



1533 W Devon Ave
Chicago, IL 60660

News- letter

2023

Be a Part of The Discussion

Join us for these events to hear more about the Center and how to get involved.

Zoom Meetings

Make sure to log on to one of our two End of Year Zoom Meetings to hear from Family Empowerment Center's director and other staff. They will be sharing about what has been going on at the Center and how you can support us this next year.

Dates and Times:

Saturday, December 2, 2023
9 am–10 am

Thursday, December 7, 2023
7 pm–8 pm

If you would like to be a part of one of our meetings, simply register for one of the two time slots with the QR code below:



Donor Dinner

We are also planning a dinner for anyone who is interested in meeting face to face. This will be during the 1st quarter of the year. If you want to learn more about the dinner and join us for this event, please email office@familyempower.org.

An update on the first month of our After School Program, the first Family Friday at Albany Park, and this year by the numbers.

Starting Off With Gratitude

By: Danielle Castro

Our after school program is off to a great start! We currently have over 25 children registered. The kids are getting to know each other and cultivating friendships. Familiar faces are back as well as several new ones. Our new neighbors are very happy to have a safe and warm place to be in while getting assistance with their homework assignments. We started with a curriculum on gratitude. Most students engaged and one of the students, Matt, was the first to quickly express his thankfulness for our program. Our goal is to continue being able to provide a sanctuary where they can receive the help they need while also enjoying themselves.

After School Program

Albany Park

The First Family Friday

By: Phil Palmer



The noises of fifty people enjoying a meal together ricocheted throughout the building on Family Friday, as laughter and conversation flourished. As Kristen (my wife) came upstairs to begin preparing for the next activity, she was surprised to find Leticia sitting alone. They immediately struck up conversation, and Leticia began to share about a recent divorce and the painful way it has left her feeling lonely. She talked about her desire to raise her children well, and her uncertainty about how to ensure they stay on track. As they worked together to clean up and put out the supplies for the next activity, Leticia and Kristen began to build a friendship. By the end of the evening, Kristen and I had made plans to spend time with Leticia. In this small moment, we were thrilled to live out the mission of Family Empowerment Centers: to glorify God and to love our neighbor, Leticia, by helping to strengthen her family. In recent days, we have been thrilled to care for many of our neighbors through English classes, Family Friday events, and other programs, but our favorite moments are the ones in which we get to connect individually with our neighbors and care for them personally. Leticia, George, Margaret -- we are honored when these neighbors feel safe with us and allow us to get to know them as unique people with unique stories and unique journeys. Thank you for making it possible for us to serve our neighbors in this way in Jesus' name.



This Year By The Numbers



This year so far the Family Empowerment Centers...

- Hosted 301 Envision Mission participants in 2023
- Ran 4 weeks of soccer camp with a weekly attendance over 30
- Ran 6 weeks of day camp with a weekly attendance of over 40 in Rogers Park
- Ran 4 weeks of day camp in Albany Park with over 15 children registered
- Hosted a small group in Albany Park over the summer and again in the fall with 10 people working at developing a core team
- Operated ESL classes in Albany Park along with the migrant ministry one night a week
- Hosted a Family Night once a month in Albany Park with more than 50 people attending the first one.
- Served more than 5000 New Neighbors (migrants) since March (this number is the total of people served each day rather than number of unique people)
- Served breakfast 86 times this year to migrants and served dinner 36 times this year
- Received the equivalent of 4+ box trucks of clothing, strollers, bicycles, luggage and other items through community donors who come in daily with bags of clothing and send new clothing through Amazon purchases
- Offered our New Neighbors 2 weekly ESL classes, a Bible study, and classes on family and trauma concerns (communication, domestic violence, parenting, etc...)
- Had 50 children and counselors participate in our Chicago Alive Youth Camp in June for 9-14 year olds
- Had 50 children and counselors participate in our High School Chicago Alive Youth Camp
- Had approximately 25 Sullivan HS football players and their coaches to our Full Camp
- Served nearly 60 families a week through the food pantry
- Cared for and mentored more than 20 registered children each day during the After School Program

Your Help Goes A Long Way

These are just some examples of how your support can help us care for those in our community.

Special Holiday Ask:

An additional \$250 gift towards migrant work and purchasing through Amazon toys (send to our address for distribution) will help the 1,000 plus migrants who are in shelters near our Center to have a special Christmas with their children.

\$90

a day feeds 50 new neighbors.

\$104

provides 12 men or women 2 pairs each of fresh underwear.

\$180

a day provides the staff to operate the migrant care.

\$220

a week provides the funding for 3 ESL Classes.

\$450

a month provides one child the opportunity to participate in the After School Program.

\$1,200

a week allows us to operate our food pantry at full capacity and feed over 50 families a week. In essence, for as little as \$25 we provide families over \$75 of food resources.

General giving towards the Center will be used where it is most needed.

When activities increase so do the costs associated with the programs and activities we provide. In the past 6 months we have stepped into the humanitarian crisis in Chicago with migrant work which to run effectively is a \$5000 a month minimal commitment. Our activities at our second location in Albany Park are significantly ramping up and of course our regular programming is still active and thriving in an economy where prices are skyrocketing.

Would you consider partnering with us with one time gifts and/or a regular monthly financial commitment?

Scan the QR code below to give today or visit familyempower.org/support for more information on how to support.

