

THE LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

AN AFFILIATE OF
THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST

REACH GRANT PROGRAM

In 2006, the Lake County Community Foundation launched Realizing Excellence and Capacity Here (REACH), a strategic growth program designed to provide support to build the capacity of agencies serving the residents of Lake County. Organizations accepted into this program have demonstrated their ability to address critical community needs and, in partnership with consultants from Executive Service Corps, have completed the program's first phase by creating three-year organizational development plans. Each organization will receive general operating support, renewable over three years if they continue to progress toward meeting the goals identified in their respective plans.

2007 REACH GRANT RECIPIENTS

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lake County: \$25,000**
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lake County (BBBSLC) provides support for more than 600 at-risk children across the county through positive, caring mentoring relationships. Mentors include corporate volunteers, high school and college students, members of faith communities, and other caring individuals. Founded locally in 1980, the organization is one of 500 affiliated chapters of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, which has been in existence since 1904. As a REACH participant BBBSLC has a goal of doubling the size of its programs over the next three years with emphasis on continuing culturally competent programming to meet the needs of a diverse county.
- **Christian Outreach of Lutherans (COOL): \$25,000**
Founded in 1983, COOL provides comprehensive assistance to Lake County families by offering transitional housing and a food pantry. In 2006, 56 families were served through the housing program. Additionally, 14 families have purchased their own homes after leaving the program. COOL's food pantry served 25,000 individuals last year, making it the busiest in the county. The agency's strategic plan as a REACH grant recipient is to build its infrastructure and capacity to support its programs and service goals.
- **Family Service: Prevention, Education and Counseling: \$25,000**
One of the oldest service organizations in Lake County, Family Service was founded in 1930 and provides counseling programs for families in the county, which includes the "Nuestro" Center for Latino families and community education program. In 2005, the agency served nearly 3,700 individuals. To continue to serve families in the face of severe budget cuts, its REACH goal includes replacing revenue by enhancing relationships with donors, developing a communications plan and strengthening its board.
- **Urban Muslim Minority Alliance (UMMA): \$20,000**
UMMA, which means "community" in Arabic, aims to empower individuals by bridging the wide socio-economic gap in Lake County. The agency provides GED programs, computer training and financial literacy seminars. While only in existence for two years, UMMA has forged relationships with other organizations to support its work and provide social services, housing and food assistance for UMMA's program participants. Its first REACH priority is board development and enhancement as well as fund development and expansion of its GED program.