Friars Club has been in operation so long that our founders, Province of St. John the Baptist, witnessed three major wars (Civil War, WWI, and WWII) and two pandemics. The first global pandemic in 1918 caused disruption to our mission, but the Friars persevered and services continued. Whoever thought we would ever see another pandemic in our lifetime? While COVID-19 has not and will not impact our mission, how we deliver programs and services were adapted and adjusted…and quickly.

First and foremost, we must thank our donors and key stakeholders who stood by us the entire time. In addition, we are so grateful for the many people who connected us to financial resources, PPE, and other support that allowed us to pivot and innovate in ways we had not seen before. As this report is being written, staff is in the process of installing technology for programs in the Ron Walker Youth Sports program that can be used on the basketball court for video streaming. Stay tuned to next year’s report for the results.

As we think about our impact in our community, we are very pleased with the staff and cadre of volunteers who put the children/youth first. While we had to hit the pause button on programs and services in March 2020, as soon as we were able, we picked it back up and connected with children and their families.

Thank you for everything you do for the children and families who benefit from our work at the Friars Club. It is because of you that we celebrate 160 years as we work hard to develop valuable life skills in our youth through sports, education, and leadership programming to enrich their lives and our community. And, a special nod to the staff for their creativity and hard work.
The Jeanne & Jake Sweeney Learning Center, partially funded by PNC Charitable Trusts, supports students with reading and math: 1) 65% of students improved and 35% maintained their skill level in mathematics and 2) 24% of students improved their and 51% maintained their skill level in reading. Over the summer, 100% of children improved or maintained their math level.

243 local students participated in the CISE sports program, partially funded by the Charles H. Dater Foundation, with the help and support of 31 volunteer coaches. These students received quality study time, healthy snacks, and organized athletics to improve their self-esteem and grades at school.