



**Providence
Center** 

A Ministry of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus

Winter 2016

Special Edition:
Our New Home!

At Providence Center we welcome people who come seeking a place to learn, a place of faith, a place where dreams are achieved, a place of hope.

In the Fall of 2016, we will welcome those people into our new building. It is larger, so more people will be able to come. It has added classrooms, so more students will access an education. It has a kitchen, so children will be fed healthy meals. It has meeting space, so community leaders will gather and so teens will learn about college and careers. It has a large activity room, so children will run and play.

This will be a home for Providence Center and our students, a place imbued with the Holy Child spirit. Join us in celebrating this important next step. Join us in celebrating hope! ♦



While the building will be painted, we will keep the mosaic mural in front, created by neighborhood children.



At the corner of Huntingdon and 5th Street, we will have three classrooms, a prayer and reflection space, and a large activity room.

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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Save the Date

Providence Center: Catalyst for Change
May 12, 2016, 5:30 - 8:00 PM
Holy Child Center, Rosemont

You can help make our new building a home for children, youth, and adults in North Philadelphia! The evening will feature archives from St. Edward's, displays about our current work, and the unveiling of the architectural drawings of our new home.

Look for your invitation in March!

Memories of St. Edward the Confessor

By Sr. Rosemary Ritchie (Mother Alice Mary)



As I reflect on my school days at a very special place, St. Edward the Confessor School in North Philadelphia, I realize that the Sisters of the Holy Child who taught me there, influenced my life in a very special way. There was no question in my parents' mind that I and each of my brothers and sister would attend St. Edward's. I happened to be the youngest to have the privilege!

Born on December 4, 1933 and baptized in St. Edward's Church on December 10th, my first remembrance of school was the preparation for my First Holy Communion. Everything about the occasion was special and remains deep in my memory.

The parish was extremely large and the school grew into the thousands, yet every grade had a Sister of the Holy Child in charge of the class. A special title the Sisters had before their names was "Mother." The foundress of the community, Mother Cornelia Connelly, wanted to be sure that the influence of the Sisters would continue during the years the children were in their care in an atmosphere most conducive to their best growth and development. School life was a joyful experience and "Holy Child Spirit" was clearly identified in the classrooms and halls of the school. A variety of activities, our studies, music, the arts, brought a wholeness to our education and I recognized, even as a student, how special our school was! At Christmas time a pageant graced the auditorium. No wonder the Spirit of the Holy Child permeated the school!

Our teachers prepared us well for the next phase of our education and for life. My vocation to the "Society of the Holy Child Jesus" had its beginnings at St. Edward's. How very grateful I am for the excellence and joy of my elementary school education! While our school is no longer at 7th and York, I rejoice that the work of St. Edward's goes on in the work of Providence Center. It is indeed meeting the needs of our times in the shadow of our beloved Parish Church! ♦

Lifting Our Voices for Peace



Above: Adriana shows off her sign.
Right: Kids in the program walking for peace.

Our community struggles with violence, with a murder rate more than five times the city's average. But the children in our program don't have to be the victims of these statistics; they can be the change.

In November, our children and teens once again joined their school, Julia de Burgos, in a peace walk through the streets of North Philadelphia. Leading up to the walk, the kids made signs, wrote poems, and learned how to solve their problems without violence.

We are excited that our new building will be a peaceful refuge for these children, and a place where they will learn to lift their voices for change. ♦



My Peace, a haiku by Amir, 5th Grade

My peace, my freedom.
Freedom of speech but be kind.
Let all walk their way.

New Building, New Ways to Support our Students

How will our new space help us to better serve our students and community?

For Children, the new Providence Center will be a place to build resiliency while growing as bright, imaginative, and caring individuals.

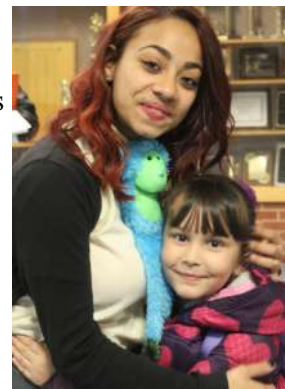


Alexa reviews her resume with a member of LEADER-SHIP Philadelphia.

- * Open Space to run and play.
- * Classrooms with computers and shelves of books.
- * Activity spaces to create art and experience science.

For Teens, the new Providence Center will be a place where youth will know they belong, where they are challenged to be role models, and where they embrace the full potential of their hope filled lives.

- * Workshops to prepare youth for college and careers.
- * Opportunities to develop their interviewing and job skills.
- * Opportunities to serve as healthy positive examples for children and their peers.



Vee supports Elisabeth with a hug.

For Adults, the new Providence Center will be a place where adults can engage in programs that support them as they strive to improve themselves and build better lives for the children and teens who depend upon them.

- * A full language school from beginner to advanced levels.
- * Computer and conversation classes to help with job searches and parenting.
- * Family-bonding events like movie nights, exercise classes, and arts performances.



Sr. Peggy with graduates from her ESL class.

In our new building, the lives of our students will be transformed! ♦



Quick Facts

Where is the new building? Only one block from our current location, on 5th Street, in the heart of the community the Sisters have served for over 100 years!

How big is the building? Almost 6,500 square feet, more than 5 times our current space! ♦

You Can Make a Difference!

Last year, Jana (pictured on right, with Daniela) was a Teen Leader at Providence Center. This year, she's a freshman at East Stroudsburg University. Less than 3% of adults in our community have a college degree. Jana is changing that.

Your support helps send Teens like Jana to college. And your support also gives girls like Daniela a role model. You can open so many possibilities in the lives of children and youth!

- * Become a monthly donor; you can sign up online!
- * Donate online with credit card: ProvidenceCenterSHCJ.org
- * Ask your employer to match your gift
- * Consider a bequest to Providence Center
- * Invite us to come and speak, or visit us. We'd 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!*

- * 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.
- * As we work to move into our new building, we can use your trade or skill, such as carpentry, plumbing, painting, computer maintenance, and graphic design.



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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