

## **Family & Community Development**

- County East FRC
- County South FRC
- County West FRC
- Eastside FRC
- Emma L. Johnston SSFRC & Project Connection
- Westside FRC



## Family Resource Center Monthly Report December 2015

County East Family Resource Center    Date: December 7, 2015

# Total Volunteers	9
# New Volunteers	1
# Clients served	404
# Clients set up in Cap60	19
# Emergency Food donations	3
# New collaborations <u>List names of collaborations below:</u> Vineyard Church	1

### **Center Highlights:**

PEACE Inc. County East Family Resource Center assisted ninety-four (94) families with Christmas Baskets through our Annual Christmas Basket Program. These families were assisted with boxes of non-perishable food some of which was raised by Bennett Manor Senior Apartment from their annual holiday food drive to assist County East to address hunger in East Syracuse.

Rick Damico, Our landlord and his partner Peter Catalano purchased two thousand dollars \$2000.00 worth of non- perishable food that go into the baskets. Gianelli Sausage donated one hundred pounds of breakfast sausages; County East purchased Turkeys, chickens, potatoes, onions and oranges with funds raised throughout the year from our Special Accounts.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church of East Syracuse donated non-perishable food items for the pantry in December.

The Konosioni Lodge of Fayetteville donated fifteen new bicycles to County East Family Resource Center. County East will host the bicycle raffle this winter 2016. The lodge brothers came to County East and assembled the bike for the upcoming program.

The Kiwanis Club of East Syracuse donated toys from their Toys for Tots Program to assist with the Christmas Program.

The Vineyard Church adopted four families with children to purchase Christmas gifts for. These families where assisted with food from County East as part of our Christmas Program.

PEACE Inc's main office assisted County East by adopting five families with children and assisted the families for Christmas.

Dinosaur Barbecue adopted a single mother of five whose adoption of the children was just finalized in November on National Adoption Day. This individual has battled Breast Cancer and while fighting cancer received her degree from Onondaga Community College.

Holy Transfiguration Church of East Syracuse adopted a single mother with one child for Christmas.

The Marine Base Toys for Tots Program assisted County East Family Resource Center with toys to assist us with our Christmas Basket Program. The toys were distributed to low income families in the East Syracuse community.

A young man knits hats and scarf sets and donates to County East Family Resource Center for the Christmas Basket Program the sets are shared with our community partners for their programs. There were seventy sets made this year. The individual states that as soon as the sets are delivered he starts knitting for next year's program.

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **2016 Bicycle Raffle- winter 2016**

The Konosioni Lodge of Fayetteville New York raises money annually and at the end of each year; they purchase bicycles for kids between two and fourteen years old who are entered into a raffle. The tickets are free all kids entered into the raffle will have a chance to win a bike. Each winner will also receive a lock from the Konosionis' to keep their new bike safe.

#### **Black History Luncheon February 2016**

### **Success Story**☺

County East Family Resource Center in collaboration with the Kiwanis Club of East Syracuse and partners, were able to make a true Christmas wish come true. A disabled individual stated that she was never able to ride a bike as an adult, and vividly remembers her childhood and a red tricycle she had.

Due to her disability she didn't actually walk until she was seven years old. This individual rode this trike throughout her neighborhood and dreamed all of her adult life of having that feeling again. She told me of her wish and in a Kiwanis meeting with a partner who refurbishes bike and gives them to community member who can't afford to purchase one.

I told the group of this wish on Thursday and by Saturday of the same week, I got the word that a three wheel adult bike was found and was like new. Ironically, it was red and pretty much like the bike the individual had as a child. Needless to say she squealed with joy and continues to state that this was the best Christmas of her life.

Kudos to all who assisted in making this Christmas wish, come true.

This report was respectfully submitted by  
Denise Vanderpool  
Coordinator

## Family Resource Center Monthly Report

Center County South Family Resource Center    Date December 2015

# Total Volunteers	67
# New Volunteers	35
# Clients served	75
# Clients set up in Cap60	1
# Emergency Food donations	0
# New collaborations <u>List names of collaborations below:</u>	

### Center Highlights:

County South was busy in December with the preparation for the **Tully Community Christmas Basket Program**. 65 families received a holiday basket with food and gifts. 67 seniors received a fruit basket with fresh fruit, cookies, cards and teas. The afterschool youth group with advocate, Eva Heaney, delivered half of the senior fruit baskets and enjoyed meeting the people. Plentiful donations and volunteers from a generous community made the successful collaboration possible.

CSFRC staff and Arise Counselor, Sue Gaskins, celebrated the holidays by going to lunch at Sweet Basil's Restaurant.

The afterschool youth group went on a field trip to Syracuse Stage to see "**Peter Pan**" followed by dinner at **Heid's and Lights on the Lake**. A great time was had by all.

Upcoming Events: County South will participate in the **Care and Share Program** starting January 4<sup>th</sup>. This \$200 benefit helps families in need that have received Heap with their energy bill.

Success Story A 15 year old customer @CSFRC who is part of a family that receives emergency services here, successfully transferred from the local high school to the BOCES Alternative School in Cortland. He had been out of school for some time and then tutored at the local library since September. The customer suffers from severe anxiety and trauma after being bullied at the high school and dealing with sexual abuse from his father. With support from the coordinator in the form of advocacy in the family court system, transportation daily the first week of school, outreach, advocacy with school officials, and a listening ear, the customer was able to get back on track with his education. He sees the Arise therapist at CSFRC weekly which rounds out his support network. Attendance and grades have been excellent since his return.



## Family Resource Center Monthly Report

Center \_\_\_\_\_ County West Family Resource Center    Date \_\_December 2015\_\_\_\_\_

# Total Volunteers	26
# New Volunteers	2
# Clients served	975
# Clients set up in Cap60	1
# Emergency Food donations	1,713 meals given out
# New collaborations <u>List names of collaborations below:</u>	0

### **Center Highlights:**

We were very busy with Shop,Wrap and Roll and our family adoptions in preparation for Christmas. We were able to provide gifts to approximately 100 families and 14 families were adopted. We received generous food donations from Budweiser employees and Gypsum Express. WE also received hats, gloves and gifts from New Hope and St. Augustine's church.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Rene Green will begin as our new Family Advocate on 1/11/16. Rene's experience as a Family Worker at Cayuga Seneca Community Action Agency and her Family Credential will be a great asset to our Center and our clients. We will have a home energy workshop on January 13 and Just say Yes to fruits and vegetables food presentation on January 19.

### **Success Story:**

Two Family Development Clients obtained full time jobs! We continue to support them with resources as needed ..and our pregnant Mom delivered a healthy baby girl on 12/23/16. Mom and baby are both healthy and thriving!





## Family Resource Center Monthly Report

Center: Eastside Family Resource Center\_ (ESFRC) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: December 2015

# Total Volunteers	10
# New Volunteers	2
# Clients served	609
# Clients set up in Cap60	2
# Emergency Food donations	\$1966.19
# New collaborations Syracuse City School (Building Men) Syracuse Parks and Recreation Team Angels	

### Center Highlights:

The month of December was a month of season greetings:

- Through the Adopt a Family Program our Center provided 16 families with gifts and food baskets.
- We also coordinated with \_Team Angels to host Christmas present give away at our center which each of the 43 children who participated received a gift, pizza and snacks.
- Our Center in collaboration with City of Syracuse Parks and Recreation, Price Chopper and Total Care hosted the Polar Express Pajama Party where over 500 families came out to the Landmark Theater to take picture with Santa, face paint, watch a movie and receive a gift that was provided by PEACE Eastside Family Resource Center.

### Upcoming Events:

January: Peace Eastside FRC staff and\_SEFCU credit union will host a financial class at H.W. Smith with the building men program.

Peace Eastside Staff Coordinator and Advocate have been invited to National Grid for the announcement of the Care Share Program. Dominion Energy who helps sponsor the program will present National Grid with a check on January 13, 2016.

**Success Story:**

The month of December brought about two success stories. One of the families that we worked with that had found themselves in a housing crisis and became homeless. After the support and efforts of finding affordable housing the daughter who had been volunteering at our center was connected with CNY Workers and now is assigned to our Center through their youth work development and job readiness program.

Her being connected fell in the wake as another youth who was assigned to our center as a JOBS-PLUS volunteer. This client, while still volunteering through JOBS-PLUS was connected to CNY Works and was assigned to this center for the summer and fall. As a result from supporting client with resume building and interviewing techniques client has accomplished self-stability by obtaining full time/permanent employment.

In addition I would like to Thank Rollin Mincher for all his support.

## Family Resource Center Monthly Report

Center: Emma L. Johnston SSFRC

Date: 01/15/2016

Month of: December

# Total Number of Volunteers	4
# New Volunteers	1
#Clients Served	125
#Clients set up in Cap60	0
#Emergency Food Donations	9
# New Collaborations List the names of collaborations below: OPWDD, Syracuse Model Neighborhood, Tales and Toys, Summit Apartments	Dunbar Association/Center

### Center Highlights:

The Emma L. Johnston Southside Family Resource Center ended its 2015 year with warm hearts and well wishes. The SFRC was able to give the gift of Joy to ten families through our Adopt-a-Family program and assist an additional eight families that were walk in cases. We were fortunate enough to supply each family member's with multiple gifts as well as house hold items. We also were able to donate gifts as well as Charlie care Day care, which caress for six at-risk youth. The SFRC supplied families with meal baskets and the delivery of Christmas gifts up until Christmas Eve.

Through a generous donation from a Toy store that was going out of business, SFRC was able to spread the generosity to other FRC's within the Agency including the DeFranciso Eastwood Community Center by supplying a truck full of toys, three separate Churches, which total approximately twenty-one youth, to supply their families in need for toy distribution.

### Community Participation:

The Emma L. Johnston Southside Family Resource Center was asked to collaborate with the Dunbar Center on a Winter Carnival/ Meet and Greet for Santa for the children of the Southside Community. Volunteers greeted Patrons and children with Candy Canes and invited each child to Greet Santa, Tell him their Christmas wishes and each child was given a present in return. We provided gifts, prizes, and arts & crafts activities. Sharda decided to give each person who attended a handmade keepsake Christmas ornament made by the children of our Project Connections program. The keepsakes were greatly appreciated by all.

### Upcoming Events:

With the change in Snap benefits, our Advocate will be preparing the Southside for the influx of those needing food donations by contacting the Foodbank of CNY to become a part of the Food SenSe program. The program is a monthly food buying program for anyone who wants to stretch

**their grocery dollars or benefits. Our Advocate will also be conducting a 6 week smart spending workshop for the seniors and community members of the community we serve.**

**Success Story:**

**JW was a walk in patron that needed to use the computer to print off her most recent paystubs for an upcoming CNY Works appointment related to her unemployment benefits. After having a brief conversation with Shardae, it became know that she was also the Mother of an Autistic three year old little boy who had been diagnosed by the child's primary physician, but JW did not know what to do with the information. After briefly explaining OPWDD and it may benefit her in caring for her child with special needs, Shardae immediately forwarded the information to Ms. Lori who then proceeded to guide JW in right directions for proper care and special services she did not know were available to her and her son.**

**JW is now registered with OPWDD and has been greatly appreciative of the effort put forth for her and the well-being of her son.**

## Family Resource Center Monthly Report

Center WESTSIDE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER Date December '2015

# Total Volunteers	19
# New Volunteers	6
# Clients served	56
# Clients set up in Cap60	
# Emergency Food donations	18
# New collaborations <u>List names of collaborations below:</u> Westside Academy ay Blodgett Gifford Foundation Near Westside Initiative Lerner Center	

### Center Highlights:

We partnered with Fanny Villarreal of YMCA Syracuse and Kelvin Sapp, Project Coordinator of External Affairs, Outreach and Marketing for New York State Department of Health to do a community meeting with residents and local service providers at the center providing information about the new health laws and how they affect residents on public assistance. Eighteen people attended the session.

Rollin and the coordinator traveled to Auburn to pick up a huge truckload of donations logging over \$25,000 from a consignment shop. We had an abundance of items that went to many families which was a big help for them from clothing, bedding, beds, shoes, household items and much more.

This month was very busy collecting, wrapping and distributing gifts and household items to more than 50 families in addition to 34 children who received toys from Rollin. We had tremendous supports from our partners. A special donor purchased coats for 2 adults and 3 children, another group purchased food baskets for 12 families filled with lots of food items for a holiday meal. The women of Junior League did a diaper and wipe drive and donated cases of wipes and diapers in various sizes.

We participated in the holiday party with The Near Westside Initiative for the community held at LaCasita. Many families came out for a very nice evening of performances, dinner with Santa and

Coordinator was invited to event "Meet the Foundations" at the Community Foundation. She was asked by Peter Dunn to sit on their Strategic Planning Committee. Attend the monthly meeting with representatives of Westside service agencies, Lerner Center, Near Westside

Initiative and school district personnel held at WCNY. She is busy working with families, making connections with partners for support and collaboration.

Advocate has been very busy assisting clients who walk-in as well as her cases she assisted 12 clients with clothing, 4 resumes, 3 with housing, 3 with DSS applications, 2 with forms for child support, 1 client to complete appeal forms for SSI, and 6 with Job searches.

**Upcoming Events:**

Bomba Plenta Afro-Caribbean Dance with youth

**Success Story:**

Client husband was murdered and she was left with two young children. She could not live in her home any longer and had to move in with family. We assisted in advocating with Syracuse Police Department and District Attorney Office and Corporation Council for release of documents of proof to get her into a safe place in Syracuse Housing.

Mary Alice Smothers, Coordinator