

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What does EOTC stand for?

A. Our legal name is Employment Opportunity Training Center. **EOTC** stands for the highest professional standards and service to families in need. We use only **EOTC** because of our widening program scope.

Q. What services are provided?

A. **EOTC** provides a wide variety of employment and family services which build on families' strengths and resiliency. Core program services include: life skills; job readiness training; parenting education; early literacy and child development programs; youth mentoring; and other services that promote stable, self-sufficient families.

Q. Do people have to pay for EOTC programs/services?

A. **EOTC** offers most services and programs to qualified individuals at no charge. A small fee is required for some programs.

Q. What population do you serve?

A. **EOTC** serves those in need in the Lackawanna County area. This includes children and youth at risk for school drop out, struggling parents, unemployed and under-employed workers, and others.

Q. Are you affiliated with United Way?

A. We are not a United Way agency. **EOTC** is not a member of any nationally sponsored nonprofit organization.

OUR MISSION

With respect for the individual and the highest professional standards
EOTC
offers a variety of programs that promote family stability and economic self-sufficiency.

Q. Why are you renovating?

A. **EOTC** is an organization committed to efficient operations and the revitalization of the region. When **EOTC** needed more space, we looked for an existing property to renovate rather than incur the costs of new construction or the expense of leased space. By transforming a highly visible urban site, **EOTC** will reduce environmental waste and enhance an abandoned Scranton commercial property. **EOTC** is currently in two buildings that no longer meet the needs of our participants. Renovation of 431 North Seventh Avenue will allow us to streamline services and offer coordinated programming.

Q. Why do you need more space?

A. In the past decade, **EOTC** has doubled the number of individuals we serve. This growth resulted in our spreading agency programs into different locations. Aside from the inefficiency of staff and participants traveling across town, **EOTC's** Family Center is bursting at the seams in less-than-ideal space on the perimeter of central Scranton. The renovated center will provide private counseling space, classrooms, a computer training lab, safer on-site parking, more accessible entry, and other consumer-friendly features. Our goal is to improve services, bring a number of related

programs under one roof and consolidate staff. Seventh Avenue Center also will house other collaborative nonprofit agencies. The center will serve more than 3,000 people annually and will have the capacity for future program growth.

Q. Why are you doing this now when money is so tight?

A. **EOTC** is currently housed in two separate downtown Scranton locations. This project has been under way for four years as part of **EOTC's** Strategic Plan. We are now paying for leased space with redundancies and unpredictable future rents.

Q. Why not wait?

A. The longer we wait the more expensive the project becomes and the more money we expend to improve and maintain offices that are not ours. Each year we turn away individuals in need of our programs and miss opportunities to generate additional income.

Q. Why did you select the Seventh Avenue location?

A. 431 North Seventh Avenue is centrally located within walking distance of schools, the Scranton business district, other human service agencies, and public transportation routes. This structurally sound building is set on a one-acre property with rare urban green space, near neighbor-hoods where many of our participants reside, and offers ample parking.

Q. How much will the whole project cost?

A. The projected renovation cost is \$1.5 million.

(over)

Q. How long will it take to finish the project?

A. Anticipated completion is 8 to 12 months.

Q. When will renovation start?

A. Demolition, site preparation and design work are under way.

Q. Where are you going to get funding for this project?

A. A 2004 Board fundraising campaign helped with the initial property acquisition. Financing will be through a local bank. We are in the process of securing several building grants and have submitted a proposal to the Weinberg Foundation. **EOTC's** Board of Directors has unanimously pledged financial support and has hired a Development Director to facilitate its first Capital Campaign.

Q. Once you move will new programs be added?

A. Seventh Avenue Center will provide space for new career workshops, after-school programs, parent-toddler activities and community meetings. We will continue to offer existing services but will have the capacity to accommodate greater numbers. A convenient, welcoming location will enable us to introduce additional programs for the community at large, such as parenting programs, computer classes, and educational seminars.

Q. How does Scranton benefit?

A. **EOTC** will provide a renovated building in a developing part of town as well as services for families who might otherwise fall through the cracks. **EOTC** strives to help the men, women and children we serve to break the cycle of poverty and dependence. We assist participants by focusing on solutions not problems; reducing

recidivism; fostering positive parenting and family reunification; improving life and work skills; helping families find and maintain gainful employment; and promoting healthy early childhood development.

Each year 3,000 area residents, who are moving forward and breaking the cycle of poverty, will directly benefit through their involvement in programs offered by **EOTC** and its building partners. Each of the agencies housed at Seventh Avenue Center will be the sole local service provider. Providing compatible programs under one roof maximizes resources, combines services, and coordinates expertise, benefiting participants and the community.

EOTC's Seventh Avenue Center will complement other Scranton community development. The now vacant property is located in an area of West-Central Scranton that the Chamber of Commerce markets as an extension of the downtown business district. Renovation of 431 North Seventh Avenue will contribute to revitalization of the immediate neighborhood, which includes the Lackawanna River Corridor and the 23 acre Mount Pleasant Corporate Center.

Q. Who may use the new facility?

A. Seventh Avenue Center will open the door to programming for a broader constituency. It will also offer community meeting space. Specific areas of the Center will be available for public use, such as a parenting library and a workforce development center.

Q. Who benefits from my contribution to EOTC?

A. Your donation is an investment in **EOTC**, an agency which has been providing quality, innovative family and employment services for over 20 years.

EOTC has been here for the community when other nonprofit or government agencies have had to cut back due to funding shortages. **EOTC's** successful grant-writing efforts have enabled agency growth when government funding was reduced or eliminated. As a result, the local court system, child protective services, school counselors, hospital social workers, and individual families have increasingly turned to **EOTC** programs. Every adult we help stabilizes the life of a child.

The return on your investment is three fold: the personal satisfaction of doing something positive to help others help themselves; the socio-economic benefit of individuals who are become more productive citizens through collaborative programming at Seventh Avenue Center; and the community return when new life is breathed into a highly visible vacant property. **EOTC** has a documented track record of cost containment, adhering to the highest nonprofit, professional and fiscal accountability standards. **EOTC** was one of the first Commonwealth nonprofit organizations to earn the nationally recognized *Standards for Excellence* credential. The agency was recertified in the spring 2008, following a rigorous external peer review by the PA Association of Nonprofit Organizations (PANO).

Other questions?
Please call me at (570) 348-6484 or 575-0842
Email: rconnolly-**EOTC**@verizon.net
Thank you. Ruth