PEC Annual Report 2015

Join us on our Journey

267-777-5811
pec@pec-cares.org

Administration
Center for Employment & Training
325 N. 39th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Housing & Case Management
Center for Parenting and Early Childhood Education
3902 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Community Development Corporation
Center for Digital Inclusion and Technology
3939 Warren Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
Dear Friends:

Every journey starts with just one step. This is true for individuals, families and agencies like People’s Emergency Center. Come walk with us.

There are signs that mark the progress of every journey. In this report you will see the progress that PEC has made from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 – everything from:

- housing and programs for parenting youth and women with children experiencing homelessness, to
- driving change through research, leadership and policy, and
- building community opportunity, employment and financial services, small business support, and arts and culture collaborations like the Lancaster Avenue Jazz Festival and the Neighborhood Time Exchange.

These signs demonstrate the impact of your support with numbers and data but, we believe, the impact is best felt through the journeys of the people we serve. We want to share one of those stories with you now. Logan and his son are on a journey to buying a home.

Starting in 2014 and through 2015, PEC’s Center for Employment and Training (CET) continued to develop a continuum of programs combining financial services, education, training, and employment services. Such comprehensive service options were a lifesaver for Logan and his son. While navigating homelessness with his son by staying with a succession of friends and family, Logan turned to PEC in order to access benefits like SNAP, Medicaid and cash assistance. This process was complex and drawn out due to issues of verifying legal custody of his son. Logan explored other opportunities to stabilize, and began the journey to securing a job with our employment case manager and workforce developer. He enrolled in a healthcare information training program and secured a position at a local hospital. Now, Logan works with CET’s Financial Empowerment Counselor to budget, save, and prepare for buying a home. Logan says with confidence that coming to PEC helped him to change his life.

We appreciate each of you who support PEC. Whether you are a volunteer, donor, neighbor, corporate representative, private foundation staff, collaborative partner, or a government funder, your support is vital to the success of our programs.

We are humbled to be trusted with the care of an agency that has existed for 43 years, and to be trusted with the stewardship of your investment in our mission to nurture families, strengthen neighborhoods and drive change. We look forward to continuing this journey with you by our side.

Sincerely,

Mike Verrill
Chair, PEC Board of Directors

Kathy Desmond
President, PEC
PEC Annual Report

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

PEC’s mission is to nurture families, strengthen neighborhoods and drive change. We are committed to increasing equity and opportunity through our entire community. We provide comprehensive supportive services to homeless women and their children, revitalize our West Philadelphia neighborhood, and advocate for social justice.

For homeless women with children and parenting youth we offer housing, case management, counseling, parenting and early childhood education, financial education and planning, life skills and technology programs. We offer Lower Lancaster and other Philadelphia residents job training, benefits access, employment services, and financial coaching.

The PEC Community Development Corporation programs respond to community needs and build on neighborhood assets to help bridge the digital divide, expand mixed-income housing opportunities, stimulate economic growth, create wealth, and improve the quality of life for all West Philadelphia residents. Visit lancasteravephilly.com.

PEC advocates for urgently needed public policy changes on behalf of youth and families experiencing homelessness. We work assertively with the local, state and federal governments to advance this legislation.

Housing, Programs and Services

Families Housed

Emergency Housing

Transitional Housing

Permanent Housing

41 Families Moved to a Permanent Home
Ava’s Journey

Ava (not pictured) is on a journey to realizing her dreams of a strong family. She spoke in 2015 at our Imprint Award event honoring Jaimie Spector Field. Ava experienced homelessness with her children in 2008. She tried several shelters but they lacked the employment training and educational opportunity she needed to someday become a nurse. Finally, at PEC she found the mix of programs that she and her children needed, co-located with temporary housing. In PEC’s transitional housing, she learned how to set goals and budget, her children had positive experiences to occupy them, and she mastered office skills. Ava obtained her GED and worked several office jobs while obtaining permanent housing and completing her LPN. For the last two years she has excelled as a nurse at a local correctional facility. Ava notes that she’s glad that PEC was here to empower her to take the path towards her dreams for her family.

Shonda’s Journey

Shonda (not pictured) and her two sons came to PEC for emergency housing as she fled domestic violence in her home (a relative had badly beaten her). This incident and the subsequent rejection by members of her family traumatized Shonda, and she turned to substance abuse. At PEC, Shonda was able to connect to outpatient counseling and treatment services, as well as on-site supports such as mentoring, case management, housing assistance, credit and budget counseling, and assistance for her sons in dealing with trauma. She successfully moved to transitional housing. Shonda’s goals are to remain sober, gain employment, and secure permanent housing.
Activities & Programs

Center for Parenting and Early Childhood Education
100 moms experiencing homelessness, with a total of 92 children Ages 0-5, attended classes, one on one coaching sessions, and group activities... and 72 of these moms demonstrated improved parenting skills.

Center for Digital Inclusion and Technology
120 Adults in Classes
67 Youth in Programs

PEC-Managed KEYPOTS Computer Labs
5,000 hours of training
2,200 visits to KEYPOTS computer labs
PEC’s work with children and youth extends throughout Philadelphia and encompasses youth from all walks of life, particularly in our digital inclusion work. One future journalist or videographer, Alexus, joined the Teen Technology Network (TTN) as a senior in high school. She was excited to find a program where she could learn more about digital video production. Now Alexus could learn about camera angles, editing software, and on-screen graphics. She plans to use what she learned to teach other youth who are interested in video production. Alexus wants to work in marketing or journalism, and enjoys conducting interviews and working on group projects. Through TTN she connected to PhillyCam and several other youth media and digital arts groups. “It was cool to see people from all forms of media coming together,” she said. TTN is proud to teach students like Alexus and equip them to project youth voices in Philadelphia through media arts.
Community Development Highlights

Hunger and Healthy Food Access

Meals in Shelter
40,831

Visits to Food Pantry
4,784

Policy and Research

PEC, working with the late Dr. Staci Perlman, led the call to pass State House Bill 2204 (Act 143 or 2014). This act will impact 6,000 infants and toddlers served in emergency shelter each year throughout Pennsylvania with mandated developmental screenings and services. Since the legislation was passed, we have seen the following results:

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services/Office of Child Development and Early Learning developed a training program to be offered to all 67 counties.

Philadelphia county declared that every homeless infant ages 0-3, whether or not they are in shelter, will be assessed with developmental screening tools to identify developmental delays. The county also began to establish the infrastructure to achieve this goal.
Keith’s Journey

Keith moved back into his childhood home in Mantua to assist his mother. The home was in need of repair so he reached out to PEC’s Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) Manager. PEC connected Keith and his mother to Rebuilding Together Philadelphia, a repair assistance group which was targeting an adjacent block for home repairs. The NAC Manager helped Keith to apply to the program, and followed up with the group in the hopes that his home would be included. It was, and they received the much-needed repairs free of charge – new kitchen countertops and cabinets, bathroom fixtures, main roof coating, new downspout, and kitchen roof repair. The NAC Manager also saw that Keith’s mother was not receiving the Homestead Exemption for property tax relief and helped her to sign up.

Diamond’s Journey

Diamond was excited to learn that PEC hosts several criminal record expungement clinics a year in partnership with Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity. This connection helped her to clear an obstacle to securing a job. Diamond also connected to Temple University’s skill training program through PEC, and says that the experience is “changing my life.”
PEC’s Neighborhood Time Exchange (NTE) connected 14 artists to 34 projects for the community since January 2014. A total of 877 guests visited the Neighborhood Time Exchange to work with the artists or to view their work. In “Neighborhood Time Exchange: Intersections of Art and Community in West Philadelphia,” by Broken City Lab, resident artist Philippe Leonard (not pictured) noted, “The service component of the NTE project was very helpful to reach people and try to address problems that are intrinsic to their experience of the neighborhood.” NTE is a partnership between PEC Mural Arts and Broken City Labs.
Thank you to all of our supporters who made generous contributions this year.

July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

All donations are vital to PEC. Due to space limitations, gifts totaling $249 and under are not included in this listing.

PEC’s audited financial statement can be obtained by contacting Tim Klarich at tklarich@pec-cares.org or calling 267-777-5815.

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This painting was created by PEC mothers in the CHOP-HHI creative expression group.
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Several PEC parenting youth contributed stories to the journey2home project, in collaboration with Mural Arts.

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Bigham Leatherberry Wise Place includes six two-bedroom units and five three-bedroom units (for a total of eleven units). The project reflects community objectives laid down in the Make Your Mark Neighborhood Plan by offering units for formerly homeless families and other low income families.

The project is named in honor of three local community organizers who have been important to either the needs of the community or championing the needs of homeless families -- Helen Bigham, John Leatherberry and Elsie Wise.

Bigham Leatherberry Wise Place opened in March 2015. It was recognized for its modern, high quality housing design (by Digsau) by the American Institute of Architects in state and local competitions. Thank you to the generous funders of the project:

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