

THE INSIDE STORY



County Builds Community Centers in Distressed Areas

In 2006, County Executive Dan Onorato launched an \$18-million comprehensive, countywide initiative to build 10 community centers in distressed areas, including: Myers Ridge Technology Center in McKees Rocks; Rankin Christian Center in Rankin; Walnut Avenue Boys & Girls Club in Duquesne; Pleasant Ridge Community Center in Stowe Twp.; Groveton Village Community Center in Robinson Twp.; North Hills Community Outreach Center in Millvale; Tarentum Senior Housing Community Center in Tarentum; Park Sheldon Community Center in Natrona Heights; Prospect Terrace Community Center in East Pittsburgh; and South Side Community Center in Clairton.

These centers will help to revitalize neighborhoods and provide programs and services to various groups, including at-risk youth. The development process for each center has been a partnership between the county, community groups, municipalities and school districts. The county has worked closely with each community to determine the types of programming and activities provided at each center. The Allegheny County Housing Authority and Allegheny County Department of Economic Development have provided grants to cover facility construction costs. Various community organizations, such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania, have entered agreements with the county to operate the facilities and provide programming, recreation, tutoring and other services. The Allegheny County Department of Human Services also provides programs and services at the community centers.

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