

THE LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

AN AFFILIATE OF
THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST

2008 Grant Recipient Profiles

Boys and Girls Club of Lake County (BGCLC): \$10,000 for support of a musical keyboard instruction program at the Keller Avenue location

Following the national mission of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America - to help children make positive choices in their lives - the Boys and Girls Club of Lake County (gives kids ages 6 to 18 a place of their own, while providing a professional staff that facilitates programs and case management services. The Boys and Girls Club of Lake County served more than 1,900 club members and more than 2,100 through outreach events in 2007. BGCLC expects to serve more than 4,000 youth this year. The Lake County Community Foundation will provide seed money for BGCLC's musical keyboard instruction program. This program will provide kids with group keyboard instruction from a professional music teacher once a week. Music classes will run by the academic semester, September-December and January-May and an intensive music program will also be offered during summer camp. There are many benefits to music education. Studies demonstrate that children who play an instrument score higher on standard and spatial cognitive development tests and have a better understanding of math, especially on problems dealing with fractions and spatial-temporal reasoning. It is anticipated that those children participating in the music program will improve in the above areas. Previous Foundation grants supported the TeenREACH, YouthREACH and Power Hour programs.

Holy Family Parish Immigrant Center (HFIC): \$15,000 for a community needs feasibility study

The Holy Family Parish Immigration Center (HFIC) was formed in 2006 as the social justice response of Holy Family Parish to assist the large number of immigrants in Lake County. HFIC's mission is to offer guidance, education and assistance to immigrant individuals and families so they may fully integrate into their communities as American citizens.

Through partnerships with the Illinois Coalition of Immigrant and Refugee Rights, the College of Lake County, the Hispanic Outreach Rehabilitation Program and Community Social Services, among others, HFIC works to meet the needs of the immigrant communities that it serves. Since its inception, HFIC has helped over 3,200 immigrants with citizenship processing and English language education - ultimately leading to citizenship. In the long-term HFIC envisions a "one-stop" shop where immigrants can go to meet the needs of the entire family. Funding from the Foundation will help HFIC reach its long term goal of gaining a deeper understanding of the needs in the community, through organizational capacity and development of new programs, in order to best help immigrants in Lake County.

I-PLUS: \$5,000 for consulting for board development and leadership training

I-PLUS' mission is to help chronically homeless individuals and families become financially responsible and lead them to a higher quality of life by providing them with housing, mentoring and treatment partnerships. Based on the increasing need for these services, I-PLUS began informal and formal relationships with treatment providers and the VA hospital. In 2006, I-PLUS moved its offices from downtown Waukegan to the VA campus in North Chicago. These partnerships that

together comprise the continuum of care utilize the income for incentives and leverage for individual's participation in ongoing treatment. In 2007, I-PLUS provided financial services to over 50 individuals, half of whom were veterans. The Foundation grant will allow I-PLUS to formalize the structure necessary for the organization to remain viable and continue to sustain the quality of services it provides.

Mano a Mano Family Resource Center: \$15,000 for the expansion of English as a Second Language (ESL), General Education Development (GED) and computer literacy courses

Mano a Mano's mission is to empower immigrant and underserved families of Lake County to become full participants in American life by providing quality programs and services that educate and establish links to essential community resources. Mano a Mano started providing services to the community from a small store front in Round Lake Park in 2000 and that same year, served 500 families. To meet the growing demand for services, Mano a Mano purchased a building and renovated it to provide well-equipped classrooms, a modern computer lab with eleven computers and a childcare room with a playground. Last fiscal year, Mano a Mano served more than 3,000 community members through its different programs including ESL classes, GED preparation, computer classes, employment connection, health education, after school homework help, information and referral services and childcare. Currently, Mano a Mano's ESL program has an ongoing waiting list of over 800. Last fiscal year, 69 people took GED classes, 23 of which obtained their GED. In addition to the ESL and GED programs, Mano a Mano computer training provides basic computer knowledge and basic usage to adults and children. One-hundred and six adults and children took computer classes at Mano a Mano last fiscal year and consistently have a high waiting list. The grant will provide funding for necessary expansion of these ESL, GED and computer literacy courses.

National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC): \$10,000 for support of its Lake County satellite office based in Waukegan

Established in the 1970s, the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) is one of the largest and most comprehensive immigrant legal service agencies in the nation. NIJC is a program of Heartland Human Care Services, the social and legal services affiliated partner of Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights. As the only immigration legal service provider in Lake County, NIJC's goal is to promote and protect human rights for immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers by ensuring access to justice and advancing systemic reform of the U.S. immigration system. Now that the satellite office has been operational for two years, NIJC is evaluating its work in Waukegan. NIJC seeks to expand access to its comprehensive immigration legal services to eligible Lake County immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers and counter the unauthorized practice of law by unscrupulous individuals. This grant will aid in increasing outreach services as the number of those in need continues to grow rapidly.

National Illinois Council Against Substance Abuse (NICASA): \$10,000 to support a component of Youth and Family Services – the Parenting Journey

Founded in 1966, the National Illinois Council Against Substance Abuse (NICASA) has been dedicated to addressing the needs of individuals, families and communities by providing advocacy services for alcohol and substance abuse and prevention. Today, NICASA provides a full continuum of services from universal prevention through early intervention to treatment and recovery. NICASA treats approximately 6,500 men, women and teenagers in Northern Illinois each year. Many thousands more are served through NICASA's innovative and extensive prevention programs. Through the development of its programs and services, NICASA hopes to create opportunities for healthy choices, recovery and self-reliance. Funding from The Lake County Community Foundation will enable NICASA to add an additional outreach program, the Parenting Journey, an eight week educational course designed to strengthen family relationships and communication, improve

parenting skills and knowledge, decrease family conflict, and increase family and youth connectedness to school and other community resources.

Saint Martin de Porres High School: \$10,000 to underwrite the costs of placing students in nonprofit jobs through the Corporate Internship Program

St. Martin de Porres (SMdP) is the first new Catholic secondary school to open in Lake County in more than 40 years and the first in the Archdiocese of Chicago in the past eight years. Initiatives for the development of St. Martin, using the Cristo Rey model, began in 2001. The Cristo Rey Network is a national association of high schools that provide quality, Catholic, college preparatory education to young people from low-income families. Schools have their own identity but are characterized by a curriculum that is tailored to the students' needs and by the corporate work study program, which enables each student to finance the majority of the cost of his or her education and at the same time sets up very significant learning and motivational benefits. Many students are placed in a not-for-profit work setting for their corporate work study requirement which gives them the opportunity to develop unique skill sets related to the not-for-profit sector. However, because these valuable community organizations are unable to pay the \$25,000 annual salary for the student, SMdP must raise the money on its own in order to continue to offer this beneficial opportunity to students. This grant will aid in underwriting the costs of not-for-profit internship placements.