

KEEPING UP WITH CSC!

OCTOBER 15, 2021

ISSUE 01



A Message From Our Executive Director

PENELOPE GRIFFITH, LICSW

PIVOTING DURING THE PANDEMIC The impact of the pandemic is two-fold - it brought about many challenges, but it inspired us to do even more for our clients. It has shown us the greatness in each one of us during the most trying of times. Navigating the COVID crises brought with it - overarching depressed feelings, increased domestic violence, increased illnesses, loss of lives, and feelings of isolation. This required a different way of working. We focused on how to help families reconnect with themselves and we found a way to create opportunities for families to revive themselves through individual and group activities. CSC would like to thank it's devoted team members, community partners, and our participating youths and families for pivoting with us during this time of COVID.

NEWS INSIDE

- 25th Anniversary - Save the Date
- Youth Engagement
- Donations - Amazon Smiles
- Family Services
- Rapid Rehousing
- Economic Stability
- Path to Greatness
- Upcoming Events
- What's Hot at CSC?
- Venue Rental
- Meet Our Board of Directors
- We're Hiring!

BURNING THE MIDNIGHT OIL

Giving back, transforming lives, and impacting communities are some of the things that every staff and volunteer that is affiliated with CSC is passionate about.

This issue features some experiences we have had while serving our 581 clients in the field and the success stories that drive us all to keep working hard, sometimes "burning the midnight oil". The stories are substantiated by data, showing the number of clients we have served so far in fiscal year 2021, and we are still counting.

Thank you for partnering with us and sharing in the CSC vision.

- Trinette Hawkins-Coleman , LGSW Chief of Staff

CSC's 25th Anniversary

#TogetherWeCan

On September 25, 2021 the Collaborative celebrated 25 years of community impact at the National Museum of American History.



581

total **clients served** by CSC FY21

CSC COMMUNITY

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



CREATING SOLUTIONS TOGETHER

70 at-risk youth learned violence prevention techniques

CSC's Violence Prevention and Intervention services are imperative in Wards 1 thru 5.

Services such as community outreach, violence interception and interruption, case management, critical incident protocols, peacemaking retreats, and school-based educational and enrichment services are some of the basic elements of CSC's violence intervention and prevention programs. We work hard to achieve no new incidents of violence in our communities. During the pandemic, we focused on 30 at-risk individuals, ages 18-24, (considered disconnected youth) with which we maintained daily contact. Our youth are what make our program so special – they are in the streets fighting trauma and addiction every day. "Most just need a push, just need an ear – they just need guidance." And it works! We are seeing our youth become more involved in the community. We consider this a mark of success.



COSMIC WOLVES YOUTH SOCCER

17 youth on the Soccer Team receiving mentorship

Rubio, our award-winning Soccer Coach and Mentor, finds innovative ways to engage the 17 young men on the COSMIC WOLVES soccer team through the entire pandemic.

Rubio, our Soccer Coach & Mentor communicates daily with each youth and has conducted weekly online mentoring sessions throughout the pandemic. Keeping young people engaged during the pandemic when so many things were off limits for them, is impressive and critically important to this age group. Of all our youth, 100% have avoided any gang involvement during this time. During the shutdown, fields were not open for competitive games, so Rubio arranged for the players to have access to friendly games and even made arrangements for them to use fields outside of DC to keep them engaged and share their love for soccer.



DONATIONS TO CSC SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Building strong sustainable families and communities through family support services, innovative training, community capacity building, economic development, and social enterprise!

\$25 FOR 25 YEARS
DONATE TODAY!

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**



You can GIVE while you SHOP on Amazon? It's easy and FREE! Go to smile.amazon.com and enter Collaborative Solutions for Communities to support us. Amazon makes a donation to us every time you make a purchase.

Happy Shopping!

SAFE SPACE SHOW UP STAND OUT (SUSO) EVERY TUESDAY & THURSDAY



The COVID-19 pandemic caused major uncertainty for the school District and changed the way children were educated. As schools transitioned to a virtual learning platform the CSC team noticed parents struggling to navigate the expectations and technological requirements needed for virtual learning. The SUSO Team saw parents having difficulty supporting their children, especially those who have children at different grade levels and essential workers who did not have access to childcare. CCS created SAFE SPACE to help parents meet the challenges of distance learning. SAFE SPACE provides a quiet, safe place for students with access to technology and tutoring support to enhance their learning experience, every Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30am-3:30pm. Students tell us about the opportunity for peer-to-peer interaction, helps them feel less overwhelmed and socially isolated.

FAMILY SERVICES

COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD WELFARE SERVICES (FUNDED BY CFSA)



145 Children Remained Safe

CFSA works with families to ensure that children remain safe in their homes with family.

Throughout the pandemic, we maintained daily contact with at risk families with children under the age of 18. Keeping families engaged and working to disrupt the cycle of abuse, especially during the pandemic, requires innovation and much effort. Our team is creative in conducting engaging online case management sessions and COVID-safe home visits. This program is critical any time of the year, but even more so during this pandemic. Together with our community partners, CSC continually works to keep our families engaged and is looking forward to our upcoming COVID-safe events, such as ice cream socials, Child Abuse Prevention workshops, and other community events.



PARENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAM (PESP)

68 Parents Improved Their Parenting Skills

One of the best ways the CSC team strengthens families is through our Parenting Education & Support Program, PESP.

Throughout the pandemic, we continued parent engagement through programs such as Effective Black Parenting, ACT Raising Safe Kids classes and Parenting Cafés. The Parenting Cafés provide an ongoing support system and instant resources for parents to address the everyday challenges and successes of parenthood. Our team has been proactively guiding conversations to keep parents engaged and help feelings of isolation during the pandemic. For our most recent group of PESP graduates, we held a virtual graduation via Zoom, where we raffled gift cards and mailed specialty journals as graduation gifts to parents.

RAPID REHOUSING



RAPID REHOUSING

24 homeless youth now have safe housing

CSC's Rapid Rehousing program for youth is functioning at full capacity, which means 24 youth who were formerly homeless are now living in safe housing.

CSC's Rapid Rehousing program for Youth is functioning at full capacity, which means 24 formerly homeless youth are now living in safe housing. CSC offers continuous support and case management and along with support from our community partners, we work to ensure our youth can maintain their housing and continue working toward self-sufficiency. During the pandemic, our team worked tirelessly to engage the youth participants to ease any feelings of isolation and seek solutions as needs arise. Partnering with our youth participants allows us to meet them where they are, truly understand their goals and provide resources needed. As COVID restrictions ease, CSC continues to engage our participants, and help connect them to better paying jobs, education, physical and mental health resources.

FAMILY REHOUSING & STABILIZATION PROGRAM (FRSP)

114 families were served

FRSP is the rapid re-housing program that assists families experiencing homelessness receive case management services, through a provider (CSC), and the case manager works collaboratively with family and The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness (TCP) to transition the client from the shelter into stable housing.

CSC knows housing has been an issue for many families during the pandemic, including the 114 families we were able to serve in the past quarter. Using emergency COVID funds, we support our families with the following: utility bills, educational programs, phone bills, transportation support to work and emergency food and household items. We are also seeking ways to keep our families supported and communities engaged through this difficult time. We are planning an upcoming Netflix party for our families where they can watch a movie virtually, but also together. Families will be able to share commentary and laughter and interact with one another.

ECONOMIC STABILITY



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

129 People started new jobs

CSC recognizes that workforce development and support is critical to self-sufficiency.

Our workforce program is special because we are not only helping clients find employment; we are also helping them learn how to make better choices. Our job readiness training is interactive with a strong focus on self-sustainability and solution focus. We provide one-on-one intensive case management, mock interviews, schedule and take clients to job interviews. CSC partners with other programs in the community to gather resources for the benefit of our clients. During the pandemic, we shifted to online classes and even online graduations. This quarter we had our Work Readiness Progressive Employment graduation virtually, our 3rd virtual graduation since COVID. We engage our clients throughout their journey and will continue to connect people with jobs.

SUCCESS IN REENTRY (SIR)

14 Women are reuniting with their families

The Success in Reentry helps reentering women assimilate back into their families and community, build a supportive network, and promote self-sufficiency.

Participants in the SIR program already face tall obstacles that were further complicated by the pandemic. The CSC team worked to keep these women engaged via televisits and online activities. Our Executive Director facilitated a quarterly trauma-informed care session with the women and then had chocolates delivered to each of them. This thoughtfulness did not go unnoticed - everyone was grateful and appreciated feeling included. CSC is planned an online Mother's Day Celebration for the women and is planning a virtual pizza and movie night.



PATH TO GREATNESS

Kathy found the CSC's Progressive Employment Program (PEP) after being laid off from her place of employment during the pandemic. Like many of our neighbors, Kathy found herself displaced after 10 years working in childcare. As she was looking for new employment, Kathy joined the first virtual CSC PEP class. In the class, Kathy was engaged and provided strong feedback to support her classmates. Kathy told the CSC Job Developer that she began thinking about one day opening her own, private nanny company. The job developer was able to connect Kathy to a single mother of a newborn who was seeking a fulltime nanny. Instantly the job developer called Kathy and arranged an interview and Kathy was offered a full-time position as a nanny. During the 30-day employment check-in, Kathy said, "I love it here!" The employer is extremely pleased with her diligence, patience, and kindness. Kathy plans to pursue her dream of starting her own business. The workforce team is very proud of Kathy and all the work that she has accomplished. With assistance from the CSC, Kathy is on a path to greatness!

UPCOMING EVENTS

CSC ON THE MOVE

FAMILY SERVICES



PARENT CAFÉS

Come join us as we share our strengths and stories. Leave feeling energized, and inspired. Join us to learn how to earn a gift card.

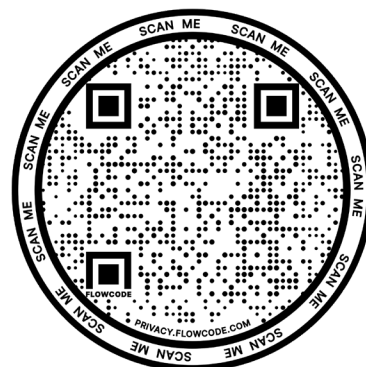
English Workshops

3rd Thursday of each month 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Spanish Workshops

Online, 2nd Thursday of each month 5:30 - 7:00 PM

SCAN TO REGISTER



SAFE SLEEP CLASSES

Open to mothers in 3rd trimester and parents of a child one year or younger. FREE Pack-n-Play upon completion. Classes offered once a month.

English Workshops

Every first Friday of the month from 2:00 PM

Spanish Workshops

Every first Friday of the month from 10:00 AM

SCAN TO REGISTER



EFFECTIVE BLACK PARENTING

Open to parents who want to strengthen their families. Earn a Gift card with each class attended.

English Workshops

Online on Tuesdays from 10:00 AM

Spanish Workshops

Online on Tuesdays from 6:00 PM

SCAN TO REGISTER

ECONOMIC STABILITY



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRESSIVE EMPLOYMENT & HIRING EVENTS

Our work readiness training class is open to DC residents only. We provide transportation assistance for our clients to attend job interviews.

Date of Event:

Monday - Friday from 5:00PM - 7:00PM for 3 weeks

Register by email to **Shakitha Chase** schase@wearecsc.org

EMAIL TO REGISTER



WHAT'S HOT AT CSC?



BLACK HISTORY MONTH POETRY CONTEST

In February, the CSC held a poetry contest for Black History Month. Contestants answered the following prompt:

What Does Black History Mean to You?



#SOCIALWORKMONTH BREAKFAST & AWARDS

In March, the CSC honored our fellow social workers by celebrating Social Work Month. We provided a complimentary breakfast for our staff to show our appreciation for all their hard work.



ALFRED BAPTIST CHURCH CSC THANKS YOU

Their donations have assisted nine households – seven youths and two families – in covering significant portions of their rental agreements and in moving them that much closer to stable housing and financial freedom.



CSC ENGINEERING CAMP

This program provided hands-on access to the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects children learn in school. This program will help the participants build their problem solving and crucial thinking skills through building, testing, and improving their design.



YOUTH SUMMER EXTRAVAGANZA

This summer program explored outside team building obstacles, physical fitness activities and a community scavenger hunt!



WHAT'S HOT AT CSC?

CSC'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

The Collaborative celebrated 25 years of outstanding community work on September 25, 2021. CSC highlighted many important members of the organization such as Board Members, Previous Clients and Staff. CSC's commitment to helping families and youth flourish in urban neighborhoods in the last 25 years means your donations will be used effectively with real outcomes for real people who need it and making us one of the best places to donate money to. If you looking for a local community based charity near you then we are an especially good choice when donating to charity.

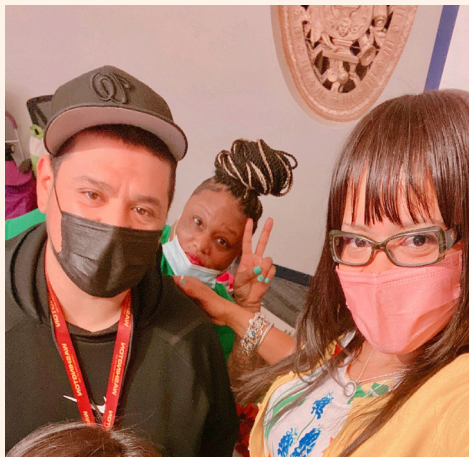


WHAT'S HOT AT CSC?



HOWARD UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL LUNCHEON & AWARDS

In honor of your support, help and commitment to the community, Collaborative Solutions for Communities gave a big thank you to Howard University Hospital, CEO Anita Jenkins and the Director of Community Relations, Cynthia C. Livingston. On May 13, 2021 we provided lunch to the Howard University hospital staff in recognition of National Hospital Week.



MOTHER'S DAY MOMMY & ME PAINT ACTIVITY

In honor of #MothersDay2021 the CSC hosted a Mommy & Me Paint Session for Wards 1 and 4!



NEED A VENUE? RENT OUR SPACE

Collaborative Solutions for Communities is now offering the Shirley Quick Room for rental. This space can be used for a variety of purposes such as Holiday Galas, Trainings, Organization Staff Meetings, Birthday Dinners, etc. Contact us today!

CALL US TODAY
202.518.6737

DONATE TO THE CSC AND SUPPORT OUR MISSION *HERE*

MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
VISIT WWW.WEARECSC.ORG



**We're
Hiring!**



APPLY NOW!



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