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Penn North Announces the Opening of Sandtown-Winchester's First Kids Safe Zone

In the Wake of Freddie Gray's Death, the Community Cried out for Resources

Baltimore, Maryland (May 5, 2015) – Penn North Community Resource Center proudly announces its plans to open The Penn North Community Resource Center Kids Safe Zone, the flagship facility will provide a safe, comfortable and secure place for children in the Sandtown-Winchester community that suffers from a lack of resources that the closing of Baltimore City recreation centers created.

The grand opening is scheduled for the afternoon of Monday, June 1, 2015 in the building adjacent to The Penn North Community Resource Center, located at 1610 N. Carey Street. The Penn North Community Resource Center currently provides supportive housing in conjunction with its outpatient and intensive outpatient treatment program. The facility is also home to the free wraparound services provided to the community that include GED, computer literacy, financial literacy and planning, workforce development, job readiness, health and fitness that include Zumba and Qigong and its staple acupuncture treatments.

The Kids Safe Zone, for at-risk children ages 5 to 17 years old will offer recreation that includes flat screen TVs, Xbox gaming systems, board games, organized sports teams, a computer lab, girls and boys mentoring programs, peer led support groups, licensed counseling, field trips, a study lab and homework assistance.

In the wake of the most recent Baltimore City uprising as a result of the Freddie Gray murder, the resounding notion across the city was that Baltimore City children, specifically children in Sandtown Winchester were defunct of resources, lacked recreation and needed an outlet, Penn North Community Resource Center is answering the call.

“We’ve been passionate about helping this community for more than 20 years and have done so successfully, when we had a national platform and every person on camera said “our children need resources” I knew we had to provide the service, so we have. I’m very proud of our vision for the Kids Safe Zone.” Says, Blaize Connelly-Duggan, President and Executive Director of the Penn North Community Resource Center

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About Penn North Community Resource Center Maryland Community Health Initiatives, Inc. (Penn North) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that has been delivering behavioral health and recovery services through its Penn North Community Resource Center in Baltimore City since 1993. Our mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals and families struggling to overcome substance abuse, homelessness, unemployment, poverty, crime, and violence. A pioneer in integrative medicine and Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC), Maryland CHI has been recognized by the White House Office on National Drug Control Policy for its innovative programs and leadership in the recovery movement. Each year, Penn North helps more than 100,000 individuals through its programs and services (www.penn-north.com).