

THE LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

AN AFFILIATE OF
THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST

2007 Grant Recipient Profiles

Boys and Girls Club of Lake County: \$10,000 for support of “Power Hour” Homework/Tutoring program

Following the national mission of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America to help children make positive choices in their lives, the Boys and Girls Club of Lake County (BGLC) gives kids ages 6 to 18 a place of their own while providing professional staff who facilitate programs and case management services. BGLC has almost 2,000 members, almost half of whom come from the club’s new Waukegan facility. The “Power Hour” program offers homework assistance and tutoring services to more than 80 club members at two sites each day. The LCCF grant will allow the program to expand into the North Chicago School District in 2008. Previous Lake County Community Foundation (LCCF) grants supported the TeenREACH and YouthREACH programs.

Christ Church/ElderCare: \$10,000 for ElderCare program

ElderCare provides quality services and visits to low income, homebound seniors in northern Lake County. Eighty percent of the seniors served are age 75 and older. The program’s range of free or low-cost community-based services helps reduce isolation, promote independence and delay the time when poor elderly residents will need to be placed in a nursing facility. ElderCare has served more than 2,000 individuals since 2004. Volunteers from 47 member congregations and the community at large provide home visits, transportation, grocery shopping and other services that promote independence and build relationships for low-income, homebound seniors in northern Lake County. LCCF supported the program in 2006 and this year’s grant will help continue the program and assist with outreach to Spanish-speaking seniors.

HealthReach Incorporated: \$25,000 for the MedReach Pharmacy program

HealthReach has provided primary medical care, on-site access to cardiology, pediatric, orthopedic and podiatric specialists and referrals for other specialized services since opening its doors in 1992 to the county’s medically underserved. And after merging with the Mundelein Area Self Help Organization (Open Door Clinic) in 2006, the clinic is the only free health facility in the county. While the clinic provides 24,000 prescriptions each year, increasing drug costs and patient demand and regulatory issues require an overhaul of HealthReach’s pharmacy program. A previous LCCF grant recipient, the clinic will use this year’s grant to implement the new MedReach program, which will utilize internet technology, partnerships with local physicians and mobile pharmacies to better serve uninsured and underinsured county residents.

Highland Park Community Nursery School and Day Care Center: \$15,000 for general operating support

Providing affordable, quality childcare for 56 years, Highland Park Community Nursery School and Day Care Center (HPCN) serves more than 80 children from low- and moderate-income homes each year. To address the limited English skills of the majority of the children, HPCN provides bilingual/bicultural staff and a language-rich environment. And because of its strong relationship with the local school district, the center's curriculum is aligned with the district's dual language program. The center is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and serves as a referral source for families. The LCCF grant will provide general operating support for the center.

Keshet: \$10,000 for the "Pot of Gold" program for developmentally disabled young adults

Since 1984 Keshet has developed community-based educational, recreational, and vocational programs for children, teens, and young adults with disabilities. It operates schools that serve preschoolers through high school seniors in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago and Northbrook. Sixty percent of these students reside in Lake County. To assist disabled youth aging out of the system Keshet partnered with Jewish Vocational Services to create "Pot of Gold", a vocational, social and adaptive skills program specifically designed for young men and women, beginning at age 21. The LCCF grant will support Keshet's public policy advocacy project to bring attention to the plight of these young adults. The program is scheduled to open in Vernon Hills in January, 2008.

Lake County Council Against Sexual Assault: \$10,000 for the Allied Health Care Response to Sexual Violence program

Since 1983, Lake County Council Against Sexual Assault (LaCASA) has grown from a grassroots organization into a multifaceted agency, providing free, comprehensive services to individuals and families who have been traumatized because of sexual violence. With seed funding from LCCF, LaCASA formalized its Allied Health Care Response to Sexual Violence program which provides training to medical and nursing students, law enforcement and hospital personnel on trauma and the proper manner in which to treat victims of sexual violence and collect forensic evidence for prosecution. The 2007 grant will help continue the program.

Literacy Volunteers of Lake County, Inc.: \$11,182 for "Families Learning Together" project

Established in 1983, Literacy Volunteers of Lake County (LVLC) provides free tutoring and literacy programs to adults in Lake County through its network of trained volunteers. Volunteers work with clients—mainly low-income parents—in pairs to provide one-on-one tutoring in basic reading, GED preparation, ESL training, and math skills. LVLC works in partnership with the College of Lake County and the Lake County area libraries to provide family literacy services, including child care, at several locations. With a grant from LCCF, the program expanded to Lake Villa in 2006. The most recent grant will allow the program to serve more families and provide more literacy-focused child care for preschoolers while their parents attend classes. The program will also implement a family literacy component in which the families will have a chance to read together and learn about healthy lifestyles and the importance of lifelong reading.

Open Arms Mission: \$5,000 for computers and software for food-stamp processing

Open Arms Mission began in January 2000 as a food pantry in the basement of a local church and now operates a stand-alone organization serving nearly 32,000 individuals each year in the Antioch and Lake Villa Townships. Managed solely by volunteers, the mission provides meals for families on a weekly basis and also provides referrals for ancillary services. Open Arms completed a strategic plan funded by an LCCF grant in 2005. The current grant will help the organization assist families eligible for food stamps benefits who are unable to travel to Waukegan to apply by providing the necessary technology and processing at the Antioch location.

Youth Conservation Corps: \$10,000 for a development manager

Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) helps underserved and at-risk Waukegan youth earn GEDs and learn leadership, marketing skills and life skills. Known for its rigorous standards, YCC has received several awards for its work. Twenty-eight of the 30 enrolled in the program will complete training this year. A previous LCCF grant provided salary support for a development manager, which resulted in new sources of funding for the organization. This year's grant will allow the development manager to continue to pursue additional funding sources.

YouthBuild Lake County: \$15,000 for capacity building projects

YouthBuild serves low-income Lake County youth who are high school dropouts and have multiple barriers to success. Programs include computer skills training; heating, ventilation and air conditioning and carpentry certificate programs through the College of Lake County; and construction training that allows students to help build two homes each year in North Chicago. Additionally, through a grant from LCCF in 2006, the agency offers a wellness program that provides parenting skills training, anger management and character building programs, substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling services through partnerships with area agencies. The current LCCF grant will help the agency complete a strategic plan, develop marketing and recruitment materials and conduct fundraising training for board members.