
UPLIFTING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH PLANTING SEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

OVERVIEW

CHURCH OF CHRIST IN SANDTOWN

Serving the Community of West Baltimore MD

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Planting Seeds in the Community

Overview of Community Programming

The Church of Christ in Sandtown (SWCOC) is a 501(c)3 federally tax-exempt organization committed to a holistic ministry of community outreach and spiritual and social change. To do this, SWCOC creates opportunities to reach the broader community through personal and benevolent services, training, lectures, workshops, interpersonal communication, and virtual outreach. ***To continue this work, SWCOC needs support in the form of capital, program, or in-kind donations.***



Community Health and Resource Fair, 2017

Since 2015, in the wake of civil unrest and rioting following the death of Freddy Gray, SWCOC has been performing outreach in the Sandtown-Winchester and Harlem Park communities of West Baltimore, to fulfill the needs of the community, to fill the void and address the many areas that have left the citizens feeling neglected and abandoned by civic leadership.

The Community We Serve

Over the years, the communities of Sandtown-Winchester and Harlem Park have experienced extreme poverty, economic depression, high addiction rates, and high rates of joblessness and crime. To meet the needs of these communities, the SWCOC has stood in the gap to deliver services and provide much-needed support.

The health profile of Sandtown-Winchester residents places among the worst in the city. According to the Baltimore City 2017 Neighborhood Health Profile, in addition to an unemployment rate of 22.7%, 4.9% of children having elevated lead levels in their blood, and 47.6% of children living below the poverty line, the top 2 health risks are heart disease and cancer. The 2017 the Baltimore City Health Department reported that in Sandtown-Winchester, with a total population just under 16,000, 25% of whom are ages 0-17 years and roughly 97% of whom are African American, over 85% of households are led by a single parent. Further, the community presents the following socioeconomic disparities (per 10,000 residents):

- 15.5% of residents have no health insurance
- \$24,374 is the median household income (nearly half have income at or below the median)
- 20.7% unemployment rate
- 50.3% of residents live at or below the poverty level
- 44.4% of 8th graders are at or above proficiency in reading
- 46.1% of high school students and 34.5% of primary and middle school students miss at least 20 days of school per year
- 69.8% of residents 25 years and older have a high school diploma or less
- 5.5% of residents have a bachelor's degree or more
- The non-fatal shooting rate is 18.5%
- The homicide rate is 8.9%; 5.4% of deaths are caused by homicide
- The youth homicide mortality rate is 68.4%
- 7.9% of deaths are caused by drug and/or alcohol-related
- 59.4% of residents live in a food desert
- The teen (15-19 years) live birth rate is 62.5% per 1,000 females aged 15-19 years of age
- The highest rates of preterm and low birth rate in Baltimore

In February 2015, the Justice Policy Institute (JPI) released a report about the challenges faced by citizens in the Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park communities as a part of the Prison Policy Initiative. The JPI suggests that moving funds from prison to areas of community need and steering people away from prison to other areas of positive self-development can help Baltimore City tackle the challenges faced by this community create an environment of potential success. As of this writing, it is unknown whether or not the city reallocated this funding.

Current Initiatives

Our latest initiative is the *Career and College Prep Program*, targeting people 16 years and older with fully online employment and college preparation, virtual college fair, virtual job fair and interviews, and entrepreneurship. The first component career prep participants graduated on May 8, 2021, and our college prep component participants graduated on June 26, 2021, and the Entrepreneurship component begins on August 28, 2021.

100% FREE

www.careercollegeprep.com

sponsored by
CHURCH OF CHRIST
PLANTING THE SEED
SANDTOWN

Career and College Prep Program

Registration is **OPEN**
2/10/21 through 3/18/21

Register at
www.careercollegeprep.com
Questions? Contact us:
churchofChristSandtown@gmail.com

College Fair
Career Fair
Job Placements

FREE
Funded in part by the
Bell Trust

Opportunity awaits...

Eligibility

- Live in Baltimore MD
- Be at least 16 years old
- Have access to a data device (cell phone, tablet, laptop, PC)
- Have WiFi access to connect to online course sessions/content

Leadership
Entrepreneurship
Technology
Financial Literacy
Career Planning
Communication
Academic Planning

FREE

EMPLOYMENT
Occupation
Jobs
CAREER
THIS WAY
work

Virtual Sessions begin March 27th

Funded in part by Bell Trust, the four components will be implemented annually over an eight-month period each year –

1. Employment Preparation
2. College Preparation and Virtual College Fair
3. Entrepreneurship
4. Virtual Interviews and Job Placements

Annual Backpack and School Supply Giveaway (since 2016)





Bi-Annual Career and Resource Fair (since 2018)



Bi-Annual Community Health & Resource Fair (since 2017)



SWCOC has been conducting programming that encourages positive self-development, rebuilds family structure, develops conflict resolution skills, promotes alternatives to negative social influences in the Sandtown-Winchester and Harlem Park communities of West Baltimore since 2015.

Face Mask Giveaway (since 2020)



Holiday Box Giveaway (since 2018)



Other Outreach Activities (since 2015)

- Community clean-ups
- Monthly food giveaway, “Fishing for Men”
- Winter Coat and Clothing Giveaway
- Weekly youth Bible study
- Annual family and friends’ cookout



Positive Self-Development Initiatives

Training. As part of our training initiative, SWCOC: 1) prepares community members for employment; 2) provides post-secondary information and opportunities; 3) trains community members in entrepreneurship and business start-up; and 4) facilitates immediate employment for willing and able community members. The church expects to increase the scope and scale of the outreach it currently implements, resulting in more visible and quantifiable community effects.

Mentorship. As part of our mentorship initiative, SWCOC conducts programs to help young ladies and boys, ages 5-17 years of age, maneuver life's challenges by building self-esteem, developing practical skills, strengthening self-efficacy for good behavior, and nurturing personal refinement.

Community Outreach Hub

To date, the SWCOC community outreach hub has been the Lillian Jones Recreation Center in Sandtown-Winchester. In the future, SWCOC would like to find a permanent hub for its services in Sandtown-Winchester. ***The SWCOC goal is to acquire a building in the Sandtown-Winchester community where all activities can be held.***

In addition to weekly bible studies for children and adults, SWCOC is meeting the needs of the community through community clean-ups, sponsoring career and community health fairs, conducting backpack and school supply giveaways, and coordinating clothing giveaways. SWCOC also coordinates community training to prepare residents, develop their skills, and facilitate employment opportunities.



The primary mission of SWCOC is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the city of Baltimore and the world in fulfillment of Christ's call on our lives to preach and teach the Gospel to all nations. In so doing, SWCOC seeks to identify and continue to fulfill the unfulfilled needs and meet the expectations of the communities of Sandtown-Winchester and Harlem Park in West Baltimore MD.

We appreciate your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you!



On the Web: <http://www.churchofChristsandtown.org>

SUPPORT INQUIRY

I want to support the mission and outreach of the Church of Christ in Sandtown!

Contact Name: _____

Organization Name: _____

Address, City, State, Zip: _____

Phone / Email: ____ (____) _____ / _____ @ _____

Contact me to discuss the following:

- Cash donation
- In-kind donation
- Cash and in-kind donation

Complete this form and return it to SWCOC at churchofChristsandtown@gmail.com.