



Providence Center 

A Ministry of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus

Spring 2017

Filling Our New Home with Joy

The dust is settling. The paint is drying. The renovations are almost done. This Spring, we will open the doors and welcome our students into Providence Center's new building. That's when the magic really happens. These students will fill the rooms with their art, with books they are reading,

with science projects. They will fill the rooms with their laughter, with their resilience, with their hopes. And in doing all of these things and more, our students will make this building a home. ♦



Clockwise from top right: One of our new classrooms. Vee reads with Joseph. Bryan and his brother Kevin play with Legos.



Our Mission

Committed to North Philadelphia's Fairhill community since 1993, Providence Center offers education programming for children, youth, and adults. Our mission is to educate people to have the power and spirit to transform their lives and community.

Our Programs

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- "Power" After School
- Teen Leaders
- Summer Leadership Academy

ADULT EDUCATION

- English Language Classes
- Individual ESL Tutoring

FAITH AND FAMILY

- Prayer Group
- Women's Retreats

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Your Family Together with Our Family!

Providence Center Family Fun Day

Sunday, April 30 from 12:30-3:00

The Holy Child School at Rosemont

Please join Providence Center and our children and youth for an afternoon of BBQ, games, and fellowship. There will be fun activities for kids and opportunities to learn more about the ways we are a "love full of action" community. Funds raised will support our services to families in the Fairhill community of North Philadelphia.

Invitations will be sent in March. See our website for more information:
www.ProvidenceCenterSHCJ.org.



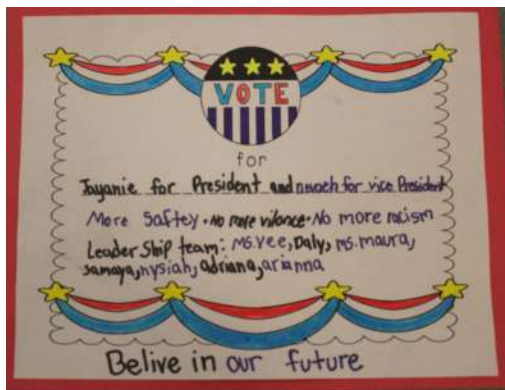
With you, every day's a picnic, so we hope to see you there!

We'll be moving to our new building in Spring 2017!

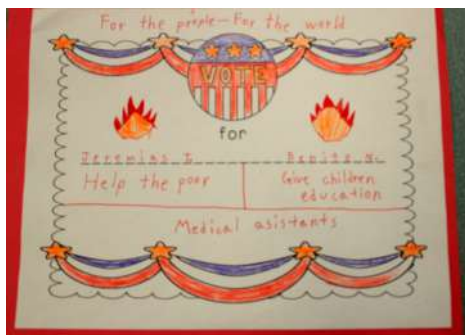
If I Were President...

Middle school students join our Leaders-In-Training program. They take more responsibility in the after school program, learning to help younger students with their homework and designing and teaching activities. They also learn about their personal leadership styles and think about the ways they can make a difference.

The election gave these rising leaders an opportunity to imagine themselves as president and to think about their platform. We look forward to seeing what these students accomplish in high school and beyond! ♦



Jyanie and Neveah (left) focused on an end to violence and racism. They built a diverse cabinet featuring classmates, a Teen Leader, and Maura, our program director. Their slogan: "Believe in Our Future."



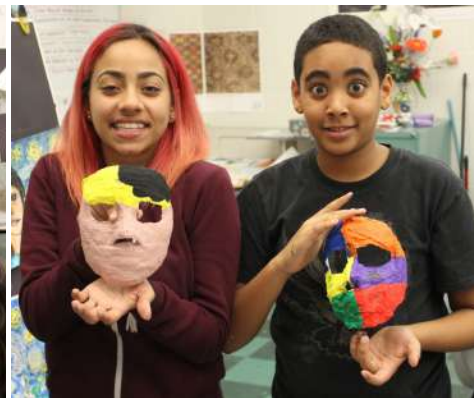
Jeremias and Benito (left) concentrated on helping the poor and improving education and health care. Their slogan: "For the People, For the World."

New Arts Programming

"Drawing educates the eye in beauty and leads to a habit of observing, the only habit by which knowledge can generally be obtained." Cornelia Connelly

The arts play a key role in a Holy Child education, and we are thrilled to partner with the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA) and ArtWell to provide regular art classes for our students.

ArtWell led the mask-making project pictured here, teaching the children how masks are used in different cultures and helping them create masks that represent their identities. This project also taught trust, as the students had to allow their faces to be covered with plaster! ♦



Left: Aisha helps Angelysse with preparing her mask. Right: Vee, one of our Teen Leaders, and Benito show off their creations.

Getting to Know Victor

A Junior at Edison High School, Victor has been a Providence Center Teen Leader for two years. He is a calm presence in the program, but his easy laugh is infectious and fills the room.

Victor particularly likes to work with children in the program who are learning English. Bi-lingual himself, he has the patience to help children practice their language skills. Speaking about one of the children he tutors, Victor says, “Even though we have to read it more than three times, that doesn’t bother me. It’s a great feeling when he finally gets the story. When he can read it, it’s a great feeling.”



Victor playing with sidewalk chalk with Kendirene.



Victor on retreat pledging to read more with the kids.

By working with the children, Victor has also learned about the challenges facing schools in Philadelphia. Last year, he testified in front of the mayor and city council members about challenges facing youth in his community. His awareness of the issues motivates him to continue serving children. “I thought it was just helping the kids. I knew there were problems with the school district and budget, but I didn’t know there were so many kids who need help with their reading level. Us helping them and reading to them and them learning, that’s what really makes me want to come back.”

Victor is also preparing for his own future after graduation. “College wasn’t really in my mind. But working with the kids, helping them grow and read, it made me grow up.” He is exploring different campuses and hopes to study business or fashion.

“I feel like this is not a job,” Victor says, reflecting on his time at Providence Center. “This is like coming to help your little sister or brother. We all call each other brother and sister. It’s like helping a family member. I just feel like the kids want someone like us to be there.” ♦

Become a Power Booster!

By becoming one of our monthly donors, a Power Booster, you can make a difference in the life of a child.

Children can enter Power, our after school program, as young as Kindergarten, and they can stay until they enter college. Because we serve the economically poorest community in Philadelphia, we can’t ask parents to pay a full tuition for their children. That’s why we need your help!

Your gift, combined with the support of our other Boosters, will sponsor a child in our safe and nurturing environment each month. For example...

- * \$10, the cost of a movie ticket, by twenty Boosters
- * \$20, the cost of a pizza dinner, by ten Boosters
- * \$50, the cost of a cell phone bill, by four Boosters

You can make a monthly gift with your credit card through our website: www.ProvidenceCenterSHCJ.org, or create a recurring payment through your bank’s online bill pay feature.



Bryan and his Peace poster.

Call or email David Chiles for more information: 215-739-7465, dchiles@ProvidenceCenterSHCJ.org.

Volunteer with Us!

Volunteer on your own or bring your family, co-workers, or parish!
There are many ways you can make a difference!

- * We need reading buddies for the kids! Come and read books with the kids after school.
- * We need tutors after school to help kids with their homework.
- * We need help in our office with data entry and mailings.
- * Let us know if you have a trade or skill you'd like to contribute, such as computer maintenance, carpentry, plumbing, etc.



You can also volunteer to help us collect school supplies or raise funds for our programs. Contact us for ideas!

To volunteer, contact:
info@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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