

Aurora

Batavia

Big Rock

Blackberry

Kaneville

Sugar Grove

Virgil

INC LINKS

South Kane County Townships Working Together

AGENCY PROFILE: COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOL OF AURORA

Communities In Schools of Aurora (CIS) is part of the nation's largest dropout prevention organization. It is the mission of CIS to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. The local office has been providing services in Aurora since 1993 and currently partners with East Aurora School 131, West Aurora School District 129, Indian Prairie School District 204 and Oswego School District 308 to deliver daytime and afterschool programs to children.



CIS brings a wide variety of community resources into the schools to eliminate obstacles to a student's success. The mission is accomplished through coordination of services with a variety of other community organizations and social service agencies. The Daytime Services Program provides over 4,000 counseling service hours each year to students in grades K-12. Students receive counseling support for emotional concerns related to substance use, domestic violence, family conflict, grief and loss, depression and suicide intervention, anger management and general behavioral interventions. Many INC funded agencies collaborate with CIS by sending staff members and interns to the school sites to meet regularly with children. The INC Board assists CIS by providing funding for counseling services in our Daytime Services Program. Children who have more complex concerns or who require counseling that can also include the family during after school hours or through home visits receive these needed services due to the funding that the INC Board provides.

The "My Time" afterschool program involves 11 middle schools in four school districts. Through homework assistance, tutoring, recreation and a social outlet to interact with friends, middle school students remain engaged with their school community and are provided with a safe outlet during after school hours. During the summer months, CIS operates day camps for elementary aged children. Children are provided with a safe environment for recreational and artistic activities while also maintaining their reading skills. Funding for the My Time and summer camp programs is provided by the City of Aurora. CIS seeks to meet physical needs that are critical to a child's school success as well. In partnership with Project Unity, CIS hosts the Back to School Fair at which about 2700 local school children receive free school supplies. Children also can obtain necessary immunizations, school physicals and dental exams. About 50 social service organizations are also on hand to distribute information to families about other community resources. In the winter months, CIS coordinates a winter coat drive. This summer CIS has also partnered with the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry to hold 6 mobile food pantries.

Interested in providing school supplies for a low-income student? Order a kit of school supplies that will be donated to the school of your choice in your name. Your sponsorship also assists in purchasing supplies for the Back to School Fair. More information is available through the CIS website at www.cisaurora.org



Goodbyes and Thank You's

Good-bye and thank you to community volunteers Nicole Pryor (Sugar Grove 708) and Jennifer McCleese (Aurora 708) after several years of dedicated service. Our appreciation also, to two long-time board members: Mary Gustafson, photo at left, (Blackberry 708 Board for 16 years) and Sue Lee (Big Rock 708 Board for 18 years). Both of these women have served their communities above and beyond the call of duty. We will miss them greatly! We are in the process of filling these township 708 Board vacancies and will welcome the newest volunteers in October.

What's New?

The INC Board has been able to sustain funding to its agencies for the upcoming 2011-12 fiscal year with terrific ongoing support from our seven townships, their supervisors and trustees. At a time when other funding sources are declining, INC-funded programs continue to try and meet the increasing demands for services. INC's seven township collaborations are using local funds to address local needs.

INC staff would like to highlight two new programs funded for 2011-12. For the first time since its inception five years ago, INC will be supporting south Kane residents using the Kane County Mental Health Court. The National Alliance on Mental Illness of DeKalb, S. Kane and Kendall Counties (NAMI-DKK) have committed to raising funds for client expenses (bus passes, program incentives, etc...) for residents in the jail diversion program. By keeping the mentally ill out of jail and in treatment, the entire community benefits. NAMI-DKK will be administering and monitoring expenses on behalf of the court for residents from INC's service area. NAMI-

DKK was also recently granted the use of additional office space at 400 Mercy Lane to support the services of their new Education Director.

The second new program is also a collaborative effort aimed at increasing the number of seniors receiving mental health and substance abuse services. Senior Services Associates, through its outreach and Senior Companion Program, will be facilitating referrals and treatment opportunities to Family Counseling Services' Older Adult Program. Senior Services and Family Counseling will be working together to serve more seniors which is much-needed in light of the "baby boomers" now entering their senior years.

On a sad note, we also have to mention that the Center for Rural Psychology, which operated Heartland Counseling, is closing their doors. We sincerely thank Patti and Michael Mangis for their years of service to the people of the Elburn area. They will be sorely missed and we wish them well.