



600 N WESTERN AVENUE BLOOMINGTON IL 61701

Fall Newsletter

Fall programs

Western Avenue continues with our our Hispanic Outreach Program, which helps immigrant and Hispanic families in receiving health and human services. The Hispanic Outreach Team has completed 1,047 service consultations since January and 911 interpretation appointments. Western Avenue also hosts Youth Programs. This fall we currently host martial arts classes, a Girls Club which provides enrichment activities for 8th grade girls supported with funds by the Illinois Prairie Foundation and State Farm, and a After School Club for Middle Schoolers that provide one-on-one tutoring from Illinois Wesleyan and Illinois State students.

Starting in September, the only English as a Second Language (ESL) Kindermusik class in the area will be held for children ages 0-5. Kindermusik leads children through playful, interactive, and developmentally appropriate music and movement activities. Heartland Community College has also been an important partner for us in offering Adult ESL classes three times a week.

We also host programs focused on well-being and health! We distribute non-perishable food boxes from the Tinervin Family Foundation with supplemental food bundles funded by the Illinois Charitable Funds Grant and State Farm. We have distributed 2,709 food boxes to the community since January. We host WERQ dance classes and we've hosted two COVID-19 vaccine clinics helping 91 people get vaccinated!

Our Senior Programs provide recreational activities for our Senior Citizen community. We host movie days, BINGO and card games, as well as fitness classes. Our Senior Activities provide a safe place for our Seniors to go, as well as opportunities for them to socialize. A special event for the Seniors in our Hispanic Community took place September 9th. We hosted a Lotería Event. Lotería is a game like BINGO, but uses images on a deck of cards instead of numbered ping pong balls. We hosted a Senior Dinner Dance on October 14th! Thank you to Avanti's for sponsoring the food. Additionally, we started a 6-week fitness program, Body Under Construction this October.

CURRENT PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Hispanic Outreach Programs
Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00PM
By Appointment Only. Call
309-834-9205

Bilingual Family Counseling
By Appointment Only. Call
309-834-9205

Interpretation/Translation
By Appointment Only. Call
309-834-9252

Senior Exercise Classes
Tuesdays and Thursdays
10:00-11:00 AM

Senior BINGO
The 3rd Thursday of the Month
10:00AM-12:00PM

Senior Cards and Movie Day
The 4th Tuesday and Thursday of
the Month 11:30-1:30

Girls' Program
Tuesdays 3:00-6:00 PM

After School Club
Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00-
6:00 PM

WERQ
Tuesdays 7:00-8:00 PM
Fridays 9:00AM-10:00AM

Youth Martial Arts
Wednesdays and Fridays 4:00-
5:00PM

NEW PROGRAM
Body Under Construction
Mondays 9:00AM-10:00AM
Wednesdays 9:00AM-10:00AM



NEW FREE COMPUTER LAB

Western Avenue will now have a Free Public Computer Lab. Clients can come to the center to use desktops or laptops to work on homework, create professional documents, or explore the web! We are excited to provide this service to our community!

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Adult ESL Classes

Taught by Heartland Community College

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays

Kindermusik

For children 0-5. Wednesdays

Community Care Systems

Every 3rd Monday 1:00-4:00PM

CSSI provides non-medical support by supervised Home care Aides. Community Care Systems, Inc. offers stability and promotes health and safety to those who require assistance and have a desire to remain independent.

COMMUNITY SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
SECOND PRES CHURCH • MT. PISGAH CHURCH • RESTORATION CHURCH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31 @ 10:30 AM
LOCATION: WESTERN AVENUE COMMUNITY CENTER

TRUNK OR TREAT

LUNCH @ 12:00 TRUNK OR TREAT @ 12:00 - 2:30 PM

HOSTED BY
Western Avenue

October 31st is going to be a special day at Western Avenue Community Center. We will be having a community worship service at 10:30 am with Mount Pisgah Baptist Church, Restoration Church, and Second Presbyterian Church, followed by food (12pm), games, and Trunks full of Treats (12-2:30pm). Our goal is to come together in partnership with our local community to reach the youth and families of our area. We look forward to seeing you at Western Avenue for this special Community Event!

Western Avenue Community Center turns 95!

On July 23rd, Western Avenue Community Center turned 95 years old! I have to say thank you to our amazing vendors, Poblano Burrito, Carl's Ice Cream, Janet's Cakes & Catering, The Dinner Bell, Inc., La Bamba Normal, IL, Lupita's Hispanic & American Grocery, and the Zoo Lady; staff; partners like the City of Bloomington, the Bloomington Fire and Police Departments, Bloomington Public Library, West Bloomington Revitalization Project, McLean County Wheelers, and Friends of the Constitution Trail; and the board members and volunteers who have come out to make this event possible. We couldn't have done this without you, and I am so thankful for the never-ending support the WACC family and Bloomington/Normal community has shown me and WACC.

I started here at WACC in June and have already met so many people who talk about WACC with such love, care, and respect. WACC has been an institution on the west side, a first responder to the needs of the west side, and has adapted and will continue to adapt to be there for this community.

I'm so grateful to the community members who came out to celebrate the 95 years that WACC has served this community, cared about this community, and been a place of love, hope, and safety in this community. It's amazing to be here on this corner and think about what this corner has seen, to imagine the people that have walked through our doors, and to hear about the memories that have been made through the countless and meaningful programs that have taken place here. I'm honored and so excited that each of us here are a part of WACC's history.

I also wanted to use this space to honor some of the Western Avenue Community family that have also celebrated some milestones of service. I want to say thank you to Junior Hosea, our "do everything man," who has been with WACC since 1976. Socorro Alvarez, our Hispanic Outreach Director, who has been with us since 1992; Liz Acevedo-Alstrum, our bilingual family counselor, has been with us since 1998; Saul Pulido, our Interpretation Director, has been with us since 2006; Rose Beverly, who has held various positions with us since 2003; Brian Trower, our current Financial Director and past Board Member has supported us since 1995; and Charla Cullen who has served as Director on multiple occasions starting in 1980. I also want to thank individuals who have been on the Board and Advisory Board for over 10 years; Mike Jones, John Schoening, Denny Steele, Mike McKnight; and countless numbers of clients who come to visit us again and again and again. Thank you for being such a dedicated part of the Western Avenue Community Center Family.



New Board Members

I am excited to announce new Board Members to the Western Avenue Community Center Family! We are so excited for the knowledge, passion, and experience they bring to our Board.

Thomas Good is the Market President in McLean County for First Busey Corporation since 2011. He is an active member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church and has served on the Board of the Bloomington/Normal YMCA and as Board President. He also was the City of Bloomington's appointee on McLean County's Public Building Commission.

Bob Hermes has lived in the Blooming-Normal area since 1956. He worked for and eventually owned Hermes Service and Sale for many years. Bob is an active member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church and currently serves as the Diocesan Coordinator of the Ordained Deacons. He is active in the Saint Vincent DePaul Food and Clothing Pantry as well as Leader/Co-Spiritual Director for the group, Bloomington/Normal Teens Encounter Christ.

Christopher Hunt has been in the construction industry for many years. He moved to Bloomington-Normal in 1993 and currently is the Director of Merchandise and manages the Commercial Sales Team at Shermans. He has a passion to volunteer and mentor individuals with drug and alcohol problems, specifically working in a local halfway house.

Ulises Napoles was born in Chicago and made his way to Bloomington/Normal as an Illinois State student and graduated in 2004. He has worked for First Site for 18 years and is now the Vice President and Managing Broker for the company. He serves on the Board of Directors for our recent partner, the Tinervin Family Foundation.

Dawna Tucci has lived in the Bloomington/Normal area since 1980. She has a passion for education and was a teacher for 11 years. After leaving teaching, she continued to volunteer in the field of education. She has been on various Boards, Guilds, and Committees throughout the community that focus on supporting children and the field of education.

Building updates:

Our 95th Anniversary not only provided us with an opportunity to honor our past, but to look toward the future. Thanks to the generosity of the Tinervin Family Foundation, Western Avenue has new landscaping around the outside of the building and in the park, new gravel in the back, a new surface in our park's playground, and new parking blocks, lines, and resurfacing in one of our parking lots. We are so grateful for how the Tinervin Family foundation is investing in our Center.



Special THANKS

We would like to take this opportunity to provide a special thanks to Betty Hendricks. Betty Hendricks has overseen the Putt-Putt for Charity event for several years and has partnered with Western Avenue since 2016 to raise funds for our organization. This year, the event took place on October 10th and raised \$19,501 for Western Avenue Community Center. Thank you so much to Betty and everyone that supported the Putt-Putt for Charity event!



Grants

Western Avenue has been blessed in more ways than one this year. We are so grateful for being awarded grants from several community partners! The Illinois Prairie Charitable Foundation provided us with grant money for our Teen Summer Camp in 2020 and continues to support our Girls' Program this year. Our food program has been supplemented with generous funds from the State of Illinois Charitable Division and has recently received additional funding to support this program from a State Farm HERO grant. The Circle K Golden Kiwanis have also offered us support by providing funds for our transportation needs. We also stay grateful for the continued support of State Farm for our Hispanic Outreach Program and our Girls' Program.

Memorials

It takes a special person to think of others in a time of loss. I want to use this space to thank several families for including Western Avenue in a Memorial fund.

Mikel Judd supported Western Avenue in providing electrical services to our building. His wife, Nancy, volunteered for the center over the years. Mikel's sons attended preschool at WACC, were part of an early Boy Scout troop and basketball team.

John Foer was a member of Second Presbyterian Church. His wife, Regina, supported our After School Club.

Jean Anderson was an accountant who Volunteered with Vita at WACC to prepare taxes. We are grateful for her service.

Judy Probus supported our Youth Programs by managing book drives that supported the Western Avenue Community Center library.

Samuel Richard "Dick" Jumper was actively involved in our Seniors' Programs. A donation was made in his name to honor Dick's participation in our programs.

Donation opportunities

Western Avenue Community Center thrives on generous donations. As a result of the community's generous contributions, Western Avenue Community Center can continue to serve over 1,000 families each year. Your support helps us keep programs going and allows Western Avenue Community Center to continue its mission to be a resource to the youth/teens, seniors, and the Hispanic community that count on us. Again, our thanks! We truly appreciate your support of our work. With your help, we can keep "opening doors of hope and love" to our community.

Matching gift donation

Western Avenue Community Center is so grateful for all of the State Farm and Country Financial Families that take part in their Matching Gift Programs

State Farm employees, retirees and agents who contribute to Western Avenue Community Center can have their gifts matched by State Farm for up to \$4,500 per calendar. In addition, if you are a State Farm employee, retiree or agent who volunteers at the Western Avenue Community Center for 40 or more hours in a year State Farm will continue to grant our organization \$500 under its Good Neighbor Grant program.

COUNTRY® Financial - Donation Match Program

COUNTRY Financial employees (financial reps/agents not eligible), along with employees of the Illinois Farm Bureau and IAA Credit Union, have access to a donation match program. Up to \$500 per employee, per year can be matched when a personal donation is made to an eligible nonprofit organization.

**Thank you to these individuals, organizations, and families
that have contributed to our mission.
We would like to give special thanks to the following donors for their incredible
generosity of donating over \$500 to Western Avenue.**

The WindJammer	Rome and Mary Yount	Fifth Generation Inc. Tito's
Nooners	St. Luke Union Church	Diggers Again
Jazz Up Front	Gerald and Joy McGee	Cadillac Jacks
Latham & Watkins	Willie Brown	Night Shop
Charles Farner	Stephen and Patricia McManus	Fat Jacks
Michelle Mancias	Denny and Linda Steele	Michael and Ann Small Family Foundation
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	Thomas and Valerie Allison	Michael and Abby Jones
Ronnie and Cheryl Fluker	Michael and Ann Sullivan	Second Presbyterian Church
McLean County Republicans	First Presbyterian Church	Donna Schaad
Larry and Kay Carius	Paul A. Funk Foundation	The Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation
Deanna Frautschi	Shana Snoeyink	Zachary Judd
Virginia Gaither	John Schoening	Terry and Peg Shea
Randy & Mary Schmidt	The Eagles Club	Paul J. & Mary M. Smith
Nancy Proctor	Crawfords Corner Pub	Second Presbyterian Church Foundation
Carl & Chantal Sneed	The Pass	Second Presbyterian Church
Barbara and William Gillespie	Christian Church Foundation	Toni and Duane Farrington
Brian and Darlene Trower	Jennifer and David Greminger	Tinervin Family Foundation
Paul and Gwinn Campbell	The Station Saloon	State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
Puniet Dua	Spotted Dog	McLean County Retired Teachers Association
Kurt and Joyce Moser	Susan Sears	



600 N WESTERN AVENUE BLOOMINGTON IL 61701

