

Hamilton Township CYO/Bromley Neighborhood Civic Center Annual Report - 2013

This report summarizes the programs, events and activities that have taken place at our center during 2013. This center has played an essential role in improving the lives of men, women, children and organizations in the township.

Hours of operation Monday-Friday 8:00 am-4:00 pm

Pat Hardiman--Center Director

Kurt Simmons--Principal Clerk Typist

Teen Center & Drop-In Tutoring Staff

Tom Valyo--Part time—Teen Center Supervisor & Mentor (Retired Police Officer)

Janie Barnes--Part Time-Drop-In Tutoring & Teen Center

Lawrence Boyd--Part Time-Teen Center Mentor

Ian Kozicz-Building Maintenance-7:30am-1:30pm ARC Employee

Jebree Bethea-Building Maintenance-1:30pm-5:30pm ARC Employee (Head Start Classrooms)
(Arc employees have access to Front Door & Computer room & key to Janitor closet only).

Lorrie Eubanks—Full time Volunteer—Work First NJ/Career One-Stop
continuing a 16 week program, pending new job. She has been here since 03-25-13.

1. Food Pantry

The distribution of no cost state & federally funded and privately donated none perishable & frozen food to needy, income-eligible families in the Township of Hamilton is provided through this program. Due to the current economic conditions, demand for these commodities has drastically increased each year. Hamilton Twp's Department of Public Works provides a monthly truck & trailer for the pick-up of food from the Southern Regional Food Distribution Center in Vineland, N.J. to both the Bromley Neighborhood Civic Center & the J. O. Wilson Neighborhood Center.

We distribute monthly food packages to an average of 50-60 families per month.
A total of 126 families are signed up for the food pantry.

Month	Adults	Children	Total	Families
January	93	52	145	50
February	70	36	106	40
March	83	44	127	54
April	96	67	163	43
May	104	64	168	58
June	97	65	162	56
July	111	67	178	65
August	116	53	169	62
September	96	61	157	55
October	102	84	186	66
November	109	63	172	67
December	82	58	140	55
Totals	1159	714	1873	671

Distribution days and hours for the Bromley Center are: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30–11:30 am & 2:30-3:30 pm. (If needed, residents can make an appointment to pick up food in the evenings 6:30-8:30 pm from Tom Valyo of the teen center).
 Emergency distribution is made for individuals who may live outside of our area if a referral is made through a social service agency.

The Southern Regional Distribution Center is our primary source of food for our food pantry. Additionally, we receive food from local schools, churches, civic organizations and individuals including:

The 217 Church	1 st Baptist Church Lighthouse Ministry
Crockett Middle School	Ladies Auxiliary Hamilton Fire Company
RWJ University Hospital at Hamilton	St. Marks United Methodist Church
Hamilton Township Recreation Department	Women in Christ

2. N.J. Senior Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program

We continue to participate in the Mercer County Senior Nutrition program on a yearly basis. The program provides yearly, \$20 vouchers, which can be redeemed at local farmer markets to purchase locally grown fresh fruit & vegetables by Hamilton Twp. Seniors. We distributed **36 vouchers** to area seniors for the **2013** season.

3. Teen Center

Our Teen Center, which opened in the summer of 2005, continues with 9 to 13 yr. old “pre teens” & 14-17 yr. old teens, who utilize the center’s video games, with the Xbox, PS3 & Wii consoles. We also have a pool table, ping pong table, foosball table, basketball shoot game & air hockey table, along with various board games. Our average daily attendance has increased to 15–25 teens.

It was designed to provide local youths with educational, recreational, and social activities & has become a “safe haven” for Bromley Neighborhood youth.

2013 Monthly Teen Center Attendance

Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
193	240	235	171	165	241	239	231	232	209	223	216	2595

4. Copy and Fax Service

Residents continue to use our copier and faxing services, free of charge.

5. Computer Room Access

Hamilton residents have access to our computer room from 9:00 am until 3:30 pm. The computer room contains 16 computers, a networked printer and continues to be available for both adults and students. Uses include job searches, on-line applications, career searches, e-mail checks, research school projects or business topics and word processing.

“Social networking” is not permitted and we encourage constructive uses

2013 Monthly Computer Lab Usage

Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
19	40	35	71	65	41	59	31	62	21	23	16	483

6. Social Hall Usage

We have hall rentals year round on Saturdays and some Sundays. There was a total of **31** rentals/hall usage in **2013**. Most rentals are baby showers & birthday parties, although we also have bridal showers, wedding receptions, funeral/repast dinners, special meetings and community events. Public work employees cover the events.

Special public service meetings have included Bromley Civic Association, Hamilton Fire Company, Mercer County Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary, Dapper and First Student Bus Safe Companies.

7. Gateway Head Start

The center continues to maintain and support, the staff & two classrooms (and office) with **13**---3 & 4 yr. old children in each classroom. The program uses our kitchen facilities for daily breakfast and lunches. They also use the rear playground and social hall for meetings.

Gateway continues to utilize the social hall and computer room for staff in-service training, local and regional meetings and learning activities.

8. N.J. Shares Energy Assistance Program

We accept appointments for N.J. Shares applications for Hamilton and Mercer County residents. Income eligible residents can apply and receive up to \$1000 a year for their energy bill (\$700 for Gas or Oil & \$300 for electric). Residents must now apply for the True Energy assistance program first and if denied, can then apply for N.J. Shares.

The Mercer County Hispanic Assoc. (MECHA) located at 18 Sixth Ave, is a local agency that accepts True applications. In 2013 we have had **12** clients with approved applications with a combined total of **\$9329.00.**

9. Recreational Trips

We offer annual recreational summer trips for area residents. The trips are eagerly awaited by local children and adults each year and we usually pack two buses and some residents use their own vehicles.

Over **100 adults and children** enjoyed the Clementon Park/Splash World trip in July 2013.

10. Health Services

The Hamilton Township Health Department provides a yearly flu shot clinic at the Center in October or September. The Flu Clinic for this year is scheduled for Tuesday October 1st. The Health Dept. nurses, usually vaccinate between **75 to 100 residents**. Health related information is displayed in the lobby of the center. We continue to work with the New Jersey State Department of Health in providing information and literature on the prevention and treatment of HIV and Aids.

11. Mentoring Program

Toshua Turner & Sonia Williams have initiated a girls mentoring program called R.O.Y.A.L. Mentoring. (**R**eaching **O**ut to our **Y**oung **A**mazing **L**adies. They have weekly Wednesday night meetings in our computer room (during teen center hours) with 10-15 girls in weekly attendance. They do crafts and other projects and the program continues to grow. The objective of this program is to help mold little girls into mature, inspired, successful young women.

12. Computer Classes

We have created lessons for a basic computer class to offer local residents. Volunteers have taught classes on and off, since 2003. We are currently looking for volunteers who are willing to head a computer class. Usually 8 to 12 residents sign up for the 6 week class, that is held on Tuesdays or Thursdays 7:00-8:30 (during teen center hours).

13. Bromley Neighborhood Clean-up/Earth Day

On Saturday, April 20th the Bromley Center held the 2nd "Bromley Clean-up/Earth Day. With the help of over 40 volunteers and community residents, the following areas were cleaned: the 1700 Block of East State St, Adella, Victor, Rosalia Aves & the three alleyways. Many volunteers from 217 Church and others joined residents in sprucing up the area. Two dumpsters were made available by the Twp. and many residents were able to clean out their yards and basements. Due to the previous days rain, no painting was done this year. The Bromley Center was able to obtain donations from Lowes Home Improvement, Home Depot & Kucker Haney paint. Over \$400 in equipment and paint was donated including, rakes, flat shovels, round shovels, long handled loppers, hand snips, work gloves, 5 gallons of "graffiti cover" primer, 8 gallons of various colors of outdoor paint and painting supplies. This equipment will be used for future clean-up projects.

14. Summer School Enrichment Program

Mobile Minds/S.E.A.L Academy, run by Daraka Saunder, have completed their third year of a 7 week Academic Summer Enrichment Camp for children entering 1st through 7th grade. The camp started July 1st through August 16th, 2013 Monday-Friday 8:30-3:30.

15. Back to School Haircuts & Backpacks Drive

Our 3rd annual “Back 2 School Cuts & Backpacks” was held on August 28th at the center. Volunteer barbers from “33 Barber Shop & Walt’s Barber Shop participated in giving over 100 hundred free haircuts for boys. Volunteers donate their time to do nail treatments for girls. Backpacks loaded with school supplies have been provided by the Mercer County United Way through the 217 Church, which are given to the children, while supplies last. In partnership with Detective Quincy Hendryx, Hamilton Twp. Police Dept.’s Community Policing Unit.

Back to School Cookout.

On August 31st, local resident “Big Rob” Blakely of Bromley Brothers & Sisters held a “Back to School Cookout” at the Bromley Park serving 400 local residents. They also distributed back packs to needy area children.

16. Crime Watch Meetings

Hamilton Township Police Department Crime Watch Unit with Detectives Steve Fabian & Quincy Hendryx conducted quarterly meetings. Total attendance average 5 - 10 residents. Detective Hendryx, being a Neighborhood Policing Officer uses the center as satellite office to monitor crime, record graffiti and meet with residents who have concerns or complaints.

17. “Giving Back to the Community – Thanksgiving Dinner”

Our 11th annual Thanksgiving Dinner, with food donated/catered by Aramark Inc. was held on November 26, 2013 6:00-9:00 pm. We were able to feed over **150** local men, women, and children & the dinner continues to be one of our largest yearly events. Monetary and food donations, along with many volunteers, who serve dinner to the residents, have made this a much anticipated event. 35 families recieved Thanksgiving baskets, with turkeys and fixins donated by the DiPaola Turkey farm, boxes of food from the E.T. Hamilton Elementary School in Voorhees, N.J. and many other donors to make this annual event a huge success

18. “Giving Back to the Community – Children’s Holiday Celebration”

Our 11th annual Children’s Holiday Celebration with toys purchased through donations & the Bromley budget was held on Friday December 20th, 2013 5:30 – 9:30 pm at the Bromley Center. **133** income-eligible children & parents attended and received toys, hamburgers & hot dogs and photos with Santa.