

A Message from the Executive Director

The Partnership for Children of Essex (PCE) just celebrated our 2nd anniversary of providing care management services in Essex County. The past two years have been very exciting and rewarding. We have seen so many children and families finding new hope and finding the help they have been seeking.

We are now serving over 300 children and families and over 90% of our clients surveyed reported that they believe the child being served is healthier because of our services. These positive results are due to the amazing dedication of the care management staff at PCE. While our Care Managers embrace all the values and guiding principles of the wrap-around model of care, there is one value that consistently shines through in their work. They never give up on a child. No matter what, our Care Managers are there to help the child and family find hope and real life solutions. This dedication has real power and has resulted in making a true difference in many children's lives.

I am looking forward to another successful year at PCE. It is a privilege to serve the children and families of Essex County. As always, we are constantly challenging ourselves to improve our services and expand the ways in which we serve the Essex County community. If any families, children, community representatives, service providers, or others have any ideas of how we can serve the community better, please call me directly. We value the input of those whom we are serving.

Jeffrey J. Guenzel, LPC
Executive Director

Rites of Passage

Under the direction of Mr. Derrick Knighton and Mr. Jared Adams, PCE recently graduated a group of dedicated young men that spent 20 weeks exploring their journey from boys to men. Through structured workshops, social and cultural events, these teens have gained a better knowledge of self and the commitment needed to be successful in their families and communities...PCE is very pleased that we were able to partner with Mr. Derrick Knighton to develop this program and we know that these young men will always remember the program motto,

"Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance"



THE GREAT TURKEY GIVEAWAY!!!

PCE, Systas 4 Systas, AmeriChoice and East Orange Child Development were proud to collaborate efforts in providing over 300 turkeys to families in need for the Thanksgiving holiday in 2005.

Spotlight on Community Activist and Educator: Rev. A. Craig Dunn

Rev. A. Craig Dunn has a strong inner commitment to improve the lives of others, particularly our youth. His deep concern for young people has led him to organize various community events as well as conduct seminars and workshops in the area of life skills, goal setting and career development. Rev. Dunn continues to serve on various community and professional Boards and had been appointed to the Office of Chaplain at the Essex County Juvenile Detention Center for a one year term. Ordained in 1998, Rev Dunn has served as a Youth Minister, a new members instructor, a Sunday school teacher, an advisor to a teen/teen mother ministry and an advisor on new ministry development. This life-long Essex County resident is currently employed as the National Sales Director of Education representing the New York Times. He is a member of the National Association of Minority Media Executives, American Association of Christian Counselors, and a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. PCE has embraced his wisdom and expertise and he is currently serving as a PCE consultant and liaison to the Essex County Faith Based Community.



To contact Rev Dunn, you may e-mail him at REVACDUNNA@aol.com

In Sympathy:

PCE cherishes the memory of our dear friend, Moses Joshua Bennett. Moses was born on April 27, 1992 to parents, Ferdinand and Mary Bennett of East Orange and entered eternal rest on Saturday, August 28, 2005 at St. Barnabas Medical Center, Burn Unit in Livingston, New Jersey. Special memories will dwell in the heart of his Care Manager, Ms. Aisha Thornton for his bright smile, and love for video games, music and martial arts. Former Care Manager, Lisa Sousa added that Moses was a pleasant child to work with and that she could never forget that beautiful bright smile. We will miss you!

Back to School with a Blast!

PCE in conjunction with the Family Support Organization (FSO) of Essex County hosted a Back to School Bash in September, 2005 that included music, food and a guest appearance from "The Street Doctor." The "Street Doctor", an ex-con himself, knows all too well the repercussions of not doing the right thing. He now gives back to the community by lecturing to young people about his experiences and motivating them to positive change. All students in attendance received a

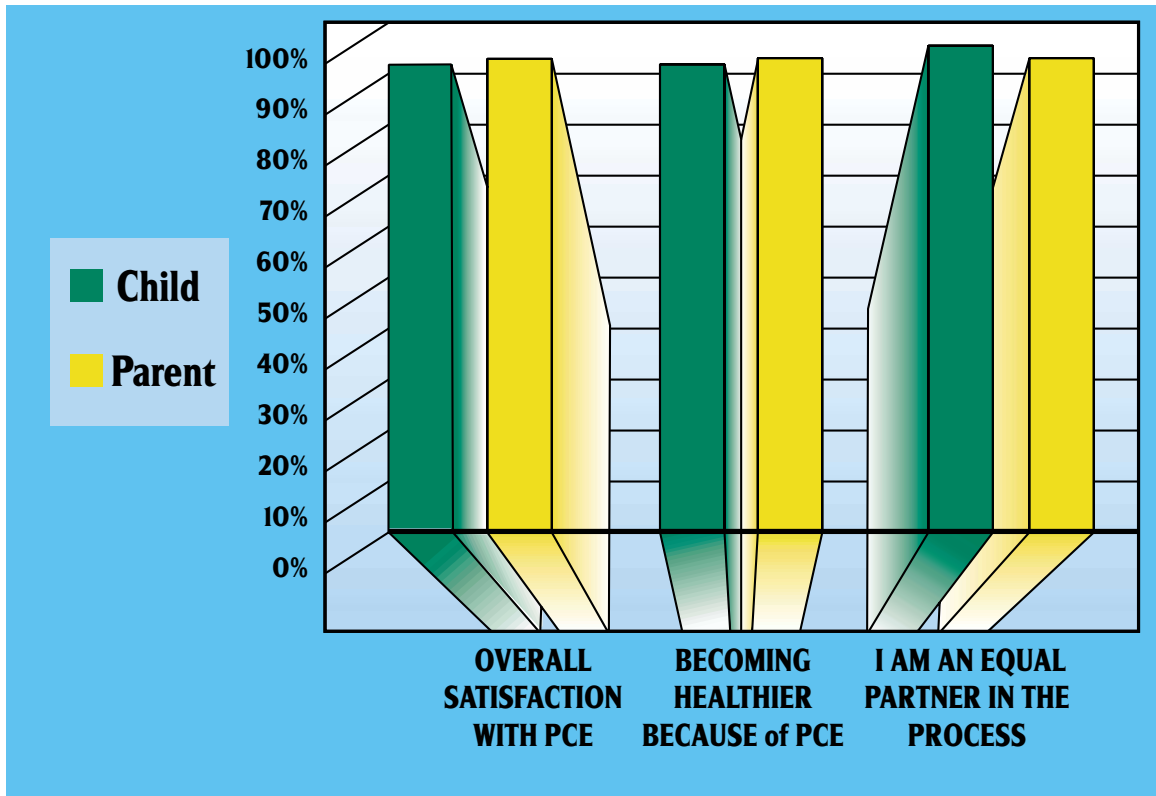


powerful message about staying in school and out of trouble. PCE and the FSO would like to extend a "shout out" to DJ Dre' for his musical talents, Town and Country Banquets for their culinary treats and most importantly, Focus America for their generous donation of School Supplies.



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Children of Essex**
A Pathway for Hope

PCE Child/Parent Satisfaction Chart



◆ PCE received very positive responses to the 2005 child and family satisfaction survey.

PCE Child/Parent Satisfaction Chart Results

When PCE conducted its annual client satisfaction survey, the results showed that both caregivers and our adolescent clients (ages 14 and over) overwhelmingly agreed that the services being provided by PCE are helping to make them healthier and are being provided in a manner that is consistent with our mission, values, and guiding principles. PCE strives to provide high quality care management services and we are committed to meeting the needs of those we serve.

TEAMWORK!

Realizing the importance of rewarding children on their achievements, PCE recently teamed up with Gallman's Dance theatre of Newark to assist a local Karate School: Young Warriors American Karate in Bloomfield to hold its Karate Belt Promotions. Approximately 55 students were tested on their abilities in



forms and fighting techniques in hopes to achieve a higher ranking belt. Special Karate demonstrations were performed by seasoned black belts. Students were also recognized for perfect attendance, academic achievement, most improved and student of the year! This is one way that PCE's teamwork with other community agencies is making a difference. For more information

about Gallman's Dance Theatre contact: Alfred Gallman at (973) 877-3472 For more information on Young Warriors contact Sensei Eddie Torres at: (973) 429-3330

Another Success...

Sharif Ali Reddick, 18, first came in contact with the Partnership for Children of Essex in November 2004 upon his release from the Essex County Juvenile Detention Facility. At that time, Sharif was residing alone in the now demolished Prince Street projects of Newark. He believed that he had no where to turn and no one to turn to. Sharif had been dealing with gang violence, poverty, low self esteem and abandonment throughout his entire life and did not see any hope for his future. Although Sharif was not happy with his life and wanted to make a change, he did not know what to do and did not want to experience the pain of another person walking in and out of his



life. Sharif also admitted that because he was on his own since the age of 14, he was not able to finish high school, build positive relationships within his community or establish a strong bond with family members. His PCE Care Manager, Jared Adams, has become someone that Sharif is comfortable with and trusts. Jared assists Sharif with setting achievable goals including, finishing high school, obtaining employment and surrounding himself with positive role models.

Over the past year, Sharif has been able to meet many of the goals that he had set out to achieve. Sharif is employed, working on obtaining a high school diploma and serves as mentor for some of the younger males within the community. Sharif has also been able to change a lot of his negative behaviors by changing his friends...and this was no easy task. Although Sharif still struggles with peer pressure at times, he believes that PCE has provided him with steady, consistent and positive figures in his life. Sharif is participating in PCE's Rite's of Passage Program which provides him opportunity to interact

with his peers while confronting the many issues that he will face as he transitions into adulthood.

PCE would also like to congratulate Sharif on being a part of Governor Codey's bill signing ceremony making the Social Service Loan Redemption Bill a law. Sharif was asked to speak about his experiences as a consumer of social services. Sharif spoke passionately and strongly about how the services he has received have helped him find success in his life.

Way to Go Sharif!

The Essex County Child Welfare Planning Council needs community residents!

The Essex County Child Welfare Planning Council is a county level planning body charged with assessing, understanding and influencing child welfare needs through:

- ◆ a comprehensive plan that addresses child safety, permanency and well-being
- ◆ coordination of services
- ◆ prevention strategies

Essex County needs your voice, your knowledge, and your influence for improved results! For more information, meeting times and locations contact Erika Williams- PCE's Director of Community Resource Development at (973) 323-3000 ext 109.

Reflections-

Life for me hasn't been life. It has been a journey of never ending doubts and surprising accomplishments. Independence to some is just a word but to me it has always been something that I had to fight for. Whether it was with the help of a family member or and outside party, I have always had someone behind me to push me when ever I felt like giving up. Faith has always been a part of my Care Managers vision when it came to my future. Despite any destructive situation, she has always seen the chance for me to succeed. Any plans for me to graduate high school and go to college weren't looking too good. But through the eyes of Virna, it was possible and it would happen. Looking back into this past year, I had fallen very low to a point that I did not think that anyone could reach all at once. I almost did not graduate High School. I got kicked out of my house, lost a lot of friends and even any possible relationship with my mother and little brother. With all bad...comes good because I did graduate High School, get accepted to a State University and have been embraced by family members that I never knew existed.. Time has played the biggest role in my life. I never understood why things would happen the way that they have but then I realized that it was all a matter of time. Time allowed me to see how low I could fall just to help me stand as high as I could stand. Everything happens for a reason and for whatever reason my life has taken the road that it has, I am grateful for every step in this ongoing journey.

Written by: Ashley Johnson

WINTERFEST 2005

PCE held its 2nd annual Holiday Extravaganza for children and families. We would like to extend a special thank you to: De Vita Dialysis Center of Newark, Newark Police Department, East Orange Police Department, Newark Fire Department, Bridgeport Correctional Facility, as well as all PCE staff, family and friends for their generous donations in fulfilling our youth's wishes for the holiday season. Once again...fun was had by all!

PCE YOUTH HAVE A VOICE...

Due to their leadership qualities, ability to relate to peers and desire to be team players, several PCE youths have been selected by their Care Managers to become members of the PCE Youth Advisory Council. This is an extremely important role for our youth's social and emotional growth and ultimately their future. They will have the unique opportunity to offer their input and assist PCE management and staff make important decisions regarding the agency's overall operation that directly affect them. Meetings are held monthly and are facilitated by Erika Williams, Director of Community Resource Development, Jennifer Goldsmith, Care Manager Supervisor and Jared Adams, Senior Care Manager. We are excited to work side by side with our youth as we improve the quality of life for children and their families in Essex County.

PCE Core Values"

Families will be equal partners in the service planning and delivery process.

- ◆ The care management process will be supportive and respectful of family culture, values, strengths, and preferences.
- ◆ There is a belief and conviction that all children can grow, recover, improve, and become healthier.

NEW PCE BOARD MEMBERS

PCE relies on a Board of Trustees comprised of individuals from the Essex County community who are dedicated to helping children with emotional and behavioral challenges and their families. PCE is excited to announce that we have three new members on its Board of Trustees. These new members are Jewel Dennis, Charles Lopez, and Carrie Hentz. All thereof these individuals bring a wealth of knowledge and experience that will greatly help PCE advance its mission. We are very excited that they have been selected to become a part of our governing body here at PCE.

How Can I Get PCE Services for My Child?

Parents, family members, social workers, teachers, pastors, and others can make referrals to PCE by calling the New Jersey Division of Child Behavioral Health Services at 1-877-652-7624. Please note, the legal guardian must always be a voluntary participant in the referral process. We look forward to serving the needs of your child and family. .

Check out our website: www.pcenj.org

973-323-3000 - info@pcenj.org



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