

Aurora

Batavia

Big Rock

Blackberry

Kaneville

Sugar Grove

Virgil

# INC LINKS

South Kane County Townships Working Together

## AGENCY HIGHLIGHT - TRICITY FAMILY SERVICES

**T**riCity Family Services (TCFS) is a 42-year-old, private, not-for-profit human service agency serving the community members and organizations of central Kane County. The agency is dedicated to strengthening people and building community through the provision of quality, affordable counseling, youth crisis intervention, prevention, and early intervention services that promote sound mental health and effective family functioning. TCFS promotes service excellence, honesty, hopefulness, personal responsibility and respect for others.

Our experienced therapists provide quality, family-centered, mental health counseling and case management services for children, adolescents, adults, and their families. We increase our community impact through extensive collaboration with other agencies and organizations, offering Prevention and Early Intervention programs on a wide range of topics at our Geneva facility and in the community. Our programs include:

Smart Choices anger management for school children, Bridges children of divorce workshops, I-CAN Anger Management for adults, Parent Support and Education community workshops, Prenatal and Postpartum Support (WIN) and Single Mom's Groups for Women, Wilderness Challenge Program (WCP) for graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders and WCP Adolescent Follow-up Group, Family Connections communication workshops, Mindful Emotions skills training for adolescent girls, Lazarus House Group for parents and children at the homeless shelter, and Caregiver Connections for child care providers.

We served 3,366 clients and their family members in FY 2008 for a grand total of 30,381 client hours of service. We are able to offer our services on a sliding scale through donations from individuals, corporations, foundations, Community Chest, United Way, church and community groups, and state and local governments. TCFS thanks the INC Board for their generous continued financial support for our mission.

More information about our programs including a new agency video is available on our website at [www.tricityfamilyservices.org](http://www.tricityfamilyservices.org). You may also call us at 630-232-1070. Jim Otepka is the Executive Director and Carol Tritschler is the new Director of Development.

### INC UPDATES

**Congratulations** - INC's Executive Director, Jerry Murphy, recently completed his certification through North Park University in Non-Profit Management. The INC Board congratulated Murphy at its recent meeting.

**Volunteers** - If you would like to volunteer your service and live in one of INC's seven townships, please call Jerry or Marti at 630-892-5456 to discuss serving when a vacancy occurs. For a complete listing of our volunteer board members, please see INC's website at [www.incboard.org](http://www.incboard.org).

**Thank You** - to two board members who recently had to step down: Houston Lee (Aurora 708 Board since September 2002) and Howard Katz (Batavia 708 Board since March 2007). Your service has been greatly appreciated.

**Needs Assessment** - INC staff will be conducting a community needs assessment for mental health, developmental disability and substance abuse services this year as a component of formulating the 2010-2012 Three Year Plan. If you are a resident of south Kane County and wish to be included in the process, either by survey, interviewing, focus groups or written input, please contact Executive Director Jerry Murphy at 630-892-5456 or by email at [jerrym@incboard.org](mailto:jerrym@incboard.org).

## COMMUNITY RECOGNITION THE L.E. ONCKEN AWARD

An outstanding volunteer or staff person from south Kane County who has worked to benefit the lives of persons with mental illness, developmental disabilities or substance abuse disorders is awarded the Lyle E. Oncken Community Service Award each year. The Board of Directors of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services, Inc. voted this year to honor two such individuals in recognition of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award: Bruce Conley of Conley Outreach Community Services (COCS) in Elburn and Stephanie Weber of Suicide Prevention Services (SPS) in Batavia.

Bruce Conley is the Executive Director and founder of COCS, which has been serving INC's West Towns area for over 14 years. He was one of the first West Towns case coordinators, reaching out to residents of Big Rock, Sugar Grove, Kaneville and Blackberry Townships. Bruce was instrumental in bringing Virgil Township into the INC partnership of township mental health authorities by helping get the 708 referendum passed there in 2000. He has brought services and collaborations for service

throughout the area, including the Community Care Team (a group of natural helpers), Heartland Counseling, several grief counseling groups, and many others, too numerous to mention.

Stephanie Weber is the Executive Director and founder of SPS, which has been funded by INC since FY 1999. Among other things, SPS operates the Suicide Hotline in the Kane-Kendall area. Stephanie has devoted her life to education and prevention of suicide along with supports for survivors. Stephanie is a member of the American Association of Suicidology and brings many trainings to our area. She has carried her message across both the county and the country.

Both of INC's Community Service Award recipients' lives and careers have been dedicated to improving the quality of life for south Kane County residents in many ways. INC Board and staff are proud and thrilled to be able to honor both of these individuals. Planning for the award ceremonies is under way. Please check the INC website at [www.incboard.org](http://www.incboard.org) for details.

### Numbers Are Numbers...

Here are a few numbers to think about:

- Over 16,000 Illinois residents are on a waiting list for developmental disability services
- Waiting time for mental health services can range from 3 weeks to 6 months, unless you are in crisis
- Illinois income tax has not been increased in 20 years
- Illinois budget deficit is estimated at \$12.4 billion
- Despite being the 5<sup>th</sup> richest state, Illinois ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> in state and local tax burden and near dead last in community-based mental health and developmental disability services

What does this say about the services we want for our families and neighbors, and what we are willing to pay for those services? Kane County is better off than some areas of the state, as 57% of Kane County residents live in a city or township with a local mental health levy. What about the other 43%? INC, serving our seven townships, and the Geneva and St Charles 708 boards serving those two cities, are constantly working to insure a better level of services for our residents.