

Upcoming Events

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON & BOOK REVIEW

Monday, December 8, 2008
D'Andrea Banquets
in Crystal Lake
Barbara Rinella, an acclaimed dramatist and local favorite, returns as the entertainer for the 3rd Annual Holiday Luncheon & Book Review.

BENEFIT CONCERT AT THE RAUE

Saturday, February 28, 2009
CSI: NY's Gary Sinise and The Lieutenant Dan Band.
Benefit concert will provide the necessary funds for Pioneer's newest program, PADS, Public Action to Deliver Shelter. Order tickets by calling the Raue Box Office. (815) 356-9212

GOLD RUSH 2009 Dinner/Dance and Silent Auction

Saturday, April 18, 2009
Holiday Inn, Crystal Lake
You are invited to join us on a **Jungle Safari Adventure** themed evening full of surprises that will feature food, fun and entertainment.

FOR INFORMATION

Call Barb Swanson
at 815.759.7144
or email her at
bswanson@pioneercenter.org

SEE HOW YOUR DONATION BENEFITS YOU!

Go to: networkforgood.org
select donate and giving calculator

The Pioneer

"Expanding Opportunities Through Partnerships"

Economy Hits HOME

PADS a Homeless to Housing Program

By Scott Block

Did you know that 18,034 people in McHenry County – 1 in every 17 – are currently living in poverty? You might be asking yourself what is happening to these people? The answer is that many of these individuals and families are ending up homeless! PADS is seeing its numbers on the rise. In this challenging economic environment, donations as well as funding from grant support are decreasing while the numbers of people in need of PADS services are increasing!

PADS provides **YEAR ROUND** day, transitional and transportation services to McHenry County's homeless population. **PADS Day Services Center** allows homeless individuals to focus on developing a plan to exit homelessness. The Day Services Center is also the home to 14 beds of year round shelter. **PADS Transitional Program** offers a homelike setting for up to 20 people who are willing to work hard toward making the changes necessary to become

independent members of our community. **PADS Transportation Services** are the binding force connecting all of its programs. PADS' van provides transportation to and from each of the emergency sites, Day Center, employment opportunities, social service appointments and healthcare appointments.

By using PADS' programs to their advantage, over 85% of the people exiting the Transitional Home are obtaining permanent housing and more than 70% of those leaving the Day Center are obtaining permanent or transitional housing! Here are a few statements from some of our clients...

"If you are willing to help yourself, PADS works."

"PADS has given me my life back."

"PADS has everything someone needs to get out of homelessness and back on your feet."

For more information on PADS please visit www.mchenrycountypads.com.

Pioneer Center for Human Services President/CEO Lorraine Kopczynski Receives Iarf Don Burke Executive Excellence Award



Illinois Association Rehab Facilities (IARF) is the trade association for community rehabilitation agencies in Illinois. Member agencies serve people with physical, mental, behavioral, developmental, and other disabilities. For over 30 years, IARF has been the voice of human service organizations in government. Nominated individuals should have made an impact in the human service field by their commitment and contributions.

Lorraine Kopczynski, President & CEO of Pioneer Center for Human Services was presented with the award. Lorraine has been advocating on the behalf of people with disabilities since she began her career at Pioneer Center in 1986 as a case worker. In July 2005 she was appointed President/CEO of Pioneer Center. She has been involved by combating the lack of governmental supports for people with disabilities by participating in numerous campaigns, committees, and other organizations that promote fairness, equal opportunity, and to encourage people with disabilities to have a voice of their own.

Donate at: www.pioneercenter.org or www.mchenrycountypads.com

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PIONEER

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Pioneer lost a wonderful board member this summer. Richard Campobello served on our board for 26 years and rarely missed a meeting. He always had sound judgment and the true interest of the clients and staff at heart.

From the Desk of the President

As I enter into my 23rd year of employment with Pioneer Center for Human Services, it's hard to believe another year is about to pass. This year we celebrated our 50 years of service to the community. At the Gala in April we honored Verona Huff, the visionary who in the 1950's wanted more for her daughter than institutionalization, and started Pioneer Center. Pioneer Center for Human Services is growing and expanding, providing not only excellent care for the developmentally disabled but adding other programs such as: VOICE, the county's only ICASA certified sexual assault program, and PADS, the county's biggest provider of services to people who are homeless. As we continue to grow we wanted our name to encompass what we do, and that is provide "Human Services". As the New Year approaches, the "new" face of Pioneer Center for Human Services will begin to emerge. Pioneer Center for Human Services has always been responsive to the needs of the community and 50 years later nothing has changed. We continue to be visionary and will provide new innovative programs and service delivery systems to meet the diverse needs of the community.

As the state of the economy has been on everyone's mind, it is hard to turn on the TV or read the paper and not hear about how bad things are financially. Unfortunately, Pioneer Center for Human Services has also been affected by budget cuts in government funding. Pioneer Center for Human Services

has been notified by the state that beginning in January 2009 their funding will be cut over \$200,000. This is another reason why Pioneer Center for Human Services needs to be visionary. We have received a generous contribution from The Sage Foundation to implement a new client management system that enables Pioneer in adopting a "going green" environment that will cut costs to the organization and enhance client management efficiency. We have implemented centralized printing, thus cutting the costs of ink cartridges for individualized printers and aids in keeping the environment cleaner.

In closing, Verona Huff's daughter is still a client at Pioneer Center for Human Services and is doing well. As we move forward we will be exploring a variety of different programs and services that will benefit "YOU", our neighbor and community partner as we build relationships that can last a lifetime!

Sincerely,

Lorraine Kopczynski
President and CEO



Inside our Developmental Training Program

The Developmental Training Program assists people who have severe challenges to developing basic life skills. Classroom instruction, community integration experiences, vocational and leisure opportunities all assist in the development of participants' skills.

The Developmental Training program recently moved into its newly renovated location at Pioneer Central. It is bright and cheery and very conducive to the new curriculum. Classes are offered in speech/language, arts/crafts, music, fitness, nutrition, sensory-relaxation, work skills, computer, weather and weird science.

The new space has allowed for many adaptive changes which help foster independence and allow the ease of accessibility for people within a wide range of disabilities. For example: The kitchen has an adjustable range, sink and upper cabinet along with enabling kitchen utensils for ease of use. There's even a talking microwave for those with low vision! The

new fitness room offers a variety of different machines that adjust to the individual's performance and ability level. The Assistive Technology Computer Lab has software that is beneficial to all levels of understanding and levels of physical function abilities.

There are two extra curricular activities currently being offered which are; "The Dayton Street Theater Company" formerly known as the Pioneer Players. This group will be putting on their first theatrical performance in 2009. The second is "The Bells of Pioneer", a group of 10 DD clients under the direction of two staff who are rehearsing a routine displaying their art of playing musical bells. This group will perform at various functions throughout the year. Their first performance will be at the 3rd Annual Holiday Luncheon and Book Review on December 8.

Our goal is to help clients achieve greater independence and quality of life.

Donate at: www.pioneercenter.org or www.mchenrycountypads.com

Residential Housing and Vocational Training Offers 'New Beginnings' to Mental Health Clients

In 2000 Dave Podgurski was diagnosed with depression. When he came to Pioneer Center for Human Services Dave was away from his family and didn't know who to trust. He started attending group mental health counseling sessions and was placed in Pioneer Center's MI residential housing program. Before long he learned about symptoms pertaining to his mental illness and how to cope effectively.

Dave then began participating in Pioneer Center's Vocational training program. He wanted to enhance his work skills so he could get a job in the community.

Dave is now 34 years old. He has graduated from the MI residential program and now has his own

apartment through the HUD program. He also has a HUD case manager to help him get to appointments and assist him with life skills training. Dave also completed Pioneer's Community Employment janitorial program and now works in the community at various locations as a custodian.

Dave still comes to Pioneer's New Direction's vocational program to enhance his work and recovery skills. For the last 6 years, Dave participated in the Pioneer softball team and has won five trophies for MVP.

Dave would like to give thanks to Pioneer staff for encouraging him through the tough times and giving him the opportunity for a "New Beginning".

VOICE Crisis Intervention

VOICE is Pioneer Center For Human Service's sexual assault program, and is the only sexual assault program in McHenry County under the umbrella of ICASA – the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault. VOICE provides 24 hour medical and criminal justice advocacy for victims of sexual assault. In addition, VOICE offers ongoing counseling and therapy for survivors. Services are offered to all residents of McHenry County aged 18 and over who are either survivors or significant others to survivors of sexual assault. VOICE works with county hospitals and police departments to ensure sexual assault survivors receive the best treatment possible.

A victim in crisis can reach us by calling the McHenry County Crisis Line at 1-800-892-8900. Nurses at any ER in

McHenry County will contact VOICE for victims of sexual assault. The goal of VOICE crisis intervention is to educate, support, empower and validate survivors in the hopes that they may return to their level of functioning prior to the assault.

VOICE recently provided 40 hours of Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention training to a group of 9 individuals, 7 of whom will be new volunteers. This brings our volunteer pool to a total of 10! The 40 hour training will be offered again in May. The program is also currently offering and providing sexual assault prevention and awareness education to area high schools. In addition, the foundation for a 12-week support group for adult survivors of sexual assault is in the making. VOICE looks forward to expanding services that will benefit victims of sexual assault in McHenry County!

Holiday Luncheon & Book Review Event Sponsors

Alliance Contractors ♦ Althoff Industries ♦ Bank of Palatine ♦ Beth & Rudnicki Insurance Agency ♦ Borhart & Spellmeyer & Company ♦ Hegner Family Foundation
♦ Interior Motives and more... ♦ Bill & Lynn Kasicki ♦ McHenry Rotary Club
♦ Northwest Herald ♦ Sage Products ♦ Schroeder Asphalt Services, Inc.
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as of Oct. 25, 2008

3rd Annual Book Review Benefits Horticultural Therapy at Pioneer

www.pioneercenter.org/events



Donate at: www.pioneercenter.org or www.mchenrycountypads.com

Sharing the Holidays



Denny Breitholtz
Sr. Director
Major Gifts and Donations

The holidays are always an important time of year when people spend time with family, exchanging gifts and warm holiday greetings.

A time spent among ribbons and bows, wrapping paper and cards. Smiles come a little easier and hearts are a little fuller.

For many of the people we serve, the holidays are not always filled with joy and laughter. Many will not receive brightly wrapped gifts or have the comfort of family and friends. The holidays can be one of the most difficult times of the year for many due to the cold weather, depression, lack of family or lack of funds.

The simple act of receiving a gift can be enough to brighten someone's whole season. Some great donation ideas are; gift cards for movies, restaurants or stores. All those using Pioneer Center for Human Services programs can benefit from these kinds of items.

Other ways you can help:

- Financial donations
- Take up an office collection this Holiday Season
- Ask your Company/School to host a fundraiser
- Ask management to contribute to matching grant programs
- Suggest your congregation offer tithes
- Employ people who are disabled or homeless

If you know someone who is in need of help and can benefit from Pioneer Center for Human Services programs, please have them call us at: (815) 344-1230.

- Services include:
 - New Directions Mental Health Services
 - VOICE: Sexual Assault Services
 - PADS: Homeless Services
 - Traumatic Brain Injury
 - Early Intervention for Children
 - Developmental Disabilities
 - Community Employment Services

Happy Holidays

Pioneer Center for Human Services is a not-for-profit agency that provides services to over 1600 individuals annually in McHenry County.



ADDRESS AREA

Thank you to Chuck and Mary Liebman for your generous donation in fulfilling the needed items on the Pioneer Wishlist!

Company Matching Gift Program

Did you know that you can double or sometimes even triple the impact of your donation? Many companies offer a matching gift program which matches your gift with a donation. This is an easy way for you to make your contribution go even further to help our programs and services.

Check with your employer to see if they offer a Matching Gift Program.

PADS Wish List

Top 10 PADS wish list needs:

1. Non-perishable food items: chili, soups, beef stew, cereals etc.
2. Men and womens sweatshirts and sweatpants L-XL
3. Food for meals (Meats) ground beef, chicken
4. 100 Zip up plastic covers for twin beds for use at all locations
5. Coffee, filters, cream, sugar, Splenda, Equal
6. Plastic silverware, styrofoam cups, zip lock bags, foil, paper plates, paper towels
7. Towels
8. Garbage bags, 30 gal and 13 gal
9. Laundry Detergent (powder)
10. Undergarments, new

Mission

Expanding Opportunities Through Partnerships
Our mission is to work with children and adults to explore opportunities for personal accomplishment through education, vocational and community participation.

Vision

To empower individuals to achieve their full potential.

Values

*We value every individual.
We provide support for every individual.
We provide opportunities and foster individual quality of life.
We attain and enforce the highest ethical standards.
We treat everyone with respect and understanding.
We enjoy working with and advocating for individuals, their families, the community and each other.
We achieve excellence as we demonstrate our commitment to individuals and teams.
We continue to learn new methods that will assist each individual to achieve their highest potential.*

Pioneer Center for Human Services
gratefully acknowledges local funding from United Way, the McHenry County Mental Health Board and the Mental Health Resource League.



MHB

