

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 2007.
- √ 1,276 hot lunches were served to low-income children during the summer youth programs.
- √ 33 children participated in prevention activities through the Center's 4-H Club and Fair in the City.
- √ 565 children were prepared for school because of school-supply packets distributed by the Center. Twenty-two community volunteers assisted in this project.
- √ 15 girls have learned empowerment skills through the Girlz Together Project.
- √ The Center will provide over 800 Christmas gifts to children who are in need in 2007.

Adult Programs

- √ (74) adults attended pre-GED classes in 2007.
- √ The Center provided 146 pre-GED class sessions in 2007 in both English and Spanish.
- √ Twelve adults students earned their GED in 2007 and eight 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.
- √ 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 2,025 times to find employment, medical assistance or housing.
- √ 3,046 visits were made by Kenosha adults to the Clothing Closet.
- √ 5,357 adults and children in Kenosha received quality, used clothing at the Center.
- √ 879 families received personal care packets of toiletries.
- √ 314 mothers were able to put their babies in diapers because of the Center.
- √ 159 babies received cans of formula.
- √ 135 individuals were able to buy their medical prescriptions through the Center.
- √ 170 different community members sought spiritual growth through weekly Community Bible Studies led by religious leaders and members of the community.
- √ Over 6,600 hours of volunteer work were provided by volunteers from our neighborhood and greater Kenosha.

Summer Youth Program Teaches Teamwork

Anyone who spends time with young children understands their tendency to disagree with each other. Learning to get along is part of growing up and this is especially true when growing up in such a diverse, global society.

This summer 44 local children took part in a project to teach teamwork and conflict resolution as part of the Grace Safe Place program. The children learned to listen, empathize, communicate and to accept others.

The children, led by eight teen assistants, also participated in field trips, a baseball team and the annual Fair in the City. Over 1,100 meals were provided by local congregations.

Partners in the program included Kenosha Unified School District, Kenosha County UW-Extension and the Boys & Girls Club.



Taylor and Gabriella are signing their names as a commitment to “work it out together.” Each week the children learned a new approach to deal with conflict. After their lessons, the children would sign a poster to demonstrate their commitment to work together.

Volunteers Donate Thousands of Hours

Did you know that Kenosha area residents provide thousands of volunteer hours to the Urban Outreach Center each year?

In 2007, adult and youth volunteers gave over 6,600 individual hours of donated time! Volunteers came from all over the area and helped with youth programs, the clothing closet, school supply distribution, the Bradley Center and many more activities.

One valuable source of volunteers is the neighborhood in which the Center is located. In 2007, neighborhood residents gave over 2,400 hours of donated time.

Antoinette Ferguson, a morning shift volunteer explains, “I wanted to volunteer because I constantly see the need in the neighborhood. There are a lot of people who honestly need what the Center provides.”



GSP Parents serve lunch during the summer youth program.

THE STORY OF OSCAR AND SANDRA

Oscar and Sandra had decided it was time. Even though they had been in the United States for several years with their three children and Oscar had a good job, their employment options were limited because they did not have a high school diploma. Although they had both received a good education in Mexico, they wanted a U.S. diploma. They came to the G.E.D. program hoping they could receive help.

Only three months later both of them had their diploma after receiving some of the highest test scores possible. Oscar received a promotion at work and Sandra is considering college once her youngest child starts school. “We would have never gotten our diplomas if we hadn’t attended class at the Center,” said Sandra. Two of their children attended the summer youth program and they look forward to the annual Holiday Dinner.