

# HighlandParkNews

## Lake County Community Foundation hits \$1 million mark

(<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/highlandpark/news/1114954.q3-found-081908-s1.article>)

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In Lake County, a little more than \$1 million from The Lake County Community Foundation -- an affiliate of The Chicago Community Trust -- has provided grants to 55 not-for-profit agencies working to improve the quality of life for county residents.

The foundation announced this milestone today, along with its latest round of grants totaling \$274,000 to 15 Lake County agencies. The foundation also announced its 2008 Basic Human Needs Award (BHNA) recipients: Community Resources for Education and Wellness (CREW) and Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine. The BHNA award is given annually to local organizations that take a unique approach to meeting the basic human needs of residents. The award recipients, along with the foundation's other 2008 grant recipients, are being honored at a private reception.

"While \$1 million in grants over the last five years is significant, it's just a start," said Susan Niederlander, interim executive director of the foundation. "The county has only one clinic for the estimated 90,000 residents without health insurance. More and more agencies are seeing big jumps in demand for their services at the same time that government and private funding sources are dwindling. Our mandate is to assess the needs of our communities and bring together the people, ideas and resources to address these challenges on a strategic, county-wide and sustainable level."

Beyond the grant dollars provided directly to agencies for programs, the foundation has offered technical support, and served as an information resource and convener, helping organizations access training from professionals in various fields like Chicago-based Community Media Workshop, financing consulting projects in conjunction with the Executive Service Corps, hosting workshops and meetings and giving multiyear capacity-building grants through its REACH program. The foundation has facilitated an estimated \$1 million in technical assistance, in-kind services and grants from other funders, for a total investment of about \$2 million in the communities of Lake County.

"For so many years, we've had hundreds of people on waiting lists for our English as Second Language, GED, citizenship, computer and job readiness classes," said Carolina Duque, executive director, Mano a Mano Family Resource Center in Round Lake Park. "Receiving a grant from The Lake County Community Foundation is making a huge impact, because we can expand our class offerings, including new Saturday classes. This grant gives us the tools to hire more teachers and support staff -- resources we need to help immigrant and underserved individuals and families become full participants in American life."

By organizing bus tours of not-for-profit agencies, sponsoring information sessions on changing demographic trends and challenges and other events, the foundation has opened local residents' eyes to the increasing needs in their own communities.

"Lake County historically has not received significant private support for human service needs," said Bob Reusché, a longtime donor and volunteer instrumental in launching the foundation. "That means that donor gifts made to the foundation have tremendous significance. Within a five-minute drive, we can show anyone who gives to Lake County the impact their philanthropy is having right here in their backyard."

For a full list of the foundation's 2008 grant recipients, visit [www.lakecountycf.org](http://www.lakecountycf.org).

The Lake County Community Foundation, an affiliate of The Chicago Community Trust, is the vehicle that builds strategic alliances and educates donors about the challenges in the county, helping develop simple, powerful and personal approaches to giving at home. Since 2004, the foundation has awarded and/or facilitated grants totaling more than \$1 million to 55 Lake County-based not-for-profit organizations. Learn more at [www.lakecountycf.org](http://www.lakecountycf.org).