



“OARC Opens the West Oak Lane Resource Center”

Philadelphia, PA – On August 16, 2007 at 10:00am, the Ogontz Avenue Revitalization Corporation (OARC) will hold a ribbon-cutting and grand opening of its West Oak Lane Resource Center located at 6812 Ogontz Avenue. There will be a brief presentation about the two organizations that will occupy the facility and the types of services they will offer to the community.

The West Oak Lane Resource Center will be occupied by two organizations that offer social services to area residents in the West Oak Lane community. The Nicetown Community Development Corporation (NTCDC)/Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) will provide services that include assistance with utility bills, housing repairs, job search to name a few. The service area of Nicetown CDC has been expanded to include portions of West Oak Lane in addition to Nicetown and Sommerville. The Strategic Alliance for the Elderly (SAFE) will offer support services to seniors in the community through its Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) program. The West Oak Lane NORC will provide the significant senior citizen population in the community a much needed network for receiving services with the intent to improve their quality of life. Both programs have been in the facility for a few weeks and have already begun to provide services to residents in the area.

The West Oak Lane Resource Center was previously occupied by a barbeque facility and had been vacant for a decade. The property was purchased and renovated by OARC to include a reception area and two smaller offices at the time that these two organizations were looking for facility space to administer their programs. “We are pleased to be able to provide a convenient location for such important community services. This is an example of how OARC’s mission to improve the quality of life in West Oak Lane and surrounding neighborhoods involves more than just housing and economic development,” stated Jack Kitchen, CEO of OARC. “Our holistic approach to community revitalization also includes strengthening community relations where by we support organizations that can bring social services to our neighbors throughout Northwest Philadelphia.”

The West Oak Lane NORC is a pilot project funded by the Chestnut Hill Foundation and OARC. Albert Einstein Healthcare Network (AEHN) as the lead agency has collaborated with several social service organizations serving seniors in the northwest to form this initiative. “We are extremely excited to partner with OARC, our S.A.F.E. co-member agencies, and the NTCDC/NAC to foster the opportunity for seniors to access services and “age in place,” stated Christopher Minnick, Administrator of Geriatrics for AEHN.

The services provided by the NTCDC/NAC are governed by the Office of Housing and Community Development. “OARC has afforded us a unique opportunity that will enhance our ability to provide resources to the residents of our newly expanded service area. Our new service area is extensive, and our collaboration with OARC will have an effective and measurable impact with serving the community,” commented Majeedah Rashid, COO of Nicetown CDC. “We look forward to working with the community at-large, OARC, the SAFE Group and our fellow members of the Northwest Philadelphia Business Coalition (NWPBC) to improve the quality of life in Northwest Philadelphia.

Sara Popkin, Project Director, will administer the West Oak Lane NORC Program and will be located onsite. “The NORC Program will help the neighborhood strengthen and maintain its vibrant sense of community by giving older adults the information and resources they need to continue living at home as they age. We will work together with residents, businesses, and other organizations to ensure the health and safety of local seniors,” commented Popkin.

For more information about the services provided, call or stop in 10am-5pm, Monday through Friday.
(Nicetown CDC/NAC, 215-924-4817 ♦ West Oak Lane NORC, 215-924-4815.)

WEST OAK LANE
RESOURCE CENTER

