



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.



Summer Youth Services 2014

Beginning on June 30th, Peace Neighborhood Center embarked on our 32nd summer providing enrichment programs for young people in our community. Things have evolved since our first "Youth on the Move" Summer Day Camp back in 1982. We have expanded the program to become what is now known as our Summer Youth Services. This includes the Summer Day Camp for elementary youth, the Leadership Development Camp for middle school youth and the 9th Grade Academy. We have added new partners and incorporated new techniques into our existing programs. However, we have never lost touch with the spirit of family that Rose Martin infused into every inch of Peace programs. While we are achieving greater degrees of academic and social development for our young people all the time, it is the love and respect we share for one another that keeps us moving forward.



Summer Day Camp for Elementary Youth

This year, the Summer Day Camp for elementary youth saw 81 students attend program split across five groups for each grade. Campers were treated to trips to Historic Fort Wayne, Hudson Mills Metropark, Silver Lake, Tantre Farm, the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, the Ann Arbor Art Fair, the Imagination Station and Skate N' Station. They participated in academic exercises thanks to workbooks provided by ThinkStretch and stayed up on their literacy skills as a part of the Summer Reading Program in partnership with the Ann Arbor District Library and the Ann Arbor Chapter of the Links. Every child also joined two of thirteen different special clubs ranging from cooking to dance to gardening to football. Each club put on a special showcase of their activities at the Summer Youth Services Celebration on August 7th. The crowd was thrilled to see the smiles of our youth celebrate yet another wonderful summer!



Summer Day Camp gets ready for a day at the art fair.



Leadership Development Camp - Preparing the Future!

Marking its seventh year of operation, the 2014 Leadership Development Camp saw 38 young people attend this summer. Each student was offered a curriculum that taught the tools necessary to be positive role models and leaders to their younger peers and siblings. The camp focused on teaching these young people about what it means to be a leader and the qualities of successful leadership. Through various exercises and activities, these young people often demonstrated their personal integrity and responsibility on the way toward becoming successful leaders and outstanding young adults.

Over the course of the six-week program, Leadership Development Camp participants got the opportunity to explore different parts of the University of Michigan with visits to the Law School, the College of Engineering, the Natural History Museum and the Department of African American Studies. When trying to interest middle-schoolers in going to college, nothing can quite beat shooting off rockets with the student ambassadors from the Aerospace Engineering department!



Bidding a Fond Farewell to Paul Johnson

This summer marked the first in a great many years without the presence of Peace's long-time Program Director Paul Johnson. Paul moved to Atlanta, Georgia in March of this year to explore new opportunities and embark on the next phase of his journey. He has since experienced the joy of the birth of his first child in June, a boy named Devin Jimar Johnson. His charm, humor and influence are missed, but his spirit continues to endure as an essential part of the atmosphere and philosophy of Peace Neighborhood Center. After all he was a Peace kid. He attended programs as a child, became a teen staff member, went off to college and returned after various positions educating youth and developing programs and services to support education.

After that journey, he returned here, home to Peace to mold, support, educate and inspire children, youth and adults here in our community -- Our Peace Family! Replacing him could never happen, but we have adjusted and and have restructured our staff to fill some of the footsteps he has made.

Congratulations on fatherhood and good luck in your future endeavors, Paul!

Welcome Our New Peace Staff Members!

MaryAnn Meyers, Volunteer Tutor Coordinator

Peace is very happy to welcome MaryAnn Meyers as a member of the Peace staff. MaryAnn has been a Peace volunteer for the past four years, starting as a tutor in our Youth Services and branching out to become a program assistant for the Family Enrichment Program upon graduating from U of M with a bachelor's in public policy. As Peace's new Volunteer Tutor Coordinator, MaryAnn will assist the Youth Services programs in recruiting, developing and assigning tutors to each student as needed. We look forward to a stronger tutoring program as a result. In addition, MaryAnn will help to build a more robust College & Career Prep Club (CCPC) program as a part of the team. One of her primary responsibilities over the coming months will be to lead a group of 9th and 10th graders as a part of the CCPC focused on academic and social development. MaryAnn will serve to lead that group in their goals.

We had a chance to sit down with MaryAnn and ask her about the new position. "I am very excited to take on the role of Volunteer Tutor Coordinator," MaryAnn said. "While working with the 9th and 10th graders this semester, I have been constantly inspired by their short-term and long-term goals for high school and college. I feel so lucky to be a part of the Peace family and I look forward to continuing to support students in achieving their academic and personal goals."



MaryAnn (end, right) and the 9th Grade Academy pose for a group shot on an outing to EMU this summer.

Leah Logan, Alternatives for Youth Coordinator

Peace has also recently added Leah Logan to the staff as our new Alternatives for Youth Coordinator. Her focus will be on developing the curriculum for the after school activities of Peace's 6th-8th graders during the coming school year. These activities will include helping students to improve their organizational and relationship-building skills while raising self-esteem and self-awareness during the difficult transition between the elementary, intermediate and high school years. With a special emphasis on establishing a healthy place in the world, both at school and within their community, students are supported by Peace staff members to be successful in their goals. Leah will oversee these activities as well as the volunteer tutors who will work one-on-one helping to improve each students' academic performance.



Leah first became involved with Peace programs as a volunteer during the annual Holiday Toy and Food Drive in December of 2009. Last year, she interned with Peace as a part of her coursework in Eastern Michigan University's School of Social Work. Now that she has graduated college, Leah is very happy to join the staff of Peace Neighborhood Center in order to continue her work with our youth. "I look forward to helping build healthy relationships with kids and getting them to open up," she said. "I am especially excited about the service learning element of Alternatives for Youth. There is a tremendous benefit to getting kids involved with volunteer work within their community at an early age."

Dates to Remember

September

15th - Youth Programs begin

October

14th - Fall Family Night

November

20th - 14th Annual *Thanks for Giving* Benefit Dinner

Save-The-Date for *Thanks for Giving!* Thursday, November 20th, 2014



*The 14th Annual
Thanks for Giving Dinner*

will be held at
Zion Lutheran Church
1501 W Liberty St., Ann Arbor

This event is the primary fundraiser for PNC throughout the year.

We hope to see you there!

**Back-To-School 2014
Print Issue**



**Thank You for a Wonderful
Summer!**

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