

## **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

October 2015

County East Family Resource Center Date November 6, 2015

# Total Volunteers	7
# New Volunteers	0
# Clients served	537
# Clients set up in Cap60	4
# Emergency Food donations	2
# New collaborations <u>List names of collaborations below:</u>	0

## **Center Highlights:**

PEACE Inc. County East Family Resource Center purchases Apple Cider and provided sweet treats for East Syracuse Parks and Rec Annual Halloween Party.

County East Family Resource Center hosted our Second Annual Breast Cancer Luncheon on October 15, 2015. Stories were shared by several breast cancer survivors. We were serenaded by a community resident who visits the site and sings to the staff, oldies but goodies. A nice lunch was provided for the participants, thirty (30) individuals participated.

## **Upcoming Events:**

Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) Christmas Luncheon: December 8<sup>th</sup> at Noon.

Annual Christmas Basket Program: Thursday, December 17/18 2015 10:00 AM

## **Success Story**☺

County East Family Resource celebrates the accomplishment of a Family Development participant of losing one hundred pounds (100) over the past year as part of a goal set in her Family Development plan. The weight was lost from working out daily and changing her diet, and becoming a vegetarian. Proving that diet and exercise is the key to a happier and healthier life.

The customer continues to thrive by doing a little more each day and by sharing her story and educating others on health and nutrition based on her success. Congratulations



## Family Resource Center Monthly Report

Center County South Family Resource Center    Date October

# Total Volunteers	27
# New Volunteers	0
# Clients served	54
# Clients set up in Cap60	3
# Emergency Food donations	0
# New collaborations <u>List names of collaborations below:</u>	0

### Center Highlights:

The afterschool program is going strong and is growing each week. The Food for the Parent's Soul parenting class began in October and is meeting on Wednesday evenings from 6- 8 PM. There are 7 parents that are attending. The Annual Progress Report was completed this month and in spite of staff changes, the total number of families served was close to last year's number. This past year 109 families were served. We are currently in the middle of Christmas Basket planning as we register families for the Tully Community Christmas Basket Program. Donations are coming in and family adoptions are being organized.

### Upcoming Events:

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Food for the Parent's Soul class will begin on November 10<sup>th</sup> and will meet on Tuesdays from 6-8 PM each week. There will be 4 parents attending this class.

The FISH program is in the middle of expanding into Fabius and South Onondaga. There will be a dispatcher's meeting on Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> after the NAC meeting to discuss the details. This expansion will reach rural areas of our target area that have no transportation resources. Each community will provide its own drivers and riders and come under our umbrella of FISH that already has its own phone line paid for by Peace Inc. This is community action at work!

### Success Story

A young mother that is contracted in Family Development with the Family Advocate at CSFRC got a job in October as an assistant manager at a local retail store. Her confidence has grown since she began her relationship and partnership in Family Development. Recognizing her strengths has given her hope for a brighter future for her family. Future goals include better housing, maintaining employment and managing a budget.



## Family Resource Center Monthly Report-October 2015

Center County West Family Resource Center Date 11/1/15

# Total Volunteers	39
# New Volunteers	3
# Clients served	115
# Clients set up in Cap60	23
# Emergency Food donations	55
# New collaborations	1
<u>List names of collaborations below:</u>	
Meals on Wheels	

### Center Highlights:

County West client who is also a veteran was honored with a plaque presented by Senator John DeFransico.

County West participated in a National Grid seminar with Heart Share & HEAP representatives to discuss/brain storm the most efficient manner to handle the upcoming heating season for our clients. Please note – HEAP benefits open 11/16/15.

### Upcoming Events:

We are preparing for our several holiday initiatives including – Thanksgiving & fresh fruit basket give- aways. We are also planning for Shop, Wrap & Roll, the annual Christmas give-away program for County West.

### Success Story:

We had 2 clients who secured employment through a combination of Family Development, transportation and assisting clients with job resume writing and other job seeking skills. In addition, we had another client who was living in the City of Syracuse, virtually homeless; we were able to assist him in securing safe and affordable housing in the Baldwinsville area.



## Family Resource Center Monthly Report

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

Date: October 2015

# Total Volunteers	7
# New Volunteers	3
# Clients served	800
# Clients set up in Cap60	3
# Emergency Food donations	\$1613.80
# New collaborations <u>List names of collaborations below:</u> Syracuse Boys and Girls Club on E. Fayette Street, Syracuse Parks and Recreation Apostolic Grace Episcopal Women's Opportunity Experience Works Peppino's	

### Center Highlights:

The month of October was a very successful month.

On October 15, 2015 National Grid had another Expo at the Eastside Family Resource Center, had over 200 people attended the event and 16 different agencies who was a part of the program as well.

October 21, 2015 Eastside Family Resource Center hosted a flu clinic sponsored by Rite Aid Pharmacy. We had 8 seniors from our program to receive there flu shots.

October 29, 2015 New York State Department of Labor came to the Eastside Family Resource Center to register individuals for the Job Fair which was held on November 5, 2015. They also help them prepare for the interviews.

October 31, 2015 Eastside Family Resource Center gave a Halloween Party for the Community we had over 100 people attended the center. Seth Marcel a local DJ played music for the kids

and the families. Our local Fire Department parked in the front of the building and passed out candy to the kids. The kids were also able to get on the fire trucks, to take pictures with the fire departments. Peppino's pizza donated several pizzas to the party.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Every first Monday of the Month Eastside Family Resource Center has collaborated with Real Moms of Syracuse to host the event at the center.
- Every Thursday Healthy Neighbors this program provides education and take home equipment intervention and prevention for asthma, tobacco cessation, indoor air quality, lead, fire safety, and other environmental health hazards.
- Senior Nutrition Wednesday and Friday.

#### **Success Story:**

Our success story for the Month of October was the Collaboration with the Building to Men Program. The coordinator of the Peace Eastside Resource Center reached out to the Director of the Building Men program of the Syracuse City Schools. The Eastside center was able to give Mr. Hernan (Director) football jerseys for the children in the program as an incentive. The building Men Program is located at seven different junior high school, to help support positive thinking while giving the youth a chance to learn and have socialization experience. Part of the collaboration Eastside Resource Center Coordinator and Advocate will do several speaking engagements with the program.

## Family Resource Center Monthly Report

Center: Emma L. Johnston SSFRC & Project Connection

Date: 11/15/2015

Month of: October

# Total Number of Volunteers	3
# New Volunteers	0
#Clients Served	22
#Clients set up in Cap60	0
#Emergency Food Donations	0
# New Collaborations List the names of collaborations below: OPWDD, Syracuse Model Neighborhood, Tales and Toys, Summit Apartments	0

### Center Highlights:

Care & Share was attended by all SFRC employees held at National Grid to prepare and inform us of the programs changes and of the new procedures to be put in place. Care & Share will begin January 4, 2015. We have prepared ourselves by duplicating our forms, informing our patrons that may enter our facility before the program begins.

The Emma L. Johnston Center accepted the invitation to present our Project Connection program at the Eastside Family resource Center. The invitation was to inform the public of the programs benefits, who may qualify, and how they may apply to OPWDD. Other agencies were present as well where we were able to create new connections and relationships with other resource agencies that were also in attendance.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Project Connection has been dismantled and moved to the Eastside Family Resource. No explanation has been given as to why. SFR will no longer participate in the Project Connection Program indefinitely.

The Afterschool Program Enjoyed the weeks leading up to our Halloween Party, which was held on Halloween at our site where candy was given out, prizes and our children were given the chance to show off their scary and unique costumes before the nights festivities. Those without costumes were given complete costumes through the generous donation of our centers supporters.

The children, and their families, also attended Abbots Farms located in Baldwinsville, NY earlier in the day for Apple picking, Pumpkin picking and to partake in their "Fall Festive Days" only held every Saturday during the months of October and November on the weekends. During these days, the children are given the chance to explore the farm as well as feed the various animals including; chickens, Billy goats, llamas, rabbits and sheep. There was also face painting, a bounce house, corn maze, hay rides, tractor rides, and fresh cider served with freshly made Apple cinnamon

doughnuts. The children were also given the chance to explore and make purchases from the farm “County Store”. The “Country Store” offered farm fresh cider as well as flavored cider made right there on the farm from their own apples. The children loved the flavored sampled.

The apples picked will later be made into candy apples, caramel apples and other experimental apple concoctions.

#### Community Participation:

Lori Covington, Mary Beth, and Amy Donalson from Summit Apartments and Syracuse City Police Officer Dennis on the up rise of criminal activity and violence within our community and how we, as an agency, can help in the deterrence of criminal activity and violence.

Ms. Covington spoke with Paul Driscoll at a later date, and suggested our center come up with ideas about how the parking lot can become a safe location.

Lori Covington will present this to the NAC, to see if we are able to brainstorm.

#### Upcoming Events:

The Emma L. Johnston Southside Family Resource center will be hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner with the theme of “Getting to know your Neighbor” for the month of November.

We will be attending the Westside Family Resource Centers “Annual Harvest Dinner” to be held at Westside Academy formerly Blodgett Elementary School on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 6pm to 8pm. Each SSFRC staff will bring a dish.

SSFRC will be giving our children and families the excitement of “Lights on the Lake”

#### Success Story:

Ms. W came to us in distress, after the loss of her son. Her son was killed next to the entrance of our parking lot adjacent to an empty trash ridden lot. Ms. W previously stated she had come to our center in need of help immediately after the tragedy had occurred but was given no help from the previous Advocate.

Ms. W returned to our center a year later seeking assistance once again after she felt she had exhausted all avenues while trying to keep her rage, within in her at the loss of her son. Ms. W was introduced to our newest advocate Shardae Cannon. Ms. Cannon assured Ms. W that she would go above and beyond to help lighten her load and possible resolve her current situation of a possible eviction.

Ms. W was trying to leave the property she was renting due to the property failing inspection from code enforcement due to the negligence of her landlord. Ms. W had been staying at this residence for six years. The matter was taken before a judge over the period of two months. We assisted Ms. W in obtaining a free legal aide to help with the process of building her case, before eviction proceeding became an option. Ms. Cannon assisted in obtaining legal documents from various

government agencies, printing of texted conversations between Ms. W and her Landlord. Ms. Cannon provided emotional support when Ms. W would visit her lawyer's office and other government officers.

Based on the evidence provided, that included; written statements, legal documentation it allowed for a positive decision from the judge. Ms. W was release from her lease and section 8 payments were stopped.

Ms. W stated she wanted to be able to fix her family dinner for Thanksgiving in her own home and celebrate Christmas as a family Ms. Cannon was assist Ms. W in locating a four bedroom house with a lower rent than prior residence. Ms. Cannon also located a kitchen set so that Ms. W and her family can share Thanksgiving dinner where everyone can gather to make a more positive memories for the future.

As a society we can never bring Ms. W son back but, we can give her the tools to face every day a little more positive, and in time she may be able to put her sons memories in a more positive place.

Ms. W has also been recommended for our "Adopt-a-Family" Christmas gift exchange. Ms. W also plans to volunteer at the SSFRC on a as needed basis.

*"Anyone can be ordinary, but not everyone can be extraordinary.*

*Believe in yourself and believe in the extraordinary"*



## Family Resource Center Monthly Report

Center WESTSIDE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER Date October '2015

# Total Volunteers	26
# New Volunteers	4
# Clients served	12
# Clients set up in Cap60	
# Emergency Food donations	3
# New collaborations <u>List names of collaborations below:</u> Westside Academy ay Blodgett Gifford Foundation Near Westside Initiative Lerner Center	

### Center Highlights:

The center was filled with fun and laughter on October 3, 2015 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm; eight women from Junior League joined us and did pumpkin painting with sixteen youth. Junior League provided snacks, drinks and a host of trinkets and some awesome decorations and accessories for the youth to decorate with. Coordinator was invited to speak with the entire group at their meeting at the Community Foundation to share with them what we do and ways they can help out.

A busy month working on reports, all reports along with client narratives and client characteristics completed to state on time.

Fifteen families have been submitted to be adopted for Christmas this year.

Have a new Family Advocate, who is bi-lingual, knows the neighborhood, families are familiar with her and she will be an asset to us.

With the new fiscal year, we have been busy changing and sprucing up the building with fresh paint, had to replace our refrigerator and microwave, both went on us.

### Upcoming Events:

Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner

### Success Story:

- Working with students from Syracuse University on neighborhood cook book.

Mary Alice Smothers, Coordinator

