

West Suburban United Way
555 N. Kensington Avenue
La Grange Park, IL 60526
www.westuw.org
708-352-7614

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West Suburban United Way serves the communities of Berwyn, Brookfield, Cicero, Countryside, Forest View, Hodgkins, Indian Head Park, La Grange, La Grange Highlands, La Grange Park, Lyons, McCook, North Riverside, Riverside, Stickney, Westchester, Western Springs, and Willow Springs.



CONNECTIONS

Financial Stability West Suburban's First Impact Area

Financial Stability is the first of four impact areas West Suburban United Way is seeking to address in our communities. These needs are determined as part of a regional assessment that took place in 2007 across the entire Chicago Metropolitan area.

West Suburban United Way feels that by taking part in this regional assessment we can better understand what is going on in the entire area, and specifically in the 18 communities we serve. This was a very in-depth undertaking giving us a clear picture of what types of programs are needed to move the needle on this issue and allows us to use our funds in the most effective way.

There are three very definite areas where impact is needed in order for families to become more financially stable. Workforce development/employment, financial literacy, and asset growth are the three identified. Without these three areas of impact a family in financial need is going to have a difficult time overcoming poverty and achieving a stable home environment. In our communities, the greatest area of focus needs to be centered on workforce development/employment.

Companies have to downsize and some have to shut their doors. All you need to do is tune into the news in our area to hear about this problem. Therefore, the bulk of our resources in this area will go towards programs that address this issue. That is not to say we will be ignoring the plight of all those other

needs. We are currently addressing them through various program agencies. This year we are closely looking at what we can do in the financial stability arena.

We also ascertained the need for information in financial literacy is being addressed to a degree by programs through adult education venues, such as adult education classes at local high schools and area community colleges. Also, some local agencies offer information and counseling around this issue.

Volunteers have studied agency programs to find those deemed to be the most effective in addressing these issues. They are now in the process of visiting those programs to determine the most effective in delivery of services needed to achieve financial stability.

Motion Industries Cares About Those in Need

This past fall, Motion Industries in Cicero took extra steps to help those in need. As part of their United Way "Live United" campaign they decided to combine their annual fund drive with a food and coat drive.

Don Protska, West Suburban United Way's newest board member, and a group of dedicated co-workers, organized a coat and food drive to coincide with their annual United Way campaign. They were able to collect over 900 lbs of non-perishable food items for the Cicero/Berwyn/Stickney Food Pantry along with about 9 packing boxes of warm gently used clothing for the Constance Morris House, a women's shelter run by Pillars.

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“Live United” is Give/Advocate/Volunteer, and we encourage our employee family at Motion Industries to practice this in every way”, stated Mr. Protska, “This is just one of the ways we can help the communities where our workers live and which welcomes our company. I am very proud of the response I received from our workers, they were great. We also had a great campaign. We plan to continue our company’s long history of community involvement.”

West Suburban United Way is proud to welcome Mr. Protska and Motion Industries into our family of volunteers. They have already had a positive impact for the communities we serve. We look forward to a long and productive relationship with this amazing group.



"Out For Hours" Benefits United Way

The band “Out for Hours” gave a benefit performance for West Suburban United Way at Bella Via Ristorante in Brookfield on June 26, 2009.

“This is the first special event of this kind we have held, and it was a rousing success. Raising funds is always a challenge, however, this was meant to be a friend maker as well as a fundraiser. It was a small, intimate venue and made to appeal to a younger

audience than we have had in the past. It was a great way to introduce the community to United Way and its mission in a whole new way”, stated Sharon Alberts, Chief Professional Officer of West Suburban.

“I would like to thank everyone from the staff to all the sponsors of the raffle. Bella Via was a great venue, and the volunteers working on this did an exceptional job”, commented Alberts.

West Suburban was able to raise several thousand dollars from the proceeds and educate community members to their mission.

The story behind the band is significant. These young 20 something’s met as boys in their hometown of Riverside, IL. On a mission trip to Oklahoma years ago, where they were working to help those affected by tornados, they discovered their mutual love of music. They subsequently formed their group “Out for Hours”. Today over a decade later, they are still together making music, and giving back to those who need help through United Way, even going so far as to donate the proceeds



from the sales of their CD that night, and the pro bono concert.

Thank you for the wonderful gift of your time talent and treasure, and a wonderful entertaining evening. Check out our photo gallery of that night’s event.



Our Sponsors and Donors

- American Nuclear Society**
- Bella Via Ristorante**
- Leanne Pavel**
- Art & Helen Vykouk**
- Dr. Romanek & Dr. Kulhanek**
- Boys Club of Cicero**
- Sharon Flaim**
- 1730 Outlet Company**
- Motion Industries**
- Ann Marie Gruszkowski**
- Women’s Workout Express**
- Mia Alexandra Salon**
- Theatre of Western Springs**
- Main Street Liquors**
- Riverside Bank**
- Riverside Foods**
- Aunt Diana’s Old Fashioned Candy**
- The Chew Chew Café**
- La Grange Theatre**
- Palmer Place**
- Blueberry Hill**
- Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory**
- Six Flags Great America**
- Chicago White Sox**
- ALG Worldwide Logistics**
- Flagg Creek Golf Course**
- Western Springs Village True Value Hardware**
- Lubert Consulting**
- Joyce Fix-The Jewelry Lady**
- Chicago Wolves**
- Kane County Cougars**
- Muvico Theaters**
- Hollywood Blvd. Cinema**
- Olive Garden**



Our Agencies... Help is a Call Away

Access to Care

708.531.0680

www.accesstocare.org

Aging Care Connections

708.354.1323

www.swscoa.org

Aspire of Illinois

708.547.3550

www.aspireofillinois.org

Berwyn Cicero Council on Aging

708.447.2448

www.bccoa.org

Boy Scouts of America: Des Plaines Valley Council

708.354.1111

www.bsa-dpvc.org

Boys Club of Cicero

708.863.6211

email: cicboysclub@sbcglobal.net

Catholic Charities

708-222-1491

www.catholiccharities.net

The Center for Independence through Conductive Education

708.588.0833

www.center-for-independence.org

The Children's Center of Cicero- Berwyn

708.652.1202

email: ccc5341@comcast.net

CEP Youth Leadership, Inc.

708.579.5898

www.CEP4Youth.org

Community Nurse Health Association

708.352.0081

www.communitynurse.org

Community Support Services

708.354.4547

www.communitysupportservices.org

Family Service and Mental Health Center of Cicero

708.656.6430

www.cicerofamilyservice.org

Family Focus

312.421.5200

www.family-focus.org

Girl Scout of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana

www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Helping Hand Rehabilitation Center

708.352.3580

www.hhrehab.org

Oak-Leyden Developmental Services

708.524.1050

www.oak-leyden.org

Pillars

708.PILLARS

www.pillarscommunity.org

The Salvation Army: Suburban Service Extension

773.205.3520

www.salarmychicago.org

Sarah's Inn

708.386.3305

www.sarahsinn.org

Seguin Services, Inc.

708.863.3803

www.seguin.org

Solutions for Care

708.447.2448

www.solutionsforcare.org

The Way Back Inn

708.345.8422

www.waybackinn.org

West Suburban PADS

708.338.1724

www.westsuburbanpads.org

West Suburban Senior Services

708.547.5600

www.wsseniors.org

YMCA: PAV in Berwyn

708.749.0606

www.pavymca.org

Youth Crossroads, Inc.

708.484.7400

www.youthcrossroads.org

Youth Outreach Services (YOS)

773.777.7112

www.yos.org

Investment in Strength and Hope

For many millions of hard-working families the basic ingredients for a good life are increasingly beyond reach. Almost one in four working parents does not earn enough to provide for their families. An alarming 25 percent of teenagers will not graduate on time, imperiling their chances to make a successful transition to adulthood. Only one in three adults can be considered healthy, based on risk factor data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and more than 49 million Americans lack even basic health insurance.

United Way and its impact areas move the needle towards solutions and independence on these issues. Together we can make a difference. When you invest your dollars with United Way, you are not only investing in a stronger community but in a brighter future.

LIVE UNITED www.westuw.org