

FRIENDLY CENTER

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

PROGRAMS & SERVICES:

Comprehensive Family Support:

- Family Advocacy/ Case Management
- Emergency Services— Food, Utility, Clothing Rent
- Information & referral
- Counseling— Individual, Family Group
- Domestic Violence Intervention—PEP, Counseling & Legal
- Daily & Supplemental Food Programs
- Parenting Workshops
- Kindergarten Readiness Program
- Academic After-School Tutoring K-12
- English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes
- Citizenship Classes
- Health Fairs
- Mobile Medical Clinics
- Community Events
- HUD Low-Income Housing

ABOUT FRIENDLY CENTER

POPULATIONS SERVED:

Friendly Center serves low-income families from the cities of Anaheim, Garden Grove, Orange, Santa Ana and Villa Park at two locations. Over 25 free programs and service are available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

MISSION:

Friendly Center is a comprehensive family and community resource center dedicated to improving the lives of children, adults, and seniors by helping them move toward self-sufficiency through immediate aid and a variety of educational and life skill programs.

SUCCESS STORY

“Mary’s life changed direction when her husband moved her and their two children to Orange County, after her husband lost his job in Las Vegas and their home went into foreclosure. They lost everything, including the medical insurance that had paid for one son’s medication for ADHD and Mary’s medication for a bipolar disorder... A family friend allowed them to stay in his mobile home in Orange County, but neither Mary nor her husband was able to find work. Mary’s husband returned to Las Vegas for long periods of time, leaving the family with no food, no phone and no transportation...Meanwhile, Mary’s son was having trouble concentrating in his classroom, and the school referred the family to Friendly Center...At Friendly Center, Mary was greeted by Lupe Solis, one of the Family Advocates. She provided Mary with emergency food, helped her get funding

for the medication that she and her son needed, and linked her with a health clinic for follow up...After ten months, the family friend told Mary that she and her teenaged sons could no longer live in the mobile home. Abused, lonely and hungry, they now faced homelessness...When Mary and her children had to leave the mobile home, Lupe took them to the Victim/Witness Assistance Program, which provided food vouchers and a motel in a safe location. The following week, Lupe took Mary to Social Services and advocated for her to be enrolled in the Homeless Program. Mary was accepted and a three week motel stay was provided. After three weeks, Mary was enrolled in the Domestic Abuse Services Department’s Transitional Living Program, a residential program that gave her a chance to change her life...Mary is now in control of her situation and taking advantage

of all the help that is available. Both she and her son have the medication they need. She is receiving mental health counseling to help her cope with her past...Mary is attending classes to brush up on her job skills, as she was previously employed as a legal assistant. The future is promising for Mary and her family, thanks to Friendly Center’s Family Advocacy Program. “I am so lucky where I am now,” Mary said. “I wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for Lupe. When you have an advocate, things are so much different. Friendly Center really helps their clients.”

Source:
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