



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF IMMIGRANTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

- **YMCA of York and York County**
- **New American Welcome Center**
- **In 2018, our NAWC provided direct and referral services to our newcomers, displaced families, receiving communities and individuals from Puerto Rico's Hurricane Maria.**

Our YMCA worked with Diakon Disaster relief to help more than 85 families and individuals with immediate needs to include direct and referral services offered by YMCA and local partner agencies. The monies donated for helping with deposits and 1st month rent to place displaced families in immediate housing, waving deposit fees for utilities was available for families. Through Diakon grant, we were able to hire two part time staff to work with Hurricane Maria survivors but not specific to this work only, so having these extra helping hands has created a safe space for clients and their families and has given the NAWC the ability to be in multiple places. While the reporting aspect of grants is tedious, this has given us a better opportunity to serve everyone who comes through our door. Jessica and Lydia have been a great addition to our community development team and the NAWC. The community and clients have been grateful for our help while also continuing to praise the help received through NAWC and YMCA.

Direct Services at the Y's New American Welcome Center

The NAWC works with individuals and families to write resumes and find local good paying jobs with skills that our needed in the local growing economy. We also collaborated with the Literacy council to help with language barriers and referrals provided for ESL, WellSpan translation department and language line has been another resource. We have been collaborating with BB&T to make financial learning classes available in Basic Banking, Family Budgeting, pre-qualification for home buying; we offer child watch for all who attend class to ensure everyone can attend with no barriers. These types of classes are critical for newcomers and receiving communities alike with the high concentration of poverty in York.

While collaborating with the York College of Pennsylvania, we have been able to provide basic computer knowledge to some of our newcomers and residents in YMCA housing. Create a partnership and with volunteer students needing community service hours. We currently opened another site at the George Street Commons to make a computer lab available where residents and NAWC clients can access computer-learning skills needed for basic internet searches for jobs and resources on line and create resumes with the help of one of my staff members or volunteers. We have started the Walking Together Program in partnership with the Mennonite Church of Lancaster and PIRC (Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center) to visit the 700-800 detainees in York County Detention Center. Since November of 2018 when visitations were started, 188 visits to individuals from various countries have been made. The visitation program has been put together to help detainees cope with



First Latino Health Summit York Pa
Delma Rivera Lytle, Teresa Rodriguez



"Hurricane Maria Survivor herself Jessica Morales Flores is working as case manager for the NAWC. Her passion for this cause is not measurable, When you live it you understand the cause".

the fact that they are in a situation where it could take months or years for a decision on their disposition, most of the detainees are hoping for asylum but if denied will be glad to return to their country of origin. I have personally visited eight individuals and have heard their stories of getting pick up by ICE and not knowing what is going to happen with their case. So having someone to share their story with, helps keep them from depression knowing there are people outside of detention centers who care about their welfare and mental state. We received grant through the Cultural Alliance to have several Community bridge building events at the Appell Center for Performing Arts, bringing together cultures through arts, music, food and dialog. To help introduce the different communities to each other with a purpose and create one York for all. **(World Comes to York)**

The NAWC focuses on providing our newcomers with affordable housing, childcare, Health and wellness, Translation, Resume building and employment services. The services is provided in a holistic process to ensure that issues are identified and families get the best service we can provide to help them out of the immediate situation that's keeping them from improving their life. We have started the follow up process with families served in first year of program; most families have had great success and moved on with their lives and others continue to need services which we help them navigate system.



LYDIA CASE MANAGER IN HOUSING DEPARTMENT- ENTHUSIASTIC IN CREATING RELATIONSHIPS AND HELPING INDIVIDUALS IN NEED.

This has been a great year for the program; sustainability is still a focus with grants from United Way with 3-year plan, raising money through the **Give Local York** campaign and other partners in community. As the Director of the NAWC, I have received several awards: Downtown INC most outstanding individual, Martin Luther King Image award as well as being featured as an individual and NAWC program director in various publications.

This year could not have been possible without the support of our YMCA CEO Larry Richardson, Community Development Director Craig Wolf and the rest of the YMCA staff that has shown their commitment to serving the York community and its diversity. I could not have join a better team of individuals that have created an organizational culture where everyone is welcome.

Serving York County Immigrants (2019 Year to date)

Individuals reached through community Bridge Building Activities **7,726**

Individuals served **320**

Number of Countries **18**

We Provide services throughout York County for all!

Bob Hoffman (Dover) Branch

Eastern Branch YMCA

Southern Branch YMCA
