



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 Note From our Executive Director

Like many of you, Providence Center has undergone many changes over the last seven months in the face of this national crisis. We have encountered new challenges and have witnessed the community we serve be disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Pre-COVID our families lived on an average household income of \$13,000 to \$16,000; that is 55% below the national poverty line. The reality is that the needs of our community have been amplified. The mere fact that Fairhill continues to have the highest number of COVID cases is reflective of this.

By the same token, the resiliency and grit of our community is more evident than ever. Providence Center and Fairhill will come out of this crisis better and stronger than before because of devoted community leaders, selfless staff, brave partners, and bighearted supporters like you. I could not be more proud to share with you some of the many amazing things our team has accomplished over the past few months. I hope that this newsletter provides you with hope that the future is still bright because together we are developing the workforce and leaders of Fairhill's tomorrow.

Fall 2020

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Engaging the Community Through the Pandemic



Left: Ballet X used our mural as the backdrop for a project centered on community and women's empowerment

Right: Our partners from Philly Counts worked to ensure that Fairhill residents are counted in this year's census



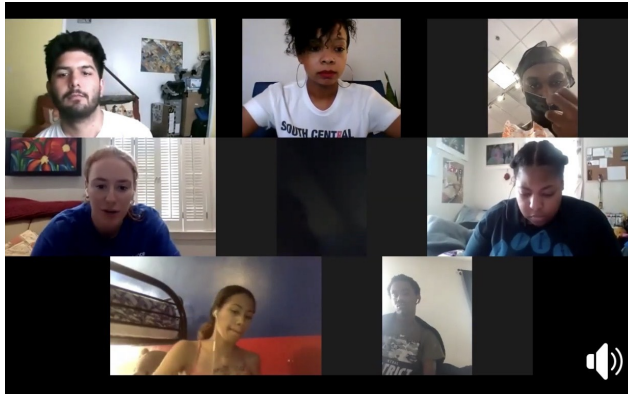
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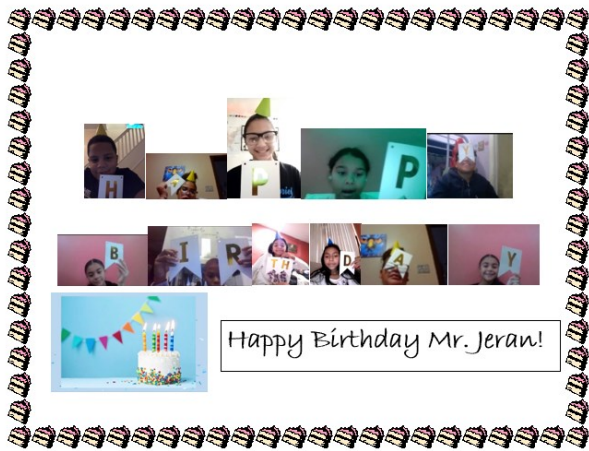
2020 Virtual Summer Academy



Here are some highlights from our hybrid Summer Leadership Academy! This summer, our teens worked in our community garden and attended workshops on classroom management, conflict resolution, and career exploration.

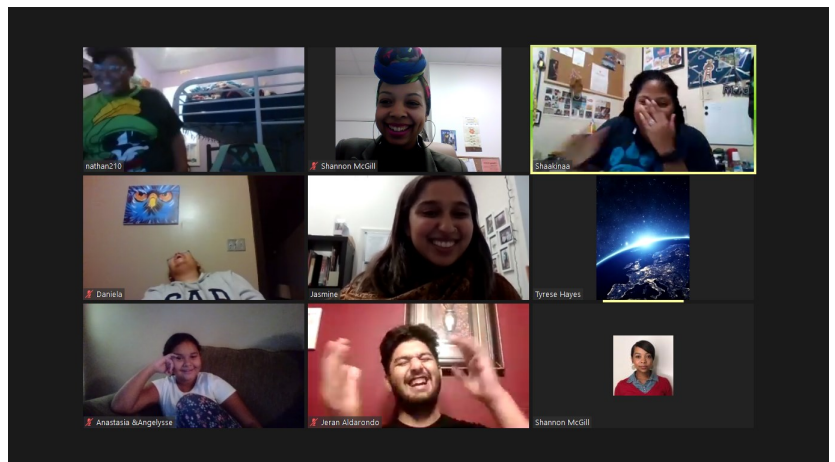


Staying Connected to Our Afterschool Students



We have been working with our Power afterschool students, focusing on self-expression and providing them with activities and opportunities to address their emotions.

We are so excited to see these smiling faces in person when we welcome students back to our community center in November!



ESOL Successes



Our virtual adult English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes have allowed us to increase our reach and service adults beyond North Philadelphia. Our classes have been extremely successful, but don't take our word for it! We interviewed some of our ESOL students to learn about their experience with our virtual English classes. To watch the full videos, visit our website!



There are so many ways you can help!

- Donate online at ProvidencePhilly.org/Donate
 - Sign up online to become a monthly donor
 - Contact us regarding legacy giving
- Shop at smile.Amazon.com and add us as your charity of choice
- If we don't have an updated email for you, please email info@providencephilly.org. This will enable us to keep in touch with you during these socially distant times.



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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!

A Fairhill Leader of Tomorrow

One of our Youth Advocates and Teen Trauma Ambassadors, Nestor Croquer-Cuellar, 19, and his family moved to our neighborhood 3 years ago, fleeing violence in Venezuela. He came to Providence Center 2 years ago, still learning to speak English and struggling to connect to the community. He's been a member of our Youth Advocates (YA!) team ever since, and his mom, Sandra, has enrolled in our adult English classes as well. Recently Nestor has become one of our Trauma Ambassadors and is working alongside his teammates, including his brother Miguel, to bring awareness to the importance of trauma-informed services for Fairhill. This program has taught him how to recognize the traumatic experiences in his own life and how he can help others cope through their own. Through his work with



us, Nestor has flourished; he has become much more confident and his English proficiency has improved immensely. In fact, Nestor has volunteered to be a lead speaker for our Trauma Ambassadors' final community presentation. Aside from his participation in our programs, Nestor is a student at the Community College of Philadelphia, where he is studying Art and Design. His story illustrates the resilience of Fairhill residents and their ability to accomplish great things with access to resources and support. We are extremely proud of Nestor and his family, and we have no doubt that they will continue to accomplish great things.



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