

## **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

November 2015

County East Family Resource Center    Date: December 7, 2015

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| # Total Volunteers                         | 9   |
| # New Volunteers                           | 1   |
| # Clients served                           | 329 |
| # Clients set up in Cap60                  | 24  |
| # Emergency Food donations                 | 2   |
| # New collaborations                       | 1   |
| <u>List names of collaborations below:</u> |     |
| AXA Foundation                             |     |

## **Center Highlights:**

AXA Foundation becoming our newest collaborative partner, provided twelve (12) families in the East Syracuse community with a Thanksgiving Dinner, complete with all the trimmings.

AXA also had an office wide 50/50 raffle as a Thanksgiving fund raiser. The individual, who won the raffle, donated the proceeds of two hundred and ninety eight dollars (\$298.00) to County East Family Resource Center. AXA Foundation offers a Matching Gifts Program in which this program will match the funds of AXA gift to County East with a total donation of five hundred and ninety six dollars (\$596.00).

County East Family Resource Center had one family adopted for Thanksgiving by the First United Church of East Syracuse. The church provided the family with a feast and all the trimmings enabling the family to enjoy a wonderful holiday meal.

County East Family Resource Center received a donation of non-perishable food from Emmanuel Episcopal Church for the Emergency Food Pantry.

## **Upcoming Events:**

Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) Christmas Luncheon: Tuesday, 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 Center through the Family Development program assisted a single individual who was the active foster parent of the children, adopt the children. The adoption was finalized in November, on National Adoption Day 2015.

This individual who is a cancer survivor, and has been dealing with her own health issues, which are currently in remission. The individual still managed to earn her degree in Humans Services at Onondaga Community College this past summer. She is a selfless individual who has put the needs of the children whose father was murdered this past summer above her own.

## Family Resource Center Monthly Report

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

|  |    |
|--|----|
| # Total Volunteers   | 28 |
| # New Volunteers   | 1  |
| # Clients served   | 58 |
| # Clients set up in Cap60  | 4  |
| # Emergency Food donations   | 0  |
| # New collaborations<br><u>List names of collaborations below:</u> | 0  |

**Center Highlights:** November was consumed with holiday preparation for the Tully Community Christmas Basket Program. Donations have been coming in and last minute details and family adoptions have been organized.

The Coordinator and two FISH dispatchers attended an evening meeting in Fabius regarding the FISH expansion. Fabius –Pompey and Delphi Falls will join our program February 1<sup>st</sup> providing transportation to medical appointments. This will be a huge benefit for seniors and families in remote, rural areas of the southern part of Onondaga County.

**Upcoming Events:** The Tully Community Christmas Basket Program will distribute 65 Holiday Food and Gift Baskets to families and 50 Fruit Baskets to Seniors and Shut ins for the upcoming Christmas Season. The afterschool group will be attending “Peter Pan” through Syracuse Stage for a matinee performance in between the holidays on December 30<sup>th</sup>. The “Food for the Parent’s Soul” parenting classes will be celebrating the holidays by going out to dinner.

### Success Story

A single mother of four children, all of whom are disabled, has been working in Family Development with the Family Advocate for six months. Three of the children attend the afterschool group. The family has been writing and working on goals and learning how to communicate better through family meetings which are held at the center and facilitated by the Family Advocate. Recently, a very generous member of the community paid for an electrician, contractor and plumber to make much needed repairs on the family’s mobile home at the cost of almost \$5,000. Instead of washing dishes in the bathroom sink, there is now a new sink and plumbing connection in the kitchen. The community member also adopted the family for Christmas. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, County South Family Resource Center is very grateful for its community connections; resources and volunteers. Community Action at work !



# Family Resource Center Monthly Report

Center County West Family Resource Center Date November 2015

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| # Total Volunteers   | 31            |
| # New Volunteers   | 5             |
| # Clients served   | 928           |
| # Clients set up in Cap60  | 3             |
| # Emergency Food donations   | 121<br>served |
| # New collaborations<br><u>List names of collaborations below:</u><br>Van Buren Republican Women | 1             |

## Center Highlights:

November has been a transition month for the Center. I accepted the job of Coordinator on November 9 and have been learning and working with the volunteers daily. We were able to clean out and de-clutter in the community room and outer lobby entrance. We also cleaned up and downsized the amount of stored clothing in the donation room. Hopefully this will make for a safer, easier work environment for the volunteers.

## Upcoming Events:

We will begin our Christmas shop, wrap and roll program on Monday November 30. To date, we have 43 families signed up, and 110 children who will receive brand new toys, books, clothes and stocking stuffers. Shop, wrap and roll will continue through December 18.

## Success Story:

One of our Family Development clients obtained a full time job here in Baldwinsville. He and his significant other (also family development) are expecting their second daughter late December. Both parents have been working hard and utilizing the center's resources to assist them in becoming self-sufficient.





## Family Resource Center Monthly Report

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

Date: November 2015

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| # Total Volunteers  | 8              |
| # New Volunteers  |                |
| # Clients served  | 574            |
| # Clients set up in Cap60   |                |
| # Emergency Food donations  | 47<br>families |
| # New collaborations<br>Syracuse Parks and Recreation<br>Syracuse City Schools/ H. W. Smith |                |

### Center Highlights:

The month of November has been a month of greeting and creating with other agencies within the Eastside community. Our Center has seen an increase with inquiries from the Eastside community residents regarding the availability of educational opportunities (primarily GED and tutoring classes) and employment. Strides were made to connect with Volunteer Literacy and Manpower Employment Agency. The Eastside FRC have been diligently working with clients in resume preparation, interview techniques and helping to provide interview clothing from our donated clothing.

Eastside Family Resource received 100 Turkeys from Riccelli Enterprises to give out to the community and families of the Eastside. Our entire senior program in the building received a turkey. Eastside also shared turkeys with the other resources centers at Peace.

### Upcoming Events:

Eastside staff collaborated with Syracuse Parks and Recreation and will help host Polar Express movie at the Landmark Theater on December 20, 2015. The event is free to the community. The children will be able to take free pictures with Santa and receive a gifts.

Last month Eastside collaborated with The Building Men Program in the Syracuse City School District by giving the program football jersey. Part of this collaboration the Coordinator at the Eastside family resource center, Marybeth and Nancy Casella from SEFCU credit union met with

the director of the program. The meeting was successful as we brainstormed ideas. Eastside staff and Nancy Casella will host a Financial Literacy class with the program in January.

**Success Story:**

The month of November brought about three success stories. One of the families that we have been working with found themselves in a housing crisis and became homeless. We worked diligently to help cope with the situation by connecting them with other agencies and supporting them throughout the process. Their success came when they moved from the shelter into their new home.

The other two successes were two individual that often visit our center seeking assistance from resume development to job searching. Through the joint collaborative efforts with Department of Labor last month this two people attended the Syracuse Career Expo ready for interviews. It was reported that as a result of dedication and support they each are now employed in their chosen field.

## Family Resource Center Monthly Report

Center WESTSIDE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER Date November '2015

|   |    |
|---|----|
| # Total Volunteers  | 83 |
| # New Volunteers  | 64 |
| # Clients served  | 12 |
| # Clients set up in Cap60   |    |
| # Emergency Food donations  | 3  |
| # New collaborations<br><u>List names of collaborations below:</u><br>Westside Academy ay Blodgett<br>Gifford Foundation<br>Near Westside Initiative<br>Lerner Center |    |

### Center Highlights:

The center was humming with lots of smells in the air and lots of hands preparing for Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner in partnership with the Near Westside Initiative was held Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at Westside Academy at Blodgett. This year's event brought over 500 people together to break bread, listen to good music and fellowship. The cooks were fantastic all eighteen of them. Principal Graham and his custodial staff were very accommodating with early entrance into the building and heavy lifting. The teachers welcomed the time to meet with parents they had not met and be able to eat with families. Superintendent Contreras joined us for the evening meeting and talking with families.

The overwhelming support and volunteering with this event is getting bigger each year. We had twenty-two women of Junior League, six of their children and eight husbands. It is good to have a professor brings his class for the day, this is his third year Professor Jacobs brings twelve students from his Syracuse University social work class and Professor Wilson brings fourteen from her class of the SU Center for Engaged Art and Research that will also be putting together a cook book of recipes from foods prepared by residents for the dinner, two Learner Center staff, and a host of community volunteers. The Gifford Foundation provided four sixty-five gift certificates and Paul Nojaim donated eight twenty-five to provide families with meals for the holiday along with ten shared with us from Eastside. Special thanks to our own Rollin Mincher who went above and beyond to provide us with desserts, breads, drinks, turkeys, potatoes, fruits and treats for the event.

This is the largest giving holiday community event on the Westside and calls come in from journalism students, reporters of the Post Standard, Syracuse University Daily Orange all wanting to do stories on the event along with the Near Westside Initiative.

Life is good on the West.

**Upcoming Events:**

Annual Community Holiday Party at LaCasita

**Success Story:**

We got great press coverage while feeding over 500 residents a hearty meal for Thanksgiving with the help of 83 volunteers.

Mary Alice Smothers, Coordinator