



Enlace

Strategic Plan
2010 - 2013

[History]

- In 1994, the State Dept. of Children and Families , invited proposals with the goal of preventing child abuse, by encouraging providers to collaborate and involve parents. Grant goals included encouraging networking and dialogue among providers. . This network resulted in the hiring a paid consultant to develop an “enlace” (meaning “network” in Spanish) of providers.

[History]

- By 1999 Enlace had become a 501c 3 tax exempt organization. The initial goal of serving as a coalition to build bridges between the MA. Department of Social Services, non-profit providers, and community residents evolved. Enlace became a provider of direct services with a focus on strengthening families (though still with a focus of strengthening families by focusing on prevention of abuse) .

[History]

- In the early 2000s, with an expanded human capital of 13 staff, 14 volunteers and a budget of \$500,000, a diversity of programs such as Education and human services. At its Family Center it provided an Early Education Child Care Center, a Fathers group, Parents Group and Children's playgroup, information and referral, leadership development and community organizing. Enlace also served as a catalyst and incubator for the establishment of the Holyoke Community Charter School which later became its own separate entity.

[History]

Today *Enlace's* **Family Center** continues to focus on strengthening families through programs such as

Nurturing Fathers,
Parents Group,
Children's Learn & Playgroup
Information and Referral services
Advocacy

Its **Community Organization Program** seeks to ensure 100% graduation rates from high school.

Enlace thru its Holyoke Unites efforts aims to build partnership among providers and community residents

[Values]

Values regarding the **target populations served:**

- All people regardless of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status deserve access to sustainable healthy lives
- Residents have the power, energy, expertise and vision to make change that impacts their lives and the lives of their children
- Community organizing to provide tools to advocate and organize what they already know and feel for themselves
- All children have right to excellent schools, healthy families and safe neighborhoods
- Healthy Community & Strong Healthy families
- Commitment to respect community empowerment to advance social justice

Values regarding **the organization staff and directors:**

- Integrity, Transparency and Accountability

[Target Population]

- Children
- Families
Fathers
- Parents /Guardians/Caregivers

[Mission]

- Founded in 1994, **Enlace** improves the quality of life of children, youth and families in Holyoke. We do this through *parent education* and *community organizing*. Our signature programs include The **Family Center** provides parent education training and support, to fathers, parents and children, and the **Community Organizing** Program provides leadership development to residents with a focus on civic engagement tools to advocate for 100% graduation rates.

Programs - The Family Center

The Family Center,

housed in the middle of the downtown Main Street, provides families easy access.

The Family Center programs currently includes a

- ❖ Nurturing Fathers Program
 - ❖ Parents Group
 - ❖ Learn & Play group
- Information and Referral Services

Through its *Information and Referral* program, Enlace acts as a link among service providers in Holyoke, with the aim to better coordinate citywide services allowing more community residents to easily receive the information and access the resources they need.

Programs- *The Family Center*

Moving Forward: We will integrate each of the programs within the *Family Center*, creating a 'conveyor belt (lifelong connection) to services To do this we will specifically:

- Integrate the *Fathers, Parents and Playgroup* Programs
- Grow the Fathers program
- Provide one on one support to individual parents
- Grow and integrate the *Playgroups* within the fathers and Parenting Programs
- *Collaborate* with higher education institutions to strengthen each of the programs' impact
- Continue and strengthen ongoing *evaluation* for each program .

Programs – *Community Organizing*

We develop the

Capacity Building Leadership Development of residents in the community by organizing, informing, educating, and training them on how to affect and maneuver the maze of existing and proposed local, state, and national laws and policy with a focus on our children's 100% graduation rates from high school

Programs - *Community organizing*

Moving forward we will

- Build parent capacity
- Focus on civic engagement
- Create and implement community plans to impact graduation rates

Programs - *Holyoke Unites*

In the past, the goals of *Holyoke Unites* was to build a bridge between providers, institutions and residents, coordinate community wide efforts where community service providers and residents will work together for the well being of families and children; provide services to families both directly and indirectly that will impact the well being of their children in a positive manner to include 100% Graduation Rate

Programs - *Holyoke Unites*

Moving Forward: We will

- Continue to provide services to families indirectly by maintaining and updating a website with information of resources available.
- coordinate community wide efforts when possible where community service providers and residents will work together, *until the parents lead the effort on 100 graduation rates.*

Vision

As to the people we serve:

- Parents are parenting effectively
- Downtown Holyoke , is filled with productive families, a clean environment and safety and education
- 100% graduation from high school in the Flats and other neighborhoods
- Family Center serves as a hub for community involvement and advocacy*Excellent programming provides tools to ensure that families lead the change, and build on their abilities to care for and be fully engaged with their children.

[Vision]

As to our organization:

- Agency fully staffed, diversely and fully funded team, provides effective services to the community holding itself and others accountable;
- Diverse Board