

Prosper Springfield – Do You Know About Drew Lewis Foundation at the Fairbanks Northwest Project?

The NWP works with families who are employed and want to set and meet personal goals with a community system of support. Program participants focus on key areas for their family: Affordable Quality Housing; Quality Childcare; Transportation; Job Training and Educational Opportunities; Budgeting; Resolving Legal Issues; Accountability and Health and Well-Being. A few of the personalized services provided by the NWP include: Weekly accountability to assist in meeting goals that you create; Tax assistance; Parenting workshops; Tailored resources to help access reliable and affordable transportation; Housing resources; Assistance applying for childcare subsidies; Budgeting assistance; Job training and educational connections; Legal resources and referrals and connections to affordable health care and mental healthcare resources.

The NWP takes place in local neighborhoods for easy community access at four locations: York, Robberson, Woodland Heights and Grant Beach. Each group of participants averages 5 to 10 people that represent 30 lives, which includes the children and other adults in a family. Each location starts with dinner at 5:15 P.M. with programming starting at 6:00 P.M. Childcare is provided while the adults participate in the program.

Participants in the program have increased their hope in life, improved credit scores, doubled employment in some of their homes, and improved the stability of their families. If interested in applying for the program, here are a few things you need to know: Your family (an adult with at least one dependent) income under 200% of the poverty level (NWP will help determine your income level); high school completion or able to complete high school within six months; Live in the North Springfield area; Ready to make a life change, willing to make a two-year commitment (meeting once a week) and participate in follow up meetings.

The NWP has three other community programs: 1) One Church/One Family (Faith-Based) or Springfield Connect/One Family (Business or other organizations) - Adopt a family to address their needs four to five times a year with school supplies, provide family fun passes, clothing, etc.; 2) Blue House Project – Real estate program to assist families with purchasing homes in Zone One (Homes are sold to families after two-years in the program) and 3) Healthy Homes – In home education to improve the physical health of a family by addressing issues related to asthma, pest control and mold. If you are wanting a positive change in 2018 moving towards prosperity, contact the NWP at: www.DrewLewis.org, SGFNWP@gmail.com or 417-720-1890.

Prosper Springfield is a collective impact initiative focused on a shared community vision to improve economic mobility in the Springfield community. The Prosper Springfield mission is to build community relationships and align community resources to create pathways that help move people to prosperity. The column will run every other Thursday. Today's column was written by Prosper Springfield Director, Francine Pratt. For more information about Prosper Springfield, contact Francine Pratt at 417-888-2020. Prosper Springfield - Uniting Resources. Improving Lives.