

The Center for Families welcomes all families, especially the growing number of immigrant families from Liberia, Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon, Togo, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Gambia, and other West African countries. It helps our new neighbors make their way and their home in our community. The center respects each family's experience and offers services including job training, health screenings and referrals, mental health services, parent-child play groups to prepare preschoolers for learning, housing assistance, and much more.

Built by the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC), the center is a unique collaboration of public- and private-sector partners all helping Twin Cities families succeed. Below is a list of program service provided by GMCC in the center:

Discover Learning Centers helps students learn to read. It does this in partnership with local congregations and community-based organizations, and the students come from schools that have not met state targets for adequately increasing student achievement.

Discover Parenting supports faith-based and community-based organizations providing early childhood development and parent education services to the community.

Families Forward brings extended family members, teachers, pastors, neighbors, social workers, etc. together to develop a plan to support low-income families facing challenges: from early childhood issues to adults with frail elderly parents.

Church and Community Initiatives provides technical assistance and training to grass-roots groups to build their capacity to provide effective, outcome-based services to low-income families.

Project Persevere reconnects parents — cut off from monthly government assistance — with job counselors and benefits. When a parent loses the family's public assistance, the children lose housing, meals, and the stability of familiar daycare and schools.

Program Incubator provides an entrepreneurial culture for developing new initiatives which unite people of faith to serve people in need.

Below is a list of partner agencies providing services in the center:

Goodwill Easter Seals

Goodwill/Easter Seals offers a variety of job training services for adults (including ex-offenders) and youth through the Center for Families, including information sessions on industry-specific job training in automotive, banking, construction, and retail. Additionally, Goodwill/Easter Seals offers individual job counseling including assessment, resume writing, interviewing skills, tracking job leads, and job placement. It also offers support, follow-up and career advancement services once a participant is employed.

Episcopal Community Services

Episcopal Community Services, in partnership with the Center for Families, provides comprehensive, individualized services that focus on West African immigrants, new Americans, and other individuals and families who are committed to achieving self-sufficiency, enhancing their strengths and connecting with their community. Comprehensive case management addresses issues in the areas of housing, employment, family life, transportation and much more.

Neighborhood Involvement Program

The Neighborhood Involvement Program (N.I.P.) offers medical and dental services to the uninsured, affordable mental health services, educational programs for youth, and chores assistance for seniors. The Center for Families provides a home for N.I.P. staff working in mental health services and in youth and senior programs.

Way to Grow

Way to Grow holds "Pre-School Pals" on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to prepare young children for school and holds pre-natal and teen parenting classes for multi-cultural families.

Health Empowerment Resource (HER) Center

HER Center is a clinic and resource center that provides comprehensive health services to women and girls, ages 12 and older with a special focus on African immigrants and African Americans.

Hennepin County

A Hennepin County worker is on site at the Center for Families on Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to conduct application and recertification interviews for food and emergency assistance for families and single adults. The Hennepin County staff also provides application forms for the Minnesota health care programs. Staff may be able to respond to questions and troubleshoot issues for persons with an active Hennepin County assistance case.

McKinley Community

The McKinley Community is committed to improving the quality of life in our neighborhood. We are dedicated to the empowerment of all McKinley residents and the creation of successful partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and government agencies to effect positive change. We, as a community, will unite to cooperatively resolve our problems, celebrate our successes, and value our diversity.

Minnesota Institute for Nigerian Development (MIND)

MIND unites all Nigerians in Minnesota and works to support their social and economic issues.

Umunne

Umunne (Igbo word for brothers and sisters) is a representative body which fosters the spirit of brotherhood and through which to channel the collective concerns of Igbo people in Minnesota.

NAACP Minneapolis Branch and NAACP Minnesota and Dakota

The NAACP works to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

Alive! Ministries

Alive! Ministries works to enrich marriages and reduce divorce in the Minneapolis area through education, training, coaching and reconciling.

Sierra Leone Community in Minnesota

The Sierra Leone Community in Minnesota is an umbrella organization which pools resources together to help smaller Sierra Leonean organizations in the Twin Cities area.

Additional Center for Families Partners

- African Challenges Corporation
- All Peoples Congress (of Sierra Leone), MN Chapter
- Anioma Cultural Association in Minnesota
- Anywaa Community Association in North America
- Bassa Dorkpah/UNIBOA MN Chapter
- Bong Kwatekeh Association II of Minnesota
- Bridge Builders 4 Life
- Build to Blend
- Capstone Experience, Inc.
- Center for Reflection & Action on Human Rights
- Community Access for New Immigrants and African Refugees
- Congolese Community of Minnesota
- Crimson & Cream Foundation
- Eftin
- Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church
- Gambian Association of Minnesota
- Ghanaian Association of Minnesota
- Guinea Association of Minnesota
- Halfway House for African Immigrants Recovering from Drug & Alcohol Addiction
- IPSII, Inc.
- L'Afrique Soccer League
- Liberian Youth Network
- Minneapolis Public Schools
- Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light
- Minnesota Mandingo Association
- Productive Women of Minnesota
- Senegalese Association of Minnesota
- The Akwaaba Group, Inc.
- Togolese Community in Minnesota
- Umoja Society
- West African Mutual Aid Association

For more information contact the Center for Families:

Address: 3333 N. 4th St., Minneapolis, MN 55412

Website: centerforfamilies.gmcc.org

Executive Director: Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer

Phone: 612-276-1571 **Fax:** 612-276-1531

Email: centerforfamilies@gmcc.org

Director of Programs: Edmund Ocansey