

Western Avenue
Community Center

Lawrence Irvin
Neighborhood Center

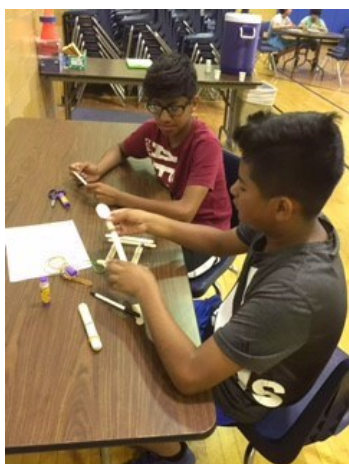


The Center Connection

Summer/Fall 2016

Summer Camp

Science, art and food were a part of this year's On My Way Summer Camp six-week experience for 21 junior high students from Bloomington-Normal. The campers were invited into **the lab of the Chemistry**



Two teen boys participate in a camp team building activity.

Department at Illinois State University by Dr. Marjorie Jones and learned to paint with artists Mary Jo Johnson and Cindy Lawston-Kester from **Inside Out Accessible Art** in downtown Bloomington.

Oh, did we mention food? Those campers enjoyed the art of eating too.

We warmly thank **Trinity Lutheran Church** and **First Christian Church of Bloomington** for allowing use of

their buildings for portions of camp. Kudos to our college age counselors who provided tutoring in English and math, lots of energy and a patient, listening ear to our young campers. On My Way camp serves low income and at-risk youth in our community with a positive summertime experience.



Campers visited the "Be the Astronaut" exhibit at the Peoria Riverfront Museum where they had hands-on experiences.

LINC Youth Programs

The Lawrence Irvin Neighborhood Center continues to provide much needed summer programming for our teenagers, and this year we reached 70 youth aged 12 to 17 from June to August. Highlights included evening swims at O'Neil Pool, a trip to the zoo in St. Louis and a day at Fairview Pool. A collaboration between WACC, the **Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal**, the **Bloomington Police Department** and the **Town of Normal** helped create a new **Director of Teen Services and Community Partnerships position filled by Mike Donnelly**. Our partnerships in the community continue to strengthen our ability to have an impact on the lives of teens who need positive adult connection. We

especially thank **Papa John's Pizza** for their donation and support of the Teen Club Summer Program.

As LINC school year programming has begun, staff members have identified homework help as a greater priority this year for Teen Club. Although school work has always been emphasized, staff will work to create a culture where students view their homework as something to be finished before socialization and recreation programs get going at the center.

LINC Hours
1615 W. Illinois St., Blm.
Monday - Friday: 3 to 9 p.m. for youth
Tuesday & Thursday: 3 to 9 p.m. for Teen Club
Saturday: 12 to 3 p.m. open gym
Sunday: 1 to 4 p.m. open gym

Food Pantry

Our food pantry continues to grow and we now serve **at least 200 families per month**, which impacts 650 individuals in McLean County. We were able to give a wide array of fresh fruits and vegetables to clients thanks to our community garden, weekly donations from the St. Vincent De Paul Society, Midwest Food Bank, Wal-Mart and the West Bloomington Active Garden! It has been a healthy harvest season!

Save the date: Fall Fest Senior Dinner Dance

5:30 to 8 p.m. October 10

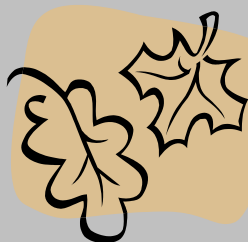
Reserve your \$3 ticket

Call the center at

309-829-4807

Live music by

The Dynamics



90th Gala



Board President Brian Trower hands Board member John Schoening an award in recognition of his support of the event.

Our wonderful 90th anniversary gala on March 11 at the Castle Theatre was a success. It raised awareness about all the good work that has gone on over the course of nine decades on Western Avenue, and **\$10,750 in proceeds** from the event will help keep up that blessing to others. A

heartfelt thank you to all who attended, sponsored or otherwise supported this unforgettable night.

After School Program

Next time you are on the Illinois Wesleyan University campus keep your eyes open for some kid-designed planter pots made **in partnership with IWU professor Jim Simeone** and his students. This project was part of an awesome Earth Day celebration. It also included interactive games and stations for our students led by a group of **Recreation Management majors from Illinois State University**. We loved every chance we had to be outside last spring and spent several days clearing one of the raised beds and planting a variety of seeds with Dick Stickelmaier during our free time. The kids and staff of the After School Program are continually reminded of the amazing blessings God brings our way through talented volunteers and generous community partners.



*** WACC/LINC Programming continues due to the generosity of the community. ***

Hispanic Outreach

The **Mexican Consulate** was at **LINC May 19-22**. More than 400 individuals were able to apply for passports, Mexican IDs and obtain birth certificates.



Staff and volunteers prepared and served Cinco de Mayo lunches to benefit programming at WACC/LINC.

Hispanic Outreach also has worked with our newer **Employment Resource Program**, which is funded by United Way. Staff have assisted community members with little or no English to apply for and retain

employment and connect with classes to gain a GED, learn English, or gain more education to better their career opportunities.

At the **Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser** over 260 meals were served and everyone had a fun time!

Girls Only & PETALS

Programming for girls is underway at the center! Girls Only Teen Club meets every Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. at Western Avenue Community Center. The group will focus on building leadership skills, offer faith building principles, approach conflict resolution strategies as well as offer guest speakers, volunteer opportunities and more.

PETALS stands for Providing Education and Training to Achieve Lasting Success. This group for girls 9th to 12th grades meets the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Western Avenue Community Center.

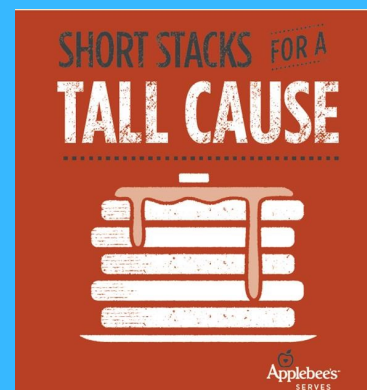
Thank you

The **Shirk Family Foundation** awarded WACC a grant of nearly \$8,000 to revitalize the playground and garden area. Watch this fall for the arrival of a new balance toy on the playground, picnic tables, a garden shed and garden tools all made possible due to the foundation's generosity.

You are invited to our flapjack fundraiser!

Tickets: \$5 includes pancakes, bacon and a drink.

Pick one up at WACC or at the event between 8 and 10 a.m. on Saturday October 1, 2016 at Applebee's Restaurant 502 N. Veteran's Pkwy, Bloomington, IL. Call us at 309-829-4807 for tickets!



The Biggest

OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY

THE CASTLE THEATRE
DEC 1, 6 - 10 PM
Tickets: \$25

In Town!

BE AN AWESOME BOSS
and bring your staff to our party

LIVE MUSIC & DJ
DANCING
FOOD BY BAXTER'S

Bring your friends.
HAVE FUN. DO GOOD.

BENEFITS ALL THE PROGRAMS AND LOCATIONS OF THE WESTERN AVENUE COMMUNITY CENTER

Western Avenue Community Center

600 North Western Ave.
Bloomington, IL 61701

Our newsletter
is sponsored by... **StateFarmBank**



Special news on giving

If you are a State Farm employee, retiree or agent please consider supporting WACC through the new State Farm Matching Gift program. Donations of at least \$25 and up to \$1,500 per year to a recognized nonprofit organization will now be matched! First give, and then fill out a simple form at cybergrants.com/statefarm/gives to have your gift to Western Avenue doubled. Program is retroactive to January 1, 2016. We could not do what we do without our friends like you and corporate partners like State Farm.

Our new Christmas Fundraiser: Bring your office!

Western Avenue Community Center invites you to the
Biggest Office Christmas Party in Town!
6 to 10 p.m. on Thursday December 1, 2016
Castle Theatre, 209 E. Washington Street, Bloomington
Have fun. Do good. Celebrate with us.
Have your Christmas party with us this year and skip the hassle.
More details on page 3.
(Mystery Addicts: Don't worry! Our annual Mystery Dinner will
be back in 2017. Stay tuned!)

Western Avenue Community Center Business Hours

Monday– Thursday
9 a.m.– 5 p.m.
Friday
9 a.m.– 12 p.m.

Main Line
309-829-4807

Academic Program Director
309-829-4807 ext. 1007

Development Director
309-829-4807 ext. 1004

Executive Director
309-829-4807 ext. 1003

Financial Director
309-829-4807 ext. 1002

Food Pantry
829-4807

Hispanic Outreach
309-827-3794

Interpretation/Translation 309-829-9231
Volunteers/Interns 309-829-4807 ext. 1007
www.westernavenuecc.org



Reading, learning and connecting after school...just another day in paradise at the community center!

