

Aurora

Batavia

Big Rock

Blackberry

Kaneville

Sugar Grove

Virgil

INC LINKS

South Kane County Townships Working Together



Agency Profile: Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice

Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice is a community-based, nonprofit organization dedicated to serving those with life-threatening illnesses and the bereaved. We have served more than 15,000 clients and their families since 1981. Our healthcare professionals and network of over 500 extensively trained volunteers provide the best in compassionate services free of charge.

In hospice, we provide support and short-term counseling for those with life-threatening illnesses and their families. Because we do not receive Medicare or insurance payments, patients can continue to seek active treatment. FVVH's Hands of Hope program works to comfort and support patients receiving chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

For the bereavement program, FVVH provides one-on-one counseling to help the bereaved cope with the pain of grief and put control back into their lives and support groups to help those who have lost loved ones, including Pathways for those who have lost a life partner; Next Step, a monthly meeting for those who need continuing support; Herbie's Friends for families with children ages 5 to 18 who have experienced a loss; Footprints for parents and adult family members who are coping with a miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth or newborn death; Young Adult Grief Journey for young adults age 18 to 28 who have lost a loved one or friend; M.A.L.E.S. (Men After a Loss Expressing Themselves Safely) for men of all ages who have lost a loved one; and Light Finders, for survivors of suicide loss. Groups meet on a regular basis, with new schedules starting quarterly. Grief Takes a Hike is a weekend adventure for families who have experienced the death of a loved one. They come together in a supportive setting to experience the therapeutic value of nature while sharing and processing feelings. Families are taught to identify positive coping skills, to understand the differences between adult and child grief, and to understand the value of processing feelings as a family.

In addition, we have a parallel volunteer program in order to serve the ever-growing Spanish-speaking population in our communities, called Cuenta Conmigo, where Spanish-speaking volunteers are able to communicate directly with family members. Other services include an informational library, which is open to the public; a community equipment loan closet with wheelchairs and other medical equipment available free of charge for short-term use, and community education in palliative care, coping with loss and individual well-being.

You can learn more at www.fvvh.org or contact us at (630)232-2233.



INC Board Schedules Strategic Planning

As mentioned in the One Year Plan for 2011, the INC Board will be conducting strategic planning this month for 2012-2015. INC staff, with help from intern Sr. Karen Carlson, will be surveying key informants in the South Kane County community on their perceptions of what they see as future needs and priorities for INC's service area. Should you wish to provide input for INC strategic planning process, please contact Eileen at 630-892-5456 or eileen@incboard.org. All input will be confidential.

Information gathered from the survey will be compiled as part of the environmental scan in the strategic planning process, which will take place on Saturday, October 22 at Provena Mercy Hospital from 8:00AM to 4:00PM. The survey will be conducted in an online format with follow-up by phone if needed. It is anticipated that the INC Board will approve the plan at its November 28th meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Jerry Murphy or Marti Cross at 630-892-5456 or email them at jerryym@incboard.org or marti@incboard.org.

Speaking of strategic planning

Our state association, the Association of Community Mental Health Authorities of Illinois (ACMHAI), recently completed its own planning process, setting the course for the next 3 to 5 years. As a group, they identified the key areas of membership services, policy and sustainability to include in their discussions. Local mental health authorities administer in excess of \$60 million in funding for mental health, developmental disability and substance abuse services throughout Illinois each year.



Congratulations...

To Traci Eggleston, MSW, for her appointment as the Executive Director of Elderday Center, one of our INC-funded agencies. Traci had previously held the position of Development Director at Elderday. We wish you the best!

With Regret...

INC Board and staff say goodbye to Pamela Bradley. Pam has served on the INC Board since July 2007, but recent job changes make it difficult for her to continue her service on the board. Thank you for your service, Pam. We wish you the best.



Happy to Welcome!

We are happy to welcome four new township community mental health 708 board members, just in time for the October meetings. Robert O'Connor has been appointed to the Aurora Township 708 Board and Lisa Sestak has volunteered to serve on the Big Rock Township 708 Board. Joining the Blackberry Township 708 Board will be Rev. John Dumke, and Lisa Campise will be joining the Sugar Grove Township 708 Board this month.



Welcome to Sr. Karen Carlson, SSCM, a graduate student at St Francis University, Joliet, who is interning at the INC Board during the 2011-12 academic year. She is pursuing her Masters in Social Work (MSW) and working with Jerry and Marti to "learn the ropes" of the mental health and social services systems here in south Kane County.