

eliminating racism empowering women

ywca

Community Café

Our Mission

A community café operated by women to provide nourishing meals while empowering the community and restoring dignity to the poor through development of self-advocacy and employment training skills.

OUTCOMES

- Infusion of money into the community from securing government entitlements
- Increased public assistance benefits, expect \$400,000/year in cash & food stamp
- "New" - New York State Food Stamp on-line application site
- Increase knowledge of services available
- Increased job opportunities
- Homeless women having the opportunity to gain valuable job skills

BACKGROUND

- Restaurant located at 224 Gibson (tract 16), owned by YWCA of WNY
- Demographics of Tract 16 (population 4,316)
 - o 45.9% of area residents live below poverty
 - o 44.2% of families live below poverty level
 - o 64.5% of female head of household live below poverty
 - o Median Annual Income \$13,740
- Needs Assessment administered to 59 residents, service providers, church leaders and business owners
 - o Lack of access to mainstream benefits (barrier → transportation)
 - o Transportation
 - o Soup kitchen that serves dinner
 - o Apparent isolation among service providers
 - o Lack of knowledge of existing benefits/services
 - o Legal services needed

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Community Café
 - o Provide free dinners serving families & individuals in the community
 - o Expect to serve 250 daily, 5 days per week
 - o Restaurant-style service (wait staff)
 - o Families sit together
 - Access to Government Entitlements
 - o Public Cash Assistance - Application completion & advocacy
 - o Food Stamp Applications
 - o SSI - Assistance with application process, and link with Neighborhood Legal Services for appeals process
 - o Health Insurance Applications
 - Community Resource Center - One Stop Shop
 - o Workshops: homeownership, home improvement, utility conservation, tax credits (EITC), permanent housing, various health topics, etc.
 - o Case Management Services: Staff & peer advocacy, outside agencies
 - o Employment Services:
 - Job Training provided to women of our Transitional Housing Program with a variety of job skills/training in restaurant management, wait-staff, and peer advocates
 - Establish relationship with local employers to post available positions and encourage employment workshops
 - Assist residents apply for city, state, and federal exams (provide practice exams)
 - Community Development
 - o Provide meeting space for any block clubs
 - o Host regular community forums
- no lines
not "soup kitchen"
families eat together
do better in school -
on going service*