

Community Action News

Community Action...helping people, changing lives.

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Executive Director

2012 Holiday Basket Program serves 315 children



2012 Holiday Basket Program Supporters

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| Karen Sorbero | JDI Enterprises | |
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| Jim & Rita Zelko | | |

From the Director

2012 was a special year for all of us here at WCCCC as we celebrated our first 25 years of service to the Will County community, due in large part to the ongoing support from Will County businesses, municipalities and individuals that make our work possible.

Last year was the first year we partnered with the IRS to become a VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) site. As part of the Low Income Tax Assistance Coalition (LITAC) we were able to serve our community in a new way by providing no-cost income tax preparation services. This enabled the low-income households we work with to keep more of their hard earned money in their pockets.

We also expanded our Holiday Basket Program. Each year we distribute a food box, hats & mittens, and a toy for each child in the program. This year, through the generous

support of our community, we were also able to purchase a new coat for each child aged 16 or younger.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I want to extend my gratitude to each of you who have been so generous in your support of our agency's work in the community, along with our wishes for each of you to enjoy a healthy and happy new year.

Kris



County Executive Larry Walsh helps Santa

Will County employees collect hats & mittens

For the third year in a row, County Executive Larry Walsh spearheaded a drive to collect new hats and mittens for the children of Will County. Collection boxes were set up at many of the county offices, and thanks to the generosity of the Will County employees, more than 175 sets of hats and gloves were donated to WCCCC.

“We are extremely grateful to Larry and his employees for their efforts on behalf of the children in our community. This gift of new hats and mittens means so much to the families who struggle every day to make ends meet,” said Director Kris White.

WCCCC begins taking applications as early as October each year, and each year we see an overwhelming need for our Holiday Basket Program. After 135 families were assessed and approved, WCCCC staff and volunteers began shopping for toys and coats for each of the 315 children in those families, and the conference room became a staging area for collecting and sorting toys and jackets.

Each year we include toys, hats, mittens, a holiday meal and other food in the holiday baskets. This year, through the generosity of our donors, we were also able to provide a new coat for each child in the household. On December 19, WCCCC's staff and volunteers prepared for Santa's arrival, and were on hand to help families carry out boxes filled with toys and food.

Families also were invited to enjoy refreshments and have their picture taken with Santa as a memento of a very special evening.



Thank you to all 2012 Donors and Volunteers!

DONORS:

Reverend & Mrs. James Allen
 Jackie & Von Ray Barnes
 Jeffery & Michele Batara
 Paul Boetto
 Veronica Bollero
 Rita Bradley
 Julian & Carla Brown
 John Cicero
 Lloyd and Nadine Collins
 Roger Claar
 Tom Cross
 Ryan & Christina Eggert
 Marilyn & David Farmer, Sr.
 Paul Fazio
 Frank & Laurie Fleischer
 Fabio & Nancy Franci
 John & Michelle Grueling
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 Bill Jacobs Joliet
 Block, Klukas & Manzella
 Bob Martin Auto Sales

Care-N-Comfort
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 Caterpillar Foundation
 Channahon Township
 CITGO Petroleum Corp.
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 City of Crest Hill
 Cutting Edge Catering
 D. Oxley Construction
 D'Arcy Motors
 DNR Construction
 Domino's Pizza
 El Burrito Loco
 Elite Children's Academy
 First Federal Savings Bank
 First Midwest Bank
 Fleckenstein's Bakery
 For the Good of It
 Food 4 Less
 Friends of Toi Hutchinson
 Homer Township
 Homecut Donuts
 Hotel Plaza
 IACAA
 Immaculate Conception
 Church
 JDI Enterprises
 Jewel Foods
 Joliet Jewish Welfare Chest
 Joliet Junior Woman's Club
 Lockport Township
 McKeown Law Firm
 Michael's Pizza
 Monee Township
 NuMark Credit Union
 Old Fashioned Pancake
 House
 Old Plank Trail Community
 Bank
 Ozinga Brothers, Inc.
 Parliament Builders
 Priority Staffing
 Presence St. Joseph
 Medical Center
 Rathbun, Cservenyak, & Kozol

Reich, Jumbeck & Assoc.
 St. Margaret Mary Church
 State Farm Insurance -Howard Wright
 The Home Depot Foundation
 The Voyager Group
 Three Rivers Association
 of Realtors
 T.J. Lambrecht Construction
 Tri-K Supplies
 Turk Furniture
 Ultra Foods
 United Way of Will County
 Village of Bolingbrook
 Wal-Mart
 Weist Foundation
 Wells Fargo
 Werner, Rogers, Doran & Ruzon
 Will Township
 Will County Employees
 Wilmington Township

SANTA'S HELPERS:

Luis Cantú
 Javier Cisneros Jr
 Neftali Cisneros Jr.-
 Rhiannon Keith
 Tyler Keith
 Chris Lukanich
 Kaden Laurie
 Cole Laurie
 Quinn Laurie
 Linda Rees
 Matt Rees
 Nathan Rees
 Dave Stover
 Les White



January 21:
 Closed in observance of
 Martin Luther King, Jr Day

January 22:
 CSBG Scholarship
 applications available

January 31:
 VITA
 Tax Preparation Assistance

February 12:
 Closed in observance of
 Lincoln's Birthday

February 15:
 Community Resource Fair
 Romeoville Recreation Center

February 18:
 Closed in observance of
 Presidents' Day

February 22 & 23:
 Joliet Regional Chamber of
 Commerce Expo
 Westfield/Louis Joliet Mall

March 29:
 Closed in observance of
 Good Friday

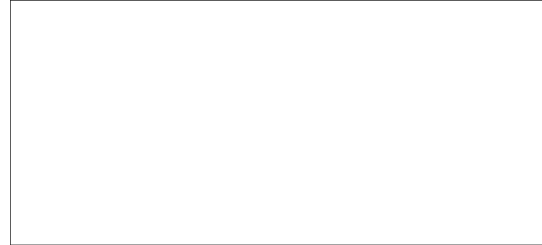
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The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and are dedicated to helping people help themselves...and each other.

WCCCC Begins Second Year of Income Tax Assistance

Will County Center for Community Concerns will again be helping low-income individuals and families with free tax preparation for the second year in a row. Last year WCCCC partnered with the IRS to become a VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) site.

During our first year we were able to provide tax preparation services to 54 households. Our goal this year is to double the number of households who receive free tax preparation assistance. This year we are very excited to partner with Governors State University to offer internship credit to accounting students that wanted to volunteer their time to help prepare income taxes.

All services are free of charge, and taxes are filed online to ensure speedy returns. Each of our volunteers and staff who will be volunteering are trained through an IRS sponsored certification program.

For more information on WCCCC's free tax preparation service, please call Todd Fuller at (815)-722-0722 extension 205.