



Fall 2012
Newsletter

empowering ALL people Palatine Opportunity Center

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Over 3200 front desk requests for information in September & October!

Other interactions included:

550 Health & Wellness
1324 Edgebrook Youth & Family Programs
369 ICompete

Helping People Help Themselves Through our Family Learning Lab

A dream of Executive Director, Kathy Millin, was to have a Family Learning Lab housed in the Palatine Opportunity Center where community members could come together and "Help People to Help Themselves". This dream has become a reality due to the generous support and contributions from Northwest Community Hospital, Palatine Rotary, BMO Harris, a Verizon Foundation Grant, Harper College, Palatine High School, District 15, Bob and Julie Wetterman, United Way, Palatine Township, and the effort of many community volunteers. In 2011-2012 there were 9124 client interactions, and the following programs are now being offered in this very special space:

- Plaza Comunitaria
- Tutoring and Mentoring
- Computer Instruction and Employment Assistance
- Financial Literacy
- ROLE leadership events and activities
- High School Homework Help
- Health and Wellness Initiatives
- Childcare

Currently there are over 20 tutors and mentors that come in the morning to help adults that need assistance in learning to read and write in English, GED and Citizenship class support, computer literacy and employment readiness skills. These wonderful volunteers are retired teachers and business leaders, interns from local colleges, and individuals that are currently unemployed and want job experience along with the opportunity to help their neighbor.

The hours of operation for the lab are limited due to funding challenges. The goal of the POC Board and Staff is to meet the needs of the community through additional quality programming and expand the hours of the lab in 2013-2014. For questions about visiting or supporting the Family Learning Lab please send an email to Attn: Lori Laskowske, Learning Lab Coordinator at palatineopportunitycenter@gmail.com.



**Help us fulfill our mission of
building a community of empowered people,
healthy families and vibrant neighborhood
by donating online at
palatineopportunitycenter.org**



ROLE: Empowering Women

ROLE - Reaching Out Lifting to Excellence is a women's group that has shown amazing growth over the last three years. Azucena Munoz is a perfect example of what ROLE does in helping to empower women and helping them find a niche where they can pay it forward. Azucena started her membership in ROLE by enrolling in a Leadership Class and learned to set goals for herself and to become active in the community by giving back.

When Azucena first came to the POC, she enrolled in an English class twice a week. She quickly found success and passed on to GED. GED was a much larger commitment but she attended classes three mornings a week. She also came to the Family Learning Lab where she was able to receive one-on-one tutoring help in every subject area.

While studying for her GED, Azucena and her family volunteered at "Roots Community Garden" three times a week. They would meet other families and together they would plant, harvest, weed and tend to the garden. Azucena's dedication to education and giving back to the community sets a superb example for her children to follow. She passed her GED exam this month and is planning her next vocational and academic challenge for 2013.

When asked, "What does the POC do for you", Azucena responded,

"I could not have passed my GED without the help of the Family Learning Lab Tutors. I am so grateful for the POC and for everything that they do for us",

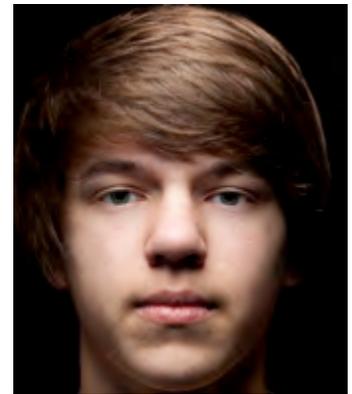


Cultivating Tomorrow's Philanthropic Spirit

Do you like the photos in this newsletter? Justin Lanier, a very talented Fremd High School senior, has taken all of these photos. Not only does Justin take excellent pictures, he also volunteered his talent during the summer at Roots Community Garden. The kids and the adults loved him. Justin also has a talent for making people feel comfortable even if they do not speak the same first language. It's no surprise that he plans to study photography in college.

When asked, "What does the POC do for you", he responded:

"In photographing for the Palatine Opportunity Center the last two years, I've been allowed to tell a beautiful story. Every person within the community has a background that is notable independently, but the way they have all intermixed makes the POC a close-knit family with a rich and varied history. Using my camera, I have just begun to tap into the incredible stories and relationships that each member has, and in doing so have begun to feel like part of the family, too".



Busy Times at POC!

- December 1st: Immanuel Bobcat moms "Deck the Halls" at POC
- December 3rd -10th: Community donations for the POC Giving Tree
- December 13th: Role Holiday Cookie Exchange
- January 7th: Healthy Snack collection for ICompete
- January 17th : Wine Tasting Fundraiser benefitting ICompete

Join us for **Crafting with ROLE**, Fridays at 10:30 am at the POC. Learn jewelry making, crochet & more!