

P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Expands Senior Nutrition Program

P.E.A.C.E., Inc. is working with Catholic Charities of Onondaga County and the Department of Aging and Youth to implement a transition of the management of Catholic Charities' senior dining sites, effective in early 2012. This will allow for the maximization of community resources to meet the needs of seniors in a sustainable way.

Once transitioned, P.E.A.C.E., Inc. will be operating these sites. The highest priority of all the involved agencies is that the seniors who receive meals do not experience an interruption in service. The new service model will ensure the continuation of this needed service to seniors in the Central New York community.

P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Executive Director Joe O'Hara stated, "P.E.A.C.E., Inc. is pleased to be working with Catholic Charities and the Department of Aging and Youth on this senior nutrition initiative. We believe this transition is in the best interest of Catholic Charities, P.E.A.C.E., Inc., the seniors and the community."

According to Mike Melara, Executive Director of Catholic Charities, "For the past several months, our agency has been exploring alternatives to continuing our senior dining program. We worked diligently with P.E.A.C.E., Inc. and the Department of Aging and Youth and believe this option will ensure that seniors will continue to receive the meals they count on while maximizing available resources."

Out and About with P.E.A.C.E., Inc.



Pictured left to right: Ned Owens, Joe O'Hara, Jason Bonnell, and Mark Mydlenski. P.E.A.C.E., Inc.'s Maintenance Department installed a sign at our County South Family Resource Center in Tully, New York.



Above: Children enjoy a holiday party at the P.E.A.C.E., Inc. County West Family Resource Center in Baldwinsville, New York.



Above (Left to right): Joe O'Hara, Sally Ward, Erich Shafer, Ray Yehle and Dwight Hicks tour a Department of Energy and Housing Services' work site during the P.E.A.C.E., Inc. board retreat.



Above: P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Head Start student at Rockwell spends some time in the bear cave while learning about hibernation.



Above: P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Head Start student at St. Brigid's can't wait to eat the healthy rice cake snowman treat that she made herself.



Left: Big sister Christy Tyrell and her little sister Dynasia having fun at the P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Big Brothers Big Sisters Holiday party in December.

Right: Big brother Marty Murray and his little brother Glen enjoy the SU vs Providence basketball game at the dome on January 14th.



Donors Provide Gifts for Struggling Families

Everyone at P.E.A.C.E., Inc. would like to send a BIG THANKS to our very generous Adopt-A-Family donors. This holiday season more than 120 low income families, who are enrolled in P.E.A.C.E., Inc. programming, received holiday gifts through the Adopt-A-Family program. Donors receive a family profile with a few gift suggestions and go to town shopping for the

families. Many donors tell us that they forego exchanging gifts with family or coworkers in order to provide for a family in need. There are many happy tears when the gifts are delivered. Families, many of whom would have gone without any gifts at all, are so grateful to be able to provide holiday gifts to their children.

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Additional information and qualifications are listed on our website, www.peace-caa.org/taxes.

Community Partner Corner

First Niagara Foundation's Mentoring Matters program has awarded \$7,500 to P.E.A.C.E., Inc.'s Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) program. This grant will help purchase art and educational supplies and snacks for school-based BBBS, and support future field trips for participating youth from both school-based and traditional components. This is Big Brothers Big Sisters' second grant from First Niagara; in 2008 we received \$10,000 for mentoring from First Niagara Foundation. Last year, First Niagara donated \$500,000 to Upstate New York nonprofits for mentoring efforts. This recent round of awards brings First Niagara's total impact on Upstate New York mentoring to \$2.5 million and the number of youth reached to 15,000.

First Niagara Financial Group, Inc., through its wholly owned subsidiary, First Niagara Bank, N.A., has \$21 billion in assets, 257 branches and \$13 billion in deposits. First Niagara Bank is a multi-state community-oriented bank with about 3,800 employees providing financial services to individuals, families and businesses. For more information, visit www.fnfg.com.



Deborah Cole, Assistant Vice-President of First Niagara Bank presents Joe O'Hara, Executive Director of P.E.A.C.E., Inc. (Right) and Oscar Vergara, Director of P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Big Brothers Big Sisters with the donation check.

We are proud to let you know that on January 16, 2012, the Syracuse/Onondaga County N.A.A.C.P. Youth Council honored, Joe O'Hara, P.E.A.C.E., Inc., Executive Director with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award for his commitment to respecting diversity in our community.

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Community Quarterly
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Three Year Strategic Plan

During 2011, P.E.A.C.E., Inc. engaged in a comprehensive and productive strategic planning process. After gathering information from the community, volunteers, board members, staff and clients, the following three year goals were established. We will be working collaboratively to meet these goals and make our agency even stronger.

Goal 1:
Strengthen the P.E.A.C.E., Inc. voice, presence and perception in the community and within the agency.

Goal 2:
Maintain financial stability and program quality in a changing environment.

Goal 3:
Ensure that P.E.A.C.E., Inc. is meeting the needs of the people in Onondaga County and proving agency value.

Goal 4:
Promote and encourage a positive and supportive agency culture.

Goal 5:
To understand and utilize all forms of technology (not limited to electronic technology) to the fullest extent.

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the past year, I am grateful to everyone who contributed so generously to the mission of P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our board members, employees, funders, and volunteers, P.E.A.C.E., Inc. was able to serve more than 15,000 individuals. We are honored to be working with each of these children, parents, single adults and seniors as they struggle to overcome poverty and improve their quality of life.

In the Spotlight:

P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Kicks Off New Food Service Training Program

Next time you treat yourself to a dinner out, someone trained by P.E.A.C.E., Inc. may be serving or preparing your meal. On January 9, 2012, P.E.A.C.E., Inc. began the first session of a new food service training and employment program.

Participants will attend a four week food service training program. Classes run Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Topics include food safety; culinary skills; service etiquette; job search skills; resume writing; and interview skills. Food service students will also gain work experience by job shadowing within the food service industry.

Once they finish the four week training, participants will be prepared to obtain jobs in the food service industry. Getting a stable job is a critical step on the journey to self-sufficiency. If you know anyone interested in the program or any employer looking to hire well trained food service staff, please contact Gary Coe, Program Coordinator at gary.coe@peace-caa.org or at (315) 214-5908.



Pictured from left to right: Trainer Gary Coe teaches student John Thomas knife skills.

P.E.A.C.E., Inc. is proud to have increased programming for 2012. We will be expanding our Senior Nutrition Program to include sites previously operated by Catholic Charities. We have also added a new Food Service Training and Employment Program in which instructors will teach participants basic culinary and job training skills.

In the first week of the ^{EITC} You've Earned it! (free tax program) 190 tax returns were filed and \$688,620 was recouped in tax refunds. They are off to a great start.

Every kind wish,
 Joseph E. O'Hara
 Executive Director



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