



Father English Community Center

A Catholic Charities Agency in the Diocese of Paterson

"We make a difference... providing help... creating hope"

The Father English Community Center is a social service agency in the Diocese of Paterson, carrying out the tradition of the Catholic Church and the Gospel of Christ in the urban community of Paterson. With the motto "We Make a Difference" we are dedicated to impact deeply the lives of the many people who depend on us.

Bob and Carol's Food Pantry & Clothing Boutique

Since it opened in 1988 when about 60 clients were being served monthly, the pantry has continually expanded in its mission to meet the needs in food, clothing and furniture assistance among the working poor families and individuals from this community. While most local pantries distributed pre-bagged grocery items, our pantry functions as a "client choice" pantry, where clients are free to select products that they need and use. The program serves over 3,500 individuals a month.



Senior & Disabled Transportation

This program provides an invaluable service to seniors and disabled persons in the city of Paterson. Each year, the program transports clients to 33,000 doctor's appointments, hospital visits, nutrition sites and recreation sites for the disabled, sheltered work shops, adult day centers and non-competitive employment sites.



El Mundo del Nino & El Mundo de Colores Childcare Programs

Our childcare programs quality education to three and four year olds who live in Paterson. This year, our certified teachers and dedicated assistants have had the pleasure of working with 210 children without regard of their race, creed, color, gender, national origin or religion. During this time we have worked with their families to give our students a safe place to grow and learn while preparing them for success in Kindergarten and beyond.



Project Youth Haven and Passaic Teen Center Group Home/Emergency Shelters

The Father English Center has two 14-bed homes for girls and boys ages 11-17, who have experienced abuse, neglect or homelessness and are involved in the NJ Department of Children and Families. Placement may be made on an emergency basis for up to 30 days, or for long term care - several months to a year. Project Youth Haven provides housing, three meals a day, clothing, counseling, behavior modification, crisis intervention, life skills training, medical intervention, educational support and recreation. The goal of services is reunification with family when feasible, or independent living when the youth is of age.



Aftercare and Summer Camp Programs

Since the program's inception in 1974, the Afterschool/Summer Camp Program has offered programming for School-age children of working or in-school parents. In 2008, the program was expanded to serve 150 children at risk (ages 5-13 years). Services include meal provisions, academic tutoring, recreation, and enrichment programs.



Teenage Afterschool Program

T.A.P is a program for teens ages 12-15. Youth are trained to act as peer counselors with a goal toward becoming productive citizens. Participants are provided group counseling, behavior modification, peer mentoring, digital storytelling, recreational trips, gang awareness, sports activities, homework assistance and educational supervision.



Outreach to At-Risk Youth

Started in January 2008 as a part of NJ State's strategy for deterring crime and gang activity in urban areas, this program is designed to give at-risk youth ages 11-18 an alternative to the negative influences that surround them. Programming consists of recreation (basketball, performing arts, and video game tournaments), life-skills training, group counseling and gang prevention workshops.



Case Management Program

The Father English Center helps clients not only with emergency assistance, but by working to break the cycles of poverty and disadvantage. In conjunction with our food pantry, this program provides an avenue for clients seeking additional services, such as employment, referrals to drug and alcohol detoxification programs, immigration support, and a host of other crisis-centered needs. Over one thousand adults are served through this program each year.



Work Assistance & Computer Training Classes

Our Work Assistance program links clients seeking jobs with various employers in Passaic County. Bus tickets are provided to those needing transportation to interviews and the first day of work. The Computer classes were developed to give people who were looking for jobs the skills they would need to become competitive members of the workforce. They learn tasks from basic typing, to word processing, letter writing format, surfing the internet, and emailing. Beginner and advanced classes are offered mornings and evenings. About 200 students complete the computer courses yearly.



English as a Second Language Classes

ESL classes are designed to give non-native speakers of Paterson and surrounding areas the tools they need to enter more fully into the culture, access the work force, and take advantage of the services available to them here. The program is designed to help participants overcome the challenges and fears they face every day from living in a society where English is the predominant language. Students learn the basics from vocabulary, pronunciation and key phrases, to the more complex principles of grammar, reading and writing. About 600 students enroll each year.



The uniqueness of the Father English Community Center lies in its ability to serve the changing needs of the poor with a special commitment to the youth, the aged and to the disabled. We make special efforts to involve and to assist the extended families of our program participants. We are a resource for other agencies, parishes and the wider community.

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