



Prince Joshua Avitto Community Center: Programming for youth, families and the community

A Commitment to East New York

Guided by our mission to go where youth and families face the greatest challenges, Good Shepherd Services' expanding work in East New York began in 2012 with the acquisition of Groundwork, a smaller youth development organization that approached Good Shepherd due to financial duress. This step led to us establishing a network of youth and family development programs in one of New York City's most severely under-resourced communities. Over the past five years, we have deepened our work in East New York by engaging larger numbers of participants, offering enhanced evidence-based programming, and broadening our array of programs to address unmet needs.

The Building

The new community center is a state-of-the-art, 19,500 square foot community center located at Linden Houses which will serve over 1,000 youth and families annually. Key aspects will include a college-sized gym, multi-purpose rooms, full kitchen, computer lab, sound booth and offices.

Planned Programming at the Community Center For Youth

Our programs for youth will include after-school and summer day programs; a sports and fitness based program, Saturday Night Lights; Next Steps, our mentoring program for adolescents and young adults who have been involved in the justice system; and Rebound, our career and college access program for young adults.

For Families and the Community

The center will be home to a Single Stop connecting families, including recent immigrants, with resources on public benefits, legal assistance, workshops and counseling. Our Home Again program will provide families transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing with services to ensure stability and to maximize each resident's ability to live independently. Finally, our Healthy Families program will offer intensive case-management to families utilizing the center.

A Partnership with the Community

Good Shepherd Services will operate the facility in partnership with Man Up, an East New York community-based organization. We are also working closely with the local tenant associations, faith-based groups, neighborhood schools and local NYPD precinct. Our goal is to create a safe space to engage youth, families and community members in a range of activities, thereby enhancing social capital, cohesion and efficacy.