



Agency Spotlight: Conley Outreach Community Services

Conley Outreach Community Services (COCS) is a 501[c](3) non-profit committed to "Caring for the Heart of Community" in western Kane County.

The **West Towns Human Services Network** is a free, confidential resource and referral service for residents of Big Rock, Blackberry, Kaneville, Sugar Grove, and Virgil townships. Callers are linked to over 85 agencies in Kane, Kendall, and DeKalb counties that provide affordable health and human services. West Towns also works with local schools, community groups and mental health agencies to import or develop programs to meet the changing needs of the community, including the Kaneland Coalition for Healthy Youth.

Bereavement services include adult support groups, the INC-supported Good Grief Day Camp, and on-site crisis assistance.

The Community Care Team (CCT) is a network of adult natural helpers who receive specialized training in how to effectively listen, respond, and refer friends and neighbors for. These volunteers also help in the Good Samaritan Clothing Closet and the Monthly Meals program. Our Emergency Assistance Program provides limited, short-term financial assistance to local individuals and families through the Good Samaritan Fund, Holiday Spirit, and by serving as a Salvation Army extension site.

Conley Outreach is a small grassroots organization, started over 25 years ago by the late Bruce Conley to provide grief aftercare to the Kaneland community. Today, it serves between 2000 and 2750 people annually. Conley Outreach provides its services out of the two West Towns offices at 54 Snow Street in Sugar Grove and Room 10 of the Elburn Community Center, 525 N. Main Street. For more information about Conley Outreach and its programs call 630/365-2880 or visit www.conleyoutreach.org.



Remembering John Reese

With profound sadness, we remember John Reese as a very active INC Board member. He recently passed away on April 11, 2018. He joined the INC Board in September 2013 and brought a wealth of knowledge and experience with him. He chaired the Property and Facilities Committee and was a member of the Program Committee. He also was a very integral part in the producing, editing, hosting and coordinating of the series of YouTube videos that the INC Board has on their website. He left a big imprint in the community, in the mental health arena and at the INC Board.

John had recently retired as an Assistant Professor of Human Services at Waubensee Community College. He had decades of experience as a mental health and addiction counselor. John had always been passionate about providing assistance to those with mental health and substance abuse issues. He brought innovative ideas about funding and roundtable discussions to meetings. In 2007, he was named the IAODAPCA's Counselor of the Year.

A celebration of life service will be announced at a later date. His family remains in our thoughts and receives our deepest sympathies.

2018 Lyle E. Oncken Community Service Award Recipients Selected

This year the INC Board of Directors awarded the Lyle E. Oncken Community Service Award to two deserving individuals: Lynn O'Shea from the Association for Individual

Development and Greg Watson from TriCity Family Services.

Lynn's nomination form states, "Her advocacy and passion, through her leadership at AID, has ensured lives of dignity and purpose for thousands of people in Kane County who are marginalized." It continues after listing her many accomplishments, "Lynn will be retiring from AID in early 2019. The Lyle E. Oncken Community Services Award would be a fitting recognition of her contributions to Kane County in the field of disabilities and mental health services."

After 30 years, "of being a dedicated family therapist who lives and breathes the highest commitment to the field and has worked with generations of families," Greg Watson is also retiring. He co-founded the Wilderness Challenge Program and it has thrived under his leadership. Straight from his nomination form, "There are scores of adults who have credited Greg Watson (aka "Pancho") with changing and in some cases saving, their lives with this program."

These two individuals will be presented with their awards at a later date. If you see them, congratulate them and wish them well on their retirement!

Mental Health First Aid

Presence Mercy Medical Center will be providing a Mental Health First Aid Training on Wednesday, May 2, from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Mental Health First Aid is an 8-hour course that was developed to help members of the general public support adults who are developing mental health problems or experiencing a mental health crisis. The training is especially beneficial to professionals and people working with the public so as to feel more confident assisting individuals with mental health-related problems.

Space is limited and while the training is free, registration is required. Breakfast and lunch are provided as well as 8 CEUs are available. For more information, contact Maria Aurora Diaz at 630.801.5756 or MariaAurora.Diaz@presencehealth.org.

