

ALL ABOUT UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS of Northeastern Pennsylvania



Whether it's the tiniest child, the teenager at risk, the single parent or a family just struggling to remain a family in the best sense of the word, United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania is about helping *real people* - in the *real world*.

UNC is a voluntary, non-profit organization dedicated to assessing and meeting the needs of low-income families, youth and senior citizens in Northeast Pennsylvania, providing people with the tools needed to integrate into the community and attain self-sufficiency.

For over 84 years, UNC has continued to embrace its mission: to work together with neighbors to provide services and create opportunities which empower individuals and build strong interdependent communities.

HISTORY

United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania is a private, not-for-profit agency that offers direct and general advocacy services in Northeast Pennsylvania. The agency's beginnings date back to 1923 when a small settlement house was opened in central city Scranton along with a center in the Bellevue area of Scranton. Like other settlement houses, the centers were located in poor neighborhoods where problems were severe and help most needed. In 1970, these two independent centers joined to form United Neighborhood Services, later renamed United Neighborhood Centers of Lackawanna County. UNC's childcare programs began in the early 1970's to provide childcare services for working parents. In 1977, the senior center programs were added. In the 1980's the childcare program was expanded to include a new center location in Green Ridge. In 2007, United Neighborhood Centers of Lackawanna County officially changed its name to United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania to better represent the six counties it serves.

UNC serves primarily low-income families through a network of neighborhood centers: Progressive Center, Bellevue Center, Green Ridge Childcare Center, Community Services Center, South Side Senior Center, West Side Senior Center, Mid Valley Senior Center, Carbondale Senior Center, Cabrini Apartments and Project Hope Summer Camp. Through these locations, UNC offers a broad range of social, recreational, nutritional, and educational programs for children, teens, families and older adults. Crisis intervention, direct aid and general advocacy services are available to those most in need. UNC continues to embrace the settlement house vision to aid in the solution of problems at the neighborhood level. UNC helps residents of all ages and backgrounds build responsible citizens and achieve self-sufficiency.