

The Center for Youth CONNECTIONS

SUMMER 2020



Dear Center friends and supporters,

I send my best wishes to you all for during these darkest days and most uncertain times, The Center for Youth, with your steadfast and generous donations of food, supplies, dollars and good will, has been able to navigate troubled waters on behalf of our youth and families. And while we are certainly not out of harms way, we do believe that our efforts and yours have made an impact on the health and safety of our community.

Despite the challenges and setbacks associated with Covid and the health crisis, The Center has successfully completed the final steps in opening a new independent living house on Arnett Blvd. At the same time so many of our colleagues in the homeless community are shutting their doors and moving away from services, The Center is courageously moving forward. This would NOT be possible without our amazing and dedicated staff, our fierce board members and all of you, our donors and friends.

Although we were able to celebrate this summer with a one night special event, we are saddened that we face a postponement of our much anticipated FWR 2020 in October. With our eyes firmly focused on health and safety, we know that 2021 will bring back this important community event, so stay tuned and do not give up hope.

And as the community faced deep despair and closings, The Center stood ready to take on even more new initiatives such as the transfer of the Monroe YMCA legacy building, our neighbor on Monroe Avenue. This site, established nearly 100 years ago, can provide a new energy and commitment to social justice and racial equity; it can fulfill a dream started almost 50 years ago - it can help us fulfill our own vision for the creation of a beloved community, open and accessible to all.



The Center for Youth will soon call the Monroe Avenue YMCA home!

I pray that your health and safe keeping continues and that together we will overcome all barriers and keep our promises to our young people. We know that 2020 has not been an easy year and yet we are grateful for the lessons it taught us and the way we stood together during these hard times.

Elaine Spaul - Executive Director

For more information on how to become more involved, visit us online!

www.centerforyouth.net

Honoring the Legacy of Juneteenth

The Center for Youth came together to remember the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the end of slavery the year 1865 in the United States of America - Juneteenth, also referred to as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day. 60-70 Administrators, staff, volunteers, partners and trustees gathered to share a moment of silence giving special attention by lying down, kneeling down or standing to honor the memory of George Floyd and other people of color that have lost their life to police violence.

As suggested by our speakers, Director, Elaine Spaull; Associate Director, Nolica Murray-Fields; and School-Based Training Coordinator Kia C. Brooks - Juneteenth symbolizes overcoming seemingly insurmountable challenges, the importance of knowledge & education and the determination to achieve greatness through opportunities and change.

It is our goal next year to make this even bigger with ideals such as...a Center For Youth driven event for the whole family to enjoy, complete with food, entertainment and games, and possibly a parade.

We understand that our nation needs healing - that healing must begin with families and we are beginning with our family at The Center for Youth.



Strings for Success Online Benefit

The Strings for Success program was unable to host its annual benefit concert in person, so we went digital!

The violin instruction program at the Rochester City School District Charles T. Lunsford School #19 prepared a concert video that debuted online, featuring performances by:

The Strings for Success Violin Students

Thomas Warfield

Patty Yarmel, Program Director- Strings for Success

Bill Tiberio

...and more!



If you'd like to view the video, online, visit our website at: www.centerforyouth.net/strings



Hot Summer Nights!

Hot Summer Nights made socially distancing fashionable with a Fashion week Rochester runway show! On July 24th we took to the pavement to celebrate fashion this summer, by hosting Hot Summer Nights Re-Imagined at the Midtown Athletic Club parking lot. The event was limited entry and required guests to socially distance and view the runway show from the safety of their car! The one night only runway show was in support of the Arnett House - the LGBTQ And trafficked homeless youth residential program which will begin serving young people later this summer.

Although Fashion Week October 2020 has been postponed, we look forward to bringing back this exciting event as soon as we can safely gather!

For more pictures of Hot Summer Nights visit: www.fashionweekofrochester.org



Volunteer your time with us!

The Center for Youth offers ongoing **volunteer** opportunities to help youth in our community. Many of our shelters and programs rely on volunteers to ensure our programs & services operate without interruption.

We are currently looking for volunteers at both Crisis Nurseries. Volunteering with The Center offers tremendous flexibility: 4 hours a week, 4 hours every two weeks, or even once a month. You sign up for the shifts that work best for you.

We are also in need of food for our food cupboard, **The Nook**. Non-perishable foods, from boxed cereal to canned soups and Spaghetios. Toiletries and hygiene products are needed too.

Chip in & make a difference!

Without the generosity of our community and the support of our funders, our shelters, programs and dedicated staff would not be able to be there in times of need.

Your commitment gives peace of mind and safety during times of crisis. Support of The Center comes in so many ways – providing shelf-stable food to The Nook food cupboard, shopping off our Crisis Nursery wish list, and a financial contribution in support of a program that best represents your commitment to young people.

THANK YOU!

If you would like additional information on how to volunteer your time and support The Center for Youth, visit www.centerforyouth.net

creating a beloved community



Macy's Eastview donated over 250 prom dresses and outfits for young people!



Young women committed to reducing food insecurity created their own food drive - they have a bright future!

Hello! We're Shine ✨ Time ⏰, a Rochester youth group. If any of you guys receive a flyer 📄 for a food 🍽️ drive, it's from us! We are collecting non-perishable foods for teens 🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻 in difficult situations at Center for Youth. We will be picking up food in the afternoon on the 18th of August. Please leave donations on your 🏠 doorsteps! If you didn't receive a flyer but would like to donate, please message us and we will come to you for pick up! 🙌🙌🙌 Teen-friendly foods that require minimal prep are best like peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit and fruit cups, ramen, canned pasta, cereal, trail mix, Easy Mac, etc. Thanks again! 💕



The Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce Small Business Council donated 75 backpacks!



The Fairport High School Foreign Language National Honor Society created a food drive for The Nook, stocking shelves and warming our hearts in the process - way to go!

The generosity and good will of others keep our food cupboard shelves stocked with nourishment. Thanks to Center friends Karen Hite and Ed Lewis for coordinating such generous donations!



The Nook



THE CENTER FOR YOUTH FOOD CUPBOARD

To meet the most basic needs of the young people in our housing programs, The Center for Youth Food Cupboard – The Nook – ensures young people have access to non-perishable foods, hygiene items, and household supplies.

Please consider donating items to The Nook, providing food security to young people. The following items are helpful in stocking the food pantry:

Shelf-stable items like:

- Canned Fruits (any variety)
- Boxed cereals (teen friendly)
- Chunky soups
- Canned corn
- Vienna sausages (*young people love them!*)
- Canned tuna

Pantry essentials:

- Jars of red sauce
- Boxes of pasta (*spaghetti, rigatoni, penne, etc*)
- Boxes of flavored rice
- Pasta Roni
- Ramen Noodles

Treats for young people:

- Granola bars
- Clif Protein bars
- Fruit bars
- Pop Tarts
- Small bags of chips
- Cookies
- Desserts
- Easy Mac cups (*Kraft Macaroni & Cheese*)

Perishable Items:

- 1/2 gallons of milk
- Eggs
- Bread
- Bananas
- Apples

Cleaning Supplies:

- All-purpose cleaner
- Dishsoap
- Laundry Detergent
- Household cleaners
...and more!

Gift Cards like:

- Wegmans
- Wal-Mart
- Target
- Price Rite
- Aldi

You can also donate cash and gift cards. This allows us flexibility in re-stocking The Nook and provides additional resources to young people. To contribute financially to **The Nook**, [click here!](#)

Donation Drop Off:

Please visit us at 905 Monroe Avenue (*use rear parking lot & entrance*)
Monday - Friday 9am-5pm ****Please be sure to complete a donation form!**

visit us online at: www.centerforyouth.net for more information.



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www.centerforyouth.net



www.facebook.com/CenterforYouth



[@CenterforYouth](https://www.instagram.com/CenterforYouth)

Interested in supporting our efforts? Donate online:

www.centerforyouth.net/#donate



The Arnett House set to Open!

The Center for Youth's newest residential program is set to open. The Arnett House will provide housing & supportive programs to LGBTQ and trafficked homeless youth. The house was gifted to the Center and is being totally remodeled by volunteers and private donors with most of the work being donated.

The Arnett House will be the first of its kind in the region. LGBTQ young people make up approximately 20% of the youth served in our runaway and homeless youth programs. Our work has intensified as a shortage of safe and respectful housing for older youth facing homelessness continues, and no population is more vulnerable than our transgender youth and those identifying as LGBTQ+.

This residence will be a safe space for young people that identify as LGBTQ+ and / or victims of sex trafficking.

For more information this housing program, visit us online:
www.centerforyouth.net/shelter-housing-crisis-services



Homeless LGBTQ Youth

By Their Side.
Housing | Support | Connection | Advocacy