



Summer 2015

*“The Duty to Do Good”:
Welcoming Pope Francis to
Philadelphia*

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 Programming

ADULT EDUCATION

- English Language Classes
- Individual ESL Tutoring

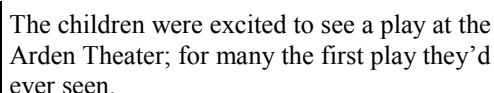
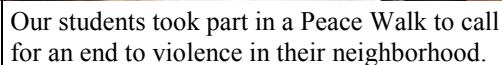
FAITH AND FAMILY

- Prayer Group
- Women's Retreats

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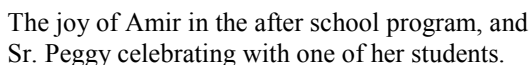
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“I ask you to be builders of the world, to work for a better world. Dear young people, please, don’t be observers of life, but get involved.”



*“True education enables us
to love life and opens us to
the fullness of life.”*

“God is the light that illuminates the darkness, even if it does not dissolve it, and a spark of divine light is within each of us.”



Meet Sam, One of Our Dedicated Teen Leaders

Sam is getting ready to start her second year as a Teen Leader, and she has had a tremendous impact on the the program and the children she mentors. "I want to be a Teen Leader," Sam explains, "because I want to show the young people that everything in life is not easy, but you still can believe in yourself and do anything." Sam has certainly found that working with children isn't easy, but she has developed strong relationships with the kids she tutors, and she has excelled at connecting with kids even on their difficult days. "I've learned that they will give you a hard time," she says, "but once you try talking to them, they may change their ways. I really care. What affects them also affects me. I love them." Sam will graduate this year and she's exploring her college options. "As a Teen Leader I have changed a lot; my attitude, my professionalism. After high school I want to go to college for education to help many more students." ♦



By the Numbers!

When you support Providence Center, you are supporting real change in people's lives! Here is some data:

82% Teacher-reported percent of our children whose behavior improved more than their peers!

40% Average gain in English ability for our adult students!

57% One year improvement of our children's non-violent problem solving ability!

They follow her lead! Sam walks a group of students into our program.

Check Out Our New Website

Have you seen our new website? ProvidenceCenterSHCJ.org

With generous volunteer work from One Brick Tech, Providence Center's site has a new look and new features. Visit us to learn about our programs, read stories about our students and their successes, and watch our short video! We have also made it easier to give online using your credit card, supporting our work through a one-time or monthly donation.

We hope the website helps you to feel a little of the joy and inspiration we feel working with our students. We would absolutely love your feedback! Please visit the site and let us know what you liked, what didn't work, and what you'd like to see more of. We want to share with you the good work that your support makes possible. Let us know what you think!

Please send comments to: info@ProvidenceCenterSHCJ.org ♦

Top Left: Julius being amazed during a field trip to The Franklin Institute.

Bottom Left: A few students from one of our English classes, along with their teacher, Sr. Peggy Doherty, SHCJ.



Responding to Violence with Poetry

This summer, teens in Providence Center's Leadership Academy spent time researching social issues that have impacted their lives and community. Ben and D'Angelo wrote the following poem about violence they've experienced and witnessed. As Teen Leaders in our youth program, Ben and D'Angelo are role models, helping children learn to solve their problems non-violently and to overcome the challenges they have experienced in their lives.

Covered In Dirt

By Benjamin Figueroa & D'angelo Slater

As the syringe lay in the ground
i sit back and watch the world go round
these damages last forever

The thought of us being together,
guess dreams only come true at night
But all we see is things that don't feel right

But let me tell you a secret
that can affect a teen's life
i was seeing lights before 5

started getting accused before 9,
struggling to stay alive
every time i was in his arms
my home became my fears
i wish i could reverse the tears

dirty streets became my home
covered in dirt
i've seen blood before my eyes
a bullet to the head
my uncle saw the light

When i was young
A kid got hit, no air through his lungs
everybody just gathered

while the boy just suffered
beat over a post on a status

it wasn't even their fuss
so tell me please
when you clicked that
did you really mean that
when i was behind the window

i was young
but y'all didn't care though
because the drug that you got
was the main point of the plot
beauty behind the gun

we'll be the one that has won
'cause society is messed up
and i dont know why we get hook up
till we get locked up
or be six feet underground

so look around
we're earthbound
we're young and learning
that the streets are dirty
covered in dirt

Here we stand. ♦



Above: Ben and D'Angelo.

Below: D'Angelo tutoring in our after school program.



You Make a Difference!

Vee, pictured here with Jelilah, attended a high school with a 30% graduation rate. Not only did Vee graduate last year, but she enrolled in college! Your support makes dreams come true for teens like Vee, and you insure that girls like Jelilah have positive role models!

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

Help spread the word! Talk to your parish, social club, alumni network, or other group about Providence Center. Invite us to speak, or come to visit our programs. We would love to meet you! ♦

Volunteer with Us!

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

- * Tutor adults learning English
- * Help kids with their homework after school
- * Come be a guest reader to the children, or lead an activity
- * Help us in the office with data entry, filing, and mailings
- * Volunteer your trade or skill, such as computer maintenance, graphic design, carpentry, plumbing, painting, 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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