

goodwill

A VOLUNTARY PROGRAM

The Waverly Family Center provides free programs to expectant parents and parents with children ages birth to 3 years. Children and parents attend the center together and families are eligible for any of the following services:

- Adult literacy: ABE/GED
- Computer skills training
- Developmental childcare
- Health education
- In-home counseling services
- Job readiness & Job placement
- Parenting classes
- Intervention services
- Support Service Coordination
- Peer support groups
- Transportation to the Center
- Reading Is Fundamental Program

For more information on the Waverly Family Center's programs and eligibility requirements, please contact a counselor at 410-235-0555.



THE WAVERLY FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER is part of the Friends of the Family network and provides community-based support, education, employment and family support services to strengthen families. The programs are voluntary and parents participate as partners in the working relationship. Each family has access to health, education, employment, housing, and mental health information.

Since its inception the Center has served over 2,900 adults and 3,600 children, and works in collaboration with over 25 partners in the community.

Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake is a workforce development agency and network of businesses whose mission is to provide career development, employment, and related social services to assist people with special needs to enjoy the dignity and benefits of work and a better quality of life.

Waverly Family Support Center

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Goodwill Headquarters

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The Waverly Family Support Center provides a safe environment where at-risk parents and children can learn, grow and achieve together.

Waverly Family Support Center

good-will (gōd'wīl') *n.* 1. An attitude of kindness or friendliness; benevolence. 2. Cheerfulness or willingness. 3. A good relationship, association, or friendship.



The Waverly neighborhood is located in Northeast Baltimore, and is home to startling statistics:

85% of the families are headed by a single female parent; 90% have not completed high school and do not have a GED; 95% are unemployed, underemployed or receive welfare or other social services.

In 1999 Goodwill, in partnership with Friends of the Family began, to confront these problems by agreeing to operate the Waverly Family Support Center.



FAMILY SUPPORT.

The Waverly Family Support Center offers stable support systems in which parents and children have a comfortable environment to learn and develop career and

parenting skills. Serving parents with young children from birth to 47 months, the center's objective is to interrupt the cycle of poverty among families, provide support and counseling services, and links to other needed resources in the community. Most importantly, the Waverly Family Support Center empowers young parents to complete their education, develop career plans, decide whether to attend college, and acquire employment to help them achieve self-sufficiency.

Goodwill's Waverly Family Support Center is dedicated to helping people gain employment as it fosters a sense of dignity and pride and allows participants to become independent so that they may take care of themselves and their families.

PROBLEMS CONFRONTED. The main objective of the center is to address the issues of teen pregnancies and unstable families, a lack of parenting and health education services in the community, a lack of basic education, job skills, as well as a lack of knowledge of support services among single, disadvantaged parents and their families. The Center also addresses the social issue that many traditional family supports are not in place, and that gaining access to services may be difficult because of fragmented delivery systems, confusing paperwork, and intimidating procedures.

A COMMUNITY SOLUTION. To achieve the goal of strengthening families, the Waverly Family Center actively works with more than 25 partners in the community to coordinate services. Partnerships include: Union Memorial Hospital, Johns Hopkins University, Better Waverly Community Organization, Barclay/Waverly School, Center for Poverty Solutions, Waverly Enoch Pratt Library, House of Ruth, Baltimore City Housing Authority, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Habitat for Humanity, and Coppin State/Sojourner Douglas Colleges. The Instructors also give parenting classes at the Women's Pre-Release Center and the Marion House (transitional house for substance abusers); many are referred to the Waverly Family Support Center upon release.



GETTING STARTED. When a participant comes to the Center, he or she meets with a Goodwill case manager, who works with the participant to devise a family-strengthening plan. The plan outlines each participant's goals and needed services. The next step is completion of a series of assessments conducted by the Job Readiness Counselor and the GED instructor. Based on the results of the assessments, employment and educational plans are developed and combined with the holistic work/life plan. Transportation services, if needed, are also coordinated.

A Child Development Staff member conducts an assessment of the child(ren) to identify any developmental delays that the child(ren) may have.

The first day of activities for participants includes a parent and child activity at the Center. This activity is designed to foster parent/child bonding and peer relationship-building.

Once the child is settled in, the participant receives three hours of adult literacy instruction. On alternate days, participants receive job readiness, parenting classes, and health education. Other services are provided through the Center's collaborations.

While participants are in class, children engage in a variety of activities designed to stimulate their gross/fine motor, cognitive, language, creative, and social emotional development. Parents and children unite again to do feeding and diaper changing during a break. To further strengthen the family unit, the center provides a variety of leisure activities.

ill (gōōd'wīl') n. 1. An a
llness; benevolence. 2. C
gness. 3. A good relation