

SENECA STREET SENTINEL

SENECA STREET COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND
SENECA STREET CHURCH



In this Issue

Spring It On
New Enrichment
Page 2

Staff Development
New Young Adult Program
Page 3

Heart Smart Program
MSW Intern
Page 4

Church News
Page 5, 6

Announcements
Page 7

Hooper Foundation Helps Launch New Music Program

Thanks to the Hooper Foundation, Seneca Street CDC's teens have been granted the opportunity to learn guitar once a week. Lessons are taught by local professional Buffalo guitarist, Daniel Ross. The sound of music at the CDC has been a welcomed sharing of talents and creativity. The younger generation can't wait to start the program themselves.

In addition to guitar lessons, there is also a once a week Jam Band that is open to students who have musical skills beyond guitar.

Included in Jam Band are four Audio Engineering lessons hosted by a local Audio engineer, Chris Hayes. Each student adds their individual contributions to make a digitally mixed song.

The Guitar Group, Jam Band, and Audio Group will perform their songs on June 13th at 6pm.

Please come and support our young musicians!



See what we're up to on



@senecastreetcdc

Visit us online

Seneca Street UMC

senecastreet.org

Seneca Street CDC

senecastreetcdc.org

Spring It On

March 20th was an exciting day of stewardship in WNY! Spring It On is an annual fundraiser that raises money for non-profits in WNY with a 24 hour day of giving every March. This year the campaign helped 121 local non-profits by raising over \$131,000!



Seneca Street once again participated in the great give-a-thon. Our 2019 campaign goal was \$1,500 to purchase laptops for our newly college bound high school seniors. This technology is not easily obtainable for many families and is still the most expensive item students need for school. With the help of over 20 generous donors we exceeded our fundraising goal. Now we have the ability to provide our teens with the technology they need to succeed in college!

New Enrichment Activities

Our after-school program introduced two brand new enrichment activities this winter! The SSCDC staff is always on the hunt for meaningful activities to keep our participants engaged. We welcomed Mission Ignite to introduce our 3-5th graders and 6-8th grade girls to robotics! Their programs aim to enhance educational opportunities and enrich lives through technology, considering that sixty percent of America's jobs require technical skills. The mobile stem lab gives students computer access and technology training disguised in a fun interactive learning experience.

In addition to robotics we began DIY (Do It Yourself) projects on YouTube once a week. This quickly became a popular and engaging activity! With the help of our new smart T.V. the children are able to watch detailed instructional videos and take their creativity to a whole new level. This enrichment program has guided us through many incredible and complicated crafts. Just a few of our DIY's included handmade pendants, fingerless gloves, unicorn journals, melted crayon art, coin banks and finger puppets.

This spring we introduced healthy snack and dessert recipes the children themselves have been making for the entire building and of course we just kicked off a CDC favorite- Girls On the Run!



Staff Development

The staff at the CDC have recently completed social emotional learning curriculum to better meet the needs of our program participants. Recent research shows a direct connection between healthy social-emotional development and academic success. To better encourage youth potential in the Seneca Babcock neighborhood the staff aims to integrate social and emotional learning (SEL) into our program activities. SEL is an integral part of helping children to understand and manage their emotions, feel and show empathy for others, establish healthy relationships, set positive goals, and make responsible decisions.

At the end of March the CDC also attended the 2nd annual School-Age Leadership Summit-Trauma: Respecting Mindsets, Enhancing Programs hosted by the Child Care Resource Network. It was a special opportunity for the staff to gain specific professional development as leaders in the youth field. Both staff development opportunities provided tools and strategies to create a supportive environment and enhance our programming!

New Young Adult Program

Seneca Street is proud to announce that we have started a Young Adult Program for 21-35 year olds. So far, we have met three times. We have had a planning session, a meal prep session and a bowling fun night. We are planning on working on resumes and networking for our next session and are looking forward to working with our Young Adults to plan some more fun activities. Many of our participants have grown up in our after school program and have become a sort of surrogate family while in that program.

Our hope is that we can help them become that for one another again. One night a month we focus on career aspirations, whether that be getting a better job, going to college or trade school, getting a GED, or whatever else is needed to move them forward. The second night each month is a fun night, where everyone can bond and have a good time getting to know each other again. We truly appreciate the Paul and Helen Ellis Charitable Trust for funding this initiative, and look forward to continuing to grow this program.



"Heart Smart" Program Benefits Seneca Babcock Residents



A new program to help improve the health of Seneca Babcock residents began in February through a collaboration with Mercy Comprehensive Care Center (MCCC) and the Seneca Street CDC.

On the first two Mondays of each month, a nutritionist and social worker from MCCC come to Seneca Street Church to give a presentation on health related topics such as reducing your cholesterol, quitting smoking, healthy eating on a budget, chair exercise and nutrition. The presentation is followed by a healthy lunch prepared for the participants. We have been averaging between 15-25 participants at each presentation!

On April 4, our group went to the Mercy Care Center in the Old First Ward for "Foot Day!" The podiatrist at MCCC, Dr. Fitzgerald, gave a presentation during our healthy lunch on taking better care of your feet. Then each person had the opportunity to meet with the doctor for a foot exam. This was much appreciated by all who attended!

The Heart Smart Program will continue through June. We are grateful to MCCC for their collaboration, and to the Maria Love Convalescent Fund for providing the funding for this important health initiative.

A special letter from our MSW Intern Jamie Jackson



"At the start of my internship at the Seneca Street CDC I expected to grow as a social work professional and assist children in reaching their full potential, however what I didn't expect turned out to be even more meaningful. I didn't expect to be welcomed with such warmth and love by my coworkers and the children at the Seneca Street CDC, whom I now consider friends. I didn't expect to learn resilience and what true strength is through the children I serve here. I didn't expect to find such a positive sense of community within a neighborhood that is disenfranchised from healthy fruits and vegetables, affordable housing, and decent paying jobs. Throughout the course of my internship, I taught the Our Whole Lives curriculum, tutored children, evaluated the satisfaction of children within the program, and was there to help problem solve when a child needed assistance. However, what I will remember is the people I met, the love I felt, and the memories we shared. I believe I have learned as much from the Seneca Street CDC as they have learned from me, and I feel blessed to have been apart of this community for my first MSW internship."

Volunteers Needed for Reading Camp

Interested in volunteering and helping children and youth for two weeks this summer at our annual Reading Camp? We hope so!

Reading Camp will be celebrating its 21 st birthday this summer. Our wonderful friends from Duluth First UMC in Georgia will be joining us again for the first week of camp, but we still need help the first week and a lot more help the second week!

Reading Camp runs from Monday- Thursday, July 15-18th and Monday-Thursday, July 22-25th, from 9:30 am-12:30 pm.

This is a great opportunity to help our children maintain their reading levels during the long summer break, and also help them with sewing, cooking, science, crafts, writing and recreation.

If you are interested in volunteering, or want to learn more about Reading Camp, contact Cheryl Bird at cbird@senecastreetcdc.org, or call or text 716-491-2200.



Church News

Bible Chat is Happening

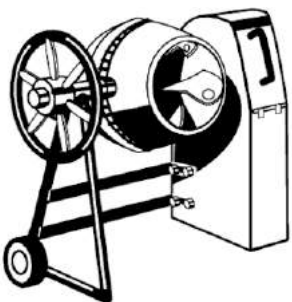
Over 30 people from the neighborhood have attended Tuesday Bible Chats. We explored Heaven and Hell with the help of Rob Bell. Now we are learning from the Bad Girls of the Bible. We have more men coming than women!



Job Corps and Cement Repairs

We are waiting to become an official training project through Jobs Corps to repair the masonry around the roof of the church building.

We need to provide the supplies required which will cost about \$2000. If you would like to support this project, please contact Pastor Dee.



HELP US SAVE THE GYM!



For all the years this church has been in ministry to the neighborhood, the gym is the most important room used by all ages. It is in use 6 days a week for 52 weeks a year. The afterschool program has suffered due to not having a place for the kids to run off steam after school since January. There is no gym to use until we can fix the problems.

On January 23 it rained and rained. The downstairs ended up with overflowing toilets and back flow all over. With that problem being worked on, the next day we looked in the gym window and saw 4" of water covering the entire beautiful wood floor. We discovered there was 2" of water under the floor.

To dry out the floor we hired Serv Pro for a month and the bill came to \$17,000 to save the floor. The Insurance company will pay this amount. Serv Pro suggested we open the side of the gym floor to help finish drying it out. The outside floor was cut 16 inches from the walls as prep for putting in drain tile. We discovered other issues with the backing up problem we have when it rains. After digging trenches there was still too much water coming into the gym. With the help of neighborhood manpower, we are almost ready to lay the drain tiles and move forward to restore the gym floor for use. We needed to pay the men from the neighborhood to work under the difficult conditions.

The cost for supplies and labor has been a challenge. The estimated cost is \$20,000 more for completion of the total job. This includes fixing the old plumbing problems inside and in the future digging the sewer outside. This also includes past and future equipment rentals, labor so far and what is needed to sand and refinish the floor.

You can send us a check written to Seneca Street UMC or give Pastor Dee a call at 585-330-2710 and we will come to chat at your church.

The Roof is Getting Closer

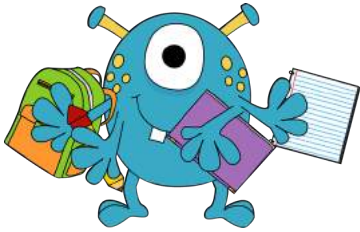
In the near future we will be getting a much needed roof donated by a local roofing company who is generously giving us a wonderful gift!

Contact Pastor Dee at 585-330-2710 if you need more info or want us to come and chat more about what is needed at Seneca Street Church and the ministry we provide in so many ways together.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!!!

Announcements

Tutor



Gap Volunteers Needed for After School May 6th- June 13th, 2019

Help students achieve academic success by helping them tackle homework assignments while fostering self-sufficiency and independent learning skills.

Who? K-12

When? Mon-Thurs 3:30-5:30 pm

Painting with a Purpose Fundraiser



When? Sunday May 19, 2019 from 1 pm-3 pm

Where? 1054 Union Rd. at The Southgate Plaza
West Seneca NY 14224

www.facebook.com/events/511497859380178/
\$35 per person

Music Performance



Come see our amazing teens hard work and dedication in action! Featuring songs from our guitar, jam band, and audio engineering groups.

When? Thursday June 13th, 2019 at 6 pm

Where? 1218 Seneca St Buffalo, NY 14210

Cruise for a Cause



Where? Sunday, July 14th 2019 from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

when? 359 Ganson St, Buffalo, NY 14203

www.facebook.com/events/316470839055488/
\$29.50 per person

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Beth at 716.939.3501
bewen@senecastreetcdc.org





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Electronic Service Requested



United Way of Buffalo & Erie County Donor Choice Program

5728- Seneca Street Community Development Corporation

Sponsor a Camper Pledge card

Seneca Street hosts free of charge summer programming. To make this possible the CDC provides snacks, staff, supplies, and enrichment activities along with field trip opportunities. It costs \$50,000/summer to serve 70 children. Please consider Sponsoring a Camper for Summer Camp 2019.

To support the work of the Seneca Street Community Development Corporation, I pledge to:

Sponsor a camper for

- Full Summer -\$700
- 1 Month - \$240
- 1 Week - \$60
- Bus Cost - \$400
- Tickets/Admission Field Trip -\$350
- Other Amount

Please make your donations to **Seneca Street CDC**

Mail to 1218 Seneca St, Buffalo, NY 14210