

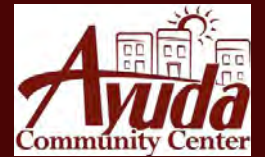


THE H.P. EFFECT

Mercy, Renewal, Justice
Newsletter of
Ayuda Community Center



FALL 2010



Tile created by neighbor depicting image of "joy" for mosaic mural on 6th Street.

Promoting Healthy Lifestyles: K - 5th Grade

Summer Camp 2010 was amazing thanks to...

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Arts in Action

3 Murals in 3 months - Accomplished! With the help...

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Community Means YOU - Get Involved Today!

Find volunteer and donation opportunities...

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The mission of Ayuda Community Center is to reveal Jesus' mercy, renewal and justice in the Hunting Park neighborhood so that individuals and families are strengthened and restored. We seek to accomplish this through community development, arts, education and advocacy.

WELCOME, EUNICE SHIN: A NEW FACE AT AYUDA

As of September 2010, I became the new Executive Director for Ayuda Community Center. As a Korean American, you may be wondering how in the world she ended up serving at a community that is predominantly African-American and Latino. Well, let me first give you a brief background of who I am. I was born in Korea, but came to the United States in 1974. I was raised by my immigrant parents in the suburbs of Philadelphia, namely Cheltenham. I received my BA in Architecture at Wellesley College, and my Masters in City Planning at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1997, while I was studying at Westminster Theological Seminary for my Urban Missions Certificate and working for the City of Philadelphia in the Office of Housing and Community Development, the Lord profoundly convicted my heart to consider how I should be a part of His mission to help the inner city. I was eager to learn about the plight of the inner city, but not quite certain how I could best help. Then I met Manuel Ortiz (professor at WTS, founder and pastor of Spirit and Truth Fellowship) who connected me to his daughter, Debra Ortiz-Vasquez (founder and former Executive Director of Ayuda). She asked me to join the Board of Directors for Ayuda Community Center where I began my service for the next 6 years, helping to forge a ministry that served the needs

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Promoting Healthy Lifestyles: K - 5th Grade

by Cynthia Wright-Whitley,
Camp & S.O.S. Site Director

Summer Camp 2010 was amazing. Thanks to the efforts of Group Supervisor, Maria Ortiz, we embarked on the challenge to get our kids fit and healthy. The students spent 6 weeks exploring ways in which they could lead a healthy lifestyle. Using Project Based Learning, students investigated the importance of the food pyramid, how to read product food labels, and the importance of counting calories. The students learned basic softball and soccer skills and went on weekly swim trips to Neshaminy State Park. A wonderful time was had by all. We are off to a terrific start for the S.O.S. After School program here at Ayuda. We presently have 60 K-5th grade students enrolled in the program from Hunting Park Christian Academy and Cayuga Elementary

School. There are parents who are still inquiring about how to get their children enrolled. We are thankful to God for the increased interest in what we do here with the youth at Ayuda. In the wake of such financial uncertainty, we see how God's hands are able to provide for families who need affordable care for their children between the critical hours of 3:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. During this time, our dedicated staff will continue to interact with our students academically, socially, and most important spiritually. We are excited with the opportunity to share the gospel with our students and their parents. As we continue to seek to do God's work we pray that His mercy, renewal, and justice permeate the lives of our students and our families.



*Yuong Sang
Church Youth
Group worship
with Summer
Camp Youth in
Hunting Park.
Summer 2010.*

Letter to the Community of Hunting Park, by Eunice Shin

As the new Executive Director, I would like to let you know that Ayuda Community Center is deeply concerned for this community and we want to continue our relationship with this community in a way that helps everyone. Ayuda has been going through some changes and we want to let you in on some of the recent changes. But rest assure, that we are still committed to serve this community the best we know how.

SERVICES OF AYUDA COMMUNITY CENTER

Since 1997, **Ayuda Community Center** has been an important part of the Hunting Park Community. **Our mission is to reveal Jesus' mercy, renewal, and justice in the Hunting Park neighborhood so that individuals and families are strengthened and restored.** We seek to accomplish this through community development, arts, education and legal advocacy. Our before and after school program *Support Our Students (SOS)* creates a safe, nurturing and educational environment for students; the *Summer Day Camp* invites students from kindergarten to 5th grade to use their energies to explore new adventures, the *Community Arts Program* promotes creative thinking and exploration through arts, and the *Legal Clinic* provides legal council in areas of civil litigation, domestic, real estate and housing, immigration, and criminal law. We are committed to building up this community and making a lasting impact for the community members and the surrounding neighborhoods through these services.

CURRENT SITUATION

Like so many organizations and individuals across the country who have been affected by the economic recession, we at Ayuda have seen our share of economic struggles. Over the past six months Ayuda Community Center has experienced financial hurdles that have forced us to downsize our staff and reevaluate our services to the community. To effectively and efficiently serve the community, we have had to post specific public office hours. Be reassured that we are still committed to provide the SOS/Day Camp Programs, Community Arts Program and the Legal Clinic. We appreciate your patience in this transitional phase of Ayuda. As we find stable funding and staffing, we are committed to provide the important services needed for this community and our neighbors.

CONNECT WITH US

We at Ayuda wish to connect with our neighbors at Hunting Park in order to better serve you and provide you with the best services. If there are any questions regarding this letter, or if you would like to raise specific concerns about the services of Ayuda, please contact the people below:

1. Eunice Shin, Executive Director at 215-329-5777 ext. 1 or at eshin@ayudacc.org.
2. Cynthia Wright-Whitley, Program Director for SOS Before/After School and Summer Day Camp programs at 215-329-5777 ext. 3 or cwright-whitley@ayudacc.org
3. Michaelanne Harriman, Program Director for Community Arts at 215-329-3888 or mharriman@ayudacc.org.
4. Pam Ramos for the Legal Clinic at 215-329-5777 ext 2 or pramos@ayudacc.org.

Please come and talk to us if you have any questions or concerns about Ayuda and community needs or concerns during the office hours. We are always open to new suggestions and ideas to improve our services for your children and the families of Hunting Park. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and participate in the development of this community. May we work together to create a stronger community for our children and families.

“Let us cultivate our garden...” – Candide

by Michaelanne Harriman

Community Arts Director, Ayuda Community Center



Six years ago, three Hunting Park residents decided that enough is enough. Block Captain Jeff Manson and his neighbor Luis Hernandez looked across their street at the vacant lot filled with trash on the corner of 6th and Courtland Streets and created a plan. 6th Street resident Andy Nolan had a dream to have a community garden in his own neighborhood. These three men decided to transform the blight

on their block into beauty. They began in 2004 by rallying together other neighbors to clean and green the lot. Two years later, the lot was fenced in, free of trash, and garden boxes were filled to the brim with flowers and vegetables grown by neighbors and community groups.



The garden lot in 2004

When I began doing art projects in Hunting Park, I knew I wanted to do a project with the folks who had created the Hunting Park Community Garden. I collaborated with them and many other neighbors to create two public art projects both designed and created by HP residents. Result: two murals, one mosaic and one painted, telling the story of how the corner had been transformed.



The garden today – Mural Restored!

2010 brought new hardships to the 600 block of Courtland. In January, the mural was damaged by a severe windstorm. Ayuda had neither the funds nor the expertise to repair and reinstall the mural. As summer approached, our dear neighbor Luis became ill. After being hospitalized for several weeks, he passed away leaving behind his loving family, many friends, and his best friend, Jeff. Within the next two weeks, Jeff’s health grew worse. He consistently mentioned the sadness he felt after the loss of Luis. After two months, Jeff passed away as well leaving behind his loving family, friends, and a block that he had tended for 14 years.



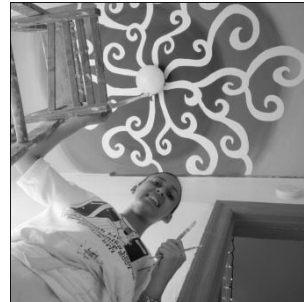
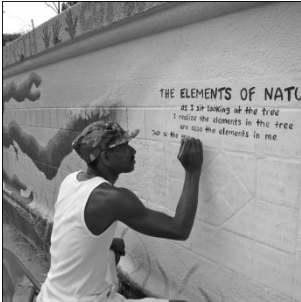
A mural on a wall can be insignificant. But the HPCG mural is a tangible expression of the emotions, hard work, and good neighbor-ing inside all who were involved. And for those who merely pass by and enjoy its beauty, the mural is a call of inspiration: together, we make our world beautiful. After we lost our friends this summer, more than 30 people of all ages worked diligently until the mural was restored telling of the legacy Luis and Jeff have left behind. It is with this spirit of unified expression and effort Ayuda works to create more art projects beautifying Hunting Park each year. It is this inspiration to participate, to tend our own “gardens”, which both Luis and Jeff leave behind. Let us each respond and work together with our neighbors to see our efforts make our community more beautiful every day.

LET US TEND OUR PARK

Hunting Park United (HPU) has been leading the effort to beautify our beloved park. From a new playground, to roses, to the Ryan Howard Baseball Field, Hunting Park United is getting it done for the children of this community. Please join us! We meet every 2nd Saturday at 10am at the Hunting Park Rec. Center. Membership is free. Meetings are open to the public.

NEXT HPU MEETING: NOVEMBER 13TH 10 AM





ARTS IN ACTION

3 MURALS IN 3 MONTHS – ACCOMPLISHED! With the help of over 60 volunteers, Ayuda completed three mural installations this past summer. First, we restored the damaged mural that hangs above the Hunting Park Community Garden on the corner of 6th Courtland Streets. Secondly, the mural designed by our youth in Spring 2010 was painted on the Cayuga Bridge between 5th and 6th Streets. Muralist Bernie Wilke and our youth designers led other youth and volunteers in making their vision become a colorful visual celebration of community for all of those who walk and drive over the bridge. Lastly, *JOY IN THE CITY* came to life. Ayuda hosted tile-making workshops for our neighbors to create ceramic tiles depicting images of JOY. A team of volunteers worked diligently to tile, install, and grout the center image of a child in front of a bursting fire hydrant. In the words of Mona, 6th Street resident living directly across from the mosaic, “That’s my joy. Every morning I come out my door and see my joy!” We are now in the midst of our fast-paced fall art programming including 9 youth art courses, trips for adults, and prepping for our show on December 10th. Our theme is *IMMA BE – THE FUTURE ME!* Don’t miss out on seeing the creativity of our neighbors this December!

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 13

First Person Museum Exhibit featuring Ayuda’s Adult Artists (230 Vine St. at the Painted Bride)

DECEMBER 10

Youth Art Show: Location TBA

FEBRUARY 7

Spring Enrollment in new Youth Art Courses

AYUDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Debra Ortiz-Vasquez, President**
dortiz-vasquez@CHS-ADPHILA.ORG
Director of Court Services and Marketing,
Saint Gabriel’s System
- Amy Perez, Vice President**
aperez2@eastern.edu
Assistant to the Provost for Student Retention, Eastern University
- Susan Post, Treasurer**
smp@esperanzahealth.com
Executive Director, Esperanza Health Center
- Juliet Fajardo, Secretary**
julietlee.fajardo@gmail.com
Design Staff, BLT Architects
- Robert Crawford, Member**
rmcfordx@juno.com
Counselor, 8th Street Ministries

(WELCOME, EUNICE cont.) of families and children in the Hunting Park community. Although my Board membership ended in 2003, I have always had Ayuda close to my heart and prayers; rallying other individuals and churches to consider the important mission Ayuda holds.

When they asked me to return to this mission field this past summer, I felt the calling as urgent and true to my heart for missions. My background in City Planning and Urban Missions Ministry has allowed me to see the heart of God that cries for the city’s ills. But my role and service at Ayuda has allowed me to experience firsthand the love God has for this community. In the midst of unquestionable odds and problems facing the inner city, Ayuda has certainly emerged as a beacon of hope with the love of Christ behind every aspect of their calling. And I am all the more eager to be a part of this transforming community, bearing His goodness, love and the power of the gospel of Christ.

AYUDA COMMUNITY CENTER AND OKA HOUSE PUBLIC HOURS

	4400 N. MARSHALL ST	4401 N. 7 TH ST.
MONDAY	12 AM - 3 PM	11 AM - 6:30 PM
TUESDAY	12 AM - 3 PM	11 AM - 6 PM
WEDNESDAY	12 AM - 3 PM	11 AM - 6:30 PM
THURSDAY	12 AM - 3 PM	11 AM - 6 PM
FRIDAY	12 AM - 3 PM	2 PM - 6 PM
SATURDAY	CLOSED	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
SUNDAY	CLOSED	CLOSED



COMMUNITY
MEANS YOU
Get Involved
Today!

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AT AYUDA

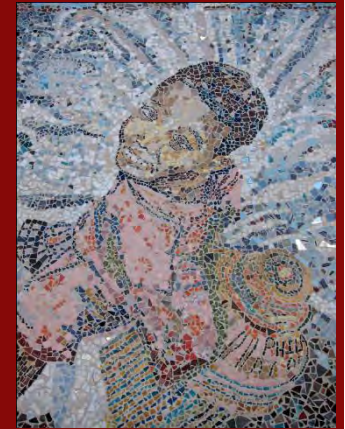
academic tutoring for S.O.S. and OKA House, piano tuner, IT support, grant writing, social networking, videographer for marketing, photographer for marketing, scrapbook teacher

DONATION REQUESTS

office supplies, cleaning supplies, art supplies, digital cameras, sketch books, picture frames (larger than 8x10), flip cams, painting canvas, musical instruments, healthy snacks for OKA House, standing display easels

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

Make a financial donation online at anytime at www.ayudacc.org/donate or mail a check made out to Ayuda Community Center to 4400 N. Marshall St. Philadelphia, PA 19140.



"For the body does not consist of one member but of many..."

1 Corinthians 12:14

AYUDA COMMUNITY
CENTER

THE
H.P.
EFFECT

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