



15 YEARS OF PROGRESS:

PROVIDING POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES RESIDE IN SCATTERED POCKETS OF POVERTY IN THE SOUTH HILLS. THEIR COMMUNITIES ARE IDENTIFIED BY ALLEGHENY COUNTY AS “COMMUNITIES WITH EMERGING AND DEEPENING NEEDS.”

SEE ATTACHED EXCERPTS FROM ALLEGHENY COUNTY D.H.S (P. 3)



15 YEARS OF OUTCOMES

2004-2018

93%

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE FOR THOSE WITH REGULAR ATTENDANCE

20 to 30%

IMPROVEMENT ON READING SCORES EACH YEAR BY K-3 STUDENTS



OUR MISSION focuses on children and their families who are underserved by the educational, social-emotional, and cultural organizations in the South Hills communities of South Park, Bethel Park, and Baldwin-Whitehall.

WE HAVE SERVED

487

CHILDREN

WE HAVE WORKED WITH

19

SCHOOLS

WE HAVE HELD

96

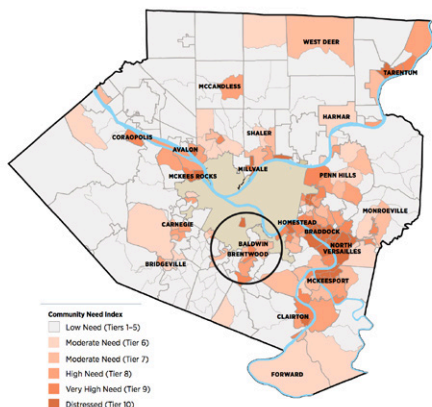
FAMILY EVENTS



15 YEARS OF PASSION

UP TO **8%** OF AREA RESIDENTS ARE BELOW POVERTY LINE¹

UP TO **4.5%** OF AREA RESIDENTS RECEIVE FOOD ASSISTANCE¹



¹Stats and graphic from the American Community Survey and the Allegheny County Department of Human Services

93% OF OUR STUDENTS, WHO REGULARLY ATTEND, FINISH HIGH SCHOOL

8 OUT OF 10 OF OUR STUDENTS GO ON TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING



A DACA (Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals) student teaching two of our 5th graders how to rebuild old computers. Twelve computers were rebuilt and each student was able to take one home after rebuilding them.



Melting Pot Program Coordinator, who began with us in middle school and after college, joined our staff.

FROM MY DESK

Although the economic decline had begun in the 1960's due to the loss of jobs in the coal and steel industries, when I left to attend college, the community of Library appeared to still be intact. But by the 1980's, although this was my hometown, I no longer recognized many of the families who were moving into our neighborhood. I had not grown up with them and was totally unfamiliar with this new generation. They were underemployed and under-resourced and lacked adequate supports.

However, I soon discovered that I was not alone in my lack of understanding of this new culture that included single moms, increasingly open drug activity and a rise in risky sexual behaviors. This was troubling to most of us but my real wake-up call came when five African-American teenage boys decided to drop out of South Park High School on the same day. I was ready to take some sort of action so I approached the school principal and discovered that I did not have the full story. The principal explained that the boys dropped out at ages 16-17 because although they should have been juniors or seniors, they had not acquired a sufficient number of credits to be able to graduate before reaching age 21. The boys had failed most or all of their core subjects since their freshman year and were too far behind to catch up. All but one of these boys had moved here from failing urban schools and lacked the academic skills and necessary rigor to compete in our suburban school district. They arrived lost and disengaged from learning and remained in that hopeless state until they decided to drop out.

When community members from our various churches came together, we were committed to ensuring that this would never happen again. We soon learned that this same scenario was being played out in other suburban schools. For example, many low-income African-American families were moving into Baldwin-Whitehall as well as a number of African refugee families who were struggling with acculturation in this middle class environment. We determined that if we could bring at least three contiguous neighborhoods together, South Park, Bethel Park, and Baldwin-Whitehall, our combined student population of underserved and economically disadvantaged students would attract the attention of county and business stakeholders. Our strategy would be that we would bring certified and professionally trained staff to our own communities to create nurturing and skilled learning centers in our church basements.

It has worked far better than we expected and now the number of families seeking our services is growing rapidly because more economically disadvantaged families are moving into some of our older/affordable housing and creating scattered "pockets of suburban poverty" throughout the South Hills. As we enter our 15th year, Melting Pot has discovered that we are so successful in our work with children and their families that instead of high school drop-out rates rising, 93% of our children who attend regularly finish high school and 8 out of 10 of them go on to institutions of higher learning.

We have reached full capacity at our current sites with a growing waiting list of referrals from schools and families. However, we have just successfully negotiated with the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh to rent a new site (Nativity Church - a parochial school located on Curry Road at the intersection of South Park, Bethel Park, and Baldwin-Whitehall). With this new facility and increased staff, we will be able to double our enrollment, combine our 3 sites and serve all of our students and their families under one roof. Our ultimate goal is to close the student achievement gap in our schools and to increase our families' access to the services they need.

Brenda Lockley

Brenda Lockley, Executive Director/C.E.O.



15 YEARS OF PROGRAMS

"LEARNING KONNECTIONS"

Learning Konnections is 30 weeks of after school 5 days/wk from 3-6:00 P.M. for students in grades K-9 and 6 weeks of summer programming 5 days/wk from 8:30-2:00 P.M. for students entering grades K to 8.

The After School Program includes academic tutoring & enrichment provided by certified teachers, social and emotional skill building provided by licensed professional counselor, Digital Media Arts (6-9th grades only), peer mentoring provided by teen honor students, indoor/outdoor recreation, culturally enriching field trips, Friday open gym (March - May for middle school only), hot meals and snacks, and transportation.

The Summer Program highlights language enrichment, school readiness, cultural enrichment through art & dance, recreational sports and wellness programs, field trips, breakfast, lunch and snacks, and transportation.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE? Students who qualify for free or reduced school lunch and who reside in South Park, Bethel Park, or Baldwin-Whitehall.

"TEEN KONNECTIONS"

Teen Konnections meets for grades 9-12 on Wednesday from 4-6:00 P.M. for 30 weeks of after school.

The After School Program includes social/emotional skill development, career exploration, character & leadership development, financial literacy, culturally enriching experiences, pizza and transportation.

"FAMILY KONNECTIONS"

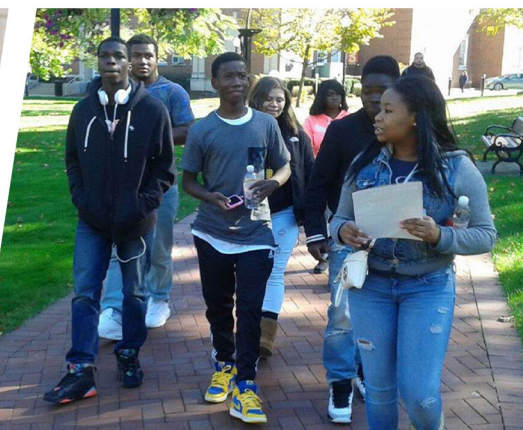
Family Konnectinos utilizes a professional counseling approach to help the family determine its own strengths and direction, and then supports the family in making practical and lasting change to achieve a more satisfying home life. We strive to increase parent involvement in the child's academic goals setting, facilitate monthly parent support meetings, model parenting skills, teach coping skills, raise the parent's awareness of community resources, and provide individual or family counseling as needed.



A Student leader who attends Point Park surrounded by some of her many young admirers during a field trip outing.



Basketball is a favorite sport for our middle school boys and girls.



Student leaders on a college tour of California University of PA. Six of the seven students are currently enrolled in institutions of higher learning.

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15 YEARS OF FOUNDATION SUPPORT

DOMINION FOUNDATION
EDEN HALL FOUNDATION
GRABLE FOUNDATION
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PACE - PROGRAM TO AID
CITIZEN ENTERPRISE
PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION
POISE FOUNDATION
SPROUT FUND
STAUNTON FARM FOUNDATION
VERIZON FOUNDATION

15 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIPS

ALLEGHENY CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE
ALLEGHENY COUNTY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
ALLEGHENY PARTNERS FOR OUT OF SCHOOL TIME
ANDY WARHOL MUSEUM
BLACK ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
BIG BROTHERS & SISTERS OF W. PA
FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD
FIRST BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
HILL DISTRICT DANCE ACADEMY THEATRE
MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY
ONE ON ONE FITNESS
PEOPLES' GAS
PETERS CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
READ ALOUD

PLUS OVER 200 INDIVIDUAL DONORS WHO SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN EACH YEAR

WE HAVE BEEN A CONTRACT PROVIDER WITH ALLEGHENY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FOR OVER 10 YEARS.

THANK YOU!

REMAKE LEARNING
SHILOH CHURCH
SOUTH HILLS INTERFAITH MOVEMENT
SPENCER FAMILY YMCA
STEEL TOWN MEDIA
STRAIGHT STREET MINISTRIES
SUNRISE BAPTIST CHURCH
THE ATLANTIC PHILANTHROPIES
THE STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
TICKETS FOR KIDS
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH LEISURE & LEARN PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH YCAT STUDY
VENTURE OUTDOORS
WESLEY SPECTRUM FAMILY SERVICES





Melting Pot Ministries
260 Atlanta Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Forwarding Service Requested

LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR NEXT 15 YEARS

The needs of our children are growing and we have to grow with them. It takes bigger space to give them room to explore newer and bigger ideas and experience newer and bigger ways of discovering their strengths.

- We need more classroom space and more certified teachers because most of our children are scoring below grade level in reading.
- We need more county-wide community-driven programs centered around sports, dance, drama, visual arts, and technology to build self-confidence in disadvantaged children scattered throughout the South Hills.
- We need free or low-cost extra-curricular opportunities for our children when parents cannot afford to support their individual talents and abilities due to limited transportation and other more challenging financial needs.
- We need more parent involvement so that our families can grow as well and learn how to enjoy their children in refreshing, new ways.
- We need more committed volunteers to join us in this effort.

Therefore, we are combining our 3 sites and moving into one new location where we can operate as one team focused on the needs of our children. We have successfully negotiated a 2 - year lease with Nativity Church. The new space will provide 7 new classrooms and a gymnasium with a stage, an audio-visual room, a library, and a cafeteria that serves up to 300.

In addition to the needs we have outlined above, we have been experiencing something troubling in the recent past. In the South Hills, we have seen the suspension and expulsion rates in our 3 school districts grow at alarming levels. In fact, our suspension rates for our 3 school districts have now risen up to 25% for low-income students and an increasing number of black elementary students are now being expelled. This forces parents to find alternative educational options. One way Melting Pot is gearing up to face that great challenge head-on is to recognize the need for even stronger behavioral health partnerships.

Over the next 15 years, we are committed to reducing suspension/expulsion rates and increasing reading levels. That is our real challenge before us as we improve communication among parents, teachers, and staff so that we all will realize our vision together:

To see All Melting Pot youth thrive in home, school, and community and become productive and contributing members of society.