

Mentoring Changes Lives

The consistent presence of a loving, caring adult can help a child succeed at school and navigate challenges at home. PEACE, Inc. provides mentoring through both the Foster Grandparent and Big Brothers Big Sisters Programs.

PEACE, Inc. Foster Grandparents have been sharing their lifetime of skills, talents and abilities to support at-risk kids in schools, child care, and Head Start centers in Onondaga County since 1972. Improving the lives of the children they serve, Foster Grandparents enhance their own lives by staying active and making valuable contributions in their community. Foster Grandparents must be 55 or older and ready to share their love and energy with a child.

PEACE, Inc. Big Brothers Big Sisters recruits, screens, trains and supports mentors as they become caring role models for children who are facing adversity. Whether it's shooting hoops, baking cookies, raking leaves or playing video games, the time Bigs spend with Littles builds self-confidence and leads to better decision making and improved success in school. Big Brothers Big Sisters program offers mentoring through school-based, work-based and traditional one-to-one mentoring models and is currently recruiting men and women to serve as mentors.

For more information about becoming a mentor and changing the life of a young person in our community go to our website: www.peace-caa.org or call 315.470.3300.



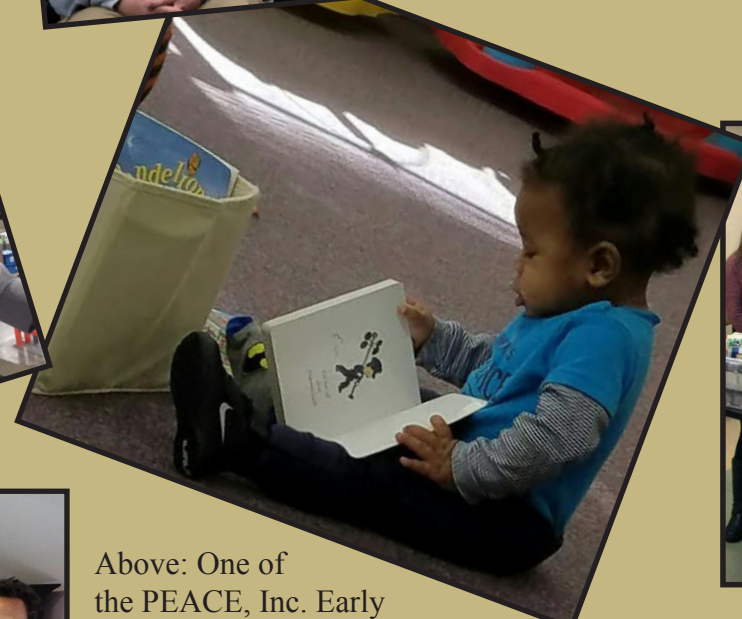
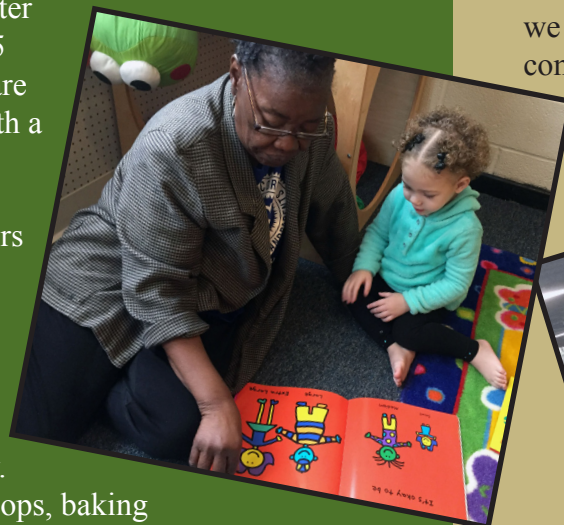
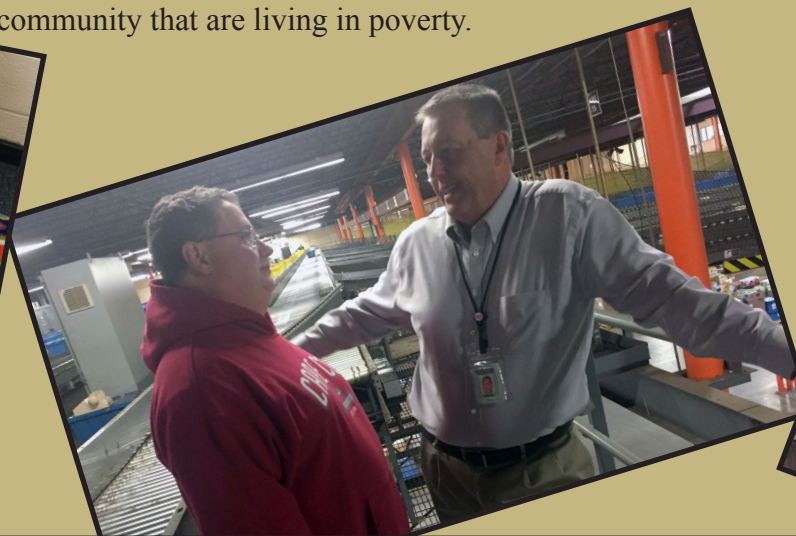
Left: PEACE, Inc. Head Start students work together at one of our collaboration sites, Dr. Weeks Elementary School.

OUT & ABOUT WITH PEACE, Inc.

Below: Honorable James Cecile practices interview techniques during a training by local media personality George Kilpatrick at the 2017 Board Retreat. George offered tips on telling the story of PEACE, Inc.



Below: Thanks Rite Aid!! Kevin Neary of Rite Aid and Rollin Mincher of PEACE, Inc. tour the Rite Aid Distribution Facility together. Locally, Rite Aid donates much needed household and grocery items to us and we quickly distributed those items to individuals in our community that are living in poverty.



Above: Teens from the PEACE, Inc. Westside Family Resource Center participated in a workshop during winter break week on financial literacy where they learned about banking, budgeting, and credit scores.

Above: One of the PEACE, Inc. Early Head Start toddlers reads a page turner!! Early Head Start encourages book time because children who have been read to start kindergarten with important early literacy skills while children who have not listened to or talked about books typically start school with poor early literacy skills.



Left: PEACE, Inc. Head Start students enjoying the snow and developing the healthy life-long habit of daily physical activity.

Heartwarming Holiday Giving

"Shopping for these gifts is my favorite holiday tradition" one donor to the PEACE, Inc. Adopt-A-Family program shared. "My mother and I feel so much better giving to a family in need instead of each other - we're not rich but none of us needs another sweater or candle." This holiday season, thanks to generous donors, we were able to provide holiday gifts for 524 people along with an additional 67 food baskets for those in our community.

The Adopt-A-Family Program matches donors with at-risk families who would otherwise likely go without holiday gifts. These families are actively engaged in making a better life for themselves and their families through our programming and it means so much to them that their children are able to receive presents. Go to our website, peace-caa.org, for a complete list of Adopt-A-Family donors.

Please use the enclosed envelope to donate to PEACE, Inc.'s mission.



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PEACE, Inc.'s Mission: Helping people in the community realize their potential for becoming self-sufficient

A letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

April is volunteer month and I want to take the opportunity to thank the many volunteers who give their time and energy to PEACE, Inc. I am grateful for all you do to improve the quality of life in our community.

I'm proud that PEACE, Inc. continues to align programming to the changing needs in our community. Recently we opened a new food pantry, applied for additional Early Head slots, and launched a program to support people reentering the community after incarceration. These new initiatives will provide additional tools to help people stabilize their lives and move toward self-sufficiency.

PEACE, Inc. is gearing up to celebrate our 50th Anniversary in 2018 and as part of the celebration we're collecting stories about PEACE, Inc. through the years. If you have a story to share please contact me at CommunityEngagement@peace-caa.org.

Every Kind Wish,

Joe

Joseph E. O'Hara
Executive Director



Taking Pride in Her Work

Nonthali had never seen snow before she moved to Syracuse with her five-month-old son in 2005. She discovered many differences between here and her home in Thailand, where they didn't have school buses and students studied Buddhism in school. She also learned that although she taught English, computer, and home economics classes in Thailand, her Bachelor's degree didn't transfer to the United States. Finding a job became her biggest challenge.



She felt like she didn't have a fair chance because of how she looks and speaks. Nonthali didn't realize that she was experiencing discrimination. But she did know that if she wanted to find a job, she had to make a change. So she started taking accounting courses at OCC. While there, she saw a flyer for volunteers with PEACE, Inc. ^{EITC} You've Earned It! (free tax program). She loves helping people and decided to volunteer filing taxes — while going to school, working at an office on campus, and being a mom to three boys.

Nonthali earned her associate degree in 2013 and immediately started on her bachelor's degree, also in accounting. She completed the program at SUNY Empire State College in 2015. Now she works part time as a greeter and receptionist for our tax program and as a program coordinator for RISE. This January, she also started her own cleaning company. And she's pregnant with another son, due in May. Despite her busy work and personal schedule, Nonthali continues to volunteer filing taxes.

"I feel so good in my heart every day to be a part of PEACE[, Inc.] and working with PEACE[, Inc.] because all the things that we do impact people in the community in so many ways," she says.

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New Food Pantry Serves the Working Poor

On February 2, 2017, the PEACE, Inc. Emma L. Johnston Southside Family Resource Center (SSFRC) opened the doors to its new food pantry and served 38 people on the first evening. There was an unmet need in the neighborhood for a pantry to serve the working poor who, because of their job commitments, are not able to access food during business hours but remain food vulnerable. Charles Rivers, coordinator of the SSFRC, recognized this need and reallocated resources to accommodate the new pantry.

As a community action agency, responding to changing needs in the community is a core value of PEACE, Inc. The agency recently completed a Community Needs Assessment which will be used to adjust programming to meet the shifting needs and available resources in our community. To read the PEACE, Inc. 2016 Community Needs Assessment visit www.peace-caa.org/financials.

