



A Ministry of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus

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.

A Letter from Our Director



I love the back-to-school season. Backpacks filled with fresh new school supplies. Wide-eyed children, excited and nervous. The promise of a new year, a new beginning.

This is Providence Center's 25th back-to-school season, but it never gets old. For 25 years, we have welcomed children into our youth programs, distributing hugs and high-fives along with notebooks and pencils. For the second year, we're welcoming the children into our new building, with bright classrooms and creative bulletin boards sending the message that this will be a joyful year.

And it's not just the children. Adults are coming back to school as well, registering for our English classes at Providence Center and four Philadelphia high schools. These adults

are ready to build the skills they need to help their children learn and participate fully in the life of their community.

The staff has been trained. The classrooms are prepped. Join us in celebrating the back-to-school season. It's time to be a love full of action!

—David Chiles, Executive Director

Let's Celebrate! Save the Date!

Providence Center's 25th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday, May 2, 2019
6:00 PM—8:30 PM
Overbrook Golf Club
Villanova, PA

Join us for an evening of celebration as we reflect on 25 years as a love full of action in Fairhill and look forward to many more years providing joy, hope and education in our community.



For ticket information, visit www.ProvidencePhilly.org. To support our celebration as a sponsor, contact David Chiles at dchiles@ProvidencePhilly.org or 215-739-7465.

Fall 2018

Our Programs

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- Power Program
- Teen Leaders
- ¡YÁ!
- Summer Leadership Academy

ADULT EDUCATION

- English Language Classes
- Conversation Groups

FAITH AND FAMILY

- Prayer Group
- Women's Retreats

Our Staff

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Our Board of Directors

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Forging Friendships, Nurturing Leaders

For four years, Providence Center's Summer Leadership Academy has helped ten local teens to prepare for college, build their leadership skills, and settle into their roles as Teen Leaders who work with younger children in our Power Program. This year, thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we were able to welcome an additional twenty teens from ¡YA!, Providence Center's new youth service and advocacy program, for a summer of personal and professional development, leadership activities, and fun!

During the six-week program, the 30 teens served the Philadelphia community through park clean-ups and field trips to local social service agencies. They explored what it means to be a leader through games and teambuilding challenges. And they built friendships across schools and neighborhoods, across cultures and languages. Here is a glimpse into our teens' Summer Leadership Academy experience, which you, our donors and friends, made possible. ♦

Top right: Jordan and Lee work together on an engineering challenge. Their Teammate, Alex, explains, "It was mostly about teamwork. Teamwork is about communication and how you work with each other."

Center: Crisjoel and Mino enjoy a game of chess in Fairhill Square Park. The Teen Leaders and the ¡YA! team got to know each other through daily lunches, games of chess and checkers, and workshops on health and wellness.

Above: The teens pose amidst the artwork at Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. They also visited the Philadelphia Zoo, Bartram's Garden, and the Wissahickon to expand their horizons and learn more about the city.

Bottom left and right: While focusing on their own development, the teens also supported fellow Philadelphians. Kevin sorts through food donations at Philabundance (left) and works with Teen Leaders Lee, Stephanie, and Alex to assemble kitchen kits for refugee families at the Nationalities Service Center (right).



Broadening Horizons



Giving Back



Volunteer with Us!

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

- * Read or tutor with our inspiring Power Program after school.
- * Help with local park clean-ups and other special events.
- * Contribute a trade or skill, such as computer maintenance or carpentry.
- * Join us to collect school supplies or raise funds for our programs.

To volunteer, contact: info@providencephilly.org





Building Skills



Left: Carlos applies his knowledge of healthy eating to prepare a nutritious, delicious snack during a workshop with the Health Promotion Council.

Center: Our ¡YÁ! teens take advantage of a movement break to catch some air and show off their jump-rope skills.

Right: Teen Leaders Jordan and Manny put the finishing touches on their resumes. Teen Leaders develop professional skills, from resume writing to financial aid applications to speaking with local leaders about their own career journeys.

Getting to Know Yariel

Yariel, a core member of Providence Center's ¡YÁ! program, is a young man with many talents and big dreams. He attends Olney Charter High School, sings at open mic nights, and spends time with his family every weekend. In addition to his commitments as a student, singer, brother, and son, Yariel is already preparing to take the ASVAB test as he works towards his goal of becoming a U.S. Navy pilot.

Despite his busy schedule, Yariel makes time to give back to his community as a member of ¡YÁ!, Providence Center's teen service and advocacy group. ¡YÁ!, led by community organizer Charito Morales, meets every Friday afternoon and on weekends. They also worked together for six weeks this summer.

For the past few months, Yariel and the rest of the ¡YÁ! team have worked to build a cleaner, healthier community. In Spanish, "¡YÁ!" means, "Enough!" Yariel and his friends are saying, "Enough!" to litter, to dirty parks and playgrounds, and to treeless city streets. They are also saying, "Enough!" to the image of their generation as apathetic and technology-addicted teenagers.

To show what they're really made of, the ¡YÁ! teens spent the summer cleaning up Fairhill Square and the streets around Providence Center. They nurtured our community garden and learned about the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Tree Tenders program. They also worked with Fairhill Neighbors to remove illegal signs from utility poles in our neighborhood. Yariel explains, "When you come to your neighborhood park, you want to see it clean. It's a mental thing when the park smells, feels, and looks better! We need to keep it clean—not just for us but for our kids and our kids' kids."



For Yariel, ¡YÁ! is about much more than community cleanliness though. He is one of the bilingual members of the ¡YÁ! team, which includes many teens who moved to Philadelphia from Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria last October. The program has offered Yariel the opportunity to develop his leadership skills. "Knowing English and Spanish, I tried to step up as a leader. If other kids were confused, I would help them."

Despite the challenges of being a translator and a participant, Yariel focuses on connecting with his ¡YÁ! teammates. He likes to reminisce not just about the program's impact on the community, but about the group's fun times together as well.

When asked how things would have been different if ¡YÁ! didn't exist, Yariel quickly answers, "I would never have gone on our trip to Bartram's Gardens, which was really memorable. And I wouldn't have met the rest of the ¡YÁ! team. Since I've started here at Providence Center, I've loved coming to work and seeing their faces!" ♦



You Can Make a Difference!

There are so many ways that you can get involved with Providence Center and provide hope and opportunities for Fairhill's children and families.

- Sign up online to become a **monthly donor**.
- **Consider a bequest** to Providence Center.
- **Invite us** to come and speak to your church or civic group
- Bring a friend and **visit us** in our new building.

Donate online: ProvidencePhilly.org/donate



Did you know?

You can support Providence Center through your employer's annual United Way campaign.

Just direct your gift to Providence Center by using
our United Way number: **12030**

It's easy, it's quick, and it will make a tremendous positive impact in the lives of our students. **Thank you for your support!**



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Help Us Spread the Word!

Invite us to speak at your parish or community group!

If you would like to arrange a presentation, contact
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