



Family First Center of Lake County

Who We Are

The Family First Center of Lake County is a non-profit community center and the strongest link between the residents and the community. We seek to heal the community by fully assessing needs and building programs to meet them. We wish to empower our residents to live a better life by connecting them to the resources that are available to them through other social service agencies with whom we partner. We provide a variety of services and programs to many that will give them the tools necessary to reach the pinnacle of achievement. Some programs, just to name a few, are SMARTIES - our literacy program for children, the Family Fitness Center - our free and open to the public gym facility, Counseling and Therapy, and G.R.I.P. - our Gang Resistance Intervention Program designed to prevent and intervene adolescents at risk of joining a gang with after school activities, mentorships, and seminars by local law enforcement.

Fundraising Needs

Three of our current top reasons for fund raising:

Renovation of the elevator at our fitness facility - Our community is plagued by hypertension, diabetes, obesity and our fitness facility makes good health accessible to all in spite of their inability to pay. A new elevator would improve accessibility to services for our elderly and handicapped participants to the four floors which house fitness equipment and the free aerobics classes on the third floor.

Operating budget for G.R.I.P. - This is an extremely important program in our neighborhood and community which is currently dependent on grant funds and we are unable to keep the program running year round. Children in the four low income housing facilities that surround our facility are susceptible to gang involvement at a much higher level than others in the community due to a lack of positive things to do as well and transportation issues. Because of our location we are able to serve them well, but consistency of service is critical to overall success.

Operating budget for SMARTIES - Designed to bridge the gap for children unable to perform at or above school literacy levels, SMARTIES formed from a partnership with a church in Kenilworth who provided us with a box of books. Over time we collected over 2000-3000 books for our library.

Reasons for Help

We exist in the community we serve – a community with limited funds and ability to support us financially. Many support our efforts with their time and could benefit from stronger skills and services. The many grants that we seek and win are not enough to cover the bulk of services. We are looking forward to discussing ideas to build our fundraising success.

Evelyn Chenier, Ph.D. Executive Director, Family First Center of Lake County