

## Episcopal Community Development

<http://ecdonline.org/>

In 1991 the Episcopal Diocese of Newark created Episcopal Community Development (ECD), a non-profit organization whose mission is to address the economic and social issues negatively impacting the area, and to promote positive community development. Much of ECD's work takes place primarily in the Diocese's impoverished neighborhoods to improve housing conditions, address issues related to poverty and economic disadvantage, develop community-based youth programs, and assist in efforts to improve the overall quality of life for families.

In 1997 the City of Newark asked ECD to take over direct development for some affordable housing projects. This was the impetus for ECD independently taking on its own housing development. To date, ECD has completed over 100 units of affordable housing in the City of Newark and almost 400 in total in Jersey City, Paterson, and throughout northern New Jersey. ECD has also partnered with others in the development of a variety of community-based facilities, including day care and community centers, and has been instrumental in developing a number of services programs.

One such project, The Clinton Hill Community Resource Center (CHCRC), opened in March 2009 with the purpose of affirming, strengthening, and supporting families in the Clinton Hill community. CHCRC provides an important addition to ECD, extending its services beyond its traditional housing development, and providing a firm presence in Newark's South Ward from where all community development activities are coordinated.

The Clinton Hill Community Resource Center offers a broad array of services which include the following:

- **Lavender & Lace** Empowerment program for local women with personal challenges. Goals include gainful employment, successful parenting, and improved personal well-being.
- **Summer Camp** Math-centered summer program; also offers computer training and field trips for children aged 8–12.
- **North Porch** CHCRC provides a location for the Episcopal affiliate, which provides diapers, formula, and other essentials to mothers in need.
- **“Sun Up” Feeding Program** A city-funded meals program, providing a healthy breakfast, snack, and lunch for children aged 6–18.
- **Family Support** Service available to anyone seeking out strategies to address family issues.
- **VITA** Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site in the South Ward.
- **Community Work Experience Program (CWEP)** Work opportunities for program participants.
- **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)** City-funded, this program provides work opportunities for teenagers during summer break; CHCRC is a host site.
- **Census Training Site** Hosted a training site for the 2010 Census, where more than 700 participants were trained.
- **One-on-One Assistance** Community members are invited to come to the CHCRC for assistance with resumé preparation and job searches.

- **Health Screenings** Monthly health screening for adults including blood pressure, cholesterol, sugar, dental, and vision screenings and an HIV prevention program.
- **Outreach Events** Including Operation Holiday providing gifts to children, National Night Out, and Annual Tree Lighting ceremonies.
- **After-school tutoring program.**

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