

CHESTER EASTSIDE – 2014

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United Way – 8253



Chester Eastside has now fully moved its programs into St. Paul's Episcopal Church across the street from the previous building. The P.O. Box and phone number remain the same. St. Paul's gracious welcome has enabled Chester Eastside to continue after serious structural defects forced us from the former Third Presbyterian Church.

We are mid-way through a two-year strategic planning process that is strengthening our operations and programming. Jim Leming and Associates are guiding our process and Ballard and Spahr has provided pro bono assistance to restructure our operations. Chester Eastside has received IRS designation as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

With research assistance from Widener University, comprehensive analyses of our After School and Parents First program have been completed. With new grant funds from Widener our program analysis will be enhanced during 2015.

Research findings on the After-school Program have documented the positive impact of the program. Behavior problems became less, and self-esteem, work habits, and positive social behavior improved. The positive trends steadily improved, the longer youth participated in the program. School grades also improved over the course of the program with no one having less than a "B" by the end of the year.

Evaluations of the Parents First program have found gains in parenting practices, increased educational activity at home, and constructive engagement with teachers. Children showed gains in vocabulary, reading and math skills, and discipline. These gains were still evident months after the end of the program.

Food Program

The longest running of our programs, the Food Ministry provides an essential service to an average of 622 adults and children per month. Over the last year, this resulted in the provision of food for 112,000 meals. It is one of the largest such operations in Delaware County. Beyond providing bags of groceries, including fresh produce, the Food Ministry is a welcoming place, offering a cup of coffee, something to eat, and a word of support to people, many of whom feel abandoned and alone.

Vision - 2013

Chester is a community that is a diverse and vibrant place to live, work, raise a family, and where all people have the opportunity to realize their full potential.

After-School Program

This program provides everything from homework help to healthy recreation for 30 children aged 6-12. To the children, many of the activities may seem to be just a fun time with their peers. In reality, they are developing the kinds of qualities, such as a “can do” attitude, leadership and cooperation, persistence on task, and

resilience, that can make the difference between success and failure in school and beyond.

Adult Education/GED

Typically, ten adults attend each session of our adult literacy and GED program. The GED (General Education Development) tests allow a person who has dropped out of school to earn a high school diploma or its equivalent. A number of people who have earned their GED have gone on to attend post-graduate programs. There are some who are still working on basic reading and math skills. One of the features of the program is a one-page summary of the day’s news. It is useful in giving students an opportunity to link what they are learning in class with breaking news, sports, and weather. The news summary is shared with other programs and teachers who request it.

Parents First

This ten-week workshop series helps parents of children in grades pre-kindergarten through third grade to support their children’s success in school. It has been shown to bring about changes in parenting practices and involvement in the children’s education, as well as students’ progress in school.

MISSION STATEMENT - 2014

Chester Eastside is a welcoming and inclusive community that enables individuals of all ages to achieve their goals and aspirations and promotes peace and justice in Chester, through advocacy and programs for education, and social services.

Summer Day Camp

Through this program, 30 children are afforded a wide range of activities including arts and crafts, swimming, and special trips. In particular, it means a widening of horizons beyond the child’s immediate world.