

Aurora - Batavia - Big Rock - Blackberry - Kaneville - Sugar Grove - Virgil

INC LINKS

South Kane County Townships Working Together

Featured Agency

Fox Valley Hands of Hope

Fox Valley Hands of Hope (FVHH) focuses exclusively on grief support. Founded in 1981 as a volunteer hospice, FVHH has built its legacy through compassionate care for individuals and families experiencing loss. While grief is often a lonely experience, FVHH believes that no one should grieve alone. A no-cost service model supports their commitment to removing barriers for those seeking bereavement support. Grieving clients are embraced in client-centered counseling, by a one-one volunteer, or within a small group. The group sessions form around common experiences of loss, such as the death of a child, spouse, or parent, and similar circumstances of death, such as suicide or terminal illness. Children and family programs include Project Hope and Grief

Outdoors/Family Forest Days. Project Hope serves K-12 schools by providing a trained grief therapist to facilitate eight-week small group sessions for kids. Family Forest Days is an outdoor day camp filled with engaging activities that encourage remembering and healing. FVHH services are in English and Spanish and are available both virtually and in-person at the Support Center in Geneva and throughout the communities of the Fox River Valley. Along with bereavement services, FVHH offers a durable medical equipment lending closet. Items such as wheel chairs, walkers, canes, crutches, toilet seats, and shower chairs are available for rent at no charge.

For more information about Fox Valley Hands of Hope, call 630-232-2233 or email info@fvhh.net. For help through a loss, email griefsupport@fvhh.net or call the number above.

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What's Happening with INC?

INC Board staff will be volunteering at a few festivals in the western townships with Conley Outreach Community Services. While INC does not provide direct service, INC believes it is important to support their funded agencies in the 7 townships served. Stop by and say hello!

September is Recovery Month

Substance Use Disorder is a disease of the brain, not a moral failing, weakness or character flaw. It is a progressive illness that, without treatment and support from family members and the community, can lead to isolation, depression, and even death. Although this illness can be devastating to the individuals and the families who struggle with it, there is HOPE! Gateway Foundation has seen thousands of individuals achieve and sustain recovery and reclaim their lives. In memory of those who have lost their lives to this illness and in celebration of those who have achieved recovery, Gateway Foundation in Aurora will be hosting their second annual recovery walk on September 18th as part of National Recovery Month. The event will be located at the Fox Valley Fellowship Center in Aurora. Gateway hopes to spread the message of hope and awareness of both the impact of addiction and, most importantly, the message that

through treatment recovery is possible! For more information on the Recovery Walk and Gateway Services, visit

<https://www.gatewayfoundation.org/locations/aurora/>.

Kane County Integrated Referral and Intake System (IRIS)

Kane County Health Department Celebrates Helping 200 Families and Individuals in the First Three Months of New Integrated Referral and Intake System. As of June 2021, Kane County Health Department's (KCHD) Integrated Referral & Intake System (IRIS) celebrates its three-month anniversary and has referred more than 200 individuals and families to services they need in Kane County. IRIS was created to enhance the referral process. The Kane County IRIS community has representation from 84 local organizations in multiple sectors including: mental health & psychiatry, primary care, dental, early childhood services, K-12 education, park district programs, adult & juvenile probation, parenting resources, substance abuse services, employment resources, immigration and legal services, emergency shelter, and basic needs (food & clothing). The process started in 2019 when the AOK (All Our Kids)

Network identified the need for a more streamlined referral process and started laying the groundwork to bring IRIS to Kane County. In late 2020, the KCHD decided to implement IRIS through a collaboration between the AOK Network, Kane County System of Care, and the Opioid Task Force. The team gathered community partners to configure the IRIS platform to meet the unique needs of Kane County residents. Together, partners agreed on common referral practices and developed the Community Standards that will dictate expectations of use for all. For more information, contact one of the Kane County IRIS Community Managers:

Kim Peterson, Kane County AOK Network Coordinator:

petersonkim@co.kane.il.us

Anna Czerniak, Children's Mental Health Program Manager:

CzerniakAnna@co.kane.il.us

Sophia Ottomanelli, Substance Use Prevention Specialist:

OttomanelliSophia@co.kane.il.us

Welcome New 708 Board Members

INC Board welcomes new 708 Board members: Denise Elsbree (Aurora), Ellen Nottke (Batavia), John VanBogaert (Blackberry), Judie Childress

(Blackberry), Johanna Jameson (Kaneville), Phil Silagi (Sugar Grove),
and Tina Willson (Sugar Grove).

Thank You 708 Board Members

INC Board would like to thank the following outgoing 708 Board members
for their dedication and commitment to their community: Anton Kirner
(Aurora), Garry Brown (Batavia), Dave Anderson (Blackberry), Tim Norris
(Blackberry), Jennifer Long (Kaneville), Alison Squires (Sugar Grove),
Pam Olsen (Sugar Grove), and Georgianna Zakosek (Virgil).

What's Happening Locally

Conley Outreach Community Services Good Samaritan Clothing provides
FREE clothes to anyone living in the Kaneland and Hinckley/Big Rock

area. There are no income requirements or applications. The Closet is open on the third Wednesday of the month from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. and the following Thursday from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. It is also open as needed by appointment. The closet is located in the back of the Sugar Grove Community Building (141 Main Street) through the rear entrance. To volunteer at the Clothes Closet, please [Click Here](#). For more details, visit their website at <https://conleyoutreach.org/>.

Lora Windsor, LCSW, recently spoke at West Towns Community Resource meeting about grief and loss related to the pandemic. She recommended a book for healthcare professionals by William Worden called The Four Tasks of Mourning. For more information on the subject, click [here](#).

Did You Know?

Carl Kurtis was the first Executive Director of INC and embarked on solidifying the funding arrangements for the organization, which was and still is a unique entity in Illinois. The Community Mental Health Act was amended to recognize consortiums such as INC for mental health planning grant funding purposes. Mr. Kurtis was preceded by 4 other Executive

Directors since INC Board's inception in 1969. All of the Executive Directors have contributed to INC's continuing responsibility to the citizens of our seven townships, which is to assure the availability, accessibility and continuity of appropriate services for persons with mental illness, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders. Over the last decade INC has started funding strictly by program, not just by agency, allowing for more efficient, transparent use of INC funds.