

# FAMILY EMPOWERMENT CENTERS NEWSLETTER

## **Family Empowerment Updates**

There are many things happening at the Family Empowerment Centers these days and the spring and summer are gearing up to be our busiest yet. Let me encourage you to plug into our social media outlets, especially Facebook, for the most up to date things that are going on. Unfortunately, with costs rising we are not able to get updates out as quickly through the mail as our social media platforms allow us to share the stories of what is going. We also have a mobile app now that will connect you to our calendar of events, facebook, giving, and other aspects of our organization.

Another way to connect with us is by coming for a visit. We were blessed a few months ago by a visit on a Sunday morning by Steve and Carla, and Rich on a Wednesday morning. These are supporters, like you, who decided to encourage the team with a visit and were looking to get a first hand glimpse of the wonderful things that are happening. We have been busy here at Family Empowerment Centers over the last few months.

Finally, you can always come to one of our banquets, participate in one of our larger outreach events, or as will be the case on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, join us for a vision/service event in which we will spend time praying together and then working together to complete projects around the Center. Whatever you choose to do remember that your continued support through prayer, volunteerism and financial support is critical for our survival and ability to create real opportunities for real people who are under-resourced and facing greater challenges.

## **After School Joy**



One thing is for sure, the children love our after school program and love to take photos. It has been a successful 10 weeks of 2017 where we have had the opportunity to share our love and the love that God has for them with the 45 registered students in our After

School Program. All of the students have experienced significant growth in their education, life skills, and in their spiritual awareness. Many of the children bring in the effects of their families' dysfunctions into the program. Some families deal with addiction related behaviors, some with violence, some with mental health challenges, and still some with simple economic challenges. So when the children who participate say in the Life Skills section of our program, "God loves me" and it is apparent that they really know that truth and mean it, it satisfies us to know that they are getting holistically

## **Counseling & Social Work**

Carol, a loving senior who will not slow down, continues to follow the path God has laid out for her and reach out to help anyway she is able. Over these past few months Carol's dedication and God given abilities have helped some of the homeless men on the job search, setting up interviews and providing them with the necessary resources to help them receive job offers. She has also helped some to obtain new Illinois State Photo ID's, work authorizations and social security cards. She has



## **Staff Contacts**

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**"Thanks Nikia Smith  
(Intern from Northwestern University) for your work in preparing the majority of this update"**

## **Websites & Social Media**

familyempower.org  
donateyourboat.org  
Facebook  
Twitter  
Mobile App

## **Mailing Address**

1533 West Devon Ave  
Chicago, IL 60660

## **Phone Number**

773-580-9478

### **Financial Support**

*Your support financially, in prayer, and in service is valuable to us, we work hard to maximize our ability to make sure as much of that resource and our time is invested in real service, with real people, with real needs. In order to be more fully sustainable we are in need of partners who commit to regular monthly and yearly support. Please acknowledge in your giving your future intentions as well. So we can budget accordingly.*

### **Donations**

Visit our website at [www.familyempower.org](http://www.familyempower.org)

Or download our Mobile App and choose giving.

Both methods are secure

### **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 is a great encouragement to us and helps to keep us actively seeing the results of those prayers in the success of peoples lives and the work we do.*

### **Save the date Vision/Service Day**

*On April 22, 2017 we are inviting you to come out for a morning of updates, prayer and a few hours of good old working alongside one another to clean up of the Center.*

## **Our Expanding Faith Community**

One of our desires has been to care for the whole person. One's spiritual care is very important to us and over the years we have met on Saturday evenings and now Sunday mornings as a faith community to worship God. Within that community we are helping people understand that both individually and corporately it is important to have pillars that hold up one's spiritual house. Those pillars speak of Prayer (our communication with God), Worship (our adoration and affection for God), Growth (the importance of continued learning about God and others), Service (the practice of living out our faith in service towards others), and Mission (the proclamation of the Gospel in word to our friends, families, and neighbors). Pastor Scott had the opportunity to influence and challenge our community on these topics this past January.

One young woman that comes to each Sunday gathering approached our leadership team and has asked how she can be much more active in the church. The pillar of Service is something that God stirred in her heart and she wants to practice that which she is learning about. Her desire is to be a door greeter, helper in Sunday school classes for the children, and help with our coffee station set up. As she expressed this desire she did so with great joy on her face that she could be more involved in giving of her time as she took that step of faith.



## **English as a Second Language**

In an ongoing effort to reach and equip those from other nations in our community, Family Empowerment Centers continues to offer English as a Second Language classes. Through partnership with students from Moody Bible Institute's TESOL program, we are able to offer quality class environments.



Students enrolled in ESL classes come from all over the world including: Mexico, Guatemala, Burma, Egypt, Honduras, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Bolivia and more. With these classes, our students are continuously improving his/her English. Parents have expressed that they are fluent enough to get jobs, help their children with homework, and better communicate with strangers on a daily basis. As a result these students have a drive and motivation to be able to participate in ESL classes.

## **Men's Growth & Expansion**

With such a diverse group of men that come through the Center we have found that our Men's Bible study is a great tool to bring our multi-ethnic, multi-generational, and economically diverse group together around something they all have in common; a desire to know God better and be known. These men have been exploring through the New Testament for the last few months. Most recently we have spent time in Revelation, celebrating the victory of Jesus Christ. As a group, we look forward to God's future kingdom and his final success over evil. Our group is pushing toward this expectation by challenging one another to live with holiness and honesty as we grow in confidence and strength. The FEC Men's group is expanding to include community meetings on both Wednesday and Saturday, as well as upcoming service projects and community days.

