



# P.E.A.C.E. INC.

## Community Quarterly

Summer 2011

Dear Friends,

It is that great time of year. School is out, the weather is warmer and we can look forward to spending the longer days enjoying our favorite outdoor activities. Whether its backyard barbecues, fishing, outdoor festivals or spending time with family and friends, we hope you are able to enjoy some special summertime fun.

In the newsletter, we usually tell you the story of one or two of our programs. In this issue, we will touch upon each program and highlight the accomplishments of our 2010 – 2011 program year.

We are particularly proud of our fiscal team led by Kathleen O'Brien, Chief Financial Officer, and Nancy Turo, Controller. Thanks to their hard work, P.E.A.C.E., Inc., has received no audit findings or significant deficiencies for the last 6 audited financial statements and has qualified as a low-risk auditee for the last 4 years.

In addition, we congratulate the winners of the 6th annual golf ball drop and we thank all of you who supported P.E.A.C.E., Inc. by buying tickets.

Feel free to contact us at [pr@peace-caa.org](mailto:pr@peace-caa.org) with any comments or feedback. We'd like to hear from you.

Every Kind Wish,

**Joseph E. O'Hara**  
Executive Director



## In the Spotlight: Family Resource Centers

Getting individuals and families the resources they need can often be a challenge. A variety of services to strengthen the members of a community is necessary to bring about positive changes.

The P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Family Resource Centers work to address the needs of their surrounding community and do so with a wide range of programs and activities.

Family Resource Centers throughout Onondaga County give residents the chance to strengthen their community in many ways. Some of the programs offered include emergency assistance, crisis intervention, advocacy, food pantries, supportive services, employment support, youth activities and family development.

The Family Resource Centers also provide volunteer opportunities to individuals in the community. Volunteers can assist with special events and/or become a member of the Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC). With the efforts of over 300 volunteers in the last year, the Family Resource Centers have successfully provided the services needed to strengthen their surrounding area.



LEFT: Westside Family Resource Center Coordinator, Mary Alice Smothers, participates in a neighborhood bike parade on the Near Westside.



RIGHT: KeyBank volunteers team up with P.E.A.C.E. Inc.'s Eastside Family Resource Center to create a community garden.

If you would like the opportunity to volunteer at one of the family resource centers or receive more information about P.E.A.C.E., Inc. programs, please call (315) 470-3300 or visit [www.peace-caa.org](http://www.peace-caa.org).

## Out and About

with  
P.E.A.C.E.  
Inc.



ABOVE: Bob Tackman of SEFCU and a member of the P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Board of Directors presents Dave Sharoun, P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Board President and Joe O'Hara, P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Executive Director, with a donation of \$5,000.00 from SEFCU.

RIGHT: Rollin Mincher, director of the P.E.A.C.E., Inc. DeFrancisco Eastwood Community Center, celebrates with Dan Leduc who received the Onondaga County Office of Aging and Youth Intergenerational Youth Volunteer of the Year Award.



BELOW: The Syracuse Sky Chiefs joined the P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Big Brothers Big Sisters Fishing Derby at Shove Park. The children on the waiting list for mentors got to enjoy a morning of fishing with some caring adults.



# 2010 Annual Summary

## Individuals and Family Programs: I

### Family Resource Centers

are community based sites offering emergency assistance, crisis intervention, advocacy, supportive services, employment support, youth activities, and family development partnerships. In 2010, we provided services to over 5,000 individuals/families throughout Onondaga County.

### Healthy Relationship Program

teaches the necessary skills for individuals to build lasting healthy relationships. In our 2010 program year, we trained 302 people in the foundation of healthy relationships.

### EITC You've Earned It!

is a program that prepares and files taxes for families with low to moderate income for free. In 2010, we prepared 2145 tax returns and brought over 4.2 million dollars back into our community in tax refunds.

### Energy and Housing Services

provides weatherization and energy reduction measures to low and moderate income people. In 2010, P.E.A.C.E., Inc. was the highest producer of energy conservation services in New York State under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and was one of only three Community Action Agencies awarded work outside of their own County.

## Youth Programming: Nurturing the Leaders of the Future

**Head Start/Early Head Start** is a comprehensive, family-focused child development program that serves pregnant women and children birth to five years of age throughout Onondaga County. In 2010, we served 1042 children in Head Start and 294 infants, toddlers and pregnant women in Early Head Start. We also established initiatives in mental health, breastfeeding, child obesity, and violence prevention.



ABOVE: Children on the playground at one of P.E.A.C.E. Inc's Head Start center base sites

**Big Brothers Big Sisters** matches children ages 6 through 18 with mentors to provide support and guidance. In 2010, volunteers mentored 650 at risk youth. We also initiated partnerships with Kohl's Department Store, Tops Market, SEFCU, Bank of New York Mellon, Testone, Marshal & Discenza, LLP and Cicero North Syracuse School District.

**K.I.C.K.S. Camp (Keeping It Cool...Kids Between School)** is a unique and stimulating day camp for children kindergarten through sixth grade held during school breaks. In 2010, we welcomed 175 children in grades kindergarten through 6th to KICKS Camp. They enjoyed crafts, drama, cooking, athletics, horseback riding, swimming and field trips.

# of Program Activities

: Improving and Uplifting People

## Community Partner Corner

RIGHT:  
Allene Kyles Johnson,  
P.E.A.C.E., Inc.  
Board Member  
(left), Joseph O'Hara,  
P.E.A.C.E., Inc.  
Executive Director,  
and Joann Hicks,  
Connect2Work



### Connect2Work

prepared individuals for employment through funding by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. As of September 20, 2010, we helped 345 people

find jobs, 4,119 people get food, and 593 people complete a job training program.

For 90 years the **United Way of Central New York** has been identifying and resolving critical needs in our community. The United Way generously supports P.E.A.C.E., Inc. in a variety of ways.

This spring the United Way awarded \$39,725 to the P.E.A.C.E., Inc.'s Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) program. BBBS provides mentoring to at risk youth between the ages of 6 and 12. At the same time, the P.E.A.C.E., Inc. <sup>EITC</sup> You've Earned It! (free tax preparation program) received an award of \$69,000 from United Way. <sup>EITC</sup> You've Earned It! files tax returns for low and middle income individuals and families. In 2011, <sup>EITC</sup> You've Earned It! brought over 5 million dollars back into our local economy through tax refunds.

In addition, P.E.A.C.E., Inc. utilizes the 1-800-Volunteer Service operated by United Way to recruit volunteers. Throughout the year, the United Way fosters successful collaborations and offers high quality trainings for nonprofits that benefit the entire community. The United Way consistently changes lives in our community and P.E.A.C.E., Inc. is grateful for their ongoing support and effective leadership.

### More About the United Way of Central New York:

#### Mission:

To increase the organized capacity of people to care for one another

#### Vision:

To become a community reaching its full caring potential

#### Strategies:

- Understand the needs of our community
- Establish strategic partnerships to mobilize resources
- Increase donor engagement in caring for this community to achieve measurable impact

## Senior Programming: Enhancing the Lives of Older Adults

### Frank DeFrancisco Eastwood

**Community Center** offers a number of intergenerational programs, including lunch, exercise, classes, day trips, volunteer activities and more. In 2010, we increased senior participation by 10% and successfully engaged seniors and teens in programming and volunteering.

### Project R.O.S.E. (Reach Out to Serve the Elderly)

provides information and referral services to isolated and home bound seniors within the townships of Camillus and Jordan/Elbridge. Services include information and referrals, advocacy and service coordinating.

### Foster Grandparent Program

offers senior citizens the opportunity to share their time and talents with special children and young adults in local schools, day care centers, Head Start locations, and detention centers. In 2010, 602 seniors and children participated in the program and 95% of participating seniors reported that their life improved emotionally, socially and financially.



LEFT: A young adult and a senior citizen share a dance while participating in the Foster Grandparent program.

**Senior Nutrition** prepares healthy meals and serves them at 24 senior nutrition sites throughout Onondaga County. In 2010, we served 51,164 meals. We also launched a go green initiative and ran a "bring a friend to eat" campaign.

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## 2011 Golf Ball Drop

On June 9th, rain wasn't the only thing falling from the sky. P.E.A.C.E., Inc. held its 6th Annual Golf Ball Drop at Drumlins Country Club. Golf balls numbered with the corresponding raffle ticket number were loaded into bins and dropped from the sky. Due to the thunderstorms, the DeWitt Fire Department dropped a total of 1,149 numbered golf balls from their ladder truck instead of a helicopter.

### Congratulations to the winners:

Mike Shafer of Cortland with the ball closest to the pin;  
Mariah Letts of Tully winning second closest to the pin,  
Joe Lancaster of Syracuse winning third closest to the pin;  
CNYcentral winning the ball furthest from the pin.

BELOW: Pictured left to right - Catherine Green and Joe O'Hara of P.E.A.C.E., Inc. along with Gary Davis and Jodi Demperio of INFICON, Inc. enjoyed the P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Golf Ball Drop.



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