

Dear Friends,

There are many ways to make pancakes. Bear with me here. You can use the ready made mix, make them from scratch, get adventurous by adding in spices or applesauce or you can go all out by topping them with sugar and fruit. It's the last type of pancakes with sugar and fruit that I want to compare to service in the community here. The fact of the matter is, service can be quick or plain and the community is still served. However, that is it. The community received some nourishment; but is that enough? Is that the reason we serve? It certainly cannot be for the long haul. I challenge all of us to not simply serve in the community, but to build community.

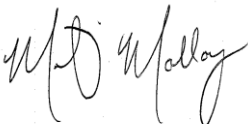
Building community takes more than ready-made mix. Building community over the long term takes commitment and drive, but it also takes a heaping helping of sugar and fruit – and by that I mean FUN! Building community, at its core, means that we are building the structures around associational life. We are having conversations, listening to music, laughing, engaging with people we enjoy spending time with and getting to know them better. The more comfortable we are with those around us, the more likely we are to come back and then it is no longer volunteering, no longer service work, it's what we do in our free time. It's fun.

To that end, as Philly Cares Day fast approaches on October 16th; as team leaders are recruiting their teams and site captains are preparing to lead the work that day, I want people to remember the fun. To aid in this endeavor, we've put together, for the first time, a partnership to reinforce this critically important notion of fun. The day before Philly Cares Day we will be hosting Philly Dares Day on Friday, October 15th in partnership with MyDunkTank.com. On MyDunkTank, groups and individuals can raise money for the non-profit organizations by completing dares that people can vote on. The dare with the most votes is then followed through on by the individual or group.

We are asking all of our supporting teams to consider raising money through pure unadulterated fun, by executing a dare on or before Philly Dares Day! The top FUNraisers will receive special recognition on both days. If you are interested in participating in Philly Dares Day, please contact Stacy Weeks, at stacy@gpcares.org or call our office at (215) 564-4544.

No matter your participation in Philly Cares or Philly Dares Day, it is my hope that all of us remember that to build community, to make Philadelphia the best place to live, work and play, we've got to have fun. And eat more pancakes!

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Molloy', written in a cursive style.

Martin Molloy