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Mentoring Children, Feeding Families

FEC UPDATE 2022



Our food pantry is known throughout the community as a place full of *“love, where the staff accept and treat everyone who walks through the door with respect.”*

Last year, we distributed food to well over 3,000 individuals in our community who otherwise would have gone without food staples or a warm meal. That is over 55 families served by our program each week! We are ever grateful to the Churches, small groups, families, and individuals who volunteer each week at our Food Pantry.



For the last several years, the Family Empowerment Centers has partnered with the Hunger Resource Network to distribute frozen chicken to many of needy families in the community.

This year we picked up and distributed over 7000 pounds of chicken! Some of the chicken was distributed to local churches- who then gave out the chicken to people in their communities. The rest was distributed to over 150 families in our Rogers Park Community.



On Saturday, November 19th, the Family Empowerment Centers, in partnership with Project Share 2022 and North Suburban Church in Deerfield, IL, collected, filled, and distributed over 255 Thanksgiving baskets to many needy families in our community.

For many, the most memorable part of the day was our prayer room. We opened up space at the FEC where community members could enter, be listened to, and prayed over before picking up their Thanksgiving basket.



With great joy we hosted our intern Emmalise Emmsweller for the last 6 months (early summer through December). Emmalise is from Kalispell, Montana. It has been wonderful seeing her grow as a team member and sister in Christ!

Emmalise's contributions to our special events, summer programs, Food Pantry, ESL, and After-School program have been impactful! She plans to return to Chicago in the near future, please be praying for her journey!

FEC UPDATE 2022



Every Tuesday and Thursday during the fall and winter, 10 students from Mexico, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Haiti, Colombia, Venezuela, India, and Mongolia, make their way to the Family Empowerment Centers to begin their journeys learning English.

The last week of ESL was the week of December 5th, but already we are getting ready for old and new students to register once again as our classes begin at the end of January!



Through our partnership with the Safe Haven program, a program which is part of the Chicago Public Schools, we have been able to connect with over 50 students through our after-school program.

These are typically at-risk kids or children whose parents are immigrants. At the FEC they receive daily tutoring, mentorship, meals, and a sense of love and dignity through our dedicated team and volunteers.



In the summer, the Family Empowerment Centers puts on a soccer camp for the youth in the community. The kids love learning soccer drills and participating in scrimmages at the soccer camp.

In addition to the soccer camp, the FEC also sends groups of at-risk teenagers to our "CAY Camp." This gives the students an opportunity to get out of the city and into the country while exposing them to a variety of outdoor activities and a chance to hear the gospel of Jesus.



In 2022, the Family Empowerment Centers hosted 8 short-term teams who came to Chicago to learn about doing ministry in our urban context. Each of these groups received trainings ranging from "seeing our neighbors" to evangelism, and even learned how to share their faith with Muslims. The teams served alongside our core FEC team, and helped with many projects!

In total, individuals from these teams donated 5000 volunteer hours to the FEC and our community. In 2023, we already have 3 times the number of teams as 2022!

Your financial support of the Family Empowerment Centers impacts the lives of people living in the inner city of Chicago. Your support helps meet the physical and spiritual needs of families and individuals in our beautiful, diverse community of Rogers Park. Would you prayerfully consider making a year-end gift to support the efforts of the Family Empowerment Centers. Giving is easy and can be done in 2 ways.

1. You can send a check made out to Family Empowerment Centers sent to 1533 W. Devon Ave. Chicago, IL 60660
2. You can donate online by visiting: <https://familyempower.org/donate-now/>