

New Faces at the Center: Petricia Ramirez—Admin. Asst. & Jonathan Lewis—Intern

My name is Petricia Ramirez but I do prefer to be called Tricia. I'm a wife and mother of 3 beautiful girls, Reyna-13, Trinity-8 & the newest addition, Isabella-8 months. I come from the Humboldt Park area, where I've lived my whole life. I have been serving the Lord for almost 6 years now; I often put my gift of "Service" to work in my churches "Hospitality" ministry. I love to cook, and on a weekly basis have our families, friends or just anyone new over for dinner. I came to work for Family Empowerment Centers back in August, it's a small but intimate atmosphere, and I feel comfortable here. I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcomes I've received. It is also my pleasure to serve the staff, leaders and the community with my office skills. My prayer is that FECC will win the souls of the Rogers Park Community, one family at a time, for the Lord.



(Tricia has been a wonderful addition to our office staff and has a big role in helping us as an organization communicate better and more regularly with our supporters, so don't be surprised if you hear from her some day!)

SAY Yes
&
AWANA
Afterschool
Program



Jonathan (right), Lenny (Center), and Antonio (Right). Antonio and Lenny are in a youth advocacy program that allows them to work for us during the week. Jonathan is mentoring Antonio and Lenny this semester.

My name is Jonathan Lewis and I am a student, studying sociology, at Wheaton College, in Wheaton IL. during the 2010 semester. I decided to register for classes in the 'Wheaton in Chicago' (WIC) program that would allow me to obtain an Urban Studies certificate. A vital part of the WIC experience is a semester-long internship with a local organization. Through much prayer and guidance I selected, and was accepted by, Family Empowerment Centers of Chicago (FECC). FECC's mission was a more specialized focus of my very own personal mission statement, which is, to continue to inform, educate and outfit marginalized citizens of urban communities in specified areas of life, such as, the family unit; the pursuit of higher learning; and financial stability.

Although it is still in the early stages of the relationship, I have been impressed and moved by FECC's ability to maintain their focus on 'relational ministry.' The staff embody this notion in all aspects; from providing a host of services to the transient community, to offering mentorship and training, to local youth. I am blessed to have the opportunity to intern with this organization and am looking forward to God continuing to move in mighty ways here at FECC.

(Jonathan is originally from Philadelphia and plans on returning there when he graduates)

2010 Chicago Marathon Photo Gallery



2010 Chicago Marathon Thanks Giving!!

What an exhilarating experience, to have a team of people commit to raising money for the Family Empowerment Center and commit hundreds of hours over the past year to preparing for the big race. Thank you Eric and Matt for all your hard work in getting this team off the ground. Thank you runners for your dedication and perseverance. Thank you Blanchard Alliance youth group for getting behind Dan and joining us at the marathon to cheer on the team. Thank you Brenda for being the loudest and most consistent voice on the sidelines cheering each and every runner on the course. "Faith, Strength, and Hope...You can do it!!" is still echoing in my ears. Thank you donors, for getting behind these runners and a cause that they believe in enough to run a marathon. Thank you to everyone who played a role in making this such a great event. We will be preparing for next years team in a few weeks, so visit our website at www.teamfamilyempower.org for updates on how you can be involved.



Board of Directors

Larry Brown
Chairman

Corey Chan
Vice Chair

Tony Moore
Treasurer

Steve Pawela
Secretary

F. Scott Manke
President, Founder

Jon Rich
Board Member

Edward Pierson
Board Member

Chad Smith
Board Member

Electronic Funds Transfer

We accept credit cards and electronic fund transfers directly from your account to ours. The process is fast and secure. When you use our EFT process you can track and manage all your giving to our organization quickly. Visit our website and follow the instructions on our donation page to get started today.

Prayer Support

We believe that our ability to do what we do, comes from the grace of God, providing our team with wisdom in making decisions and guiding our daily activities. Praying for us daily would be a great encouragement to our team and a powerful tool in our goals of glorifying God and loving our neighbors as well. Send us a note letting us know of your commitment to us, in prayer.

Financial Update: Help us finish well, through end of the year giving!!

For the past 2 plus years we have been fighting and wrestling with the economy and its impact on our organization and recently I read some statistics regarding how the economy is currently impacting organizations such as ours. The following comes from a survey of more than 1300 non-profits done by the Non Profit Finance Fund which is a national leader in helping nonprofits strengthen their financial health and improve their capacity to serve their communities.

- **Nearly 90% expect 2010 to be as difficult or more difficult than 2009; only 12% expect 2010 to be financially easier for their organizations.**
- **80% of nonprofits anticipate an increase in demand for services in 2010; 49% expect to be able to fully meet this demand level.**
- **Only 18% of organizations expect to end 2010 above break-even; 35% of organizations ended 2009 with an operating surplus.**
- **The majority – 61% – have less than three months of cash available; 12% have none.**

As an organization we can identify with these statistics and realize that it simply by the grace of God that we have been able to maintain and in some cases expand services this past year. However, we also operate like the majority of non-profits with less than three months cash reserves and actually we are closer to the 12% that have none.

Help us finish the year well by including us in your year end giving plans so we can continue to influence the lives of many for Christ.

If you would like to discuss options or hear more about what God is doing at the Center before you make your decisions I would be happy to speak with you.



Rodrigo and Nay Kwa are preparing to begin doing homework in our S.A.Y. Yes after school program.

Help us save money by updating your information on file with us

Contact Information Update

Here at the Center we try to be “Up to Date” with our donors and supporters. If by chance you have a change or correction to your mailing address, want to add your e-mail address, or have a preferred number to be reached at please e-mail that information to office@familyempower.org or mail us a note at Family Empowerment Centers of Chicago (FECC), 1533 West Devon Ave., Chicago, IL 60660.

The Center is in the process of updating its Donor software and with that we would like to know how you prefer to be contacted with updates. We tend to send paper newsletters and in between those we will send e-mail updates. We also have the ability to send our newsletters in a PDF format which will save us on postage costs. If you have special talents or abilities that you would like to use in service to our organization please let us know that as well so we can contact you with special projects or needs as they come up.



The Official Newsletter of Family Empowerment Centers of Chicago

Fall 2010

The DeLano's have 'landed'



Susan and I have been preparing for this move for so long, that it is difficult to understand that it has happened. We have made the move from Glendale Heights to Rogers Park. As with any calling that one receives from God, the move did not always go the way we had envisioned it, but it all happened the way that He knew it would.

We enjoyed the blessing of many angels along the road, from people willing to load and unload our truck (up 3 ½ floors!) to people willing to share

their house and food with us during the time between our 'move out' and our 'move in.' We would have had a very rough road if it had it not been for each and every one of these amazing people.

Currently, our lives are still a little chaotic as we try to find which box has the toothpaste in it, and figure out where the sugar went, but we are thankful. Thankful that we have the chance to engage in the full-on mission of Family Empowerment Centers, by living with and loving on the people of Rogers Park. Thankful that God has given us a burden for the broken, the marginalized and the lost, and a longing to see all of God's creation restored and reconciled to Him.

Please continue to pray for us as we 'settle in' (quotations included because there is nothing settling about this kind of work:). This is a big transition for us as neither of us has ever called an urban environment our long-term home. Also, please continue to pray for God's guidance for us as we continue in the support raising process, that is necessary before we can fully engage in ministry here. We look forward to continuing to share the stories of the miracles that God is working here in Rogers Park with all of you.

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality—Sunday Series

We have embarked on a series of conversations regarding emotionally healthy spirituality during our Sunday evening services and I told someone recently that I thought it was where God was leading us as a group but did not notice how much I would be personally searched during this series. One of the first things the series points out is we live most of our life with 80 or 90% of who we are unexposed to the transformative power of God. Similar to an iceberg where 90% of it remains below the water. Another critical piece to this journey is pausing to contemplate God in our days or the idea of just being with God. Pause now for 2 minutes and try to focus just on the Lord in silence. It is extremely challenging is it not? Pray with us over these weeks that we would experience all God has for us through this series. If you are interested in this series it is based on the book “Emotionally Healthy Spirituality” by Peter Scazzero.

Staff Contacts

F. Scott Manke
Executive Director
scottm@familyempower.org

Rob DeLano
Missions Coordinator & Community Liaison
rob@familyempower.org

Petricia Ramirez
Administrative Assistant
office@familyempower.org

“Living life with our neighbors in ways no one else does so that Christ is glorified, they feel valued and accepted, and their lives take on new meaning and purpose”

Schedule of Events

- **Worship Service**
Sunday at 6:00pm
- **SAY Yes After School Program**
Tuesday—Thursdays 3:00-5:45pm
- **AWANA**
Wednesday 4:00-5:45pm
- **Amiga's Mom's Group**
(English/Spanish Alternate Weeks)
Wednesday's 9:15-11:45am
- **ESL Group**
Tuesdays 6:30-8:30
- **Yuck Jam—Harvest Party**
Oct 29th—6:00pm

“We are deeply passionate about glorifying God by holistically loving young urban families in Christ”