



# Dorothy Black Youth Program TALBOT COUNTY, MD

The Neighborhood Service Center, Inc.

## 2020 - 2021 Edition Executive Summary



Ms. Marilyn M. Neal  
Executive Director

I am pleased to share with you some of Neighborhood Service Center, Inc.'s enhancements to its Youth Program during the period of 2020 – 2021, as a result of COVID-19.

### Summer Youth Program

Prior to our 2020 summer activities, NSC surveyed the families of the Youth Program. Based on the survey, families were comfortable with returning their youth to the program for the summer during the pandemic. The youth that participated in the program were socially-distanced. As such, the participation level was lowered by 50%, so that the program would operate consistent with CDC guidelines. The Summer Program was a 5-week program, June 29 – July 30, 2020.

The remainder of the participants to NSC's Youth Program were offered the opportunity to participate at the YMCA in Easton. This permitted the youth to enjoy summer activities, as well as provided their parents with childcare, so that they could return to work.

In addition, the Dorothy Black Youth Center underwent a re-design of the space, which set a part tables to distance the participants and 6ft. markers were placed on the floor. All of the youth were provided with protective supplies. NSC periodically cleaned down hard surfaces and the area was sanitized by a commercial cleaning company. As such, the summer session concluded without any of the onsite youth contracting the coronavirus.

### After School Program

As the Talbot County youth have been participating in online school; NSC has also converted to an online format to assist students with homework subjects: Math, Language Arts, STEM, Art, Reading, Research papers and review of Asynchronous work. Technological enhancements, adding Zoom, VOIP phone system, and laptops for After School support were purchased. Siblings of the participating youth have also joined in and benefitted from the service.

Again, we are more than pleased about the newest enhancements to our Youth Program! We believe that these adjustments will allow our services to continue safely and effectively.

Yours in service,

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As the Talbot County youth are participating in online school; NSC has worked to bring innovative options to include a conversion to a virtual format.

After school parents report that after school support during the pandemic is still a very much needed service. Homework support can assist students as they continue to transition from an in-person day program to an online one.

*Other Highlights!*

#### **Relief Check**

Through NSC's Emergency Services Program, the families of the Youth Program were provided with a relief check in the amount of \$100.00. This amount assisted parents with additional needs such as supplies for the children while at home and other critical needs.

#### **New Vehicles**

This quarter, NSC was awarded funds to assist with COVID-19 related needs. As such, NSC was able to purchase two vehicles. These vehicles will be used towards transporting food to those with food insecurities due to COVID-19.

#### **Chromebooks for Youth Program Support Staff**

NSC purchased laptops for the Coordinators of the Youth Program. This has allowed our staff to virtually assist the after school participants with homework.

#### **Two Gen/Whole Family Case Manager**

NSC was awarded funds to hire a Two Gen/Whole Family Case Manager. Our Two Gen Case Manager, Ms. Dawn Phillips will work closely with the Youth Program families to help them set family goals as they move their way towards self-sufficiency.

#### **Healthy Meals**

During the Summer Youth Program, meals were provide by Maryland Food Bank.

### **What Makes NSC's Youth Program Unique from any other Talbot County Youth Program?**

NSC offers services to Talbot County families and individuals, so that they may become economically self-sufficient. Services included below are available to qualifying Youth Program participants and their families:

- Affordable Housing Units
- COVID-19 Related Hardship Support
- Emergency Services
- Food Pantry
- Maryland Energy Assistance Program
- Medication Support
- Mobile Food Pantry
- On the Job Training for Homeless Individuals
- Rapid Rehousing Program
- Representative Payee Program
- Ridgeway Homeless Shelter Program
- Youth Program



### ***New Component to NSC's Youth Program- Services for Children with Incarcerated Parents!***

During NSC's 2019 Needs Assessment Process, it was found that there was a need for re-entry services for both formerly incarcerated parents and also their children. As such, NSC will be adding an additional component to its Youth Program to address it.

Beginning in 2022, NSC will accept 10 youth each quarter/ 40 per year to receive after school homework services and also family bonding workshops/trainings and activities. The goals of this component to the youth program are: (1) provide a safe and supportive environment for children; (2) reduce risky behaviors; (3) support social, emotional, and academic development; and (4) promote positive parent/child relationships.

In 2016 Talbot County Government published its Talbot County Community Plan in order to address the Governor's goal on *Reducing the Impact of Parental Incarceration on Child, Family, and Communities*. The plan looked at stressors caused by parental incarceration. Some of the consequences of incarceration on children, families, and the community are: unemployment; increased community crime and drug problems; low incomes; high rates of drop outs; lower life expectancy; high rates of public assistance participation; low educational attainment; high rates of drop outs, lower life expectancy; and community disorganization/lack of civic engagement.

NSC currently serves many formerly incarcerated parents through our food pantry, housing services; and emergency services. This added component to our youth program is very much needed as over 600 children in Talbot have parents incarcerated or on parole.

## **Financial Literacy Activities**



### *Financial Literacy*

This year, NSC's Youth Program will use training components from Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The lessons help develop financial knowledge, skills and habits that are an important stepping stone to a young person's path to adult financial well-being.

The tools and resources support financial education for all ages, beginning in Kindergarten. NSC's youth will learn and develop the building blocks of financial capability.

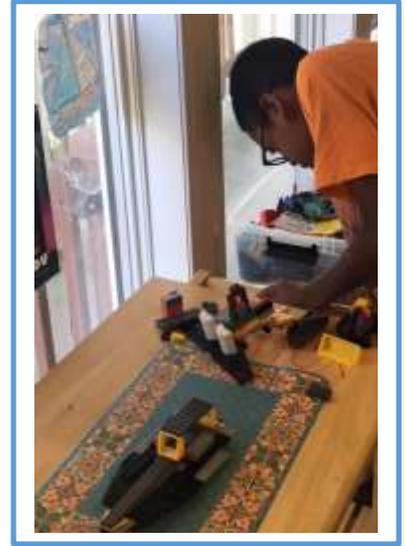
According to a recent report, of more than 13 million high school students across 11,000 high schools, only one in six U.S. Students receives required financial education.

NSC will continue the conversation with parents and their children in the Youth Program in order to promote healthy financial behaviors.

### ***How the Youth Program Promotes Good Citizenship!***

As the designated Community Action Agency for Talbot County, NSC promotes good citizenship through:

1. Encouraging the youth to be active in their community;
2. Reminding them of the importance of honesty and good stewardship;
3. Respecting the rights of others and authority;
4. Respecting the property of others;
5. Being compassionate;
6. Taking responsibility for their actions; and
7. Protecting the environment.



**Ms. Tanya Hayman  
Youth Program Manager**

*A Message from the Program Manager on Virtual Homework Assistance.*

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*"There were no new trends for the students, because their source of virtual learning in their assigned schools (whether they are in person or a virtual at-home student), the same routine is continued for the After Care Program.*

*Students log onto their Frog account and then go to their homework agenda for the day and share their screen with the Program Manager. If there is a complication with logging on, then the program manager will communicate with the classroom teacher. The only exception is the written homework packets cannot be "shared screen" so the students share through computer camera and the student and program manager work via paper and pencil.*

*Some students may join on different days or come every day for Zoom."*

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