

DIRECTIONS

From the New York State Thruway (I-90)
or Genesee Street

Take Thruway Exit 31. Follow signs for Genesee St. South/Downtown Utica. Continue over the bridge into Downtown. After going through several lights, take a left at the light onto Hobart St.

At the end of Hobart St. take a right onto Steuben St., a quick left onto Square St., and then a quick right on to Johnson Park (a circle). The Johnson Park Center Administrative Office will be on your right at 26 Johnson Park.



PO Box 160
26 Johnson Park
Utica, NY 13503-0160
(315)-734-9608
info@johnsonparkcenter.org
www.johnsonparkcenter.org



Change is happening in Cornhill.



- Community Development*
- Special Needs Housing*
- Nutrition*
- Recreation*
- Mentoring and Advocacy*



Positive change has come to Johnson Park!



Johnson Park Center (JPC) is a faith-based non-profit organization that promotes positive change, revitalization, and community development in the heart of Cornhill, the poorest neighborhood in the City of Utica, New York. We provide emergency and supportive housing for women, children, and families, as well as a range of community-based support services in the areas of nutrition, recreation, mentoring, and advocacy. Our programs build hope and empowerment, and help individuals become self-sufficient, contributing members of the community.

Years ago, many said nothing could be done in Johnson Park. People were afraid to even walk through the neighborhood because of the violence, shooting and drug dealing. The landscape was scarred by garbage and debris, with burned-out buildings everywhere.

In September 1995, Rev. Maria A. Scates arrived in Utica with nothing, but she pioneered and led the way, announcing that positive change has come to Johnson Park.

As a full-time volunteer, she started picking up garbage and went from house to house spreading her positive message. Her vision of change, along with hard work and commitment, turned a whole neighborhood around. In May 1998, Rev. Ursula Meier joined her as a full time volunteer, and Johnson Park has continued to grow and be revitalized ever since.

As the years went by, JCTOD Outreach began revitalizing both properties and entire lives as we developed programs to reach out to the neighborhood. We have been expanding our programs ever since to serve youth, families, the homeless, ex-offenders, and people in recovery from substance abuse and mental health disabilities. Today, by offering a range of positive programs in the Johnson Park-Cornhill area, JPC is bringing positive change to the entire community.

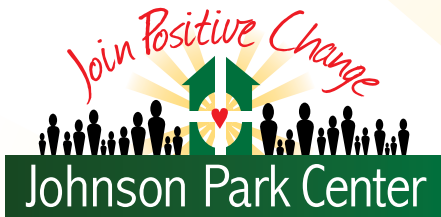


" This place has afforded me two lifetimes at once"



Positive change continues at Johnson Park!

**“ Out there it’s
me, here it’s we.
This program has
given me so much.”**



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Community Development

We developed a comprehensive strategy that caused revitalization of the Johnson Park – Cornhill area with the renovation of properties, creation of a Youth Center, playground and basketball court, and a community garden and food pantry. JPC has also played a key role in the revitalization of the park itself.

Johnson Park Apartments Permanent Supportive Housing

- A new start!
- A supportive, nurturing environment where homeless women can recover from substance abuse and/or mental health disabilities, rebuild their families, and prepare to re-enter the workforce
- Includes an on-site Family Specialist Program designed to strengthen families, build home living skills, and prevent family violence and neglect
- Advocacy at custody hearings, court appearances, with treatment providers, and more

Family Emergency Shelter

The first Emergency Shelter of its kind in Oneida County, where traditional and non-traditional low-income families can stay together during a crisis, regardless of their composition

Youth Drop-In Center and Feeding Program

- Open to all children – year round
- A positive, safe environment where youth can take refuge from the streets and difficult home situations
- Each day we provide a nutritious meal
- During the school year, the Youth Center provides homework help, literacy classes, technology training, life skill and self-esteem building activities, structured recreation, and more

- The Youth Voice Initiative trains young people ages 9 to 16 to speak up and be leaders and positive role models. Members encourage other youth not to use tobacco, illegal drugs, or alcohol and to resist crime and violence

Community Food Pantry

Open to all low-income individuals and families. There is no referral or identification needed, and no residency requirement. We are open in the evenings to meet the needs of working families, who can come in and pick up a selection of nutritious staple foods.

Pre- and Post-Employment Mentoring, Training, and Support Services for Ex-Offenders

Get back on track with help creating a resume, searching and applying for jobs, preparing for interviews, getting work clothes, ID, and much more. We will provide support and coaching through the whole process, even after you get the job!



Join Positive Change!

Just as many burned-out buildings have been restored, at JPC we are also restoring “burned-out” lives – every day! We invite you to be a part of what is happening here and “Join Positive Change!”

Donate

online at www.johnsonparkcenter.org, or contact the Community Development Office (contact information below).

Volunteer

mentor a child, ex-offender, or single mother, teach a class at our Youth Center, put your handyman or woman skills to work on maintenance jobs, work in the Food Pantry, help maintain our computers, assist with public relations – the options are only limited by your imagination!

Contact the Community Development Office, (315) 734-9608 ext. 503 for other ways you can get involved!



“I have become a community asset instead of a liability.”