



Prescott-Joseph Center
for Community Enhancement

Fr. Charles Burns, SVD Pre-Preschool



The Problem

Nationwide many children from low-income background are not prepared for academic or social experiences of kindergarten, including social, emotional and cognitive skills. According to First 5 Alameda County, **56% of Alameda County children in kindergarten were not developmentally prepared for school in 2015.** This disparity also has long-term effect of a child's school readiness, academic attainment and achievement.



The Solution

In early 2016, The Prescott-Joseph Center for Community Enhancement, Inc. (PJC) implemented the Fr. Charles Burns, SVD Pre-Preschool – a novel, highly successful program for children 6 months to 5 years of age and their care providers. The Pre-Preschool facilitates the development of the child's cognitive, social, emotional and motor skills through child-centered, play-based activities. The Pre-Preschool also empowers parents/guardians and raises awareness of the importance of positive adult-child interactions to enhance child development.



Child Development Goals and Objectives:

- ✔ Build language and literacy skills through reading, dialogue and alphabet knowledge.
- ✔ Increase social-emotional development of self and in relation to others with interactive activities and recreational activities.
- ✔ Develop critical thinking by focusing on basic mathematics and science concepts.



Exemplar Activities



Field trips to cultural activities and special youth development cities, e.g., zoo, museum, etc.



The Solution

For “Our” Children:

- Language Development: Improved language communication, vocabulary and literacy skills.
- Pre-Literary Development: Improved phonemic awareness and alphabet knowledge.
- Pre-Math Development: Improved recognition of numbers, shapes, groupings, order, counting and time.
- Science Development: Improved knowledge of basic experimentation, cause and effect principles, and knowledge of the natural world e.g., weather, growth, and animals.
- Motor Skill Development: Improved balance, rhythmic movement, and fine and gross motor coordination.
- Social Behavior Development: Improved impulse control, problem solving, self-care, and awareness of respectful interactions with adults and other children.

For their Parent(s)/Guardian:

- Enhanced awareness and knowledge of the importance of early child development.
- Enhanced awareness and knowledge of adult-child interactive concepts and their effects on child development.
- Increased family involvement in positive adult-child activities and interactions to enhance child development.
- Formation of community support groups.
- Increased awareness of PJC and community services and programs.

For the Community:

- Enhanced child development and growth of “our” children.
- Improved school readiness and academic success for future generations.
- Provision of a safe space for children and their guardians to receive vital services and resources.
- Re-investment of community residents in their community’s growth and vibrancy.



Impact

Fr. Charles Burns, SVD Pre-Preschool Progress to Date

- 83 children, 53 adults have attended the program
- 55 children, 28 adults have returned five or more times
- 26 children, 18 adults currently attend the program multiple times per week
- 65% of current families have been with the program for more than 18 months (meaning many of our children have been with the program for over half of their life!)
- Child age range: 2 months–4.5 years
- Accommodation of extended age siblings for school closures, vacations and holidays
- Atmosphere that attracts fathers, mothers, grandparents, aunties, older sisters, nannies, and care-providers of all types



Sponsors

"We at Fr. Charles Burns, SVD Pre-Preschool believe that every child at every age in West Oakland should have access to academic enrichment programs at home and in the community to achieve academic success and adult achievement."



Washington Burns, MD



Kristen Burmester, EdD



Mr. Jerry Bridges

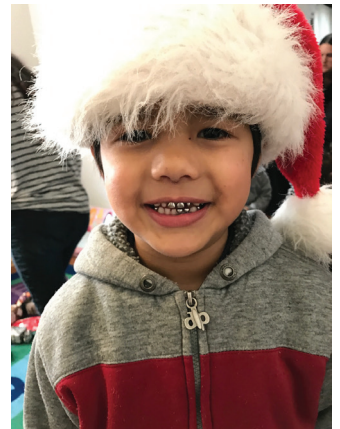


Ralph and Lori Francis



The Cornelius Casimere Education Initiative, Inc.





Prescott-Joseph Center
for Community Enhancement

920 Peralta Street • Oakland CA 94607 • (510) 835-8683
info@prescottjoseph.org • www.prescottjoseph.org

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