.

Tom, I understand you play guitar at Christ Church children's service.

TOM: Yes. Any given week I could be performing for 15 to 30 kids. It's a really fun thing to do. We have a thank-you song where the kids sing what they're thankful for. It's usually "pizza" and "Legos". (Laughs) Occasionally someone will say "faith" or "the church." It's a fun way to get the kids involved in thinking about gratitude.

Let's talk a little bit about your support for Hearts of Palm Center.

BARBARA: Shortly after we started attending services at St. Mark's, we read that Karen was asking people to donate Christmas gifts for the Hearts of Palm mission. Tom immediately went on Amazon, and he just started buying things. He called me, "Oh, I just got all this stuff for these children." He really enjoyed that.

TOM: It was so uplifting to know that we were helping make Christmas special for someone else. I was excited!

BARBARA: I think a person ultimately gives because they believe they should be helping or there is a need. Then afterward, you think "Oh my gosh, that feels great." That's the icing on the cake, it's a wonderful feeling.



Continued...

Your philanthropy seems to be inspired by one another's joy.

"If we can
conquer space,
we can conquer
childhood
hunger."

Buzz Aldrin

TOM: I think we both feel that we have an important responsibility and Barbara has led the way. It's how we see our place in the world - to give back to deserving causes.

Can you tell me what you hope is accomplished through your gift?

TOM: Feeding people resonates with us. It's a basic human need to help at that most fundamental level.

BARBARA: We want to make sure there is a trusted location where people can be fed. You can't do anything if you are hungry. You can't pay attention, work, receive incoming information. You can't grow.

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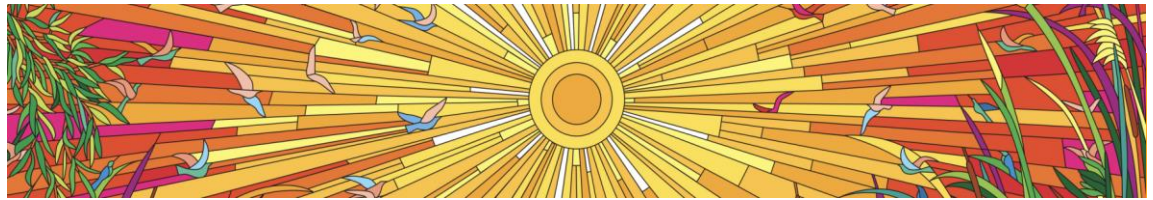
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For more information contact:
Charlotte Pelton, charlotte@charlottepelton.com, 561-329-3686

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