



Family & Children's

Programs-At-A-Glance

Village of Hempstead Initiative (VHI): This is the umbrella title of a cluster of programs that offer free, confidential services for children, families, adults and seniors in the Village of Hempstead with the goal of providing resource and referral information and facilitating access to all of the services offered by Family and Children's Association as well as other provider organizations in the village.

The VHI Annex

Located on the campus of the HFRC, the Annex houses several of the VHI programs including a bi-lingual case manager who offers direct client assistance with rent and utility arrears to residents of the village.

Hagedorn Family Resource Center (HFRC)

The Hagedorn Family Resource Center is a community center – based on the settlement house model – that seeks to provide facilitated access to services for families who reside in the Village of Hempstead and neighboring communities. The programs offered at the Center strive to meet the needs of the multi-cultural, multi-racial population that makes up the Village of Hempstead. Programs focus on youth development, family support and community enrichment. Children's programs include nursery school, preschool, afterschool, daycare, tutoring and mentoring. Adult programs are also offered including ESL instruction, mothers' support group, financial counseling programs, and inter-generational socialization programs. Regardless of ethnicity or nationality, residents who participate in these programs develop tolerance and understanding of their neighbors; finding unity in diversity.

Programs at the HFRC include:

Palmer Walker Cooperative Nursery: This offers short-term childcare for 0 to 5 year old children and case management for parents seeking employment, education or training in pursuit of self-sufficiency. The operating days and hours are Tuesday through Friday, from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

La Escuelita (Bilingual Pre-K): This is a free, NYS-licensed Universal Pre-Kindergarten program administered by certified teachers and it takes place from Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The program is for 4 year old children who live within the Hempstead School District and whose first language is Spanish. The program goals are to help the children prepare for kindergarten, acquire English and maintain and further develop their Spanish language skills.

After School: This NYS-licensed program takes place each day after school until 5:45 p.m. The program offers elementary age children reinforcement of their

academic experiences by working with them on their homework. The program works to establish good academic habits by having schoolwork as the first priority with activities to follow the successful completion of their assignments. A snack is offered each day and special events are scheduled regularly. Transportation is provided from the Hempstead and Uniondale School Districts. Payment by the Department of Social Services is accepted.

PROMISE Project: An after school educational enrichment program offered every day to students from Hempstead's Alberta B. Gray Schultz Middle School. Students are challenged to reach their full potential and become the best they can be both personally and academically. These students can remain in our Youth Advisory Council program during their high school years and continue to grow into tomorrow's leaders.

English as a Second Language: In collaboration with the Hempstead School District's Adult and Community Education Program, ESL classes are offered five days a week to adults in the community. Though any adult in the community is invited to attend, the ESL classes are offered during the operational hours of the Palmer Walker Cooperative Nursery. This way, childcare can be available to the adult participants on the Co-op Nursery that seek acquiring English Language skills as one of their goals of self-sufficiency.

Hempstead Even Start: A family literacy program offered by Nassau BOCES and Family & Children's Association. Offers free classes to families, parents with children from the age of 0 to 7 years old, adult basic education (Preparation for GED, ESL, computer, citizenship and parenting classes) education for children, and education for parents and children together.

Project Independence Nassau: This is a comprehensive independent living skills training program designed to prepare youths between the ages of 14-21 who are in foster care, or discharged from foster care, to live and work independently in the community when they are no longer eligible for foster care. The program works closely with foster parents as well as the young people by including home visits. (A duplicate program serving Suffolk county youth is based in Hauppauge.)

PPIP – Prevention and Post Institutional Project: Counseling & case management services for youth at risk or returning to the community from residential placement, foster care or incarceration.

AmeriChoice: The organization that registers income-eligible families for Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus is at the Hagedorn Family Resource Center on Tuesdays, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Thursdays and Fridays, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Telephone: (631) 796-4705.

Community-Based Residences & Shelter

West Nassau Community Residence*: is a fully staffed residence for adult men and women (18 and over) who have a serious and persistent mental illness and have no other place to live.

Lakeview House*: is a staffed, community residence for adolescent males who are seriously, emotionally disturbed and in need of a structured setting that enables them to become involved in the responsibilities for daily living.

Veterans' Residence: is a home for formerly homeless veterans.

Walkabout: houses homeless youth for a period of 18 months providing financial counseling, independent living skills and mentoring.

* OMH-licensed and certified community residences

Nassau Haven: is the only NYS-certified shelter for runaway teens between Queens and Montauk. Youth must be 10 to 21 years of age to stay for a maximum of 30 days while staff sorts out the situation and can make appropriate recommendations.

Senior Services

Ombudservice: Our Ombudservice program gives a voice to seniors in assisted living or nursing homes and advocates for them and their families. This group is made up of state certified volunteers with legal access to nursing homes, adult homes and assisted living facilities in Nassau County.

Senior Financial Counseling: Our knowledgeable, trained volunteers provide seniors with a safe, trustworthy community environment in which to access information and answers to their questions on their financial futures and the options open to them as they age.

Home Share: HomeShare links senior homeowners who have extra rooms in their homes with adults who need an affordable place to live, providing a secure, beneficial living environment for both homeowners and those seeking housing.

Health Insurance Information and Counseling Assistance Program: Provides confidential counseling by trained volunteers who offer information on options for long term care insurance.

Senior Case Management & Wellness: The Senior Wellness Project provides senior citizens, 60 years of age and older with in-home support services, counseling, case management and caregiver support groups to help older persons live well-balanced, fruitful lives.

Community Guardianship: As court-appointed legal guardians for "at risk" adults, we provide support such as medical and psychiatric care, financial and legal aid as well as home maintenance assistance. For those who receive 24-hour care in a facility, we maintain a relationship with staff to ensure proper care is being provided.

Skills Training

Vocational Education: Our Vocational Ed Program enables disenfranchised young people and adults to secure high school diplomas or GEDs thereby creating hope and opportunity for a brighter future.

Parents And Children Together (PACT): Provides pregnant teenagers and teenage parents with support and education as they learn to fulfill their roles as parents. PACT also provides pregnancy prevention information and parenting support groups.

Project Independence: This is a comprehensive non-residential program designed to prepare youths between the ages of 14-21 who are in foster care, or discharged from foster care, to live and work independently in the community when they are no longer eligible for foster care. The program works closely with foster parents as well as the young people by including home visits in both Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Counseling & Substance Abuse Programs

Counseling Centers: We have four community-based counseling centers located in **Hempstead, West Hempstead*, Roosevelt* and Hicksville** which offer mental health and/or chemical dependency treatment programs for children, adults and families. We offer counseling, support groups, medication therapy and treatment for a variety of emotional and psychological disorders.

* Article 31, OMH-licensed outpatient clinics

Home and Community Based Service (HCBS) & Family Center: A NYS-licensed program to serve children with a serious emotional disturbance and their families to decrease the need for long term placement in institutional levels of care and to support the families as they try to keep their child in the home.

Spousal Abuse Group Education (SAGE): A domestic violence program for men and women who abuse their partners.

Anger Management Program: Offers a group education program that helps individuals learn to understand their anger and to adopt healthier ways of handling provocative situations.

Veterans Resource Center: Offers counseling for veterans who are having difficulty re-entering their lives and careers.

Family Crisis Management & Support

Family Solutions: A person-in-need of supervision (PINS) diversion program that provides immediate assistance to families applying to Family Court for a PINS that seeks to maintain the adolescent at home and to mediate intra-familial disputes.

Family Ties & Family Support: Offers case management, advocacy and counseling for families whose children are at risk of foster care placement.

Family Mediation: Provides short-term crisis intervention for youth and families experiencing conflict at home.