

Healing Englewood

Healing Englewood is designed to rebuild Englewood one person and family at a time, and to decrease gang recruitment and participation among the neighborhood's teens and young adults. This program's goal is to offer an alternative path for greater success in life. The staff has a deep understanding of the challenges Englewood youth have to face and the resources needed to support them. Former gang members and pastors have participated in the program design and will be volunteers serving in the project. Individuals with specific health and vocational skills have also contributed to program development.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

Building Bridges: Every component of Healing Englewood is intended to develop relationships and promote healing with members of this community. Building Bridges is a key initial step in letting you know that we are here to help. As they go door-to-door, each outreach team will offer testimonials of their gang life experiences and how they contributed to the Englewood community's destruction. A Pastor will be present to offer prayer or spiritual guidance during these conversations. We have included with this program description an invitation to THE CENTER of Englewood, and all of the social services we offer to you and your family.

Friday Night Life events: These events will happen every single Friday and are designed to create community among Englewood teenagers and young adults. Events will include uplifting movie nights, local entertainment, and guest speakers followed by Q and A sessions. Every 4th Friday local volunteers will tell their life stories also followed by an open mic Q and A opportunity. The goal is to create a safe space and engaging programs for our youth to relate to one another and spark conversation about what social change looks like in Englewood.

Health Thru Food: Hydroponic farming. You will be able sign up to learn how to grow organic produce using hydroponic farming methods. Our classes will offer the opportunity to become self-sustaining growers, providing fresh, healthy produce to for your family as well as the potential to start a business. Participants who complete the classes will receive the materials to create a home hydroponic farm. You will also be able to know, understand, and realize the benefits of your produce. The culinary health training portion of this program (a separate set of classes) will teach you how to create healthy meals from the produce you grow and the items in the food pantry. These "Culinary Health" classes taught at the Center will give you hands-on training in creating healthy meals and learning more about living a healthy lifestyle.

Vocational Attributes: This program will teach teenagers and young adults how to make basic home repairs. Professionals in the construction industry will facilitate this phase. We are offering a series of classes to our young men and women that will provide hands-on training through the Healing Englewood program. Students will practice their skills as volunteers helping with needed projects for community residents. Those who complete the classes will receive a starter tool kit. We will also emphasize the value of being responsible to show up on time for training and work. This project intends to engage our participants in a program that will teach the skills needed to get and keep a job with the immediate additional benefit of learning life-long skills useful for their own families. This training/experience can also be used on a resume to help get a job.

**For further information about any of the Healing Englewood components,
please call 773-756-3535.**