

Community Action News

Community Action...helping people, changing lives.

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Community Action in Will County

Will County Center for Community Concerns was recently honored to host representatives from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services during their recent visit to Chicago. George Sheldon, Acting Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Jeannie Chaffin, Director, Office of Community Services, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, met with WCCCC staff and customers to learn about the impact that community action has at the local level.



George Sheldon, and Kent Wilcox, HHS

Also in attendance were Will County Executive Larry Walsh;



Jeannie Chaffin, Larry Walsh, Mike Hennessy

Michael Hennessy, United Way of Will County; WCCCC Board members David Sullivan, Linda Pote and Frank Fleischer; Kent Wilcox, Regional Administrator for Region V, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Larry Dawson, Deputy Director, Office of Energy Assistance; Gail Hedges, State CSBG Manager; and Dr. Dalitso Sulamoyo, Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies.

Executive Director Kris White and her senior management team presented a brief overview of the creation and history of community action, highlighting the importance of local partnerships and coordination, maximum feasible participation by elected officials, private industry and consumers, and regular assessments of the needs within the community, and described the various programs offered by WCCCC.



The group then toured the home of a Joliet resident who purchased her house through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The homeowner has since qualified for assistance through the Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program and the Home Modification Program. For this new homeowner, these services will offer her a comfortable, energy efficient home, and the modifications to install ramps and widen doorways will help ensure that her disabled son will be able to remain in her home.

The day concluded with a client forum, allowing Mr. Sheldon and Ms. Chaffin an opportunity to interact with several customers who were willing to share their personal stories and talk about their experiences with WCCCC. Each of the customers described the circumstances that drove them to seek assistance, and how working with our staff has had a positive impact on their lives.



G Hedges, J Chaffin, C Rees

WCCCC wishes to thank Mr. Sheldon, Ms. Chaffin and each of our guests for their commitment to community action and to the people we serve!



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From the Director

I can't believe how quickly the months have passed this year! Our agency is always busy, full of people who need help to save their homes, find a safe place to live, or meet their day to day expenses. We are constantly looking for new avenues to improve the lives of our Will County families.

As you turn the pages of this issue of Community Action News you will read about our guests from the Department of Health and Human Services, the grant award that was received through the Attorney General's office, and the expo that we hosted mid-October. These stories demonstrate how WCCCC serves the community; by promoting our programs, administering grant funds, and interacting with and educating our neighbors.

The next event on the horizon for WCCCC is our annual Holiday Basket Program. On December 18, staff and volunteers will be in full holiday mode, playing host to local children and distributing food boxes and warm clothing. While there is funding available to provide nutritious food and warm outerwear, we rely on your generosity to provide a gift for each child on our list. I hope that you will help us make this holiday season a special one for our local families by making a contribution to this program.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, I wish each of you a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year! *Kris*

WCCCC Receives \$3 Million Grant from IL Attorney General's Office

Will County Center for Community Concerns is pleased to announce a grant award of \$3 million dollars from the Illinois Attorney General's office "National Foreclosure Settlement Awards".

WCCCC collaborated with Will County and the City of Joliet to form the Will County Investment Partnership. WCCCC has partnered with Will County on their Neighborhood Stabilization Program, providing both housing counseling services and expertise in assessing and rehabbing vacant properties. Joliet has also called upon WCCCC to provide pre-purchase counseling services to prospective homeowners active in their NSP program.

WCCCC, a HUD-certified Housing Counseling Agency since 1993, will provide foreclosure counseling and mitigation services to approximately 525 households on the cusp of mortgage difficulty through this program.

The agency has already begun collaborating with the Will County Foreclosure Mediation Court by sending housing counselors to the court three days each week to ensure that homeowners with a foreclosure notice have access to no-cost services. Other services will include help locating safe, affordable housing, assistance with first/last month's rent, and security deposits.

This grant will also fund the purchase, rehabilitation, and resale of an estimated 29 homes in the targeted areas of Joliet, Crest Hill, and Lockport and the demolition of an estimated seven blighted, vacant properties in Joliet. "This award will enable WCCCC to greatly expand services to households that have lost their home or are in danger of becoming "un-housed", said Director Kris White. "Our county has been hard-hit by the recent foreclosure crisis, and this funding will enable us to stabilize more than 600 households. The strength of our partnerships and working relationships with the County and the City made this program a natural fit for our agency."

Thanks to Harrah's Employees

Many thanks to the employees of Harrah's Joliet Casino and Hotel for selecting WCCCC as their Charity of the Month for July 2013.

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 \$4,405.

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

Walmart supports Home Repair

WCCCC wishes to thank Walmart Store 2956 for their recent contribution of \$750 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 Walmart.

Thank you, Walmart Store 2956 Shorewood for your ongoing support to our Home Repair Program. We are very grateful for your loyalty!

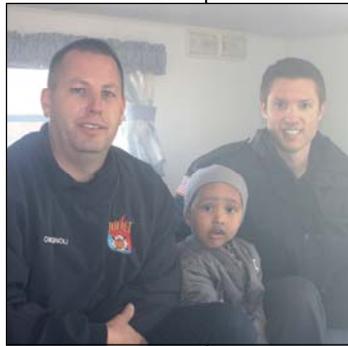
“Healthy Homes/Healthy Families” Expo



On Saturday, October 19 more than 150 families attended Will County Center for Com-

munity Concern’s third annual “Healthy Homes / Healthy Families Expo” held at the Joliet Park District’s Memorial Stadium. At this annual event, sponsored this year by Voyager Media Publications, WCCCC offered Will County residents information and products to help keep their families

much-needed fresh meats, produce, and dry goods. Through a grant from the CITGO Petroleum Corporation, WCCCC was also able to distribute 10-packs of CFL light bulbs, fire extinguish-



and 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 event, including ComEd, Galowich YMCA, Senior Services Center of Will County, Will County/Land Use Department,



healthy and their homes safe.

Once again the Northern Illinois Food Bank’s Mo-

bile Food Pantry was on hand to help meet the nutrition needs of those attending. Over 125 families were able to “shop” the pantry for

Catholic Charities/Daybreak Center, and the Will County Health Department. Many thanks to Joliet Fire



Department for manning the educational “Fire Safety House”, and to Jody’s Hot Dogs for once again providing lunch.



October 14:
Closed in observance of Columbus Day

October 19:
“Healthy Homes/Healthy Families” Expo Joliet Park District/Inwood

October 26:
“Supporting Our Families in Transition” Romeo Recreation Center

November 11:
Closed in observance of Veterans Day

November 28-29:
Closed in observance of Thanksgiving holiday

December 18:
Holiday Basket Distribution

December 24-25:
Closed in observance of Christmas



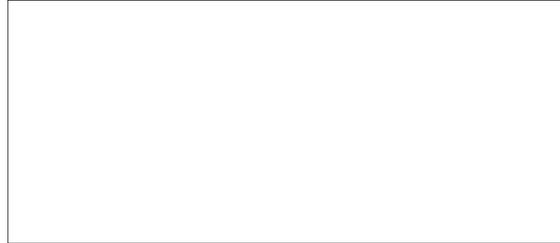
Find us on Facebook!

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! Please “friend” us and help us spread the word about our services!



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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.

2013 Holiday Food Baskets

Will County Center for Community Concerns will host our annual "Holiday Basket Program" on Wednesday, December 18. This year 125 income-eligible families with children aged 16 or younger will be invited to our agency to enjoy special holiday refreshments and have an opportunity to share their secret wishes with Santa. Each 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, 315 children received a gift chosen especially for them.

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

"Holiday Food Baskets 2013"

Will County Center for Community Concerns

304 N Scott Street

Joliet, IL 60432

