

At the Center we help people become self-sufficient, caring and participating members of the community through:

Youth Programs

- √ 44 children attended the Grace Safe Place Summer Program in 2006.
- √ 1,074 hot lunches were served to low-income children during the summer youth programs.
- √ 38 children attended after-school programming in the spring of 2006.
- √ 23 children and 9 adults held a “*Campout for the Homeless*” to support a permanent homeless shelter.
- √ 44 children participated in prevention activities through the Center’s 4-H Club.
- √ 569 children were prepared for school because of school-supply packets distributed by the Center. Twenty-two community volunteers assisted in this project.
- √ The Center will provide over 620 Christmas gifts to children who are in need in 2006.

Adult Programs

- √ Fifty-eight (58) adults attended pre-GED classes in 2006.
- √ The Center provided 116 pre-GED class sessions in 2006 in both English and Spanish.
- √ Seven adults students earned their GED in 2006 and twelve others have passed at least one of the five tests.
- √ The Center is the only Kenosha sight to provide child-care for pre-GED classes. An average of 16 children attended child-care while their parent studied.
- √ The Center hosted three parent-training programs (two Chat-n-Chews and a Strengthening Families).

Community Outreach Programs

- √ Residents used the telephone, fax or internet 1,974 times to find employment, medical assistance or housing.
- √ 4,359 visits were made by Kenosha adults to the Clothing Closet.
- √ 5,813 adults and children in Kenosha received quality, used clothing at the Center.
- √ 1,161 families received personal care packets of toiletries.
- √ 555 mothers were able to put their babies in diapers because of the Center.
- √ 136 babies received cans of formula.
- √ 138 individuals were able to buy their medical prescriptions through the Center.
- √ 195 different community members sought spiritual growth through weekly Community Bible Studies led by religious leaders and members of the community.
- √ 181 volunteers from our neighborhood and other areas of Kenosha volunteered in the clothing closet, youth program or outreach efforts in 2006.

SUCCESS STORIES

YOUTH LEARN TO RUN A BUSINESS

Destiny, Devonte and Karla were rushing to get their product to the market. They had spent many overtime hours and had a very small window of opportunity to promote their wares.

Was there a corporate takeover of the Urban Outreach Center? No, we are talking about the Grace Safe Place, a summer youth development program for neighborhood children.

This past summer 44 children learned small business principles through the Center. The children divided into four teams and each team developed a business plan, devised a product, took out "loans" for capital, determined a profit margin and sold their finished products at the end of the summer.

The purpose of the summer youth program is two-fold: to create positive, prevention activities for area youth and to instill assets the children can utilize in their daily lives.

And the product sold by Destiny, Devonte and Karla? They made the coolest tie-dye clothing this side of California!



Demi and her son camp out for the homeless in the Spring. The program was planned by kids to learn about the homeless condition and to support a permanent shelter.

WHY COME HERE?

Why do people come to the Urban Outreach Center?

We know people need the services we offer. But why do they come back to volunteer, to visit, to celebrate their successes?

These questions are being asked of residents with the new intake process at the Center. Norma Guerrero, the Outreach Coordinator, has been surveying the clients and the answers are often touching.

When clients are asked, *What do you enjoy most about your visits with us?*, their replies often reflect a desire for community and fellowship. Below are some of their responses to our question:

"All are welcome and there is always different people around."

"Quietness and personal space."

"Friendly staff and cozy environment."

"Socialize and volunteer with donations."

"I feel like I have a spiritual place where I'm comfortable."

"Courtesy and willingness to help from staff."

"Good people who help."

The ELCA Urban Outreach seeks to be a place where our neighbors can feel a part of the community, where they are not alone. We believe that a sense of community is important for individuals who are caring and contributing.

WHERE THE JOBS ARE...

A man named Tom came to the Outreach Center in October desperate for a little help. He had spent some time in jail in the past and was having a horrible time finding a job. Although his offense was not a violent crime, many employers have to make hard decisions about whether to employ an ex-con.

Tom used the Center's internet, newspaper and phone to find potential job offers. He printed his resume at the Center. After a week of searching, Tom disappeared for a while. We wondered what happened to him, worried that he had possibly violated his probation. Finally, a month after we first met him, Tom showed up to tell us about his new job at a local restaurant. The staff of the Center know that we often don't hear about the successes – when people get a job, they don't need us anymore! And that is just fine with us.