

Family & Community Development

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- Westside FRC

Family Resource Center Monthly Report
August 2015

Center County East Family Resource Center Date September 9, 2015

# Total Volunteers	8
# New Volunteers	1
# Clients served	342
# Clients set up in Cap60	6
# Emergency Food donations	2
# New collaborations <u>List names of collaborations below:</u> Faith and Hope Center	1

Center Highlights:

County East Family Resource Center received a donation from Trapper Pizza for nine hundred and thirteen dollars (913.00) from the proceeds of the Steve Dewald Golf Tournament.

County East Family Resource Center received a donation of non-perishable food from Emmanuel Episcopal Church.

County East Family Resource Center received a donation of non-perishable food from First United Church of East Syracuse.

Upcoming Events:

2nd Annual Breast Cancer Luncheon October 15, 2015

Christmas Basket Program 2015

Success Story:

County East Family Resource Center assisted a male customer to avoid eviction and maintain his current apartment through advocacy and transportation with the landlord and Department of Social Services. This customer was also approved for Medicaid and SNAP services.

County East Family Resource Center assisted a family to procure affordable housing in Syracuse.

Family Resource Center Monthly Report

Center County South Family Resource Center **Date** August 2015

# Total Volunteers	22
# New Volunteers	0
# Clients served	42
# Clients set up in Cap60	2
# Emergency Food donations	1
# New collaborations <u>List names of collaborations below:</u>	0

Center Highlights: In August there were 4 more youth that went to camp to bring the total for the summer to 15 youth that attended various camps through the Campership Program of PEACE, Inc. School supplies were purchased and combined with donated supplies to provide support for families in the rural area. 42 filled school backpacks were received from a PEACE, Inc. collaboration. The afterschool group went on a field trip to Labrador Pond and Tinkers Falls enjoying a picnic lunch while there. The Coordinator and Family Advocate spoke at the Rotary breakfast meeting in August.

Upcoming Events: The **Tully Community Fair** will be held on September 12th. CSFRC's NAC will be selling homemade pies and sharing information with the public. CSFRC will sponsor the **Annual Free Clothing Drive** on September 25 and 26th. The **Afterschool Youth Program** will begin on September 21st and will include a day for 7th and 8th graders this year. The **"Food for the Parent's Soul"** parenting classes will begin at the end of the month. We also will be attending the PEACE, Inc. Annual Dinner to celebrate Rick Shafer who will be receiving an award. Rick started his connection with PEACE, Inc. at CSFRC as an NAC member.

Congratulations Rick!

Success Story: A single mother who was struggling to provide for herself and her son has recently been pushing herself toward a better life. This young mom is working hard to be independent and to be a good parent to her son. She moved into an apartment and was able to take time to get back on her feet. She is now doing well with her job and is able to work from home. Her son was able to attend the summer program at Tully School so that she could work on her job from home more efficiently. She has been working in Family Development learning to be more self- confident in handling situations on her own. She continues to work on her recovery from alcohol addiction and has stayed clean for many years. Attending AA meetings and becoming a sponsor for others has strengthened this support. This single mother is determined to make her life and that of her son a better one, and it is happening before our eyes every day!

Family Resource Center Monthly Report

Center _____ County West Family Resource Center Date _____ 9/2/2015 _____

# Total Volunteers	36
# New Volunteers	9
# Clients served	192
# Clients set up in Cap60	7
# Emergency Food donations	\$2971.98
# New collaborations <u>List names of collaborations below:</u> Bella Bakery	0

Center Highlights:

We served 125 children in the local schools for Back to School Supplies. Several of the local churches donated items to defray expenses. We worked in collaboration with B'Ville Cares. They supplied the sneakers and we supplied the other supplies.

Upcoming Events:

September 3rd: Youth Day at the State Fair

Success Story:

To improve communication and volunteer appreciation we are having coffee break times twice a day at 10:15 and 2:15. Volunteers and staff are invited to join together for coffee, snacks and open communication. If there are any issues, suggestions, comments, questions, etc. this is a safe venue to bring them up. From these breaks we have a new written procedure for in kind donations.

Family Resource Center Monthly Report

Center: Eastside Family Resource Center_ (ESFRC) _____

Date: August _____

# Total Volunteers	7
# New Volunteers	1
# Clients served	584
# Clients set up in Cap60	3
# Emergency Food donations	47
# New collaborations <u>List names of collaborations below:</u> Syracuse Boys and Girls Club on E. Fayette Street, Syracuse Parks and Recreation Apostolic	

Center Highlights:

August, 2015

The Eastside Family Resource Center highlights for August was the Youth Summer Program. All of our activities were facilitated with a fun educational theme. Cornell Cooperative Extension cooking classes proved to be amazing. While the youth were learning healthy eating they also discovered how to prepare healthy lunches and snacks.

The visit to EZ Acres Farm was a great collaboration with Syracuse Inner City Rotary Club. This trip taught the youth that 65% of New York State milk comes from that specific farm. Some of the youth were over joyed from the up-close contact with the cows.

We finished our summer with a trip to Seabreeze where we had a cookout and a fun time. The trip had a special mean to the youth whose parents that came along, which made it a family event. We celebrated two of our youth birthday as well.

Upcoming Events: Eastside Family Resource Center will host another Expo with National Grid on October 15, 2015. National Grid anticipates over 200 families to attend. We will also invite other vendors throughout the county. Peace Inc. other sites and programs will be invited to be a part of the expo.

Success Story:

This month has brought about a real success for Catherine Arnold and her family. Initially in February of this year Catherine came to Eastside Family Resource Center by-way of Jobs Plus, as a volunteer. Through the support from staff at this center and her vision to build a better life for herself and her children, she applied to CNY Works for summer employment and was assigned to Eastside Family Resource Center. After a successful summer, she was allowed to remain at Eastside FRC through CNY Works 6 month youth employment program.

Catherine is a successful example of PEACE, Inc. mission of helping to empower people to thrive towards self-efficiency. It's a pleasure to assist her develop job-readiness skills and support her with life skills. Her ability to utilize resources paves the pathway to her success.

Family Resource Center Monthly Report

Center Emma L. Johnston FRC

Date 09/15/2015

Month of: August

# Total Volunteers	8
# New Volunteers	0
# Clients served	35
# Clients set up in Cap60	0
# Emergency Food donations	3
# New collaborations <u>List names of collaborations below:</u> Old collaborators OPWDD, Syracuse Model Neighborhood, Tales and Toys, Summit Apartments	

Center Highlights:

During our summer youth program we maintained 27 youth who participated daily during our summer program, and eight youths who participated part time, giving us a total of 35 youth during our summer program. We were happy to state that we had a 85% parent participation this year for our Sea Breeze Trip, and a 100% parent participation during our trip to the State Fair.

Community Participation

Working with Syracuse Model Neighborhood Inc. and Home Headquarters, we will be offering a satellite first time homebuyers program, to be hosted at Syracuse Model Neighborhood Main office.

This will give participants the opportunity to learn financial responsibility, how to repair your credit score and hopefully attract young professionals into home ownership on three most impoverish sides of town (North, South, and West).

Upcoming Events:

TBD

Success Story:

We have had many homeless people come through our center this month. Many who could be classified as hard to assist clients, because of certain factors such as mental illness, drug addiction, and domestic violence.

Ms. W a single mom who was facing an eviction in the matter of a few days, Ms. W had all three worse case factors mental illness, drug addiction, and domestic violence.

Ms. W has mental illness, which made it often difficult for her to participate and to comprehend discussions on how to resolve the situation. Ms. W would become very unstable when she could not comprehend at what was being said. The house Ms. W occupied was abandon by the landlord, and the second floor apartment was full of flies and debris.

Ms. W due to her illness often believed people were braking into her home at night, with a spare key, this caused her many sleepless nights, making her mental illness worse, due to sleep deprivation. We brought Ms. W two new locks and made sure she see the key come from the pack and they were given directly only to her. She started to sleep better at not and she became more functional as the days, moved closer to the eviction. Through our assistance Ms. W was able to achieve temporary shelter, and we will continue to work towards permeant shelter, in the next coming months, as well as setting goals for the future.

Family Resource Center Monthly Report

Center WESTSIDE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER Date August '2015

# Total Volunteers	26
# New Volunteers	10
# Clients served	5
# Clients set up in Cap60	3
# Emergency Food donations	N/A
# New collaborations <u>List names of collaborations below:</u> Gifford Foundation Near Westside Initiative Lerner Center	

Center Highlights:

The 2015 summer program went very well during the month with lots of support from parents and volunteers. The youth played recreational games and arts and crafts. There was great feedback from parents and many have signed on for next year.

Week 5:

- We continued our Monday Mile walks joined by staff from the Learner Center starting at the center and walking a mile to return to the center. This was done at 9:00 in the mornings and got everyone off to a good start after eating breakfast.
- Four youth attended "**Rock Camp**" at the Red House from August 3rd to August 7th the Red House. The camp was for beginning musicians. The camp was very intensive for ten to thirteen year olds giving them the opportunity to learn musical instruments by some of the most sought after music instructors in the Central New York area. They learned the basic fundamentals of several instruments, worked together with other youth to write songs, developed a band and put it all together in a performance at the end of camp for parents and friends. They really enjoyed the camp and looking forward to part two next year.
- The thirteen and fourteen year olds attended "**Dave and Busters**" for a day of fun.
- Youth who attended camp during the first outing went to Revolutions for a "**Bowl n' Bites Party**" and had a good time. They got to bowl three games and eat. The staff was very welcoming and made everything flow easily.

- The youth continued to work on their art project with Dr. Arroyo and ***“Learning Origami”***, which many picked up very easy and enjoyed learning to do.
- The second group attended ***“Wonder Works”*** and learned that a medium size cumulus cloud weighs about the same as an eighty pound elephant. They ventured around trying out hands on displays and played laser tag, followed by lunch of their choice in the food court.
- Stephanie of ***“Books are Food for Thought”*** from Manlius did her annual visit with her mother and read with the little ones and each child got to take home three books. She has been a part of the program for four year and will be leaving for college in the fall and is looking to pass this program off to someone who can continue to work with us.

Week 6:

- A mini ***“Junior Olympics”*** was done at the center where they competed in egg toss, relay race, 3-legged race, 3 point shootout, most baskets out of 10, tug of war and other games. They received trophies for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and team work.
- They girls got to make cookies and candy of different shapes and the boys got to make cupcakes.
- We traveled to Rochester to ***“Sea Breeze”*** and spent the day there. Parents were very supportive they loaded and unloaded the bus, prepared the food and operated the grills while others chaperoned youth in the water and on rides. We had 18 adults accompany us on the trip; many parents doubled up and drove their own cars. The bus driver was wonderful; he was very accommodating with everything. Parents swept and helped clean the bus upon our return of all trash and containers.
- Our last day of program ended Thursday, August 13th with ***“6th Annua Westside Community Block Party”*** in Skiddy Park from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The event was well attended with well over 1600 in attendance. PEACE, Inc. Westside Family Resource Center was responsible for two popcorn and two cotton candy machines for the day with all supplies and volunteers to staff it. We had plenty of community and client volunteers to assist. Excellus was on hand to volunteer again this year. Mr. Colucci’s, Boy Scout Troop was also on hand to volunteer and assist in operating the machines and distributing it to folks. Youth from the program helped to set up, take down and clean up. They were helpful in loading and unloading tables and supplies.
- The twelve to fourteen year old boys had team shirts donated and got to participate in a ***“Soccer Clinic with the Syracuse Silver Knights”*** and played an exhibition game with them at the dedication of the new box soccer court in Skiddy Park. They learned a lot of pointers from the team. The WSFRC program youth was the opening act performing a dance and got the crowd going to music by DJ Maestro. There were over 40 vendors on hand providing information and services. They enjoyed the day in the park with their families, in the bouncy houses, face painting, hot dogs, hamburgers, cotton candy, popcorn, dominoes and spades tournaments, bingo, miniature pony rides and special appearances by Otto the Orange, the Silver Knight mascot, and Daniel the Tiger from PBS who rode the trolley around the neighborhood giving tours, compliments of WCNY.

The Literacy Coalition provided information on the Imagination Library and Senator David J. Valesky announced that four libraries in Onondaga County have been awarded public library construction grant funds that will enable the libraries to start or complete various projects that will improve services, safety and energy efficiency.

- With the help of the Gifford Foundation, the Women's Fund, UAD Band, fundraising and supporters the coordinator was again able to take a chaperone and five girls ages eleven to fourteen to ***"Tour Our Nation's Capital"***. The girls were flown to Washington on August 20th and rode the Metrorail to L'Enfant Plaza and crossed over to the Hotel. This was the first for them being in DC. They got to visit the National Mall, Botanical Gardens, the US Capital, lots of *Museums*: Holocaust, African Art, Native American, Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Air & Space, American History, Natural History, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, the *Monuments*: Washington Monument, *Memorials*: World War II, Lincoln, Dr. King, Jefferson, Vietnam, Korean War Veterans, and Supreme Court Building and the White House and Bureau of Engraving. We returned on August 24th, it was a week filled with education and adventure.

Upcoming Events:

Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration with LaCasita Cultural Center

Success Story:

- Youth from the program Jeffrey Mateo graduated this year from Henniger High School with an 85 average, attended LeMoyné College for the summer program and enrolled in the fall was awarded the ***"2015 Risk Taker, Dream Maker Youth of the Year"*** award for his academics, community service, sports, volunteerism and all around youth by the Near Westside Initiative with award presented to him by Marilyn Higgins, Senator John DeFrancisco and Senator Dave Valesky. County Executive Joanie Mahoney and Councilwoman Helen Hudson along with many other legislators were also on hand to congratulate him and the yearly event.
- Richard Castillo gained maintenance employment with Delavan Studios.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Alice Smothers, Coordinator