

ACAC International Welcome Center: Our GRACE Mission Story

Dr. Cathy Sigmund
ACAC International Welcome Center
cathyicare@aol.com

Allegheny Center Alliance Church (ACAC)

- Established in 1898 – Started as a branch of the C&MA missions gathering
- 3500-4000 adults consider ACAC home church
- Mission – Following Jesus in diverse community
 - 60% Caucasian, 30% African American, 10% Other
- 6 worship services
- 100+ Ministries & Programs

Northview Heights (NVH): Our Initial GRACE Mission Post

- NVH – Largest Public Housing Project in Pittsburgh, PA (1200- 1500 residents)
- History - Predominantly European American to African American to Mixed African peoples
- Current Status
 - Need
 - Services

Our Beginning: Northview Heights (NVH) Collaborative Outreach



Christmas Outreach at NVH Mission

One Outreach - Many Churches



Suburban Church Youth Mission Team



NVH – Community, City & County Collaborating

ACAC & District with

- Northside Christian Health Center
- City Reach Church/Network & Other Churches
- NVH Citizen Councils
- Somali Bantu Community Association
- City of Pittsburgh
- Allegheny County

HACP – Target/Reach Parents



Target & Reach Refugees

Somali-Bantu Community Needs

- Leadership
- Conflicts
- English as a Second Language/ESL
- Practical Needs
- Advocacy within the Courts
- Behavioral Health Evaluations
- Consultation with Community Development

NVH GRACE Refugee Community Cultural Counseling Groups



ACAC International Welcome Center

Northside Church Based Centralized
Refugee/Immigration Service Center

ACAC Refugee Services working within Community Models



ACAC Refugee Community Family Fun – Burundi



Refugee Community

Need for Other Professional Services

- Culturally Responsive Services
- Individual Evaluations – Citizenship Naturalization Exam Exemption
- Intercultural Social Groups
- Adding English as a Second Language
- Adding Other Class Settings

ACAC Refugee Community Family Fun – Valentine's Day



GRACE Mission - Professional Social Skills & Counseling



ACAC International Welcome Center

- Our GRACE Mission Core Services Continue
 - Counseling/Christian Counselors Collaborative (CCC)
 - Psychological Evaluations/CCC
 - Social Skills Groups & Clinical Case Management/CCC
 - Other Ministry & Services
 - Advocacy, Practical Support & Care
 - Chaplain Services & International Chapel
 - Partnered Services
 - English as a Second Language ESL/GPLC
 - ISAC Navigator Site & Services/NAMS
- *(Church hosts a Bhutanese Congregation)

ACAC International Welcome Center

- Training Partnerships
 - University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work
 - Geneva College
 - United African Communities
 - Burundi Community Association
 - MAYA – Pregnancy, Pre-natal, Early Childhood
- Other ACAC Affiliated Refugee Ministries
 - In the Steps of Boaz – Somali Bantu/NVH
 - Ambassador Soccer/UIF – Somali Bantu/NVH
 - Immigration Advocacy/Law Center