

ProJeCt

The Center for Family Assistance and Literacy
Centro de Asistencia Familiar y Literatura

ProJeCt of Easton offers comprehensive emergency assistance and language and literacy services to over 3,000 community residents each year ~ allowing many in our area to take the first step toward self-sufficiency.

ProJeCt is proud to serve as the community's *center* for so many diverse and valuable services.

Emergency Assistance



Language and Literacy Services

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The Center for...

Adult and Family Literacy Programs

ProJeCt offers a full array of literacy programs with a philosophy corresponding to the *National Literacy Act of 1991*. Although literacy education is often defined as teaching reading and writing, ProJeCt goes beyond, recognizing that literacy is a broad and fundamental quality-of-life issue, impacting the workforce and economic development, family stability, and the school readiness of children.

English as a Second Language(ESL)

ESL classes are for the student whose first language is not English. Classrooms are designed to build proficiency in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, writing and vocabulary. Instruction focuses on basic communication skills, language for everyday life and civics.

The expressed goals of an ESL student may simply be to learn English well enough to study for a driver's license or help children with homework. Other students enter the program in order to gain the language skills that will help them find employment, continue their education or become a citizen.

Language and Literacy Classes:

- * AM/PM to fit any schedule
- * Offered year-round
- * Free childcare available
- * Free one-to-one tutoring
- * Centrally located classrooms

Adult Literacy (ABE, GED)

The adult literacy program serves every level learner while preparing students to function as workers, citizens and parents. Students work toward defined educational goals that can vary from learning to read to earning a high school equivalency diploma (GED). Learners are typically adults, who, for a variety of reasons, did not have success during their school years. Classes are offered throughout the year, demonstrating that it is always the right time to learn.

Thanks to the generous support of funders, all services are offered free-of-charge.



ProJeCt's Department of Language and Literacy is happy to report on a unique partnership with Lafayette College. Professor Chun Wai Liew's Computer Science class has been working collaboratively with ProJeCt's literacy faculty to develop instructional efficiencies through technology. They are also working with the agency to develop an efficient technology infrastructure.

Family Literacy

ProJeCt's family literacy programming recognizes parents as the first and most important teachers of their children. Parents and children improve their literacy skills, working together to reach their educational goals. They are encouraged to read daily and to assist their children with homework and reading skills. Adult family members become full partners in their child's education, assisting their children to reach full learning potential. When perceived as a value as well as a skill, literacy can have a meaningful intergenerational impact on families.



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Adult and Family Literacy Programs

Easton Middle School Success Program (EMSSP)

The Easton Middle School Success Program's (EMSSP) goal is to help children grow up to be confident, caring and responsible. This is accomplished by a multi-faceted approach, school-based Wraparound interventions and Life Skills Training.



The Wraparound

process is a team approach to meeting the needs of students. All individuals who significantly influence the life of the child are engaged in strategizing around the needs of the child to ensure his/her success. A network is established to support the child academically, socially, and emotionally to ensure his or her success in school.

Life Skills Training (LST) teaches students to become more academically focused and socially competent through the development of study skills, test-taking techniques, positive self-esteem, anger management and communication skills.

ProJeCt staff work one-on-one with the student to map-out a plan to overcome the obstacles that are keeping each student from becoming successful. Typical issues include: confrontation with bullies, improving work ethics and study habits, anger management and behavior issues. The program helps each child form positive perspectives to daily events. Staff also conduct small group interventions. Students learn to adopt an anti-violence lifestyle. Interventions are designed to help students improve attendance, excel academically, and develop positive social skills.

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Life Skills Coordinator
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The Easton Area School District and ProJeCt have identified a need for a similar program at Shawnee Middle School to sustain outcomes as students transition there, as well as to address the emerging academic and behavioral problems.



SIZZLE!® Summer Literacy Day Camp

SIZZLE!® is a summer literacy day camp offering high-quality, structured learning opportunities to academically at-risk children who would benefit most. This free six-week program takes a cross-curricular approach that integrates reading, math, writing, arts and crafts and recreation.

SIZZLE!® works to encourage parents and children to read and learn together throughout the summer. ProJeCt, who offers **SIZZLE!®**, is a member of the Family Literacy Summer Reading Partnership, an initiative that coordinates and promotes family literacy during summer months. Members of the partnership include ProJeCt of Easton, the Easton Area School District and the Easton Area Public Library.



Pre and post tests administered to students indicate that nearly all of the children who consistently attend **SIZZLE!®** display considerable improvement in reading ability and level.

SIZZLE!® is offered at Forks, Cheston and Paxinosa Elementary Schools to serve a combined total of more than 300 children.

Mr. Greg Anonni
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Emergency Assistance Programs

ASSIST

ASSIST exists to meet the emergency needs of individuals and families who have been unable to find assistance elsewhere. Case management, a voucher system, home visitation, along with information and referrals, compose the ASSIST effort to provide emergency relief and move clients towards self-sufficiency.

ProJeCt's ASSIST office provides concrete services in the areas of shelter, home heating, baby needs, clothing, local transportation, and help with prescription medicine and eyeglasses.

Case managers track client progress toward self-sufficiency. Sophisticated software allows case managers to track client demographics, client detail, and subsequently— client success. ASSIST collaborates with a well-organized network of social service agencies in the area to ensure the satisfactory resolution of a client's emergency situation.



ASSIST is a link to other resources within the community ~ serving as a program of *first resort* to lessen client confusion and duplication of services.

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program

In collaboration with the Easton Housing Authority, ProJeCt provides case management for the FSS Program that is designed to help assisted families obtain employment, economic independence and self-sufficiency. Individualized goal plans serve to remove barriers that keep clients from achieving goals such as steady employment, independence from government assistance and/or home ownership.

Clients must meet income guidelines during an intake interview; however no individual in need is ever turned away.

Interfaith Emergency Food Pantry

ProJeCt's Interfaith Emergency Food Pantry operates out of St. John's Lutheran Church and is the largest food pantry in Northampton County. Our goal is not only to ease hunger and poverty in the Easton area, but also to raise the awareness of hunger issues in the community. **With each dollar donated, ProJeCt is able to distribute \$15.00 worth of food from Second Harvest.**

Food Pantry Hours:

- * Mondays, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm
- * Thursdays, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm
12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Community Connections Initiative

ProJeCt works in collaboration with the Northampton County Assistance Office to implement the Community Connections Initiative (CCI).

The purpose of the Community Connections Initiative (CCI) is to use community based organizations, faith-based organizations and other local public and private entities to reconnect non-participating clients, clients not connecting with educational or employment opportunities in order to make positive changes in their lives. CCI, through ProJeCt, works to reconnect these individuals to the County Assistance Office through recognition and possible resolution of the barriers clients may have that obstruct their participation.



Jean Christiansen, Assistant Director of Emergency Assistance Programs, works with clients to identify obstacles to their participation, attempts to help them overcome those obstacles, and works to reconnect them with the Northampton County Assistance Office.

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