



**Hamilton Township  
CYO/Bromley  
Neighborhood Center  
Annual Report - 2020**



This report summarizes the programs, events and activities that have taken place at the CYO Bromley Center during 2020. This center has played an essential role in improving the lives of men, women, children and organizations in Hamilton Township.

Office hours of operation-- Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm

Tom Mladenetz--CYO Executive Director

Pat Hardiman--Center Director

Asia Williams--Front Desk/ Office & Program Assistant

Tom Valyo--(Part time)--Teen Center Supervisor & Mentor/ Evening Security (Retired Police Officer)

Lisa Lewis, Michael James, Donna Valyo--(Part time)--Teen Center Mentors

ARC Employee--Building Maintenance--8:00am--5:00pm

**Food Pantry**

1. The distribution of no cost State & Federally funded and privately donated non-perishable & frozen food to needy, income-eligible families in the Township of Hamilton is provided through this program. Hamilton Township's Department of Public Works provides a monthly truck & trailer for the pick-up of food from the Southern Regional Food Distribution Center in Vineland, N.J. to both the CYO Bromley Neighborhood Center & the John O. Wilson Neighborhood Service Center. John Kilcoyne, a dedicated CYO volunteer, is a huge help with the monthly food deliveries and donated foods, sorting and organizing the foods.

We distribute monthly food packages to an average of **70-80** families per month.

A total of **198** families are registered for the food pantry, as compared to **150** last year. Due to the pandemic and related job losses, the demand for assistance from the food pantry was the greatest we have ever seen.

Month	Adults		Children	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
January	109	109	55	60
February	91	91	46	72
March	133	96	74	65
April	190	112	120	53
May	194	111	122	54
June	196	99	125	43
July	219	124	141	77
August	227	116	147	52
September	224	91	160	63
October	275	102	182	20
November	302	143	210	61
December	304	160	214	76
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,484</b>	<b>1,354</b>	<b>1,596</b>	<b>959</b>

Distribution days and hours for the Food Pantry are: **Tuesdays & Thursdays & the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. 9:30 - 11:30 am & 2:30-3:30 pm.** (If needed, residents can make an appointment to pick up food in the evenings 6:30-8:30 pm from Tom Valyo of the Teen Center). Emergency distribution is made for individuals who may live outside of our area if a referral is made through a social service agency.

The Southern Regional Distribution Center, in Vineland, NJ, is our primary source of food for our food pantry. Additionally, we receive food and monetary donations from local schools, churches, civic organizations and individuals including:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Wal-Mart                                   | Albertsons                              |
| Crockett Middle School                     | Kiddie Academy-Hamilton                 |
| Mercerville & Greenwood Elementary Schools | St. Mark's United Methodist Church      |
| Hamilton Township Recreation Department    | WaWa                                    |
| Traditions at Hamilton Crossings           | St. Vincent DePaul Church, Yardville    |
| Nottingham High School                     | Hamilton Senior Center                  |
| Community Foundation of New Jersey         | Princeton Area Community Foundation     |
| Shop Hamilton                              | The United Way of Greater Mercer County |

## 2. Teen Center

Our Teen Center, which opened in the summer of 2005, continues with 9 to 13 yr. old "pre-teens" & 14-17 yr. old teens, who utilize the center's video games, with the Xbox, PS3, Xbox One & PS4 consoles. We also have a pool table, ping pong table, foosball table, basketball shoot game & air hockey table, along with various board games. Our average daily attendance is **20--25 teens**. Additionally a healthy eating program was offered through a grant from Community Foundation of New Jersey and a yoga and mindfulness class provided by Sheltered Yoga.

The Teen Center is designed to provide local youths with educational, recreational and social activities & has become a "safe haven" for Bromley Neighborhood youth.

2020 Monthly Teen Center Attendance

Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
232	236	92	COVID	COVID	COVID	0	0	153	152	103	125	1,093
						2019						
Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
185	208	165	300	180	241	0	0	332	202	217	105	2,135

## 3. Computer Room Access/Computer Classes

Hamilton residents have access to our computer room from 9:00 am until 3:15 pm. The computer room contains 16 computers, a networked printer and continues to be available for both adults and students. Uses include job searches, on-line applications, career searches, e-mail checks, researching school projects or business topics and word processing. The usage numbers are an average, as many residents make multiple visits.

**2020 Monthly Computer Lab Usage**

Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
15	13	4	COVID	COVID	COVID	COVID	COVID	3	5	6	10	74
						2019						
Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
17	10	11	16	21	5	13	9	17	24	21	20	181

**4. Copy, Fax & Notary Service/Job Posting**

Residents continue to use our copier and faxing services free of charge. In addition they are able to get documents notarized at no cost, and view our current list of local job openings.

**5. Gateway Head Start**

The Center continues to maintain and support the Head Start program which consists of two classrooms with 26--3 & 4 yr. old children. The program uses our kitchen facilities for daily breakfast and lunches. They also use the rear playground. Gateway continues to utilize the social hall and computer room for staff in-service training, local and regional meetings and learning activities. The Gateway Head Start rental payments are made directly to Hamilton Township.

**6. Mentoring Program**

Toshua Turner & Sonia Williams have continued with the girls mentoring program called R.O.Y.A.L. Mentoring. (Reaching Out to our Young A amazing Ladies). They have weekly Wednesday night meetings in our computer room (during teen center hours) with 25-30 teen girls in weekly attendance. They do crafts and other projects and the program continues to grow. The objective of this program is to help mold young girls into mature, inspired, successful young women. Their group volunteered during our Halloween parade Thanksgiving Food Giveaway and also our annual Children's Christmas present distribution. The CYO has provided financial assistance toward enhancing this mentoring program.

**7. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute**

Our annual tribute to Dr. King was again held at the Faith Baptist Church on Kuser Road on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Over 150 people attended, with guest speakers and refreshments. The event is co-sponsored by the Township of Hamilton, CYO Bromley Center and J.O. Wilson Neighborhood Center. One student from Hamilton High-West and one from Nottingham received Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Scholarships. Each scholarship recipient received \$500. James Stevenson received the Dr. King Spirit of Community Service Award!

## **8. Summer Free Lunch Program**

The Center was again a feeding site for the Summer Food Service Program through the N.J. Department of Agriculture. Mercer Street Friends was our sponsor for this program. Lunch was provided for **30** children from the Bromley neighborhood, Monday – Friday for 59 days. Karson Foods was the vendor that provided the meals. Mercer Street Friends provided weekend food packs for the children on Fridays.

## **9. Farm To Family Program**

For 16 weeks from July 9 to October 22 the CYO Bromley Center partnered with RWJ Barnabas and Snipes Farm to distribute fresh fruits and vegetables to 30 families and also provided healthy eating and drinking education. The program addressed food insecurity at a much needed time.

## **10. Halloween Parade and Party**

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual CYO Halloween parade and party was held on October 29<sup>th</sup>. 75 local children walked the parade route and then came back to the center for grab and go candy and pizza.

## **11. "Giving Back to the Community – Thanksgiving Food Giveaway"**

Our 18<sup>th</sup> annual Thanksgiving Food Giveaway distributed food to over 80 people and was held on Monday, November 23<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-4:00 pm. We were able to feed local men, women, and children. This event continues to be one of our largest yearly events with **80** turkeys, gift cards, and food baskets distributed to Food Pantry clients! This event was sponsored by DiPaola Turkey farm, the Hamilton Senior Center, the CYO, and many other donors.

## **12. Fall Food Festival**

The CYO, in partnership with United Way of Greater Mercer County provided a Fall Food Festival to all Food Pantry clients on Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. The festival included free lunch from a food truck, an additional monthly box of food, and a food store gift card. 75 Food Pantry clients attended!

## **13. "Giving Back to the Community – Children's Christmas Celebration"**

Our 18<sup>th</sup> annual Children's Christmas Celebration was held on Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 4:30pm – 6:30 pm at the Bromley Center for grab and go presents and food. Over **100** income-eligible children & parents attended! Toys were donated by St. Gregory the Great Church!

In a "normal" year the CYO offers so much more to the Bromley Neighborhood Center. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 we canceled many events and programs including: Social Hall usage, health services, Easter Egg Hunt, Clean-up Day, Summer Camp and Back to School cookout. Many events we did host were also altered for safety reasons. We hope to get back to a full year of programming in 2021!

Through a \$25,000 CDGB grant the CYO was able to make several upgrades to the center including: a new fence, freezer and refrigerator unit upgrades, purchase of 35 chrome books for residents, program members, and remote learners along with purchase of thousands of dollars of food and gift cards for our food pantry!



Annual Halloween Parade



New Bromley Center fence through CDBG grant



Fall Food Festival ready to go!



CYO Bromley Center



Census 2020 with food giveaway



R.O.Y.A.L. Mentoring



Teen Center

