



Peace  
Neighborhood  
Center

# Peaceful Corners

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Peace Neighborhood Center's mission is to provide programs for children, families, and individuals who are affected by social and economic problems.

Peace helps people discover options, enhance skills, and make choices that lead to self-sufficiency and positive community involvement.



## Back-To-School 2013

Before we know it, the weather will change, the leaves will turn and the 2013-2014 school year will be upon us. Peace Neighborhood Center Youth Services staff members are already planning the study groups, crafts and activities our kids will enjoy this fall. However, before we head into yet another great year here at Peace, we want to take a moment to reflect on all that we accomplished this summer in our annual "Youth on the Move" Summer Day Camp and Leadership Development Camp. These important programs offer an enriching, fun-filled environment for youth from working and under-employed families. While these families might not be able to afford other area summer camp options, they are very much in need of the structure our summer programs offer. At Peace, campers participate in supervised recreational activities and groups focused on topics including science, drama, athletics, music, computer skills, and team building. Peace offers each camper an experience that will stick with them throughout their lifetime.



**Peace Drumline was just one of many clubs and activities this summer.**



Over the course of the six-week program, Peace staff members took Summer Day Camp participants on field trips to area parks and various other points of interest. In addition to the annual trip to the Toledo Zoo, youth had the chance to visit Tantre Farm, the Creature Conservatory, the Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum, the planetarium at UM's Museum of Natural History, Dexter Blueberry Farm, the Ann Arbor Art Fair and a tour of the University of Michigan Sports complex including the Big House and Crisler Arena. Twice a week, campers got to explore the natural beauty of Michigan with visits to Silver Lake, Gallup Park and several of the area Metro Parks. The middle schoolers in the Leadership Development Camp got the opportunity to delve deep into the University of Michigan with visits to the Law School, College of Engineering, Kinesiology Department and the School of Art and Design. Many campers now have their heart set on attending U of M!



## Congratulations to Our Graduates!

Students of all ages in Peace Neighborhood Center's youth programs are encouraged to set high expectations and goals and are assisted in reaching them. The College/Career Prep Club (CCPC) is the final experience in our series of integrated youth programs that can help these at-risk young people move into successful adult lives. Specifically, the CCPC encourages low-income high school students to aspire to and prepare for college or career training, and we provide the practical guidance and support to help them succeed. Once they are enrolled in a higher-education or training program, we continue to provide support to make sure they succeed and begin careers after graduation. The success of these students encourages their siblings and other young people in Peace programs to set higher-education and career goals for themselves.

This year we want to send out a hearty congratulations to all of our high school graduates who are now on their way to college. These successful young people include: Khalil on his way to Central State University, Raven on her way to Cornell College, Percell on his way to Olivet College, along with Tynella, Davon and Clarissa who will all be attending Jackson Community College. We are so proud of you. Way to go!



## A Story of Hope

When Justin came to Peace programs, he was suffering from a myriad of issues that were collectively contributing to his poor academic performance. Entering the eighth grade this fall, Justin has not had the family support structure necessary for healthy development. Despite that, though, Justin is an exceptional young man with an extraordinary work ethic and a drive to succeed. He is just the type of young person we seek to assist in the Alternatives for Youth program.

Justin comes from a dysfunctional household that was thoroughly impeding his academic progress. His father is incarcerated and has been since he was very young. His mother is unreliable, neglectful and suffers from substance abuse issues. His older brother is also involved in substance abuse. This put Justin in the difficult position of attempting to raise his younger brother and sister at the age of 12. He was even skipping school at times to try to get his younger siblings ready and on their way to their schools.

Ann Arbor Public Schools and Child Protective Services both eventually took notice of the situation and began to seek ways to intervene. Part of that process involved getting Justin enrolled in Peace Neighborhood Center Youth Services. While Peace got him into our Alternatives for Youth after school program for middle school youth, we also attempted to address his home life and advocate on his behalf with school officials and his case manager with Child Protective Services. Peace saw to his transportation issues as well as those of his siblings and involved the help of a neighbor to keep an eye on the family.

While Justin has shown improvement academically, his home situation continued to deteriorate over the course of the school year to the point where Peace had to get him moved into temporary respite housing before getting him set up more permanently at his aunt's house. While his support structure is still lacking, it is a testament to both his character and intelligence that he has brought his grades up during this tumultuous time period. He is now happier and more involved in school than ever before. With the bonds he has formed in Peace Neighborhood Center's Youth Services, it is our hope that he will continue to show improvement over the course of the coming school year.



## A Wonderful Welcome!



On Monday, July 15th, Peace Neighborhood Center helped to welcome a new neighbor to the area with a kick-off fundraiser in conjunction with Noodles &

Company's newest location at 2245 West Stadium. While we introduced the Peace family to the wonderful food and offerings of our friends at Noodles & Company, it was Noodles who truly helped Peace by donating 100% of sales for the day to Peace programs and operations. Thanks to this generous offering, Noodles & Company raised over \$3,000 for Peace! Thank you to all of our supporters who helped to bring in this tremendous donation by purchasing a meal. And thank you to our friends at Noodles & Company. We'll be seeing you around the neighborhood!



## Dates to Remember

### September

16th - Youth Programs begin

### October

15th - Fall Family Night

### November

21st - Thirteenth Annual *Thanks for Giving Benefit Dinner*

For more information regarding any of these upcoming events at Peace Neighborhood Center, please call 734-662-3564 or visit us on the web at [www.peaceneighborhoodcenter.org](http://www.peaceneighborhoodcenter.org).

## Another Milestone in the Books

In June of 1971, a group of committed citizens sat down at a table together and formed a small nonprofit to act as a meeting place to discuss issues in the community. Forty-two years later, Peace Neighborhood Center continues to act as a force



for the betterment of the community, offering programs designed to support self-sufficiency, education and healthy choices. This past year, like every year, has come with its own set of challenges, including the unfortunate passing of former Executive Director **Rose Martin**. Rose was the face and driving force of the organization for most of Peace's 42 years. Her loss has not only been deeply felt by our staff, clients and supporters, but all of Ann Arbor and we cannot reflect on this year without a heavy heart. Despite this, or perhaps in some ways because of it, this year has also yielded some terrific successes. Rose's legacy has been honored over and over by the young people in our programs as they continually make better choices to improve their grades and behaviors on their road to college and future success. Our Alternatives for Youth after school program has grown to its largest size ever with 67 middle schoolers receiving services in addition to the always bustling REACH after school program for elementary youth. Both programs are primed and ready for the coming school year, and we know even better things lie ahead as we look forward to turning 43!



Thank you to all of our wonderful Summer Day Camp volunteers! We couldn't do it without you!

# Matching Gift Opportunity for Your Back-To-School Gift!

## Have Your Gift Matched!

Any gift we receive for our Youth Programs in the enclosed envelope from now through the end of September will be matched dollar for dollar by a generous member of the Peace family! As we get ready to launch our 2013-2014 School Year Youth Programs, we ask for your help in supporting this special fall fundraising effort.

**Consider making a gift today  
and support another terrific  
year of after school programs!**

## Special Back-To-School Print Issue



## Summer Day Camp Wrap-Up Inside!

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