

# Community Action News

“Providing Hope Through Self-Sufficiency”

## Board of Directors

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Vice Chair: Frank Fleischer,  
Mayor, Village of Mokena

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Mary Ann Murphy

Shawn Walsh,  
Regional Superintendent  
Will County ROE

Sheldon Watts,  
Trustee, Village of Boling-  
brook

Kris White  
*Executive Director*

### Inside this issue:

<i>From the Director</i>	2
<i>Holiday Baskets 2016</i>	2
<i>Families in Transition</i>	2
<i>2016 Donors and Volunteers</i>	3
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	3
<i>VITA &amp; Donations</i>	4

## WCCCC marks 30th Anniversary as Community Action Agency

This May, Will County Center for Community Concerns will mark its 30<sup>th</sup> year of service as Will County’s Community Action Agency with a series of events. WCCCC was incorporated in September 1986 and opened its doors to the community in 1987.

During the week of May 15, 2017 WCCCC will hold three events on the grounds of our office at 2455 Glenwood Avenue in Joliet, and host a gala celebration at the Joliet Country Club.

The week-long celebration will kick off on Wednesday, May 17 with our Healthy Homes/Healthy Families event that brings together our partner agencies in providing resources to the community. This event will enable Will County residents to learn about the services and programs available not only through WCCCC, but also through our partner agencies. The Northern Illinois Food Bank’s Mobile Pantry will also be on site, providing healthy, fresh foods to eligible families. Families who would like to shop the pantry are encouraged to preregister at WCCCC.



*Dr. Dalitso Sulamoyo*

On Thursday, May 18, members of the business community will be invited to attend a luncheon that will spotlight our role as a community action agency, giving them an overview of the impact WCCCC makes on the community at large by helping to stabilize neighborhoods and prepare individuals for

the workforce. Guest speaker is Dr. Dalitso Sulamoyo, President and CEO of the Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies. The success stories of some of our customers will also be highlighted at the luncheon.

The 30th Anniversary Gala will be held at the Joliet Country Club at 1009 Spencer Road on Friday, May 19. This is our celebratory event, which includes dinner, music, silent auctions, and plenty of fun!

Guest speaker is Dr. Donna M. Beegle, an authentic voice who speaks, writes and trains across the nation to break the iron cage of poverty. Donna brings unique insights from having grown up in the deepest poverty in America and of studying and speaking on poverty for over 26 years.



*Dr. Donna Beegle*

The week-long celebration will conclude with a Family & Community Fair that will include food, fun, and festivities targeting families with children. Agencies that provide services to families with children will offer information on their programs and services. This event will also bring in Jim Nesci’s Cold Blooded Creatures, local canine units, and fun activities including face painting, balloon twisters, and craft activities for the children.

For more information on any of these events, or to purchase tickets to the gala, please call (815) 722-0722 x 222, or visit our website: [www.wcccc.net](http://www.wcccc.net).

## From the Director

*As I take time to reflect back on our agency's 30 year history, I can't help but feel gratified by the growth we have experienced. When WCCCC was incorporated in 1986, we offered a limited number of programs. Now, 30 years later, our agency offers a widely diverse menu of services.*

*We continue to offer the Weatherization and LIHEAP programs, along with the many assistance programs funded by the Community Services Block Grant. As a HUD-approved housing counseling agency, our counselors are able to provide a myriad of services to the community.*

*Through partnerships with the County of Will and the City of Joliet, WCCCC administers housing programs that provide homeownership opportunities to prospective buyers, and rehab programs that help stabilize neighborhoods and communities.*

*Our most recent grant award from the Illinois Housing Development Authority will enable us to modify the homes of disabled persons or seniors to ensure that they can remain safely in their homes. This funding will enable us to widen doorways, in-*

*stall ramps, remodel bathrooms and kitchens, and install other measures to improve the accessibility and safety of the home.*

*More of our customers are receiving case management services, designed to address the root cause of their needs, and help them develop goals and plans to move forward. I am proud of my staff and their dedication to the people they work with.*

*On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, I want to thank each of you for the role you have played in supporting our agency over our first 30 years in the community. All of us here at WCCCC look forward to developing new partnerships and strengthening existing relationships!*

*I also want to thank each of our volunteers and donors for all you have done to support our work. Without you we could not undertake the task of effecting meaningful change in our community.*

*Kris*



On December 21, WCCCC invited 125 families with children to visit Santa at our annual Holiday Basket event. More than 345 children received toys, new coats and hats, and each family also was provided with a generous amount of food to help them celebrate the holiday. Many thanks to everyone who made this such a fun night!

## Thank you to all our 2016 Donors and Volunteers!

### Individuals:

Laurie & Ron Alberico  
 Michelle & Brad Allen  
 Anonymus  
 Jackie & Von Ray Barnes  
 Nancy Bartels  
 Representative Mark Batinick  
 Paul Boetto  
 Bobbi Borbas  
 Rev. Dr. Lester & Beverly Brown  
 Deborah & John Cicero  
 Kathy Combs  
 Nancy & Fabio Franchi  
 Elizabeth Franklin  
 Bonnie & Glenn Ginder  
 Cindy & Don Gould  
 Michelle & John Greuling  
 Joni Hooper  
 Donna & Greg Jacobs  
 Sheryl & Ed Jaquays  
 Cynthia June  
 Jennifer Lewis  
 Carol Lindgren  
 Julie Loudermilk  
 Mary & Jim Maragos  
 Geralyn & Richard May  
 Colleen & Ken Miller  
 Jane Montello  
 Pat Mudron  
 Thea Oprzedek  
 Joy Park  
 Anne Partyka  
 Linda & Walter Pote  
 Janet & Peter Ragusa  
 Anita & Mark Schneidewind  
 Karen Sorbero  
 John Spindler  
 Marcene Staley  
 Sue Treharne  
 Mark Turk  
 Geri Vaughan  
 Amy & Shawn Walsh  
 Kris & Les White

### Foundations/Civic Groups:

Aileen S Andrew Foundation  
 BPOE #296  
 Ecolab Foundation  
 First Baptist Church of  
 University Park

George M Eisenberg Foundation  
 GKN Foundation  
 Heritage Corridor Children of  
 the American Revolution  
 Joliet Junior Women's Club  
 Jolie Kiwanis Charities  
 Joliet/Will County  
 Project Acclaim  
 Louis Joliet Daughters of the  
 American Revolution  
 Max Goldenberg Foundation  
 Our Savior Lutheran Church  
 St. Anne's Church  
 St. Margaret Mary Church  
 St. Mary Parish  
 The Home Depot Foundation  
 Tony DeRosa Foundation  
 United Way of Will County  
 VFW Post 5788  
 Victory Cathedral  
 Worship Center  
 Will County Housing  
 Development Corporation

### Businesses:

AJ Dralle, Inc  
 BB Construction Enterprise  
 Berlinsky Scrap Corporation  
 Bob Martin Auto Sales  
 Caring Hands by Kris  
 D'Arcy Automobiles  
 Des Rochers Backyard Pools  
 Exquisite Carpet Care  
 First Midwest Bank  
 Fleckenstein's Bakery  
 Gary S Mueller & Associates  
 Hampton Inn Joliet  
 Harrah's Joliet Casino & Hotel  
 Harris & Harris, LTD  
 Howard Wright /  
 State Farm Insurance  
 Integrity Restoration  
 Joliet Tent Company  
 Kinzler Janitorial Company  
 LincolnWay Community Bank  
 M & M Bank  
 Michael's Pizza  
 Midland States Bank  
 Nicor Gas

Old Plank Trail  
 Community Bank  
 Ozinga Bros., Inc  
 Parliament Builders  
 Plasti-Pak Packaging  
 Priority Staffing  
 Reich, Jumbeck & Stole, LLP  
 Rich's Yamaha  
 SERVPRO  
 The Tomczak Law Group  
 Three Rivers Association  
 of Realtors  
 Town Center Bank  
 TownePlace Suites Marriott  
 Tri-K Inc  
 Trizzino Concrete  
 Wermer, Rogers, Doran  
 & Ruzon

### Municipalities:

City of Crest Hill  
 Village of Bolingbrook  
 Village of Homer Glen  
 Village of Mokena  
 Village of Rockdale  
 Village of Symerton  
 Homer Township  
 Jackson Township  
 Lockport Township  
 Manhattan Township  
 Monee Township  
 Plainfield Township  
 Will Township

### 2016 Volunteers:

Michelle Allen  
 Michele Batara  
 Joan Bloch  
 Sue Bloch  
 Bobbi Boban  
 Vicki Cano  
 Rita Dumyahh  
 Serena Guzman  
 Rhiannon Keith  
 Tyler Keith  
 Chris Moran  
 Cary Rees  
 Linda Rees  
 Aisha Sanchez  
 Les White



April 14:  
 Closed in observance of  
 Good Friday

April 22:  
 "No One Can Stop Me"  
 Abilities Expo  
 Plainfield HS Central Campus

May 17:  
 Healthy Homes/Healthy  
 Families Expo  
 WCCCC  
 2455 Glenwood Avenue

May 18:  
 Business Community Lunch  
 WCCCC  
 2455 Glenwood Avenue

May 19:  
 30th Anniversary Gala  
 Joliet Country Club

May 20:  
 Family & Community Expo  
 WCCCC  
 2455 Glenwood Avenue

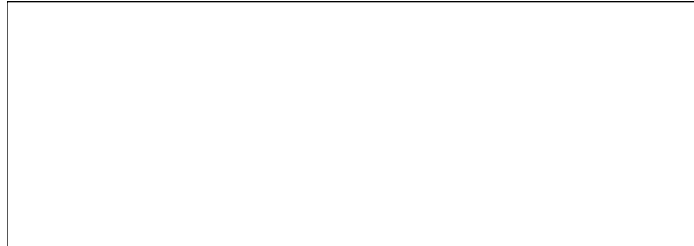
May 29:  
 Closed in Observance of  
 Memorial Day





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[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.



### WCCCC offers no cost tax preparation services

Will County Center for Community Concerns is once again providing free tax preparation services to low and moderate income households through the VITA program. WCCCC is a member of Will County LITAC (Low Income Tax Assistance Coalition).

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) offers free tax help to low- to moderate-income (generally, \$54,000 and below) people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. Certified volunteers sponsored by various organizations receive training to help prepare basic tax returns.

The VITA Program provides a much needed service to ensure that Will County households receive the maximum allowable tax refund without having to pay to have their returns accurately prepared and filed. All services are offered free of charge, and taxes are filed online to ensure speedy returns. Last year more than 300 households had their taxes prepared and filed by WCCCC staff and volunteers.

To schedule an appointment, please contact Patricia Venziano at (815) 722-0722, extension 217.

### Help support WCCCC programs and services

There are two quick and easy ways to support WCCCC! Our web page now has a "Donate" button that allows you to make a monetary contribution using your PayPal account or a credit/debit card. You can also support WCCCC by shopping online at Amazon.Smile.com. When you sign in at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select Will County Center for Community Concerns as your charity, 0.5% of your purchase will be donated to WCCCC!

