



MISSION

To provide counseling services by integrating psychotherapeutic techniques with biblical principles

Intern Counselors at PCC

Each year Pastoral Counseling Center of Flushing takes on a graduate student who is pursuing an advanced degree and needs practical hours in the field to complete requirements for graduation. For the academic year 2013-2014, our intern was Sheila Mathew, who graduated in May with the degree of MMHC (Masters in Mental Health Counseling) and received an award for Academic Excellence from Alliance Graduate School of Counseling. PCC congratulates Sheila on her accomplishment and wishes her all the best in the future. Here is her personal reflection on this year.



It has been both a blessing and a privilege to have interned at PCC this past year. A large part of my internship afforded me the opportunity of partnering with a private school in the borough of Queens. I was amazed at the willingness and insight of the children I worked with. Ranging from kindergarten to high school, they were eager to process different emotions through art, play, and talk therapy. Depending on their age, kids face different stressors.

The younger ones focus largely on their parents and the dynamics they are experiencing at home, while the older ones tend to bring to the table more issues regarding their individuality and relationships with classmates and friends outside of the home. Regardless of their age it is evident how issues that parents face, from marital discord to unemployment, affect children. Being a part of the outlet for each child revealed the depth of love that Jesus has for these little ones. They process pain and confusion with such honesty, carrying with them a unique faith that allows them to receive the peace of the Lord in our time together.

Through this experience I have developed a heart for this population. Working with children is both challenging and rewarding. Part of the challenge lies in finding a communication style that best suits the child; that allows them to express their feelings with clarity, using language that makes sense to them. With the elementary aged students, specifically, I was most fascinated by our art therapy sessions. I was invited into the mind of each child through their pictures and by the words and stories they used to describe everything that was happening in each well thought-out image.

The final step in working with children is inviting parents into the process. These sessions are not meant to separate the child from his or her family, but rather to provide an outlet and then to reunite the two for a deeper and freer relationship. Involving the parents encourages the child to know that mom and dad are present with them on their journey. In the same way it provides the parent with the confidence to engage with their children.

New at PCC



PCC welcomes Miss Eliana Rosario as our new intern. Eliana is a student at Alliance Graduate School of Counseling and is enrolled in the mental health counseling program. She's involved in youth ministry and a dance group at her church in the Bronx. She likes to read and scrapbook for fun. Eliana will see clients in our Flushing office as well as be available to work with students at Evangel Christian School in Long Island City. Miss Rosario is fluent in Spanish and English. Please keep her internship journey in your prayers.

God has blessed PCC in various ways. We thank God and those who continue to lift us up with your prayers and generous gifts. If you would like to sponsor a client or a session please contact us at 718-463-4613.



PCC's Director Ellen Van Etten, her husband Tom (photographer), Bd. member Marlene Chisholm, and intern Eliana Rosario attended a legal workshop/luncheon for Mental Health Professionals held in Port Washington, NY. Several topics were discussed, including confidentiality by therapists, warning signs of abuse and neglect, mandated reporting, and issues for caregivers of aging family members. Special guest speaker Katie Beers, the nine yr. old girl who was kidnapped and held for 17 days in 1992 spoke of her ordeal before, during, and after her kidnapping. Katie said of her abduction, it was the best thing that happened to her because it allowed her to escape a life of abuse. Her therapist, Mary Bromley also spoke, sharing the critical role therapy played in Katie's successful recovery and transition from childhood to adult life.



Tom Hui came to PCC in June 2005 as a student intern from Alliance Graduate School of Counseling. He graduated, got his New York State license, and has since counseled with many individuals and couples. Tom was also involved in the PCC marital preparation program. Tom, his wife Jasmine, and their three children, have re-located to Florida. We want to thank Tom for his many years of dedicated service to PCC.



Ellen Van Etten and Marlene Chisholm attended the Women's Tea held at First Baptist Church in Flushing in May. Suk Mei Yei spoke on the theme, "Freedom from Fear". PCC had a display table and goody bags for all the ladies in attendance. Ellen gave a clear synopsis of PCC, including a short history, what we do, the languages we offer counseling in, our fees, and the location of our Flushing office. All enjoyed the afternoon.

Also in May, Ellen attended a conference about the effects of Agent Orange on human beings, sponsored by Vietnam Veterans of America. The conference provided vital information linking physical illnesses with Agent Orange exposure for children of Vietnam vets, which relates to some clients at PCC. (No pictures available.)

D. Ellen Van Etten, Executive Director
Peter Lorens, Financial Advisor

PCC Board Members:

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Rosario, Eliana, B.A., Intern
Van Etten, D. Ellen, L.M.H.C., BCPCC
Wong, Eva, L.M.H.C.

Webmaster:

La Motta, Ricardo

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