



IMPACT

Celebrating over 40 years of impacting the lives of those we serve

East Wayne Street Center

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September 2008

“Empowering Families Through Education”

DIRECTOR’S CHAIR

By Joe Jordan, Executive Director



Welcome to the second 2008 edition of the East Wayne Street Center’s Impact Newsletter. Can you believe that it’s September already? Our Head Start and Family Literacy Programs are gearing up for a new academic year. While we look forward to another wonderful opportunity to empower our families and children, we must keep in mind how the political and economic environment we face today is impacting our families and children. Today, more than ever before we must emphasize the importance of education and how it impacts one’s economic opportunities and quality of life.

The relationship between education and poverty reduction is very clear: educated people have higher income earning potential, and are better able to improve the quality of their lives. Persons with at least a basic education are more likely to avail of a range of social services, and to participate more actively in local and national government through voting and community involvement. They are less likely to be marginalized within the larger society.

Education empowers; it helps people become more proactive, gain control over their lives, and widen the range of available choices. In fact, the oppo-


site of marginalization is empowerment, and basic education is one of the keys to empowerment. The combination of increased earning ability, political and social empowerment, and enhanced capacity to participate in community governance is a powerful instrument for helping break the poverty cycle.

The East Wayne Street Center’s programs and services are designed to empower individuals and families within the poverty community through educational opportunities. Only through empowerment can individuals and families move away from the despair of long-term poverty and begin taking advantage of opportunities that could lead to a better quality of life.

The Center provides these basic educational programs because of it’s belief that basic education empowers families and individuals by opening up avenues of communication that would otherwise be closed, expanding personal choice and control over one’s environment, and providing the basis for

acquiring many other skills. It gives people access to information through both print and electronic media, equips them to cope better with work and family responsibilities, and changes the image they have of themselves. It strengthens their self-confidence to participate in community affairs and influence political issues. Basic education is the key with which individuals can unlock the full range of their talents and realize their creative potential. It gives disadvantaged people the tools they need to move from exclusion to full participation in their society.

We are about to embark on another year of empowering families and children. The awesome opportunity to change a life or plant a seed of greatness in the mind of a child can never be taken for granted. Let’s not forget or take for granted this opportunity to impact the lives we are so blessed to encounter here at the Center on a daily basis.



Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'

-MLK-

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NEEDED

Food Assistance for the Holidays

As we prepare to provide seventy-five (75) needy families a Thanksgiving and Christmas Basket, we reach out to companies and individuals in the community for help. If you would like to provide any of the following items for these families, please have the food items to East Wayne Street Center by October 30, 2008. To fill these baskets we are in need of 150 of each item listed below. Your donation is tax deductible and we can provide you with a donation letter if requested.

- Canned vegetables (corn, green beans, etc.)
- Stuffing Mix
- Instant Potatoes
- Cranberry Sauce
- Gravy or Gravy Mix
- Boxed Pasta (macaroni & cheese, etc.)

The Center will be purchasing turkeys or hams for the baskets, if you can provide one of these items; they can be frozen until distribution day. We will also accept cash donations towards the purchase of the items.

With the current economy and high gas prices, we anticipate a greater need this year. Our food bank has seen a greater demand for food over the last year. Individuals/families who visit our food bank are only allowed to visit the food bank one time per month and must live in the 46803 or 46805 area. EWSC food bank hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.



Many thanks to those who Supported the Ian & Mimi Rolland Letter Campaign

Aunt Millie's Bakeries
 Steven & Carolyn Brody
 Steven Burns
 Crescent Ave. U.M.W.
 Crown Sales & Support, Inc.
 Dennis Dammeyer
 Richard & Dorothy Ferguson
 Steve & Brenda Fishbaugh
 Francis & Avis Ann Frellick
 Don R. Fruchey, Inc.
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 International Truck & Engine Corp.
 Steven & Laurie Orlow
 Paul & Rosemary Reszel
 Ed Rousseau
 Linda & Joe Ruffolo
 St. Mary's Catholic Church
 St. Vincent DePaul Society

Paul Sauerteig
 Stephen Family Community Needs Fund
 U.A.W. - Adams-Allen Wells
 County C.A.P. Council
 Wayne & Helen Waters
 Michael & Martha Zurcher

It's Not too Late!!

There is still time to donate to the Ian and Mimi Rolland Letter Campaign to support the East Wayne Street Center's Programs. The Rolland's will match the first \$7500.00 donated through this campaign. This will be the only fundraising event this year.

Make a Donation

Yes, I want to support East Wayne Street Center.

- \$25
 \$50
 \$100
 \$500
 Other _____

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please make checks/money orders payable to:
East Wayne Street Center
 801 East Wayne Street

You will receive acknowledgement of your contribution and may be thanked publicly unless you request anonymity.

Name (s) _____
 (Print your name (s) as you would like it to appear on the donor list.)

I prefer that my contribution remain anonymous.

Your gift to East Wayne Street Center may be considered a charitable donation and used as a write off on your income taxes.

East Wayne Street Center Project Solve & Family Literacy
2007-2008 Graduation Ceremony
By Melissa Hale, Adult Education Instructor

The East Wayne Street Center held a graduation ceremony on June 19th at the Plymouth Congregational Church-United Church of Christ. A total of twenty-one graduates were recognized at this year's celebration. If you did not get an opportunity to attend the graduation, you really missed out on an excellent event. This ceremony marked the culmination of the perseverance, dedication, and diligence that each graduate put forth in their effort to obtain their G.E.D. Many of our student's have been faced with numerous obstacles as is often the case with each of us. What makes our graduates different from many others is that they made the conscious decision to face their obstacles with the realization that anything worth having will not be granted to them without encountering at least one impediment or more during their journey. As a former G.E.D. graduate and an avid gardener--hence my analogy to roses-- I realize that in order to get to the most beautiful rose one must often encounter thorns along the way. The G.E.D. is the first step that leads to a road of opportunity or a path that is resplendent with roses and, of course, some thorns along the way. Our graduates have had to take a detour or two during their journey; however, they all made sure that they returned back to the path that would lead them to the road of opportunity and success. They continued to keep their "eyes on the prize"

by remaining resolute and steadfast. James Lincoln, a Project Solve student, serves as an example of such tenacity. He attended the Project Solve Program for almost twenty years! James was presented with an honorary diploma in recognition of his years to educational dedication. Crystal Jenkins, who was one of the guest speakers, graduated from the Project Solve Program several years ago. She discussed some of the obstacles that she encountered along her journey. Crystal mentioned that she grew up in an unstable home and poverty-stricken environment. She was a young, teen-aged mother who could have easily become a statistic but she chose to pursue her goal--the elusive rose that often exists among the thorns and brush along the path of one's journey. Crystal enrolled in college and obtained a

bachelors degree. She is currently pursuing a master's degree and dual licensure in counseling at Indiana Purdue University of Fort Wayne. Janet Wimes, another guest speaker and Family Literacy graduate, mentioned that she had been in and out of East Wayne Street Center's programs since the 1990's. Janet chose to get back on her path despite the numerous obstacles that she encountered. Janet is currently pursuing a nursing degree at Ivy Tech State College. The final guest speaker and another testament to fortitude was Leila Thomas. Leila spoke of the obstacle that she faced as a young, teen mother who lost her child. It would have been comprehensible if Leila became emotionally and educationally paralyzed by grief. However, Leila chose to get the supportive assistance that she needed to move forward with her life while still coping with her grief. She enrolled in the Family Literacy Program and received her

G.E.D. Leila is currently attending Ivy Tech State College where she is pursuing a degree in medical assisting. By the way, Leila has also been able to maintain a perfect 4.0 grade point average which is a difficult task when one considers the fact that Leila is only nineteen-years-old and a single-parent of two children! As you can see, you missed an inspiring event if you were not able to attend the graduation ceremony. Our graduates and guest speakers were able to convey the importance of an education. Their stories reflected the ways in which an education transformed not only their lives but their children's lives as well. The graduates demonstrated that such an endeavor is attainable if one makes the decision to choose to make that journey down a path that is often strewn with life's impediments. Amber Proctor and Trent Hosbein, who achieved the highest G.E.D. scores for one male and female, received college scholarships worth \$500.00 each. They too decided to face life's challenges and pursue their goals. Each and every one of our graduates all decided to take the steps that are necessary in order to achieve their objectives. We congratulate all the graduates and the friends and families who continue to support them. The East Wayne Street Center extends a thank you to all of the staff, volunteers, East Wayne Street Center board members and women's auxiliary, and the collaborating agencies who assisted our graduates.

- Project Solve & Family Literacy 2007-2008 Graduates
Sandee Bahena
Angela Bowman
Tarica Brown
Juanita Curry
Adriana Delira
Tia Easterly
Jillian Eaton
Merida Eix
Trevor Hendricks
Miriah Herport
Trent Hosbein
Marketta Jones
Monica Jones
James Lincoln
Eva Lopez
Tiffany Mead
Amber Proctor
Domingo Rodriguez, Jr.
Kinsaidreay Shepard

Can we tell you more about East Wayne Street Center?

We would be glad to share the East Wayne Street Center story with your organization. We provide on-site or off-site presentations. Contact Joe Jordan or Marg Warnick at 260-422-6502 to schedule your visit.



East Wayne Street Center

801 East Wayne Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46803

Phone: 260-422-6502
Fax: 260-422-2560

*“ Empowering Families
Through Education ”*

We're on the Web
www.ewsc.info

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East Wayne Street Center is a not-for-profit organization focused on strengthening families and individuals to empower them to become self-sufficient.

East Wayne Street Center Head Start By Sarah Anderson, Director

At East Wayne Street Center Head Start we feel that all children share certain needs and benefit most from a comprehensive, interdisciplinary developmental program. EWHS feels that the child's entire family is the principal influence on the child's development; therefore the child will benefit most if the family is actively involved with his or her developmental program. EWHS knows that each child should be accepted as a unique individual and that activities should be designed to develop positive self-esteem and positive attitudes toward learning.

East Wayne Street Center Head Start was founded in 1965 and is still going strong in 2008. EWHS was accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children in June of 1989 and became one of the first Family Literacy classroom sites in Fort Wayne in 1994. The Center recently became a

level four Paths to Quality program as well.

East Wayne Street Center Head Start has current funding for 105 children and operates at capacity load every year.

The children who attended in the previous school year celebrated the end of the school year with a celebration on May 21st at Franke Park. The children were dressed in caps and gowns and received diplomas and awards for their accomplishments over the year. Parents were also given awards for volunteering and for their willingness to make the school year a success for Teachers and children alike.

East Wayne Street Center has a staff of 20 employees who are listed below.

Administrative Staff:

Sarah Anderson – Director
Ellen Kinnie – Business Manager
Wendy Gonzales – Family Service Advocate

Marcie Stover-Jividen – Behavioral Health Consultant
Sara Parker-Milligan – Education Team Leader
Nina Brown – Secretary
Elizabeth Dominy - Secretary

Teaching Staff:

Lora France
Bridgette Howard-Perry
Cher Jackson
Pat Mullins
Rhashaa Rembert
Brittney Stevens
Christine Magana
Tina Datta
Lisa Sweet-Kinsey

Kitchen Staff:

Joyce Terrell
Arlene Jackson

Transportation:

Dennis Meeks
Sandra Pearson



Wish List

The following items can not be purchased with food stamps. We have many requests from our food bank participants for these items.

Personal Hygiene Products

- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Shampoo, Conditioner
- Bath soap
- Lotions
- Diapers
- Toilet Tissue
- Facial Tissue

Other Needs

- Paper towels
- Dish Soap
- Laundry detergent
- Bleach
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Cleaning Products