

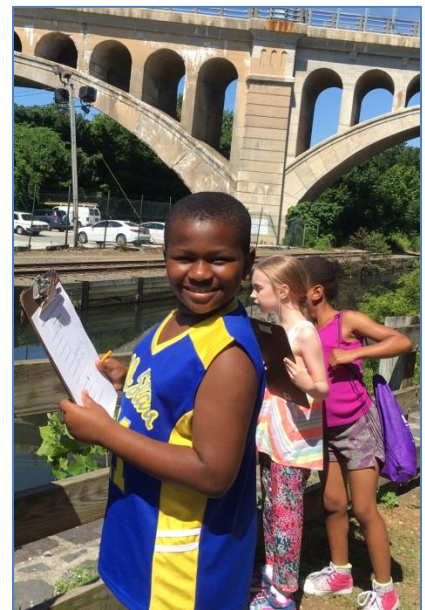
North Light Community Center
Annual Report
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

North Light Community Center has served the most vulnerable in our community year after year since 1936. The support we have received from the community over the years is vital to our ability to remain a critical safety net and to ensure our neighbors have access to the help they need. As an independent non-profit, we raise 90% of our budget each year through charitable support and are able to quickly respond to community needs without outside pressures. Last year, over 3,000 people walked through North Light's doors. ***Ninety-one percent of direct service clients were economically disadvantaged (incomes below 250% of federal poverty guideline) including 71% who fall below 100%.*** North Light prides itself on never turning anyone away due to an inability to pay.



The Childcare Education and Enrichment Development program (CEED) provides care for about 100 at-risk school-age children (pre-K–6th grade) each year in our KidZone after-school and summer camp programs. Programs prioritize education, arts and recreation. Seventy-nine percent of children served last year were considered economically disadvantaged. Twenty-four percent of children came from single parent households. With funding for state childcare subsidies getting smaller and smaller each year, North Light offers a sliding pay scale to families who need childcare services but are unable to pay our full tuition. Last year, only 26% of families paid full tuition for KidZone or summer camp.

Summer day camp runs for 8 weeks in the summer, from July-August. This past summer, our camp theme was “Hero Hub: Training for Community Heroes.” Today’s youth live in a world full of caped crusaders who make it their mission to create a better world for those around them. At NL, we believe that our youth are capable of creating a better world for themselves and those around them using their superhuman abilities: respect, tolerance, community outreach, teamwork, knowledge, environmental awareness, and so much more. Campers visited the Franklin Institute, the National Liberty Museum, and the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, and hosted a Superhero Field Day. Each week, campers celebrated “Hero Friday,” with talks from local community leaders and recognition for camp heroes for the week. Camp activities also include a talent show, field day, computer lab activities and a camp BBQ. NL contracts with specialists to provide lessons in the areas of Music, Art, and Dance (in partnership with Merge Dance Studio). New this past summer, we hired a specialist in outdoor adventures to implement bi-weekly nature lessons and exploration of the urban watershed. Each specialist works with all three age groups of campers and conducted lessons which enhanced the summer camp experience. In addition to the specialists, Literacy, Cooking,



Science, Computer time and Fitness are implemented by group leaders once weekly with each group. Breakfast, lunch, and nutritious snack are provided daily.

Summer Career Exploration Program (SCEP) has provided workforce development training, mentoring and summer jobs for over 1,500 youth since 1982 that includes recruitment, enrollment and 10 hours of work-readiness training in May/June; July/August: 6-week internships/120 hours including weekly professional development sessions. In providing career preparation, academic enrichment and work-readiness training, SCEP reaches out to teens in TANF and TANF-eligible households. SCEP's goal is to reduce high school dropouts by preparing youth for the workforce and promoting higher education. Ninety-two youth received comprehensive interview training and attended a virtual job fair featuring all available worksites and jobs. After the interview process was completed, employers sent NL their interview ranking and evaluations and accepted students were placed into thirty-six slots, including at local businesses like Wallace & Nilan Physical Therapy and Journey's Way. Ninety-two percent of participants reported feeling more prepared for the workforce and 100% of employers noted they would recommend the experience to other businesses.



The Urban Sustainability Leadership Academy (USLA) builds leadership and entrepreneurial skills, and additionally gives students opportunities for internships and community service projects. This past school year, twenty youth completed the two-year program with initiatives that supported college and career readiness, and provided youth with paid internships to gain hands-on work experience. USLA staff provides extensive support to students, including post-graduation, to help them navigate the admissions and job acquisition process.

Last year, Friends in Supplying Help Community Food Cupboard (FISH) gave out over 123,101 pounds of food and vouchers valued at \$221,684 to 728 food insecure neighbors, a 14% increase over the previous year. Additionally, 256 people benefitted from NL's Holiday Assistance Program (HAP) through our Adopt-a Family program. Seven hundred and forty-eight elderly and disabled neighborhood residents benefitted from the holiday meal delivery program, Manayunk Meals and More, in partnership with Main Street restaurants and Journey's Way. In response to evaluation surveys completed by FISH patrons, we added a number of non-grocery items, such as cleaning and personal hygiene products, through a partnership with our local Target store. These items are not able to be purchased with food stamps, but are household necessities out of reach for many low-income families. Additionally this year, we increased our capacity to pick up grocery store donations by purchasing a third van and were able to add Acme to our list of bi-weekly partners.

Volunteers are a crucial piece to providing quality services with limited capacity. Last year, NL had over 700 volunteers providing over 11,000 hours of service. NL has established an effective, comprehensive partnership with Villanova University, providing volunteer opportunities for Villanova's undergraduate and graduate students. During the school year, at least 150 undergraduate students volunteer at NL serving as tutors and mentors. During summer camp, Villanova sends three graduate-level



nursing students to provide mini-health related instruction for their month's practicum. The nursing students prepared age-appropriate lessons aimed at nutrition, diet, exercise, and disease prevention. In addition, NL has a partnership with Drexel University's School of Public Health whereby five graduate-nursing students provide health instruction.



Over the past few years we have renovated our kitchen through the IKEA Life Improvement Challenge and converted the adjacent half-court gym into a multi-purpose community room that permanently houses the food cupboard, provides cafeteria space for our childcare programs, and is an attractive space for events. The conversion included the deep sanding and coating of the thirty year old floor and removal of the basketball standards. The combined increase in rental income and a capacity-building grant allowed us to create a new part-time position, Community Engagement Coordinator, who is in charge of managing site rentals, community

outreach initiatives, and volunteers. The long-term goal is to increase earned revenue and provide a steady income source that we can count on year after year.

It is the support of people like you who keep our doors open. Thank you.