



**Providence  
Center**

A Ministry of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus

Summer 2014

## Come Celebrate with Us!

*"I feel like it's a second home for me." Paola, Teen Leader*



On October 2, 2014, Providence Center will celebrate its 20th Anniversary. Look at the pictures and quotes on this page. These are our neighbors and our students. They are our inspiration and our motivation. We hope that you can join us to celebrate all that they have accomplished for themselves, their families, and their community.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the Sisters who founded Providence Center and continue to support our work and community. On the 2nd we will be honoring these founders: Holy Child Sisters Nancy Hagenbach, Peggy Doherty, Nancy Logan, Eileen Moughan, Elizabeth Barber (dec.), Muriel Ratigan (dec.), and Mary Agnes Toomey (dec.), and Sister of St. Joseph Sheila Falls.

Invitations will be in the mail the first week of September. We have so many reasons for gratitude and inspiration! It will be a joyful celebration! ♦



*"They really inspired me to be a good learner."*  
Julius, 4th Grade

### 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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# Providence Center Turns 20!

## Highlights from "Power" Youth program

We can't wait for the new school year to begin! Last year we had a blast with field trips and fairs in Fairhill Square, and the kids all grew as caring, bright, and joyful children. With your help, we can do even more in the coming year! ♦



*Breyanna and Carmen using their new library cards!*



*Julius is excited by science at the Franklin Institute!*



*Teen Leaders Jana and Ben trying new produce at the Reading Market*



*Anthony and Daniella showing off the plants they grew!*



*Elizabeth has the Peace Bear!*



*Michael cooling off at the Spring Fair.*

## St. Edward's Corner

We hope that many of you will be able to join us for our 20th Anniversary Celebration, particularly because of the important role you have played in helping us reach this milestone.

You and your families deeply touched the Sisters; quite a few from the parish even joined the Society! With such fond memories and close relationships, how could the Sisters leave when the parish closed? You helped the Sisters build an over 100 year legacy in Fairhill, and your support has sustained Providence Center!

Please send us any photos or updates to include in our Fall newsletter! ♦



### Moving Out!

A poem by Benjamin Figueroa, one of Providence Center's Teen Leaders.

"Dedicated to anybody that has been abused."

Push me down, I might seem weaker  
 You, thinking I might not seem brighter  
 but I'm wiser!  
 with every cut!  
 with every bruise!  
 I have covered,  
 your strength made me weaker... for a short time  
 you made me bleed  
 thinking you were wiser  
 but thanks to you  
 I've become a lot stronger  
 made my skin a little bit tighter  
 through out the black and blue  
 I have been afraid  
 to hurt the thing I love  
 noticing I need to move forward  
 show the world  
 who contains the Real power!  
 not physically but mentally  
 you were my worst nightmare  
 I didn't run away, I thought you cared  
 nightmares always end  
 they're a project  
 that I could fix over time  
 you're the reason I've moved on  
 and the reason I found  
**WHO I AM!** ♦

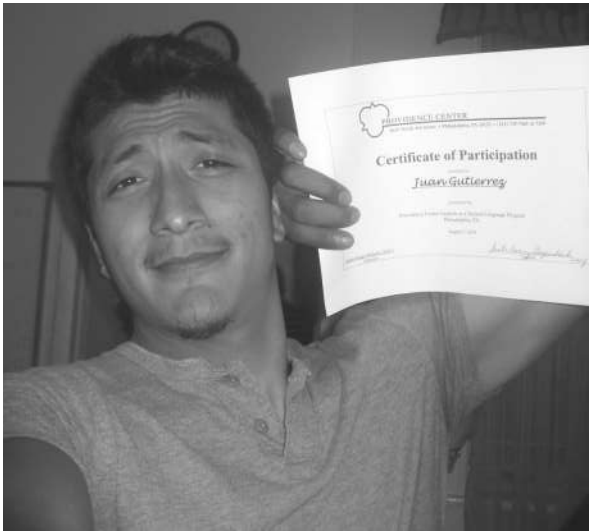
# *Empowered through Learning English!*

Our Summer semester ended a year of adult English as a Second Language classes, during which we enrolled almost 300 students. We feel privileged to teach amazing men and women who are working hard to learn a new language and build a better life for themselves and their families. So, what do our recent class graduates have to say about studying at Providence Center? ♦



*“I learned to communicate better, especially with my daughter. I can help her with her homework.” — Nayeli*

*“I understand people better, I know new vocabulary words, and I’m conquering my fear of speaking English.” — Saudia*



*“I can speak with my boss by myself.” — Juan*

Providence Center students are incredible learners! Using pre-/post-tests, on average our students gained over 50%!

## *Did you notice our new logo?*

Providence Center has a new logo, designed by Anthony Howard from Savvy ID. Anthony did the work pro bono! We hope that you see the rising sun of our “P” logo representing hope for our community. And, of course, the SHCJ seal continues to show our close relationship with the Holy Child Sisters. Stay tuned for our new website, coming soon, that will include a video about Providence Center. All this work is being donated by talented volunteers! ♦

## 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!***<sup>^</sup>

- \* 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](http://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

*<sup>^</sup>Gifts to Providence Center are tax-deductible*

**For information, contact David Chiles at [dchiles@providencecentershcj.org](mailto: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](mailto:dchiles@providencecentershcj.org)



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**Providence Center’s 20th Anniversary  
Honoring the Founding Sisters  
October 2, 2014  
5:30 to 7:30, Holy Child Center, Rosemont**