

Community Action News

Community Action...helping people, changing lives.

Board of Directors

Chair: Linda Pote

Vice Chair: Frank Fleischer,
Mayor, Village of Mokena

Secretary: Michele Batara

Treasurer: Frank Costa

Ron Alberico,
Lockport Township Supervisor

Michelle Allen

Jackie Barnes

Roger C. Claar,
Mayor, Village of Bolingbrook

Elizabeth Franklin

Glenn Ginder,
Clerk, Will Township

Melinda Mackey

Gary Mueller

Mary Ann Murphy

Ruth Newell

Shawn Walsh,
Regional Superintendent
Will County ROE

Kris White
Executive Director

National Foreclosure Settlement Grant

Will County Center for Community Concerns, in partnership with Will County and the City of Joliet, administers the IL Attorney General's National Foreclosure Settlement Program. The 3-year award of \$3 million dollars provides for the purchase and rehabilitation of foreclosed and vacant housing units in areas that have been most impacted by foreclosure activity.

To date 21 residential properties in Crest Hill, Joliet, Lockport, Plainfield and Shorewood have been identified for acquisition. Closings have been completed on 13 of those properties, and seven of those have been rehabbed and sold. WCCCC's housing counselors provide pre-purchase counseling to each of the buyers to ensure that they will be successful homeowners.

Another component of this grant enables WCCCC to provide emergency housing assistance and housing. Funding is available to provide help to an estimated 75 households. To date 18 households have applied for assistance.

For additional information please call (815) 722-0722 extension 217.



2015 Families in Transition Event

The 2015 Spring "Families In Transition" event was held at the Joliet High School West Campus on Saturday, April 25. The event, co-sponsored with the Will County Regional Office of Education, aims to provide services and information to families with school-aged children who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of losing stable housing.

This year's event was attended by 120 families including 283 children. Services included health screenings, dental cleanings, vision screenings and haircuts. Local social service agencies were on hand to help families find the help they need to stabilize their households.

Will County Center for Community Concerns hosted informational tables staffed by our housing counselors and homeless prevention specialists. WCCCC also sponsored the Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Pantry, which provided generously filled food boxes to 124 families.

Many thanks to the agencies who staffed tables at the event, and to Joliet West for allowing the use of their campus, and to Presence St Joseph Medical Center for providing breakfast for the families!



Inside this issue:

<i>From the Director</i>	2
<i>Open House</i>	2
<i>2014 Donors and Volunteers</i>	3
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	3
<i>Home Repair Program</i>	4
<i>VITA Program</i>	4

From the Director

It doesn't seem possible that we have been in our new building less than a year! We celebrated with an Open House in May and invited the community to tour the office and learn more about our services. It was wonderful to see the Board's vision for the agency come to fruition, and I am grateful for their dedication to WCCCC.

In these pages you will find updates on some of our programs, a recap of the Families In Transition event held in April, and a calendar of upcoming events and other important dates.

I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the many people, organizations, businesses, and foundations who so

faithfully support our work in the community, either by making a financial contribution or by volunteering their time and talents. The support that we have from our community is phenomenal, and I can't begin to express our gratitude for their commitment to WCCCC and the people we serve.

Once again, my heartfelt thanks to our Board of Directors, to our dedicated staff, and to each of our partners. Together we make a real difference to those in need.

Kris

WCCCC celebrates move with Open House

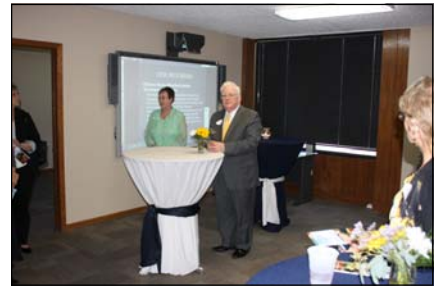
Will County Center for Community Concerns hosted an Open House on May 18, 2015 to celebrate the move to our new location at 2455 Glenwood Avenue, Joliet.

The event was attended by more than 75 guests including community partners, elected officials, and donors. WCCCC staff offered tours of the first floor offices and offered information on the many programs and services available to Will County residents. Guests were then invited to the second floor Conference Room/Training Center to enjoy refreshments and meet our Board of Directors and Executive Director, Kris White.

Board Chair Linda Pote extended a welcome to our guests, and thanked Kris White and WCCCC staff for their dedication to the agency and to the people we serve.

Will County Executive Larry Walsh offered his congratulations on the new location and commended the agency for being an invaluable resource to those who need assistance. Also extending their thanks and appreciation for WCCCC's efforts were Chasity Wells from Congressman Bill Foster's office, and Ms. Robyn Grange from Congressman Bobby Rush's office.

WCCCC wishes to extend special thanks to our event sponsors for their ongoing support: Gold Sponsor First Community Bank; Silver Sponsors Arcos Environmental Services; D'Arcy Motors; JDI Enterprises; Old Plank Trail Community Bank; Old Second Bank; Parliament Builders; Village of Bolingbrook; and Wermer, Rogers, Doran & Ruzon; and Bronze Sponsors Brown & Brown Insurance; and Mahoney, Silverman & Cross.



Thank you to all our 2014 Donors and Volunteers!

2014 Donors

Abri Credit Union
 Aileen S. Andrew Foundation
 Ronald & Laurie Alberico
 Alliant Credit Union
 Foundation
 Anonymous
 Arcos Environmental Services
 Jackie & Von Ray Barnes
 B.B. Construction
 Berlinsky Scrap Corp.
 IL Senator Jennifer Bertino-
 Tarrant
 Block, Klukas, Manzella & Shell
 Bob Martin Auto Sales
 Paul Boetto
 Veronica Bollero
 BPO Elks 296
 Buchar, Mitchell, Bajt Architects
 Caring Hands by Kris
 City of Crest Hill
 Roger Claar
 Nadine Collins
 Keith & Paula Conroy
 Dames Funeral Home
 D'Arcy Motors
 Daughters of the American
 Revolution/Will County
 Deb's Way, Inc.
 Dick's Towing Service
 Ecolab
 Ryan Eggert
 Enbridge
 Pat Etzcorn
 Exquisite Carpet Care
 Fast Printing of Joliet, Inc.
 Mark & Pat Ferry
 First Midwest Bank
 Financial Network
 First Midwest Bank
 Fleckenstein's Bakery
 Frank Fleischer
 Nancy & Fabio Franchi
 George M. Eisenberg
 Foundation
 Tom Giarrante
 Glenn & Bonnie Ginder
 Donald Gould
 John & Michelle Greuling

Hansen Services, Inc.
 Harrah's Joliet Casino & Hotel
 IL Senator Napoleon Harris III
 Michael Hennessy
 Heritage Corridor Society/
 Children of the American
 Revolution
 Highland Plumbing, Inc.
 Jim Hogan
 Homecut Donuts
 Homer Township
 Hooters Management Corp.
 IL Senator Toi W. Hutchinson
 Integrity Restoration, Inc.
 Jackson Township
 Sheryl & Ed Jaquays
 JOHA Foundation
 Joliet Bank and Trust
 Joliet Jewish Welfare Chest
 Joliet Junior Woman's Club
 Joliet Slammers
 Joliet Tent Co.
 Joliet Town & Country Lanes
 Kinzler Janitorial Services
 LincolnWay Community Bank
 Manhattan Township
 Mary & James Maragos
 Karl Maurer
 Michael's Pizza / Romeoville
 Milano Bakery
 Kenneth Miller
 Monee Township
 Terry Morris
 Mulder Shorewood Investment
 Group
 NAMI of Will & Grundy Cty's
 Nicor Gas
 NuMark Credit Union
 Judy Ogalla
 Old Plank Trail Community
 Bank
 Ozinga Brothers, Inc.
 Parliament Builders, Inc.
 Peotone Township
 Plasti-Pak Packaging
 Linda & Walter Pote
 Presence St. Joseph Medical
 Center

Priority Staffing, LTD
 Rich's Yamaha
 IL Representative Al Riley
 St. Margaret Mary Church
 Steel City Real Estate &
 Property Management
 Three Rivers Assoc. of Realtors
 Total Electric Controls
 TownePlace Suites by Marriott
 Mr. & Mrs. Mark Turk
 Mark L. Turk
 Village of Bolingbrook
 Village of Homer Glen
 Village of Rockdale
 Howard Wright/State Farm
 Shawn & Amy Walsh
 Wermer, Rogers, Doran &
 Ruzon
 Will Township
 Women of the Moose
 Jeanie & Arne Young
 James & Rita Zelko
 ZPM Services

2014 Volunteers

Lional Avery
 Staci Biesterfeld
 Emily Blenck
 Tammi Brass
 Luis Cantu
 Javier Cisneros
 Noreen Cook
 Crystal Franklin
 Rhiannan Keith
 Tyler Keith
 Dehonest Love
 Chris Lukanich
 Tonnja May
 Ja'Nay Napier
 Linda Pote
 Michael Rouch
 Juan Sanchez
 Connie Sigman
 Denali Smith
 David Stutsman
 Adam Underhill
 Les White



July 23:
*Back to School Fair
 USF Campus*

August 5:
*Senior Resource Expo
 Richland Grade School*

August 14:
*Tools for Schools
 DuPage Township*

September 7:
*Closed in Observance
 of Labor Day*

October 12:
*Closed in Observance
 of Columbus Day*

Date to be Announced:
*Healthy Homes/Healthy
 Families Expo
 Joliet Park District/Inwood*

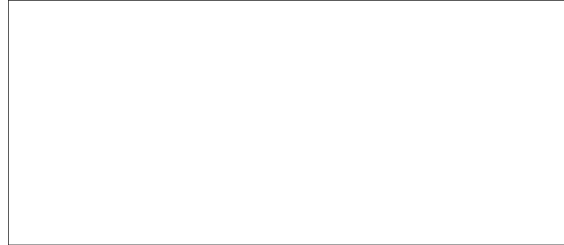
November 11:
*Closed in Observance
 of Veteran's Day*





2455 Glenwood Avenue
Joliet, IL 60435

Phone: (815) 722-0722
Fax: (815) 722-6344
E-mail: contactus@wcccc.net
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.

Thanks to Home Repair Program Supporters!

Will County Center for Community Concerns wishes to express our thanks to the businesses, service groups and foundations who so generously support our Home Repair Program. This year we have received generous contributions from Alliant Credit Union Foundation, D'Arcy Motors, First Midwest Bank, Full Circle Foundation, Joliet Junior Woman's Club, Old Plank Trail Community Bank, and the Tony DeRosa Foundation totaling \$16,000.



WCCCC's Home Repair Program helps low-income homeowners prevent or correct code violations, ensure their homes are safe, and avoid subsequent evictions that could result in homelessness. Through the Home Repair Program, created in 2002, WCCCC provides needed home repairs such as roof repair, repair of structural damage, minor electrical or plumbing repairs, replacement of gas pipes and other measures at no cost to income-eligible homeowners.



VITA tax preparation services

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

All services are offered free of charge, and taxes are filed online to ensure speedy returns. This year WCCCC filed 206 federal returns with an average refund of \$1,468, and 213 state returns with an average refund of \$166. Those returns included \$158,532 in Child Tax Credits, Earned Income Credits, and Education Credits. The average income of the individuals and families served this year was \$18,890. 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.