

News & Notes

HFC Launches New Website

In February, HFC launched its newly designed website. Our new site has updated information and features about HFC's Board of Directors, Leadership Team, services; calendars and events; a services summary page featured in Español and more! If you haven't taken a moment to check it out, please do so by clicking [HERE!](#)

HFC on Social Media



Connect with us. "Like" us. Follow us.

Find out news, event information and more by engaging with us on social media!



Being and Cultivating Civic Engagement!

In January, HFC staff kicked off 2014 with its Annual Staff Retreat, which was held at Rutgers University Student Center in Camden. The focus: civic engagement. Facilitating the discussion was David Matos, of The Matos Group. The goal for the day was to enhance our knowledge and skills in order to promote successful civic engagement in the community within which we work, but also within the lives of HFC staff.

How do we promote civic engagement? By further empowering individuals to take action on things that interest and impact them. There is issue engagement (ie: voting, attending, participating, leading); and personal engagement, specific to a particular situation or experience in one's life (ie: school board decisions). Opportunities abound around us for civic engagement!

During breakout sessions, HFC staff developed departmental goals to integrate civic engagement into their own work. Some of those goals included: ongoing voter education and registration days; cultivating a sense of community and identifying leaders within those groups (ie: engagement through Parent Advisory Boards, ESL/Civics classes and Recovery groups - where people's voices are heard, where they can connect with one another); and further educating the community on how they too can become advocates.



One of the things that resonated among the dialogue and exchange is that we must first educate, second empower, and third move the community to action and participation. **Awareness + Community Action** can lead to **CHANGE!**

Stay tuned for more updates on HFC's Civic Engagement successes!

HFC offers FREE Weatherization Assistance - to keep more GREEN \$ in your hands!

In 2013, HFC became the tri-county weatherization assistance provider - to income eligible residents of Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem Counties. The Weatherization Assistance Program, commonly referred to as WAP, is a federally funded program designed to provide energy efficiency retrofits to weatherize homes, improve or replace heating systems in order to improve efficiency and conserve energy - to further help reduce utility costs to homeowners. Potential measures could include items such as: wall/attic insulation; weather stripping; refrigerator replacement; window repair; caulking AND MORE!

This free service has the potential to save homeowners hundreds of dollars a year on their energy bills. For more information or to obtain an application for Energy Assistance, please visit or call our Woodbury office at: (856) 848-7150.



****Would you like to know more? Want to share this important information with your customers and clients? Please contact Dawn Moody, Assistant Program Director for more information on scheduling a presentation.***

Executive Director Elsa Candelario Honored

In February, SJ Biz featured Elsa Candelario as one of their 2014 "Women to Watch." Twenty-five women topped the list as "extraordinary" for their mark on South Jersey. The honorees came from diverse backgrounds including leading healthcare, advocates, business entrepreneurs, among other fields. SJ Biz writer Alica DiFabio said it quite eloquently when she wrote the Women to Watch are "inspirational forces who have broken through the glass ceiling without forgetting to hold the door open for others to follow." A digital copy of the 2014 Women to Watch article can be accessed online at: [HERE](#), pg. 25.

On March 29th, Elsa Candelario received a second honor when she was recognized as one of Camden's "Women of Purpose" by Mayor Dana Redd at the 4th Annual Women's History Month Ladies Tea. The event celebrated women who have made and continue to make a positive impact in City of Camden, throughout Camden County and beyond.

Congratulations Elsa!

To access Elsa Candelario's full bio, visit HFC's website by clicking [HERE](#).

Free Tax Prep: We CAN! and we did!

HFC is a proud partner of the Camden Asset Network (CAN) - a coalition of non-profit community organizations throughout Camden who are committed to increasing the financial stability of the community within which we serve. VITA offers low-income individuals and families the ability to file their taxes for free, claim tax credits they are eligible to receive, while increasing financial literacy. This free service saves people hundreds of dollars on the fees often charged by commercial preparers.

The IRS estimates that one in five eligible households do not claim the Earned Income Tax Credit- worth up to \$5,891 - simply because they are not aware they are eligible or do not file their taxes. In Camden City, 90 percent of the population qualifies for

free tax preparation, however only 2% actually take advantage of the service.

HFC's Camden Family Success Center served as a mobile Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site, through collaboration with Pathways PA - bringing free tax preparation to families and individuals making less than \$52,000 a year. **Seventy-eight** people **participated** in the program this year at our site! We continue to work with our partners to spread the word on this valuable service that can put well deserved money back into the hands of our community.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who made this possible!

Helping the Children of Camden Breathe a Little Easier!

HFC's innovative Pediatric Asthma Prevention Program continues to make a difference in the lives of Camden children who suffer from chronic asthma through partnerships with the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey and the Office of Minority and Multicultural Health, under the NJ Department of Health.

There are an estimated 10,732 cases of pediatric asthma within Camden County according to the 2013 State of Air; and Emergency Department visits among blacks is 4.7 times higher as compared to whites, and 1.5 times higher among Hispanics than non-Hispanics.[1] Asthma is one of many health disparities facing residents of Camden.

HFC's innovative intervention has produced a decade worth of meaningful and measurable results in reducing Emergency Department visits by 50% and improving school and childcare attendance by nearly 40% among case management clients. The intervention model follows the "guide" of the CDC's "Asthma Home-based multi-trigger, multi-component intervention" and incorporates culturally appropriate outreach, prevention education workshops and home based case management services. According to the [Community Preventive Services Task Force](#), these types of home-based interventions, "provide good value" for every dollar invested in them.[2]

[1] New Jersey Department of Human Services (2010). Addressing Asthma In New Jersey Fact Sheet. Retrieved from

http://www.nj.gov/health/fhs/asthma/documents/aaep_summary.pdf

[2]The Guide to Community Preventive Services.(2011). Community Guide News.Retrieved from <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/news/2011/AsthmaReview.html>.

ESL/Civics Students Visit the National Constitution Center



On Thursday, April 10th nearly 40 students from HFC's English as a Second Language (ESL) and Civics classes crossed the Delaware River on a beautiful spring morning to visit the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. While there students were able to experience interactive exhibitions and multimedia productions, immerse themselves in the story of "We the People," and wander among the iconic bronze statues of our Founding Fathers.

HFC is one of several partners in the Camden County Adult Basic Skills Consortium. HFC's ESL/Civics program hosts ongoing cycles scheduled throughout the year which run for 8 weeks. Classes are offered from 9am-12 Noon or 5-8pm Monday-Thursday. For more information call (856) 964-4692 and ask for Brenda.

THE HEROIN EPIDEMIC

There is no shortage of headlines and new stories on heroin these days. A quick Google search on "heroin in NJ" will reveal a slew of articles on recent stories of overdoses, arrests, deaths and more that have resulted from heroin. Here are a few of the top returns:

- *Super-Strong Heroin Causing Wave of Overdoses in Camden, Police Say* (March 12, 2014)
- *6 in Camden indicted on heroin mill, distribution charges* (March 21, 2014)
- *Trenton man arrest on heroin, weapons charges* (April 19, 2014)
- *N.J. heroin crisis: Christie discusses new tool in battle against overdoses* (April 2, 2014)
- *More Than 300 Heroin Bricks, Guns, Cash, Seized in New Jersey Drug Bust* (April 3, 2014)
- *21 indicted following central New Jersey heroin raid* (April 4, 2014)
- *Prosecutor on heroin: 'We have a fire here, and it needs to stop spreading'* (April 7, 2014)

The epidemic facing New Jersey is no different than that facing the rest of the nation. Consider the following:

In 2012 about 669,000 Americans reported using heroin in the past year,¹ a number that has been on the rise since 2007 (NSDUH).

"We now live in a state where abuse of prescription pills serves increasingly as a primary route to the unlawful world of heroin..." (State of New Jersey Commission of Investigation - [Scenes From An Epidemic](#), 2013).

In New Jersey, of the 8,300 residents were admitted to drug treatment for an opiate addiction in 2012, more than 40% were younger than 25 ([GCADA Report](#), 2014).

In February 2014, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and the Task Force on Heroin and Other Opiate Use by New Jersey's Youth and Young Adults released a report on Confronting New Jersey's Drug Problem. The report outlined several strategies that aim to address these issues, which include: reforms of the State's Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) to mandate participation, rather than making it optional; enhancing access to appropriate treatment; increasing public awareness; coordination among schools and colleges (to potentially include peer programs, recovery schools); as well as establish best practices and enhanced collaboration among those prescribing prescription pain killers and other drugs shown to have high rates of abuse. These recommendations and any forthcoming changes will take time to implement. But no matter what, the dialogue and efforts to address this epidemic must continue.

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On May 19th, Hispanic Family Center will participate in the Summit being hosted by the Camden County Department of Health and Human Services that focuses on the heroin epidemic spreading across the region. The event will be held at the Scottish Rite Auditorium from 5:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. Additional information will be posted on HFC's website.

HFC - Capacity Enhancement

In 2012, HFC was awarded a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)

through its New Jersey Health Initiatives program for Capacity Enhancement. HFC's capacity enhancement strategy was a multi-pronged approach which included two technological components: the implementation of an Electronic Client Record (ECR) and implementation of a human resource management information system.

HFC selected CORE's Cx360 for its Electronic Client Record (ECR), which is in the final stages of implementation. The ECR will allow for centralized intake, with an improved ability to more effectively manage programs and provide services to consumers; track and evaluate results; and streamline operations - while ensuring HIPPA compliance with the HITECH Act. In the coming weeks we will begin intensive staff training and our system will begin to transfer over to a completely electronic system.

A second component HFC's capacity enhancement strategy included the implementation of an electronic human resource management information system. No matter how large or small the operation, human resources is a critical component to an organization's business. HFC will begin the implementation of this process with a new platform delivered by ADP which will allow for business efficiencies (including online performance evaluations, benefit tracking, vacation/sick/personal time accruals, and more!)



Upcoming Events

**Click the event for more details.*

- Friday, May 9
 - [HFC's Annual Job Fair](#)
 - Location: 35-47 S. 29th Street, Camden NJ
- Friday, June 13
 - [Annual Health Fair & Community Fun Day](#)
 - Location: 29th Street between Federal & Carmen Streets

Stay Connected



Administrative Offices

35-47 S. 29th St., Camden, NJ · 856.541.6985

Family Resource Center & Health Education

35-47 S. 29th St., Camden, NJ · 856.964.4692
2850 Federal St., Camden, NJ · 856.963.0270

Family Counseling Clinic & Energy Assistance (Camden)

2700 Westfield Ave., Camden, NJ · 856.365.7393

Camden Family Success Center

2850 Federal St., Camden, NJ · 856.963.0270

Energy Assistance Program & Woodbury Family Success Center

The Carriage House, 21 Delaware St., Woodbury, NJ · 856.848.7150