

centeroflife

hazelwood • pittsburgh

Youth and Young Adult Resource Guide



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Faculty Mentor: Nina Markovic, PhD

Hazelwood

- ▷ History
 - Many different ethnicities have passed through
 - A steel plant helped the community thrive - closure of the steel plant drove people out in search of work
- ▷ Current neighborhood
 - Still feeling the effects of the steel plant closure
 - Easy access to things like guns and drugs
 - Little to no media awareness
- ▷ People
 - Now experiencing a 3rd or 4th generation of the same trauma
 - Want improvements, but lack access, awareness, and true change



Center of Life

- ▷ Founded in 2001 by Tim Smith
- ▷ Strives to help the people of Hazelwood be strong and make their community strong
- ▷ Offers various programs:
 - Fusion
 - Crossover
 - The KRUNK Movement
 - Jazz
 - Family and Community Engagement
 - Social Justice Resource Center



Social Justice Resource Center



- ▷ Started in 2021
- ▷ Mission: to train people to be leaders who feel empowered to make impactful decisions that bring about change
- ▷ Provides the mechanisms necessary for leaders of all ages to work together and with the community at large to address systemic injustices
- ▷ Main focus: Ambassadors of Justice program

Ambassadors of Justice

- ▷ Social justice summer program for teens
- ▷ Program entails:
 - Learning about and discussing a variety of social justice topics
 - Creating a project on a topic of interest
- ▷ Teens acquire skills such as public speaking, leadership, and advocacy



Why a Resource Guide?

- ▶ Our community mentor told us about a young person who was experiencing homelessness and needed help
- ▶ They turned to Center of Life staff for help because they didn't know where else to turn to
- ▶ Unfortunately, Center of Life staff had no resources readily on hand to give the young person
- ▶ Ties to Hazelwood
 - Lack of resources readily available



Resource Guide Project

▶ Main project: resource guide geared towards youth and young adults

▶ Secondary project: resource guide geared towards parents

This resource guide is intended to include diverse and inclusive options covering a wide variety of topics. **You do not have to use every resource in this guide.** It is intended for you to know about all of the available resources within Allegheny County and for you to use resources to which fit your current situation and your belief system.

Many of these resources are outside of the Hazelwood area. To help with transportation to and from these resources, you can use the Pittsburgh Regional Transit Trip Planner tool found here: <https://truetime.portauthority.org/map?selector=tripplanner>.

If you know of any resources that are not included within this guide, know of resources within this guide that no longer exist, or have any additional questions about the guide please contact Center of Life staff.

Housing and Homelessness				
Contact Allegheny Link at 1-866-730-2368 to be referred to services listed				
Topic	Age Range	Name	Offers	Contact Information
Shelters/Short-Term Housing	Ages 13-20 who are actively involved in the Allegheny County Department of Human Services—Office of Children, Youth, and Families	FamilyLinks—Youth Emergency Shelter and Downtown Outreach Center	Provides court ordered shelter until a more permanent solution is found	Location: 401 North Highland Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15206 Phone: 866-583-6003 Website: https://www.familylinks.org/services/youth-family-services
	Ages 18-24	Auberle	HOPE Program: Short-term (6 months) housing to those in a housing crisis Able to take young adults with children as well Host Homes: Short-term (6 months) housing for those who are living with an extended family	Website: https://www.auberle.org/housing

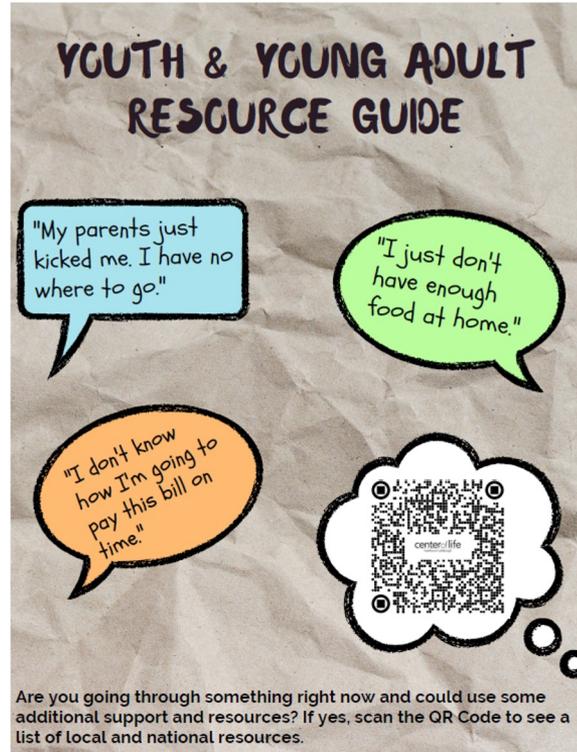
Topics Included in Guide

Broad Services	Mental Health
Substance Use	Healthcare
Language and Immigrant Services	LGBTQ+
Housing	Food
Clothing	Education
Employment	Child Care
Legal	Miscellaneous

Topics from adolescent's feedback: Banking/financial help
& how to get around the city

Other Projects

- ▶ Created Ambassadors of Justice logo
- ▶ Created flyers to post around Center of Life with access to resource guide



**BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE
ADVOCATES TO NO LONGER BE SILENCED, TO SPEAK
UP, AND TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST THE OPPRESSIVE
SYSTEMS.**

Other Projects



- ▷ Digitized t-shirt designs by students
- ▷ Taught lesson on Naomi Osaka



FACTS ABOUT
NAOMI OSAKA



"EVERY TIME I HAVE A DREAM, SOMEHOW I ACCOMPLISH IT"

"HOW I CAME THIS FAR IS A MIRACLE BUT YOU CAN TOO"

- 1 Her father taught her how to play tennis when she was 3 years old
- 2 She became a professional tennis player at age 15
- 3 She was trained with the same method as Serena and Venus Williams
- 4 She has won 2 U.S. and 2 Australian championships
- 5 She is the first Asian tennis player to hold a #1 ranking

Healthy People 2030 Goals



Improve the health and well-being of adolescents



Increase social and community support

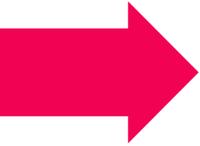


Improve the health, safety, and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people

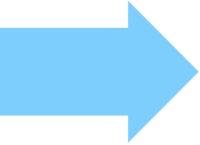


Promote healthy development for children and adolescents

Evaluations



Tally how many times the resource guide is referenced for adolescents and young adults at Center of Life



Distribute to new Ambassadors of Justice to assess usefulness and quality



Have new Bridging the Gaps interns update every summer to ensure resources listed are still available and information is correct

Recommendations for Center of Life

A decorative horizontal arrow graphic pointing to the right, composed of three segments: light blue, dark blue, and red.

Place flyers with access to the resource guide around Center of Life

Ensure that each staff member is aware of the resource guide

Increase the capacity needed to focus on building a social media presence to connect with more youth and young adults

Summary

- ▶ Created a resource guide to help Center of Life provide resources to future youth and young adults in need
- ▶ Worked with the Ambassadors of Justice program within the Social Justice Resource Center
- ▶ Connected with teens through social justice presentations, fun activities, and their projects

Reflections

Diana Bellino

“My experience with Center of Life has been invaluable. This is such a **welcoming organization**, and I am grateful for the opportunities I had here. It was so **heartwarming to see how passionate the teens are about social justice**. I am so thankful to have been a part of the inaugural group of Ambassadors of Justice through teaching them, as well as learning from them.

This experience leaves me with **an even greater appreciation for all the great work community organizations do**, and I could not have asked for a better site to intern at.”

Reflections

Jamie Hutchison

“Throughout this internship the staff at Center of Life have been very welcoming and accepting. It has been amazing to see how much they want to help each other, how much they care about the youth in their programs and building them up, and how far reaching and important the organization is within the community. Seeing how the teens in the Ambassadors of Justice program have come together over such a short period of time to encourage one another and help each other has been so sweet. **Knowing that there is a place that is giving young people the space to express their interests around social justice issues while giving them the tools they need to learn how to use their voice gives me hope for the future.**”

Thank you!

We would like to send a huge thank you to our community mentors, Donna Smith, Danielle Chaykowsky, and Sarah Crenshaw; Center of Life founder, Tim Smith; and program coordinators, Gracie Brickner and Cameron Craig for being so welcoming and enthusiastic about Center of Life!

We would also like to thank our faculty mentor, Dr. Nina Markovic, the Bridging the Gaps leadership team, and our fellow Bridging the Gaps interns for their help and support along the way!