

# Community Action News

Community Action...helping people, changing lives.

## Board of Directors

Linda Pote, *Chair*  
 Frank Fleischer, *Treasurer*  
 Ron Alberico  
 Michelle Allen  
 Jackie Barnes  
 Michele Batara  
 Roger Claar  
 Frank Costa  
 Glenn Ginder  
 Elizabeth Franklin  
 Melinda Mackey  
 Mary Ann Murphy  
 Ruth Newell  
 Shawn Walsh

Kris White  
*Executive Director*

## Inside this issue:

<i>From the Director</i>	2
<i>Foreclosure Prevention</i>	2
<i>Healthy Homes/Healthy Families Expo</i>	3
<i>2014 Holiday Baskets</i>	4

## WCCCC moves to 2455 Glenwood Avenue in Joliet!



Will County Center for Community Concerns is pleased to announce that we have moved our office to 2455 Glenwood Avenue in Joliet. The building was acquired in July 2014 and we began offering services at the new site on September 29.

With over 15,600 square feet of office space, this new location will allow WCCCC to continue to grow and expand the services we currently provide.

The first floor of our new home is occupied our Community Services and Homeless Services departments, as well as our administrative staff. Customers will be seen on a first come, first served basis for most services, with appointments available for counseling services. Our Housing Programs department will eventually occupy part of the second floor. Group classes and counseling sessions will be hosted in the second floor training/conference room.

“The move to our new building has been a positive experience for our customers and staff alike”, said Executive Director Kris White. “The location is central to the community we serve, and the offices are so welcoming. Our customers have thanked us many times for providing them with such a warm environment.”

Prior to moving in a new sign identifying the agency was installed and some landscaping work was done to refresh the site. Interior renovations included the remodeling of first and second floor restrooms and the installation of an elevator which will be completed early in 2015.

The new office building gives WCCCC the capacity to grow and expand our services, as well as the opportunity to develop office suites that will be available for lease to local not for profit organizations to further enhance the delivery of services to our customers.

WCCCC has served as the community action agency for Will County since our incorporation in 1986, and we remain committed to our mission to assist and enable low and moderate income individuals to obtain the opportunities they need to prepare themselves for self-sufficiency.



## From the Director

As we approach the end of another year, it is only natural to think back on what we have accomplished over the last twelve months and begin to anticipate what the new year will bring.

For WCCCC, 2014 was a banner year! We had outgrown our previous office on Scott Street, and for several years have been searching for a new location for the agency. Our Board approved the purchase of our new home on Glenwood Avenue and we moved into our beautiful new office at the end of September.

The other great accomplishment this year was the finalization of our grant award for the Foreclosure Settlement Grant. The \$3 million dollar award will make a huge difference to those who have been negatively impacted by the foreclosure crisis.

Yet to come this year is our annual Holiday Basket Program. This year's program will ensure that 135 local families will have something to celebrate this Christmas. Through the generous support of our community, 345 children will receive new coats, hats and gloves, a thoughtfully chosen gift, and the families will have enough food to fill their pantry and enjoy a special holiday meal.

Many thanks to our Board of Directors for their vision, and for their dedication to the agency and to our community. And on behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, I wish to thank each of our donors, partner agencies, elected officials and the business community for their ongoing support of WCCCC.

I wish each of you a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year!

*Kris*

## Foreclosure Settlement Program

Will County Center for Community Concerns was awarded a \$3 million grant through the National Foreclosure Settlement Award to mitigate the effects that the foreclosure crisis has had on our area.

WCCCC is the team lead in a partnership with the County of Will and the City of Joliet.

This 3-year award will allow for the acquisition and demolition or rehabilitation and resale of foreclosed and vacant housing units in targeted areas of Will County. Some properties have already been identi-

fied and a pool of qualified buyers will be developed. In order to be eligible potential buyers must be at or below 80% of the area median income as defined by HUD. We anticipate that 29 homes will be rehabbed and resold through this grant.

In addition to rehabbing and reselling homes, funds will be used to identify and demolish approximately seven (7) blighted residential properties within the Joliet city limits.

WCCCC will assess each property prior to rehab and will complete a final

inspection of the work before turning the home over to it's new owner.

This grant will also allow WCCCC to provide pre-purchase counseling to the new homeowners, foreclosure prevention counseling and education to 500 households, and emergency housing assistance for 75 families.

The Foreclosure Settlement Grant will help stabilize housing and have a positive impact on many households within our community. For additional information please contact us at (815) 722-0722 ext 217.

## Thanks to Harrah's Employees

Many thanks to the employees of Harrah's Joliet Casino and Hotel for again selecting WCCCC as their Charity of the Month for July.

Harrah's employees pay \$5 to participate in "Jeans Day", held several times each month, and then select a local charity to benefit from the proceeds. During the month of July, Harrah's employees collected a grand total of \$4,995 for WCCCC.

WCCCC commends Harrah's for their ongoing support not only of our programs, but for their commitment to our community!

## Ecolab supports Home Repair

WCCCC wishes to thank Ecolab for their generous contribution of \$4,200 to the Home Repair Program.

The Home Repair program provides assistance to homeowners who cannot afford to address code violations or other maintenance issues that could lead to eviction. The program is funded through the generous support of foundations and local businesses such as Ecolab

Thank you, Ecolab for your ongoing support to our Home Repair Program. We are very grateful for your loyalty to the residents of our community.

## 2014 “Healthy Homes/Healthy Families” Expo



On a cold, blustery Saturday morning more than 150 families attended Will County Center for Community Concern’s fourth annual “Healthy Homes / Healthy Families Expo”.

This year’s event, held at the Joliet Park District’s Memorial Stadium on October 4, provided Will County residents with the information on services and products they need to keep their families and homes safe and healthy.



WCCCC’s housing counselors were on hand to answer questions about foreclosures and



evictions, and our Homeless Services staff provided information on affordable housing options. General information on each of the programs and services offered by WCCCC was readily available to all in attendance.

The Northern Illinois Food Bank’s Mobile Food Pantry was on site to help meet the nutritional needs of the families who qualified for assistance. Over 130 families were invited to shop the pantry for fresh meats, produce, and dry goods, thereby stretching their food budgets.

A grant from the CITGO Petroleum Corporation, provided WCCCC with the funds to distribute “energy kits” including smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and “socket sealers” to help families keep their homes safe and improve their home’s energy efficiency.



WCCCC wishes to thank the many organizations and businesses who participated in our 2014 event, including the Galowich Family YMCA, the Citizen’s Utility Board,



Presence St. Joseph Medical Center, Old Plank Trail Community Bank, and the Will County Health Department’s Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. Special thanks to the Joliet Fire Department for manning the educational “Fire Safety House”, the Joliet Police Department for conducting child safety seat inspections, and to Jody’s Hot Dogs for once again providing lunch.



**December 24-25, 2014:**  
Closed in observance of Christmas

**January 1, 2015:**  
Closed in observance of New Years Day

**January 19, 2015:**  
Closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day

**February 12, 2015:**  
Closed in observance of Lincoln’s Birthday

**February 16, 2015**  
Closed in observance of President’s Day

*Follow us on Facebook!*

Will County Center for Community Concerns is now on Facebook!

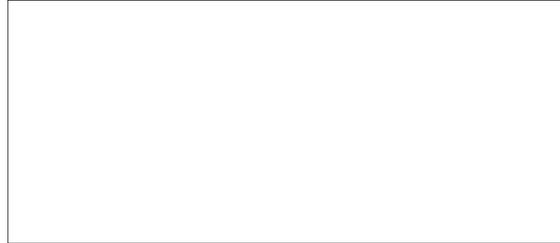
Our page is refreshed with the latest news on outreach sites, special events, and program availability.





2455 Glenwood Avenue  
Joliet, IL 60435

Phone: (815) 722-0722  
Fax: (815) 722-6344  
E-mail: [contactus@wcccc.net](mailto:contactus@wcccc.net)  
[www.wcccc.net](http://www.wcccc.net)



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.

## *2014 Holiday Food Baskets*

Will County Center for Community Concerns will host our annual "Holiday Basket Program" on Wednesday, December 17. This year 135 income-eligible families with children aged 16 or younger will be invited to enjoy special holiday refreshments and have an opportunity to share their secret wishes with Santa. Every pre-registered family will receive a generously filled food box (including a frozen turkey), and each child will receive a new jacket, hat and mittens.

Again this year we will purchase an age-appropriate gift for every child on our list. Last year, through the generous support of our community, 390 children received a gift chosen especially for them.

We invite you to become part of this special program by making your financial contribution that will help us make this a special Christmas for our families in need. Please direct your donation to:

*"Holiday Food Baskets 2014"*

*Will County Center for Community Concerns*

*2455 Glenwood Avenue*

*Joliet, IL 60435*

