

PROVIDENCE CENTER

A Ministry of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus

Spring 2014

The Story of Numbers

This is what the numbers tell us: The neighborhood where Providence Center works, Fairhill, was named the most violent in Philadelphia, with a murder rate five times greater than the city average. We are also in the economically poorest zip code in the city, with a median household income below \$15,000 and 54% of our neighbors living below the poverty line.

These numbers, however, only tell part of the story. Here are some more numbers: (4) Our Teen Leaders who graduated last year and enrolled in college, and who now help to mentor over (40) children and teens in our youth programs. (25) The number of



Daniela and Jana, our queens!

neighbors who came out to help us clean the park in the Fall, including many kids. (40) The percent that our adult students, on average, improve over the course of a semester, a testament to their hard work and our teachers' dedication. (20) The number of years we've been privi-

leged to serve this community.

Numbers can never tell the whole story. Before Christmas, an anonymous donor gave us money to distribute directly to families in need. We gave \$200 to a young immigrant couple in our ESL classes, knowing that they were struggling to support themselves and their children. The next day, this couple came to Providence Center and gave back \$100 as a donation. We pleaded that they should keep the money. The couple smiled. "Giving this would make us happy."

There is no number to measure the human spirit. ♦

Neighborhood Reunion

What happens after a parish and school close? There is heartbreak, but it isn't the end. The Holy Child Sisters' over 100 year history in Fairhill continues at Providence Center. And the alumni of St. Edward's, their friends and neighbors, continue to stay connected to each

other, the Sisters, and their old neighborhood. Their recent reunion not only raised generous funds for Providence Center and the Sisters, but it also kept alive the spirit of St. Edwards and the deep bonds within the community. ♦



Reunion Committee, from left to right: Pat Brown, John Handley, Mary Anne Drea Mikula, Rusty Olimpo, and Christine Hayes Drea. Thank you for all your work!

Our Mission

Providence Center engages children, youth and adults in educational opportunities within the Fairhill/West Kensington community of North Philadelphia.

The Center values respect for the dignity of each person and creates a safe, hospitable place for learning.

Our Programs

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- "Power" After School
- Teen and Grad Leaders
- Summer Camp

ADULT EDUCATION

- English Language Classes
- Individual ESL Tutoring

FAITH AND FAMILY

- Prayer Group
- Women's Retreats

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Activities in the Park

By leading the Friends of Fairhill Square, Providence Center is helping to insure that this historic park is a clean and safe place for families. We work with the police district, other youth-serving organizations, neighbors, and the City to care for the park. Our Arts Fair and Fall Fair each filled the park with over 200 kids playing games and making crafts. We're excited for our Spring Festival on May 16th! ♦



Right: Lizvet and Maura, our Youth Director, at the Fall Fair.

ESL Classes for Parents

We enroll approximately 300 men and women in our adult ESL classes each year, but we know there is even more need in our community. That's why we were excited to be approached by the school district to pilot classes in two local schools! We are currently running ESL classes at William Cramp and Alexander K. McClure Elementary Schools.

the school day, so when moms and dads are dropping their kids off at school, they can stay to improve their English. Many of our students tell us that they are learning English so that they can communicate with their child's teacher and help their child with her/his homework. Running classes in the school, therefore, feels like a perfect fit! ♦

Our classes run at the beginning of



Sr. Peggy's students show off their graduation certificates.

New Teen Leaders

We are thrilled to welcome six new Teen Leaders into our program. These young men and women, coming from Edison, Kensington, Mercy Vocational, and Mariana Bracetti High Schools, are learning to be role models for the young children in our after school program. The Teen Leaders are receiving support to achieve their personal and educational goals, and the kids are getting to know teens in their neighborhood who are making positive life choices. We can't wait to see how they will all grow together! ♦



Teen Leader Yazid helping Christian with his homework.

SAVE THE DATE!

Providence Center's
20th Anniversary Reception

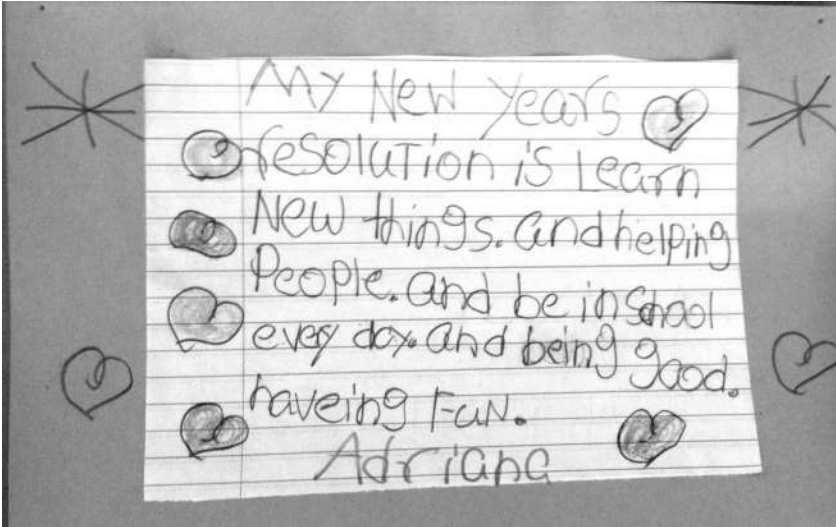
Honoring the
Founding Sisters

October 2, 2014
5:30-7:30

Holy Child Center,
Rosemont, PA

A Peek Inside Power

In Power, Providence Center’s youth program, we are helping children and teens develop reverence for the dignity of their lives, the lives of their peers, and the life of their community. Many of our students have experienced trauma, their young lives already impacted by violence and loss. Through personal attention and mentoring, we help them to be the joyful, imaginative and caring children and young adults they are meant to be. Take a look at what we’ve been up to!



Learning to see hope in the future—check out Adriana’s resolutions!



Teen Leader Vi and Aisha bonding.

OH, THE PLACES WE’LL GO!

Rosemont College (twice!)

“Cat in the Hat” at the Arden Theater

Franklin Institute

Ezra Jack Keats exhibit at the National Museum of American Jewish History

National Liberty Museum

Regular trips to the library—we got all the kids their own library cards!

CIRCLE TIME!

Circle sharing is a daily check-in with students to facilitate positive sharing, help students develop their emotional awareness and communication skills, and deepen relationships in the program. Here are some of the prompts our students respond to:

- "What was one time you did something to show someone you cared?"
- "What is something you are doing well this week?"
- "What is an example of a time when you positively resolved a conflict?"



Teen Leader Jessica and Javier working together.

PROVIDENCE PLEDGE

(Recited at the beginning of each program day)

I am a winner of Providence Praise,
 Developing my strengths in so many ways.
 I'm bright and caring, with a great imagination,
 I honor my community, and all of creation.
 I have personal power; I've got my own voice.
 I can solve any problem and make the best choice.
 I have a future filled with possibilities,
 And I can do anything through developing my abilities!

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

“Generosity, generosity, generosity must be the beginning and ending of our life.” -Cornelia Connelly

*We serve needy families, and so our programs are either free or charge only a nominal fee. **Please help us sustain this mission with a gift!****

- * Become a monthly donor
- * Ask your employer to match your gift
- * Consider a bequest to Providence Center
- * Donate online with credit card/PayPal:
www.providencecentershcj.org

*Volunteer on your own or bring your family, co-workers, or congregation! **There are many ways you can become involved in our work!***

- * Tutor adults learning English
- * Spend time with our kids and teens
- * Help in the office
- * Volunteer your trade or skill

**Gifts to Providence Center are tax-deductible*

For information, contact David Chiles at dchiles@providencecentershcj.org.

Help us Spread the Word!

Invite us to speak at your parish or community group! If you would like to arrange a presentation, contact David Chiles: dchiles@providencecentershcj.org



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A Ministry of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus

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SAVE THE DATE!

**Providence Center’s 20th Anniversary
October 2, 2014
More details inside**

A Love Full of Action | www.providencecentershcj.org | 215.739.7465