



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

## St. Mary of Celle Family Strengthening Center

### Overview

St. Mary of Celle Family Strengthening Center (SMOC) in Berwyn is a place where families connect with others in their community for information, activities, and support. Through an array of family activities, classes, and programs, SMOC works to reduce isolation, support families, and build community.

SMOC is staffed by caring professionals and volunteers who embody Catholic Charities spirit of compassion in action. Staff helps families cope with challenges that may include unemployment, poor health, learning English, boosting children's literacy, and managing limited finances. Families who come to SMOC emerge stronger, and in turn help to strengthen their community.

SMOC welcomes all, regardless of religion, race, or ethnicity. There are no income or eligibility criteria. Most classes are free and held in a building with on-site child care, a gymnasium, cafeteria, and several rooms that can be used for classes and activities. Co-located in the building is a licensed and accredited Child Development Center providing state subsidized and private pay child care for children ages 2 to 6 years old.

### Services

- **Promoting Wellness:** SMOC promotes healthy lifestyles through its array of family wellness programs. Exercise, nutrition classes and the Summer Food Service Program target obesity, give general knowledge of nutrition and promote wellness of the mind, body, and spirit. Art classes promote creativity, support emotional well-being, and inspire positive parent/child interaction.
- **Developing Employment Skills:** SMOC increases job skills and access to employment through a variety of programs such as financial literacy and computer classes.
- **Enhancing Literacy and Learning:** Through English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, as well as literacy tutoring, SMOC helps individuals with their English language skills.
- **Financial Education and Support:** Community banking partners provide budgeting classes in English and Spanish.
- Additional workshops, classes, and activities are provided throughout the year based upon participant interest and program resources.

### Location

**St. Mary of Celle**  
1448 S. Wesley  
Berwyn, IL 60402

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: (708) 303-3679**



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### THE MISSION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities fulfills the Church's role in the mission of charity to anyone in need by providing compassionate, competent and professional services that strengthen and support individuals, families and communities based on the value and dignity of human life. *In order to remain faithful to our mission, Catholic Charities is guided by these core values: Respect, Compassion, Competence, and Stewardship.*