

Kane County

2006 RIVERBOAT GRANT PROGRAM PROJECTS/PROGRAMS



*Grand Victoria Casino Riverboat
Elgin, IL*

2006 Kane County Riverboat Grant Projects

The Kane County Riverboat Grant Program was born as a result of a 1997 agreement between Kane County and the Elgin Riverboat Resort (Grand Victoria Foundation) authorized in Resolution #97-100. This agreement provides for an annual contribution to Kane County (7.5% of the net operating income from the Grand Victoria riverboat). The money that comes to Kane County is to be used for projects/programs in the areas of *Education*, *Economic Development*, and the *Environment*. The Kane County Riverboat Grant Program is designed to serve as a financial aid for programs strengthening Kane County's communities and government through efforts in education, environment, and economic development and with emphasis on addressing Kane County problems and providing long-term solutions. In general, projects shall be made for capital purposes only, not for ongoing operating expenses.

Under Kane County Board Chairman Karen McConnaughay's leadership, beginning with the 2006 Riverboat Grant Program, all applications are now submitted during an annual open enrollment period. These are then reviewed by the newly established Riverboat Grant Subcommittee. The Riverboat Grant Subcommittee is comprised of John Hoscheit, Chairman, District 12, Paul Greviskes, District 6, and John Noverini, District 23. Having reviewed the submitted applications, the Riverboat Subcommittee met on July 13, 2006 and recommended the attached list of projects which was ultimately approved by the Kane County Board at the August, 2006 meeting via Resolution 06-322, which is attached.

Kane County has been able to partner with many wonderful organizations through the Riverboat Grant Program over the past ten years to make a positive impact on the lives of our residents. The following pages give you a brief glimpse into the wide variety of excellent projects/programs that were approved in 2006.

Kane County sincerely thanks the Grand Victoria Foundation for their contributions to Kane County that make this Riverboat Grant Program possible, and we look forward to supporting more worthwhile projects through the Riverboat Grant Program in the future. For more information, please contact Maureen Anderson, Riverboat Grant Administrator at 630-232-5971 or visit our website at www.countyofkane.org/Pages/RiverboatGrantApplications.aspx

STATE OF ILLINOIS

COUNTY F KANE

RESOLUTION NO. 06 - 322

**AUTHORIZING GRANT AGREEMENTS FOR
RIVERBOAT GRANT FUNDING PROJECTS FOR FY 2006**

WHEREAS, the agreement between the County of Kane and the Grand Victoria Casino provides for the use of Riverboat Funds to assist in educational endeavors, environmental endeavors, and economic development endeavors; and

WHEREAS, numerous organizations submitted complete applications requesting monies from the Kane County Riverboat Grant Fund for projects that met the Guidelines, Policies and Procedures for the Kane County Riverboat Grant Program that were adopted by the Kane County Board in October, 2006 through Resolution 05-345; and

WHEREAS, the Kane County Riverboat Subcommittee diligently and carefully reviewed each of the lengthy applications to evaluate each project; and

WHEREAS, the attached list of organizations, projects, and funding amounts were recommended for approval for fiscal year 2006 by the Riverboat Grant Subcommittee.

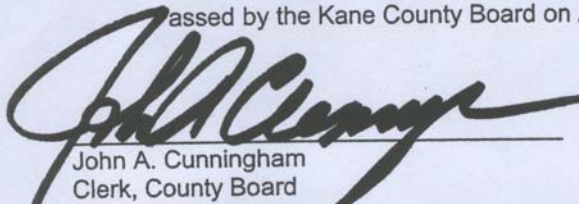
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Kane County Board that the Chairman of the Kane County Board is authorized to enter into a Grant Agreement with each of the above named organizations for the project and dollar amount specified, and subject to the terms and conditions specified therein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Kane County Board that the following FY 2006 budget adjustment be made to reflect the payout of the grants:

085-2085-412.50-03	Riverboat Projects	\$999,495
085-0000-399.39-99	Cash on Hand	\$999,495

Line item	Line Item description	Was Personnel/item/service Approved in original Budget or a Subsequent budget Revision?	Are funds <u>currently</u> Available for this Personnel/item/service in the specified line item?	If funds are not currently available in the specified line item, where are the funds available?
085-2085-412.50-03	Riverboat Projects	No	No	085-0000-39-99 (Cash on Hand)

Passed by the Kane County Board on August 8, 2006.


John A. Cunningham
Clerk, County Board
Kane County, Illinois


Karen McConaughay
Chairman, County Board
Kane County, Illinois

Vote:
Yes 24
No 0
Voice 1
Abstentions 1

2006 RIVERBOAT GRANT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grant #	Applicant	Project	Amount
G-06-01	Midwest Treasures Film Group w/Kane County Farm Bureau	Movie to promote awareness on farmland	\$10,000
G-06-02	Senior Services Associates, Inc.	Program to educate seniors on services	\$60,000
G-06-03	Village of Montgomery	Restoration of historic structure	\$30,000
G-06-04	Friends of Aurora's After School Program	Reading improvement program	\$30,000
G-06-05	Aurora Primary Care Consortium	Health education for Ambassador Program	\$25,000
G-06-06	L.I.F.E. Support Inc.	Computer lab to enhance reading & math skills	\$10,000
G-06-07	Quad County Urban League	Construct vocational training center	\$100,000
G-06-08	Two Rivers Head Start	Equipment for infant/toddler classroom	\$15,000
G-06-09	SciTech Hands on Museum	Dinosaur exhibit	\$5,000
G-06-10	Living Well Cancer Resource Center	Education program for cancer patient families	\$5,000
G-06-11	Tri-City Health Partnership	Educational programs for clinics	\$8,755
G-06-12	Glenwood School for Boys & Girls	Construct woodworking shop	\$15,000
G-06-13	City of St. Charles	Reconstruct Farnsworth Mansion	\$10,000
G-06-14	Community Crisis Center	Educate community on violent crime	\$6,827
G-06-15	Boys & Girls Club of Elgin	Construction of clubhouse	\$100,000
G-06-16	YWCA Elgin	Adult ESL	\$20,000
G-06-17	The Literacy Connection	Literacy services	\$10,000
G-06-18	Batavia Art in Your Eye Festival	Promote arts	\$5,000
G-06-19	Village of Carpentersville	Gateway signs/landscaping/lighting	\$36,000
G-06-20	Village of Sugar Grove	Community enhancement	\$7,010
G-06-21	Fox Valley Council, Girl Scouts	Prairie restoration	\$44,250
G-06-22	Fox Valley Wildlife Center	Capital initiatives	\$5,000
G-06-23	City of St. Charles	Riverbank stabilization	\$100,000
G-06-24	Reflejos Direct Media	Latino program	\$25,000
G-06-25	Fox Valley Land Foundation	Computers to promote land trusts & open space	\$15,624
G-06-26	Golden Age Hispanics	Educational support for Hispanic seniors	\$5,000
G-06-27	Public Action to Deliver Shelter	Equipment replacement	\$34,840
G-06-28	Marie Wilkinson Child Development Center	Furnace Repair	\$10,000
G-06-29	Garfield Heritage Society	Restoration of barn	\$15,000
G-06-30	Day One Network	Furnishings	\$35,000
G-06-31	Association for Individual Development	Renovation of group home	\$100,000
G-06-32	Literacy Volunteers of Fox Valley	Upgrade computers	\$34,189
G-06-33	Centro De Informacion	Replace phone system	\$12,000
G-06-34	United Way of Elgin	Community services guide	\$25,000
G-06-35	Habitat for Humanity	Purchase of lots	\$30,000
		<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$999,495</i>

G-06-01

Midwest Treasures Film Group
with Kane County Farm Bureau

(Education and Environment) \$10,000



Midwest Treasures Production Group in association with the Kane County Farm Bureau received a Kane County Riverboat Grant in the amount of \$10,000 for equipment and software purchases to enable them to complete a feature length documentary film, "Midwest Treasures: The Future of Historic Farms". The grant funds will allow final completion of the film

in a format ready for acquisition by public television.

The Kane County Farm Bureau, organized in 1912, is a strong and respected voice for farmers and others who have a vested interest in agriculture. Midwest Treasures Production Group was formed in 2004 with the express goal to complete this film.

This film brings an unmatched visual product of how the Kane County Board protects its valuable agricultural resource. In the 2030 Land Resource Management Plan, the County Board recommitted to preserving farmland from premature conversion. The goal of the film is to show how four farm families cope with the effects of regional growth and expansion on their farm and operations. With the farm owned by the family for over 150 years, the families in their own words describe their unique position.

The entire county will benefit as the film will feature the Flanders Farm and the Kane County Farmland Protection Program. If released nationally, the film has the potential of reaching an even broader audience. The film features Kane County's land resource planning and protection activities along with the region's farmland which is some of the best in the world.





Senior Services Associates received a Kane County Riverboat Grant in the amount of \$60,000 to educate Kane County seniors via a mailing providing them with information on services available. They will purchase mailing lists to identify the targeted seniors. Sometimes these lists are not complete, and they will try to identify seniors by targeting areas such as senior housing in order to maximize their search and find efforts.

Senior Services Associates was incorporated in 1973 and provides social services to seniors 60+. They are considered a “one stop shop” for social services for older adults. While this grant covers seniors in Kane County, Senior Services has offices in Aurora, Elgin, Crystal Lake, McHenry and Yorkville that served over 18,000 seniors last year. Many of the services are targeted to the frail elderly. They provide comprehensive assessments for seniors needing in-home services, home delivered meals, and adult day care in order to remain living independently in the home.

In the Kane County Senior Survey which was completed in 2003, it was apparent from the responses that many seniors do not know where to go for help. It was also clear that there are many unmet needs which could be met, if the senior was educated about the services available. Included in the mailing will be a magnet with the name and telephone number of Senior Services Associates.

The 2000 census identified 46,132 senior citizens, 60 and older in Kane County. The information provided in the mailing should benefit all those over 60 in Kane County as well as many family members who are caregivers. The information and assistance workers will target seniors who are high risk because of age, 75+, low income, minority, or living alone.



The project is important and relevant to Kane County because with the aging of the “Baby Boomers” the senior population is exploding. This growth in the population as well as the expanded life span is placing tremendous strain on seniors and their families. 79% of all long term care is done in the home by families. The best way to do that with limited funds is to assure that seniors and their families are aware of and access all the public benefits and services available to them. Seniors should not be going without food and medicine when there are programs available to help them. As of March, 2006 only 29% of Medicare beneficiaries had signed up for Medicare Part D. It is interesting to note in the summary of comments of the Kane County Needs Assessment, which was done in 2003, the number of comments made by seniors in need of service who don’t appear to know where to get the service. There were 1525 responses to the Needs Assessment. The respondents identified 964 incidents of unmet need ranging from the need for financial assistance, to finding health care and medications, to home repair. Based on this rate of response, in the population of 46,132 seniors there would be 28,920 incidents of unmet need. With the rapid growth in this population, and the fact that

approximately 50% of those 85 and over suffer from dementia, prevention must be at the top of the list. Assuring that seniors are educated regarding services available and the way to access them is critical. Prevention will have many positive side affects, including less time missed at work by caregivers, and less time spent by police, paramedics, code department staff, etc. dealing with seniors in critical situations.

The goals of the project are:

1. To complete an educational mailing to all senior homes in the county.
2. To identify and speak with 80% of the 3,435 seniors in the county identified as 125% of the poverty level, and to complete a benefit analysis as needed.
3. To make 50 presentations throughout all areas of the county educating seniors and their families regarding available services
4. To make telephone contact with a minimum of 3,000 of the seniors who fall in the at- risk categories. Risk categories include 16,110 seniors who are 75+, 10,502 seniors who live alone, 5,364 seniors who are minority, and 3,435 seniors who live at 125% of poverty.
5. To meet an unmet need for 1500 seniors.

G-06-03 Village of Montgomery (*Education & Econ. Development*) \$30,000

The Village of Montgomery has identified an 1840's cottage as one of the oldest residential structures in Montgomery and possibly in the Kane County area. The home is located near Gray's Mill which is a grist mill built in the mid-1850's by Daniel Gray. The Mill has been restored and is listed on the National Register. Together these two buildings will be used to educate residents and students on how the earliest settlers in the area lived and worked. The renovation of the building will also contribute to the economic development of the historic downtown area.

This Riverboat Grant request is for funding to complete a Historic Structures Report and to assist in the restoration/rehabilitation of the 1840's cottage. Using salvaged materials such as 1850's windows, baseboards, other millwork and flooring will enable the restoration of the cottage to be accomplished with authentic materials while reducing the cost. This is a unique opportunity to be able to accomplish the restoration using authentic historic materials salvaged from other homes built in the mid-1800's in Montgomery.



Gray's Mill



The Friends of Aurora's After School Program Fund was established in 2002 through the Aurora Foundation. Donations from those interested in helping disadvantaged children in their own community are used to support reading improvement programs, library programs, parent involvement programs, and after school activities. They strongly believe in the importance of after school programs. They help working families, keep children safe, and improve academic achievement. Their target population is elementary school children and their families who live in low-income neighborhoods in Aurora.

This Riverboat Grant is being used for two initiatives. The first project includes four reading improvement programs held at McCleery Elementary School. Friends of Aurora's After School Program provides books and a place where families can come to help their children learn to read. The Reading Mentor Program targets twenty-five struggling readers and pairs them with a volunteer who meets with the same student each week to help them learn to read. Students are evaluated by the school staff and volunteers and given materials and books that are designed specifically for each student's reading level.



This is their third year at McCleery, and they work closely with classroom teachers and other collaborating agencies. The school library is a tremendous resource for families who live in the McCleery neighborhood. Many families do not have books in their homes and don't have transportation to the Aurora Public Library. Two of their programs extend the library hours during the evening and in the summer. In the first sixteen weeks of the Family Library Night Program, 1,000 people came to the library in the evening. Their efforts have produced significant, measurable reading improvement by their students.

The second project provides assistance for refugee families who live in the McCleery neighborhood. There are currently 34 students who speak 13 different languages and come from refugee camps from all over the world. 180 more refugees were expected to be relocated in the McCleery neighborhood in 2006.

G-06-05

Aurora Primary Care Consortium

(Education)

\$25,000

The Aurora Primary Care Consortium (APCC) was established to mobilize the community in efforts to improve health and to provide leadership in collaborative efforts among health providers to improve access to health care and awareness of resources for medically underserved residents of the greater Aurora area. The APCC serves all residents of greater Aurora, with special focus on the uninsured and medically underserved residents.



Many key health providers are members of APCC and have been active in the start-up activities for the APCC Faith Health Partnership:

- a) Provena Mercy Medical Center
- b) Kane County Health Department
- c) Aunt Martha's Aurora Community Health Center
- d) Community Health Partnership Health Center
- e) Rush Copley Medical Center
- f) Visiting Nurse Association Health Center
- g) Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- h) African American Chamber of Commerce
- i) Breaking Free
- j) Individual volunteers
- k) Quad County Urban League

This Riverboat Grant request was to initiate a Faith Health Partnership and Faith Health Ambassador Program. This is a collaborative effort of faith communities and health providers under the leadership of the Aurora Primary Care Consortium. The Faith Health Ambassador Program educates volunteers to become thoroughly knowledgeable about health resources and lay health promotion strategies in order to educate residents of southern Kane. This initiative will improve the health and economic well being of individuals, families, and the collective community of southern Kane County.



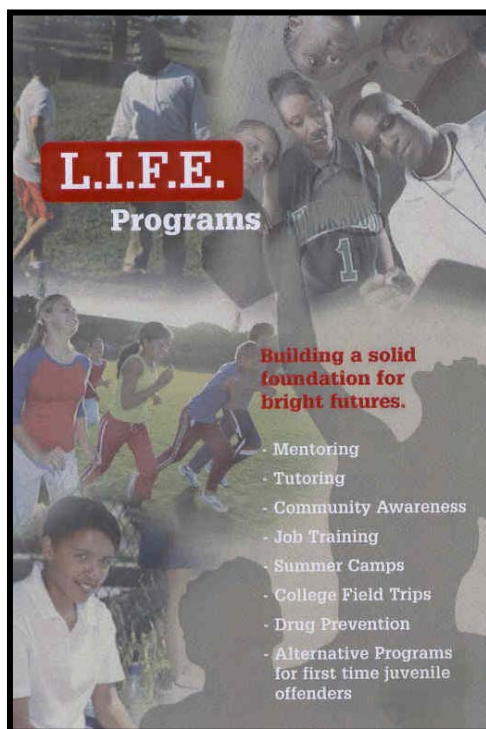
APCC Event with Partnership for Prescription Assistance "Help is Here Express Bus" helped Aurora citizens obtain pharmaceutical assistance.

L.I.F.E. Support, Inc. received a Kane County Riverboat Grant in the amount of \$10,000 for computer equipment for a computer laboratory in Aurora as part of its Academic and Athletic Empowerment Program (AAEP). The computer work stations will be used primarily to enhance both reading and mathematical skills of young student athletes.

L.I.F.E. Support, Inc. began in July of 2004 and is a non-profit organization that offers numerous social services and recreational activities for at-risk individuals in Aurora, IL and surrounding communities. Their mission is to empower individuals through continuous education and training that will enhance both current and future L.I.F.E. (Lifting Individuals for Future Empowerment) skills.

The AAEP focuses on three main components:

1. Mentoring/Tutoring
2. Athletic Skill training
3. Field trips to colleges and universities in the area



The computer laboratory will assist middle school students with both their reading and math skills. Based on the 2000 needs assessment done by the Fox Valley United Way, there are over 25,000 youths from the ages of 4-13 in the Aurora community. The East Aurora school district has been on the academic watch list for the last few years. Juvenile crime is the major concern for the surrounding communities. Drug related crimes as well as gang activity in the Aurora neighborhoods is also one of the top concerns. Working their AAEP at the middle school initially, then progressing to high school would enable them to connect with this very critical age group. This would decrease the amount of juvenile crimes throughout the county as well as increase the amount of potential leaders. There are roughly 500 student athletes that are targeted throughout Aurora East district 131.

Specific goals and objectives of the project include building a solid foundation for bright futures through

mentoring, tutoring, and community concerns. The program goals address four main areas: academic advancement, physical fitness awareness, youth leadership and program design. They want to improve both reading and math skills for every participant, as well as educate every student on proper dieting and increase physical fitness. Their program is designed to assist school administrators in all facets of being a student first and then an athlete second. Of the initial 35 students that participated in their first six week program, 25% made improvements on their academics that semester. Nearly 75% improved in overall behavior in school.



The Quad County Urban League (QCUL) received a Kane County Riverboat Grant in the amount of \$100,000 towards the construction of a Vocational and Educational Training Center in Aurora. This allows the QCUL to expand their programs/services. Construction began in 2007.

The QCUL of Aurora, Illinois was founded in 1975 by a diverse group of local leaders responding to the absence of a community-based organization to address the needs for academic achievement, job placement and training, equal access to employment, housing and cultural enrichment for low-income, displaced citizens. The Urban League is one of 105 affiliates of the national organization. Established in 1910, the national Urban League organization is the nation's oldest and largest community-based movement devoted to empowering African Americans to enter the economic and social mainstream.

The Urban League offers opportunities that have planted in many minds the “seeds” of self-esteem, of futures filled with challenges, ultimate success, and accomplishments. The Urban League plants these seeds through its Vocational and Educational programs. The markets are minority (predominantly African American and Hispanic) populations; however, services are targeted to all individuals within the four-county service area who have needs for education, housing, employment, emergency assistance, advocacy, and support services. The programs involve children and youth, ages K-12 and family members, with a focus on unemployed teens and young adults. The area includes the Greater Aurora area – but predominantly within the Aurora community.



Construction on new Center is well underway.

This new Vocational and Educational Training Center in Aurora will allow the QCUL to expand their programs and services. The project will offer innovative, unique opportunities for education in a state-of-the-art facility and training programs in specialized trades to meet the needs of the local economy. The Center will serve as a resource to the community to support Aurora and Kane County plans for growth and community development. To QCUL's knowledge, this facility will be the only one of its kind in Kane County.

Construction plans include an additional structure connected to the existing 5,400 square foot building that will expand the total size of the facility to 23,200 square feet. The project includes

the new two-story structure plus additional parking and landscaping. This will house all 15 QCUL programs including the Middle School Academy, 23 staff members, and numerous volunteers and will allow for development and the addition of new services such as entrepreneurship training. The project will broaden QCUL's participation with other organizations/agencies to jointly serve the targeted Aurora population. Current Programs are:

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

- Employment and Referral Service
- Referral Assistance Program
- Rental Assistance

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

- Aurora Middle School Academy
- Boys II Men Training Academy
- Co-pilot Program (Mentoring)
- Peer Mentor Program
- Teen Tech/Teen Quality of Life Program
- Tomorrow's Scientists, Technicians & Managers
- Project Ready
- Computer Training Lab
- Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Education
- Youth Employment Services
- Urban Youth Empowerment Program



New Center begins to take shape.

The Vocational and Educational Training Center will benefit the entire Aurora community and southern Kane County—its neediest residents, including children, families, adults and senior citizens, by empowering them to enrich their lives, achieve self-sufficiency, and ensure sustainability through education and economic development. This project will promote job creation and development and prepare residents for jobs that help sustain the local economy. The project goals are structured to the goals of the Urban League and community as follows:

Urban League Goals:

1. Ensure that youth are well educated and equipped for economic self-reliance as they enter adulthood
2. Help adults sustain economic self-sufficiency through employment, home ownership, entrepreneurship and wealth accumulation
3. Ensure civil rights for all people by eradicating barriers to equal participation in the economic and social mainstream of our country

Project objectives to support the organizational goals are to:

1. Expand the current facility from 5,400 square feet to approximately 23,200 square feet. This is designed to address needs of the community for educational and economic development.
2. Improve existing QCUL programs that serve the community
3. Increase the number of training classes
4. Develop the Aurora Middle School Academy (AMSA) into a state-of-the-art program
5. Increase the capacity of QCUL for computer training; and
6. Increase the number of meeting rooms available for use by the community

G-06-08

Two Rivers Head Start

(Education & Econ. Development) \$15,000



The mission of Two Rivers Head Start Agency is to alleviate the effects of poverty by providing education, support services, and advancement opportunities for children, families and communities. As a Community Action Agency, Two Rivers administers Head Start, Early Head Start and Community Services Block Grant Programs. A staff of 220 cares for 888 children in 10 centers across five Northern Illinois counties. This agency's most recent community assessment indicated the crucial need for infant/toddler center-based care in the city of Aurora as well as Kane County.

Early Head Start: Early Head Start offers home-based services, weekly play groups, developmental screenings, and educational stimulation for infants and toddlers ages 0 to 3 in Aurora, Elgin, and Carpentersville. The goals are to support parents in their roles as primary caregivers and educators of their children and to promote the development of infants and toddlers.



Their facility at 1455 Sullivan Road in Aurora will be the site of a center-based infant/toddler classroom. The room has the ability to be licensed for 8 infants or 12 toddlers, but will have a focus on 8 non-mobile infants, 6 weeks to 15 months. As the children grow, so will the classroom. As the children become toddlers, the classroom will change to accommodate their developmental needs.



This Riverboat Grant was for equipment and supplies appropriate for infants and toddlers to outfit this classroom. This project naturally extends Head Start's community-based services to provide continuous and comprehensive child development and family support services for infants and toddlers and their families living in the city of Aurora, IL.

G-06-09

SciTech Hands On Museum

(Education)

\$ 5,000

Sci Tech Hands On Museum received a Kane County Riverboat Grant in the amount of \$5,000 towards hosting the U.S. premier of an exciting exhibit from South America that included 22 exhibits of bones, skulls, dinosaur tracks, life restorations, and complete skeletons. The exhibition was in English and Spanish and appealed to children of all ages as well as adults.



Sci Tech was established in 1988 by scientists from Fermi and Argonne National Accelerator Laboratories. An active corps of volunteers from the research facilities along the Illinois Research and Development Corridor was formed to create hands on exhibits to provide students and adults direct experience with scientific exploration. The museum, located in the historic post office in downtown Aurora, serves school groups, families, clubs, and tourists in the Northern Illinois region, focusing on the Western suburbs and the City of Aurora.

The exhibit known as “Dinosaurios Argentinos – Giants of Patagonia” provided educational value for students and improved the quality of life for the people residing in Kane County and surrounding counties.

The goals of the project were:

1. To offer school students and the public an opportunity to interact with an extraordinary collection that cannot be seen anywhere else in the United States.
2. To create hands on activities that stimulate an interest in science and educate.
3. To provide a bilingual educational program that serves our diverse population.

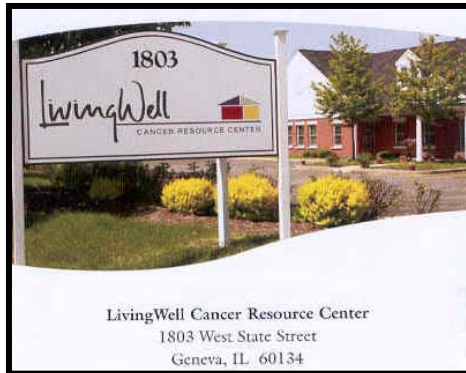


G-06-10

Living Well Cancer Resource Center

(Education)

\$ 5,000



The American Cancer Society statistics for our region indicate that 8,876 people in Kane County are living with cancer as of 2006. Add to that number the many family members and friends of those individuals, and there are tens of thousands of people impacted by cancer in Kane County alone. The Living Well Cancer Resource Center was launched by Delnor-Community Health Care Foundation in 2005 as a new affiliate of Delnor-Community Health System. Living Well is an active resource center for cancer support and education.

This Riverboat Grant Request was for funding for a Caregivers Support program. This is an educational and supportive program for family and friends involved in care of a person living with cancer. This type of comprehensive program of education and supportive care tends to alleviate stress, provide information and assistance, as well as build a network of people throughout Kane County who are faced with similar daily challenges. All programs and services offered through Living Well Cancer Resource Center are free of charge.



G-06-11

Tri-City Health Partnership

(Education)

\$ 8,755



The mission of Tri City Health Partnership (TCHP) is to provide quality health care in an environment of mutual respect to those members of the community without medical benefits. They promote better life choices through education and preventative care to foster the growth of the whole individual. A dedicated group of 64 volunteer physicians and nurses provide patient care through their free clinic located at 318 Walnut Street in St. Charles.

TCHP currently provides specialty clinics for diabetic and hypertensive patients, which help them learn to control their conditions (self-management programs) and prevent unnecessary emergency care. A specialty clinic for patients with asthma was scheduled to begin by summer, 2006. This Riverboat Grant was for a project to enhance the educational components of the specialty clinics, utilize specialists to develop and implement a diabetic educational program and an obesity education program, and to add equipment to help patients and clinic personnel monitor chronic medical conditions. Programs that improve access to health care and provide services that help patients control chronic conditions impact the entire community.

G-06-12

Glenwood School for Boys & Girls

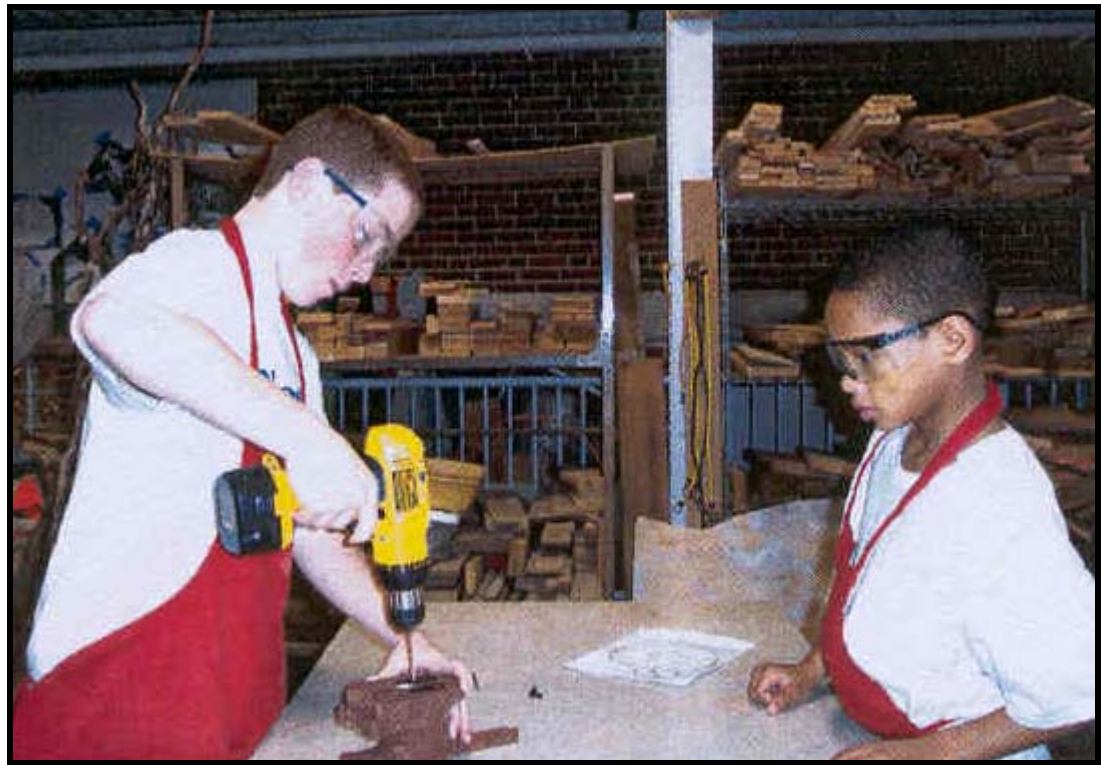
(Education)

\$15,000



Glenwood School for Boys and Girls is a community supported non-profit organization that provides socially and economically disadvantaged children with a comprehensive residential, education, and life skills program in a safe, structured and nurturing environment. At Glenwood, children gain the confidence, skills, and courage they need for a better life and future. They serve approximately 300 children from more than 60 communities in Chicago and Northwest Indiana at campuses in Glenwood and Kane County in St. Charles.

In 2002 the Kane County Riverboat Grant Program provided \$75,000 to help establish a woodworking shop for their school here in St. Charles. This woodworking shop known as “Kidshop” is used to provide basic vocational training to the students at Glenwood. This Riverboat Grant request was for equipment, supplies, and tools for the Kidshop. This enables the students to have a hands on program that will be beneficial to many of the students who may not take the traditional college route.



Kane County played an important role in the Civil War, but it is not very well known. The City of St. Charles desires to provide a center point for information on Kane County's Civil War history as well as provide economic benefits to St. Charles and the surrounding communities because it will draw people from other communities and even other states.

This Riverboat Grant request was to help St. Charles achieve their goals by helping fund the reconstruction of the Farnsworth Mansion to create a Civil War Museum on the historic site of Camp Kane (now known as Langum Park on Rt. 25 in St. Charles). Camp Kane was a Civil War Training Camp that was home to the 8th Illinois Cavalry. General John Franklin Farnsworth formed the 8th Illinois Cavalry and was the original owner of the home. This will call attention to and provide information on the significant historic ties to the Civil War that St. Charles, Kane County, and the State of Illinois have. The Museum will be similar to the Cantigny Museum located in Winfield, IL, only its focus will be on Civil War History. The importance of historic preservation will also be highlighted.

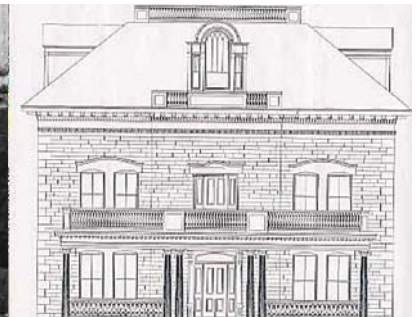
The reconstruction project will be broken into phases. The first phase will be the site work that can commence as soon as funding is obtained for this phase.



Mansion circa 1860




Mansion circa 1905




Proposed Design 2002

No one
deserves
to be
abused



*Do you know
someone who is living in
a violent home?*

*Domestic violence is a
cycle that can be broken.*



The Community Crisis Center was founded to create a place that would be “always home” for women and families in crisis, whether that crisis be family violence, sexual assault, financial need or other life situations. Their purpose is to help individuals, most of whom are women and children, by providing a safe place where they can begin to address their life situations and by providing professional resources to support them as they identify what changes they need or want to make in their lives.

They have an active community education program in place, and this Riverboat Grant request was to expand that community education program especially in the areas of domestic violence, sexual assault awareness, and violence intervention/prevention to communities in western Kane County. Once contacts have been made, they distribute materials to interested groups, schedule presentations, and create a network of volunteers and supporters who know about their services and want to help in their mission of advocating for a healthy non-violent environment for all people.

PREVENTION EDUCATION PROGRAMS Sexual Assault and Abuse



**COMMUNITY
CRISIS CENTER, INC.**
P. O. Box 1390
Elgin, IL 60121-1390
Tel: (847) 697-2380
Fax: (847) 742-4182
TTY: (847) 742-4057
www.crisiscenter.org

G-06-15

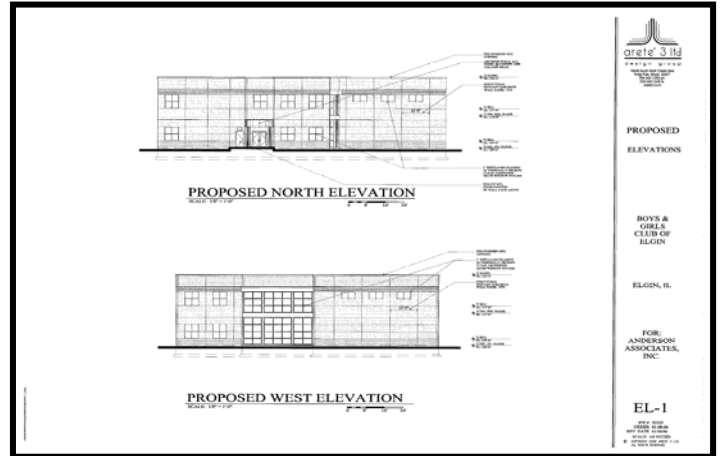
Boys & Girls Club of Elgin

(Education)

\$100,000

The Boys & Girls Club of Elgin was established to provide alternative prevention programs for the area's at-risk youth. The Club is open to all children in Kane County between the ages of 5 and 18 years.

The Boys & Girls Club of Elgin embarked on a \$3 million capital campaign to fund construction of a new clubhouse facility, an endowment, and programs and outreach efforts. This Riverboat Grant is to partially underwrite the construction of a 15,000 square foot clubhouse facility at the intersection of Dundee Avenue and Ann Street in Elgin. The current facility has experienced significant increase in numbers of children wanting to avail themselves of the facility and programs being offered. It is clear that the existing facility is over capacity and a new clubhouse is needed at the location. Programs offered are in five core areas: Education & Career Development, Health & Life Skills, Character & Leadership Development, The Arts, and Sports Fitness & Recreation.



The Boys & Girls Club programs fulfill a number of Kane County's goals, priorities and strategies listed in the guidelines for the Riverboat Grant Program including: emphasizing prevention, promoting education programs, using strategies aimed at achieving long-term and positive results. It is the mission of the Boys and Girls Club of Elgin to inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.



The YWCA of Elgin received a Kane County Riverboat Grant in the amount of \$20,000 for the YWCA Elgin Family Literacy Program, and specifically adult English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction. This is designed to serve more adults with children in the YWCA Elgin Family Literacy program. For 105 years, programs at the YWCA have evolved to reflect the changing needs of women and families in the community – helping to build stronger neighborhoods. The overall goals and objectives are expressed in the local mission “Creating Community Opportunities for Women and Families”. YWCA Elgin strives to create opportunities for women’s growth, leadership in order to attain a common vision of peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people while eliminating racism, which is a driving force for YWCA-USA.



The YWCA Elgin ESL Family Literacy Program offers classes in English, parenting education, childcare and children classes and interactive Parent/Child activities for learners of English as a Second Language. Most of them reside in Elgin and South Elgin, but several come from the surrounding communities. The program provides services for individuals from a variety of ethnic groups, including African, Hispanic, Vietnamese, Laotian, Korean, Turkish and Chinese, to name a few. The program accommodates the entire family and increases literacy skills both for educational and economic opportunities.

The morning classes at the YWCA Elgin site have served 112 adults. Of these adults, 28 have enrolled their children in the preschool classes. In addition, 15 other adult students would like to enroll their children, but space/facility constraints do not permit this at this time. The preschool has 40 children enrolled. The waiting list was capped at 45 adults that would like to enroll in ESL classes in the mornings if their children are able to attend the preschool class as well.

Goals and objectives for the program are:

- Increase parents’ English language skills
- Increase parents’ confidence in use of oral English
- Improvement in emergent literacy skills for preschoolers
- Improve family literacy-based interactions
- Improve preschool children social skills
- Maintain literacy skills through summer for school age children
- Enable families to access community resources that support family participation

One student recently reported to her teacher that she was doing the things she had learned in her Family Literacy class. Her oldest child began kindergarten this year. She was pleased to report that she reads to her children at night, looks through the school age child’s backpack for school communications, and joined the school’s parent teacher organization to learn more about her child’s school.

The funds provided through the Kane County Riverboat Grant program enable these adults and their families to receive this vital education/service.



The Literacy Connection received a Kane County Riverboat Grant in the amount of \$10,000 to expand adult literacy services into underserved areas of northern Kane County.

The mission of the agency is to service those who are most difficult to serve, i.e. adults with very limited English skills and little or no education in their native language.

The Literacy Connection, founded in 1983 as an affiliate of Literacy Volunteers of America, is a non-profit agency dedicated to helping individuals in Elgin and surrounding communities reach their literacy goals primarily through customized one-on-one tutoring by trained volunteers as well as through unique, small group programs taught by paid instructors. The direct beneficiaries of the project are the adult learners who improve their English or basic literacy skills through their participation in tutoring or class instruction. The learners and their families benefit directly. Indirectly, the entire community will benefit by having residents with better skills, who are more employable and more able to participate fully in the community.

There are an estimated 99,366 adults in the Elgin Community College District who are in need of English as a Second Language service (source: SIU-Edwardsville). Approximately only 6% are being served by adult education providers. Residents with limited English and low literacy skills strain the government, schools, employers, and social services.



The specific goals of the program are for adult learners to improve their English and literacy skills. Typically ESL students gain one level in 30 hours of instruction, and basic reading students will improve by .5 to 1 grade level in 30 hours of instruction. Any increase in skills improves the learners' ability to function independently and participate more fully in society. In addition to assessment gains, students report on individual goals and achievements including obtaining work, becoming a citizen, reading to children and attaining consumer skills.

The components of the volunteer literacy program are based on the model of ProLiteracy America, a national organization with hundreds of affiliates. The agency is an affiliate of that organization and has participated in its Accreditation program.

Service statistics from July 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006 are as follows:

Adult Volunteer Literacy Program

Students

Basic Reading students	42
English as a Second Language students	<u>133</u>
Adults Served in the Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	175

G-06-18

Batavia Art In Your Eye Festival

(Education & Econ. Dev.)

\$5,000

The Batavia Art In Your Eye (AIYE) Festival received this Kane County Riverboat Grant to promote and expand the Arts in Batavia and Kane County. Art In Your Eye is a collaborative, community-based approach to supporting the arts in Batavia, IL and the surrounding communities. It offers a variety of educational and entertaining activities over a four-week period in July and August, culminating with a two-day fine art festival on the Batavia Riverwalk. The project included expanded marketing efforts within the Chicago metropolitan region; development of cross-marketing efforts with other Kane County arts-related activities and building a detailed list of events that can be used to promote Kane County's arts environment; enhancements to programming to attract additional participants; and added efforts to better measure participation, feedback, and financial impact.

Kane County residents of all ages and the business community benefit by participation in AIYE programs, and the area benefits from drawing regional attention to the beauty and resources of downtown Batavia and the Fox River corridor. Programs are geared for audiences and participants from young children through senior citizens to educate and appreciate the arts.

With ever burgeoning growth in Kane County, the existence of high quality and educational activities is paramount to retaining leisure dollars within our own county. These efforts also further the growing arts presence in Kane County. AIYE patrons shop in area stores, put heads in beds, and fill restaurants. The unique caliber of AIYE artists drew participants from as far away as Taiwan and from eleven states, including forty-seven from Illinois and eight from Kane County. As the reputation of AIYE grows, so too will tourism activity and related economic development and quality of life in Kane County.

The goal of AIYE is to expand the availability of high quality art classes, educational programs and a fine arts festival for Batavians, Kane County residents, and the metropolitan area population. The following are the objectives:

1. To increase the number of participants in all of the activities;
2. To highlight the public spaces of the downtown and increase tourist dollars spent within Batavia and Kane County;
3. To showcase existing arts-related businesses and inspire new business development;
4. To feature the pedestrian and bicycle friendly nature of Batavia's downtown, Riverwalk, and the AIYE activities;
5. To develop a relationship with other Kane County arts-related events and to begin cross promotional efforts



G-06-19

Village of Carpentersville (*Economic Development*)

\$36,000

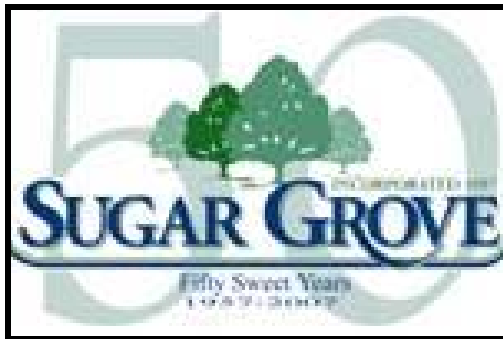


The Village of Carpentersville is home to over 34,000 residents. As the County develops and prospers, the Village is striving to make their community competitive by building a foundation for growth that includes business recruitment and development which is an important aspect for job creation and retention.

This Riverboat Grant is for enhancement and beautification to the main entrances to the Village in the way of Gateway/Entrance signage and a more pleasing landscape including appropriate lighting and well-maintained landscaped features such as plantings and seasonal flowers. These will help build a more positive community image and promote much needed economic development in the Village. Specific goals of the project include:

- a) Provide a “sense of place” to the residents and visitors
- b) Raise civic awareness
- c) Develop community pride and participation
- d) Attract business to the community by enhancing the main business corridors





The Village of Sugar Grove is celebrating their 50th anniversary of incorporation in 2007. The visual impression from the public and common area gateways help make an important statement of who they are as a community.

This Riverboat Grant request was for a “Community Gateways” project. The mission of the project is to bring together community members and businesses to demonstrate they are a community that values their natural outdoor environment by helping to improve and beautify public areas, streetscapes, and perhaps, as they grow in volunteer strength, their parks. They hope to achieve their goals by installing native plantings at important public gateways. This project will not only beautify the community for the 50th anniversary celebration, but will also promote Sugar Grove’s Tree City status as well as educate the public on environmental issues and connect the community by involving residents and local businesses.



G-06-21

Fox Valley Council, Girl Scouts

(Environment & Education) \$44,250

The Fox Valley Council Girl Scouts received a Kane County Grant in the amount of \$44,250 to restore approximately 25 acres of mesic prairie at Camp Dean to its native condition. With the assistance of a company specializing in restoration ecology to complete the initial work, the project will also provide outdoor educational opportunities and “hands on” experience in prairie restoration to Girl Scouts.



The first Girl Scout troop in Aurora was organized in 1923. The mission of Girl Scouts–Fox valley Council is:

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

The Girl Scouts – Fox Valley Council owns and operates Camp Dean, a 160-acre camp located in Big Rock in southwest Kane County. In addition to the prairie restoration, the organization is restoring about 5 acres of wetlands with funding from U.S. Fish and Wildlife. The long term plan includes establishing a nature trail through the restored prairie.

Last year, over 5,500 girls and adult volunteers attended programs at Camp Dean. Participants learn the value of conservation and restoration of natural resources; receive education on native plant and animal species; participate in seed collection, redistribution, and seed exchange; conduct vegetation transects to evaluate the project; and learn restoration and maintenance techniques. With the completion of a nature trail, the Council will be in a position to expand its outdoor education programs to other youth populations. In addition, the general population

benefits from conservation and restoration efforts involving prairie and wetlands.



Prairie facing Southwest

This project is important because experts estimate that less than one tenth of one percent of the Illinois prairie remains in its original condition. Preserving open spaces and restoring natural habitats is a gift to our children and future generations. Prairies and wetlands naturally conserve water and prevent runoff and erosion; thereby helping aquifer levels, protecting topsoil, and reducing the extent of

flooding. The ecosystems that are being built and

enriched maintain and protect many native plant and animal habitats. As these habitats improve, increased numbers of birds, mammals, reptiles, and insects appear. An evaluation of Camp Dean conducted by Applied Ecological Services noted “establishing prairie in this area will help stabilize the soil, increase rain water infiltration, and improve water quality to the pond and Welch Creek.”

In the fall of 2006, 26 acres of the old farm field received the first herbicide application. As the winter progressed, both trees and brush have been eliminated using herbicides and cutting. The second herbicide application and reseeding took place in spring, 2007.



The Fox Valley Wildlife Center was founded in 2000 when they recognized the need for increasing coordination and support between wildlife rehabilitators in Kane County. The Forest Preserve in its role as public steward of community land donated a former ranger's house and surrounding property in a \$1/year lease

arrangement. The Center is located in Elburn in the Kane County Forest Preserve.

Between 2003 and 2004 the demand for services grew by 58 percent. The Center wants to increase the quality of care provided wildlife of Kane County as well as offer the public easier access to staff when trying to bring an injured animal or bird to the Center for treatment. In addition, the Center offers educational programs to teach area residents how to live in greater harmony with the wildlife who also make their homes in this region.



This Riverboat Grant request was for renovations for their current facilities and equipment for education programs. The Center is a federally and state licensed facility. While the majority of the wildlife caregivers are volunteers, the Center must employ certified wildlife specialists to run the federally and state licensed facility while providing medical procedures restricted to licensed rehabilitation personnel.





The St. Charles River Corridor Master Plan, a multi-million dollar long term project, was finalized and published in February, 2003. It represents ideas, suggestions, and recommendations from numerous residents, civic, business, and government participants. While reviewing this Master Plan to determine which project to start with first, the Illinois St. to Piano Factory Bridge River Project was singled out as the most critical project due to the extreme erosion that had occurred and continues to occur along the West bank of the Fox River.

This Riverboat Grant request was for partial funding for a two-phase project. The first phase addresses the extreme erosion that has and continues to occur along the West side of the riverbank. This project includes the installation of riprap (large boulder like rocks). Stream barbs will be placed within the River and natural plantings will be added along the riverbank. This phase of the project will not only stabilize the shoreline, but it will also assist in creating a healthier habitat for fish and other wild life.

The second phase of this project is a walkway. This will allow for continuous pedestrian and bicycle access from Illinois Street to Prairie Street. This project will also assist in creating a continuous pedestrian and bicycle path from Main Street South to Prairie Street once the proposed First Street Redevelopment project is completed.



Before stabilization project



After stabilization project

Reflejos Direct Media (RDM) is a division of Reflejos Publication LLC. RDM began developing a Latino program development process known as MST (Mission, Strategies, & Tactics) made up of four modules. Their main focus and specialty is in the area of institutional strategic planning for the Latino marketplace. Their objective is to empower Kane County employees with an educated perspective on how to better serve and assist all of the residents in Kane County.

This Riverboat Grant request was for conducting several workshops of the MST process and producing a white paper with agency specific initiatives focused on serving, educating and creating more awareness with Latino residents.





The Fox Valley Land Foundation received a Kane County Riverboat Grant in the amount of \$15,624 for a networked office environment, computers, and GIS software to map, track, and keep data on privately-owned priority natural areas identified as "Proposed Open Space" in Kane County's 2030 Open Space Plan. A staff person, a Land Protection Specialist, will then contact private landowners within these areas with information about options for permanently protecting their land with a conservation easement. The equipment and network requested is needed to keep the database and maps to document these landowner contacts.

Fox Valley Land Foundation was incorporated in 1992 as a private, non-profit conservation organization and land trust to protect natural lands and open spaces in the Fox River Valley. Its mission is "to protect, restore, and preserve significant natural lands and open spaces through public and private partnerships." It adheres to the standards of the Land Trust Alliance, a group of 1200 regional land trusts.

The Kane County 2030 Land Use Management Plan acknowledges that, "There are clear connections between open space, community character and quality of life." All the residents of Kane County will benefit from the preservation of natural areas, even those areas that are privately owned. The quality of residents' lives, and the health of their communities, is increased when: beautiful landscapes and vistas are preserved, native plants and

animals are sheltered, surface and ground water is protected, storage is retained for storm water.

The purpose of the Kane County Landowner Contact Program is to permanently protect privately-owned open space through conservation easements. The program is helping to implement Kane County's 2030 Land Resource Management Plan. In Kane County, the following high quality creek corridors are priority areas: Tyler Creek, Big Rock Creek, Big Rock Creek East, Bowes Creek, Ferson Creek, Blackberry Creek, Stoney Creek and Welch Creek.

The long range goal is to protect privately owned high quality natural areas in Kane County through the use of conservation easements. The short term goal is to contact private landowners in priority areas to let them know the benefits of protecting their land.

G-06-26

Golden Age Hispanics

(Education)

\$ 5,000

The Golden Age Hispanic Social Club meets on a weekly basis at the Prisco Community Center in Aurora. The purpose of this Club is to provide Hispanic senior citizens (50 years or older) with an opportunity to socialize with other individuals of the same age, language and cultural background. They have educational/community presentations in Spanish addressing identified interests and needs of the group. The opportunity this Social Club presents for seniors to meet others in their age group fosters a desire to be part of a much larger community.

This Riverboat Grant Request was for funding for presentations to help educate seniors on issues that directly affect them, such as, changes in Medicaid, transportation, local services for seniors, heating programs, mowing lawn programs, etc.



Hesed House in Aurora is home to Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS). PADS is a nonprofit organization corporation dedicated to alleviating the plight of poor and homeless persons. According to Aurora's Consolidated Plan, 8.5% of Aurora's 2000 population was at or below poverty level. In 2006, Hesed House averaged 160 guests each night, which was up nearly 20% from the previous year.



PADS has two goals:

- 1) Meet the basic needs of food and shelter for homeless individuals and families in a way that gives them dignity and respect
- 2) Return people to independent living as quickly as possible while empowering them with the skills and resources necessary to stay self-sufficient.

Guests and residents at Hesed House must be homeless and include the unemployed, mentally ill persons, physically disabled persons, victims of domestic violence, chronic homeless, veterans, displaced families, senior citizens, emancipated teens, legal immigrants, alcohol and substance abusers, and those experiencing homelessness due to severe economic duress.



Ryan Dowd, Executive Director of PADS, with some of the new kitchen appliances.

For over two decades, PADS has involved nearly 70 Fox Valley faith-based communities and incorporates eight ministries in providing a spectrum of care:

- 1) PADS overnight emergency shelter
- 2) PADS A.M daytime drop-in center
- 3) Transitional Living Community
- 4) SEEDS Case Management
- 5) Rainbow Medical Clinic
- 6) Hope Legal Clinic
- 7) Working for Success
- 8) LEAP Systemic Advocacy

PADS, the only full-service shelter in Illinois' second largest city, is Aurora's only program offering food, shelter, ancillary services, and, most important, hospitality to all homeless individuals and families who have nowhere else to turn for help. The overnight emergency shelter program provides homeless guests a place to sleep for the night and both dinner and breakfast the following morning.

PADS' philosophy is rooted in the belief that, in addition to satisfying their most basic needs for survival, persons must first value themselves if they are to have the motivation to return to independent living.

The kitchen equipment (refrigerators, freezers and more) used by the PADS shelter programs, located at Hesed House, 659 South River Street, Aurora, Illinois were old and in constant need of repair. Some of these appliances were becoming obsolete, and the parts to repair them were becoming harder to find. To continue with their important programs, it was imperative that their food service equipment was dependable. This Riverboat Grant replaced the obsolete kitchen equipment such as refrigerators, freezers, etc.

The PADS model, which began in Aurora, is the most commonly replicated form of emergency shelter in Illinois. Replacing this badly needed equipment will allow this organization to continue to provide its important services to the community while storing, preparing, and serving over 3,400 meals to their guests and residents each week.



New refrigerators/freezers enable Hesed House to store perishable food for the many meals they prepare.



The Marie Wilkinson Child Development Center received a Kane County Riverboat Grant in the amount of \$10,000 to pay for replacement equipment (furnaces, ceiling, computer, etc.) to enable the Center to continue providing services to the area.

The mission of the Marie Wilkinson Child Development Center is to provide assistance in a diverse area of education and charitable provisions to the underserved families and individuals in the Aurora area.

The Center is one of Aurora's leading daycare and early childhood educational facilities and was founded in 1970 by one of Aurora's premier civil rights and youth advocates, Mrs. Marie Wilkinson. The Center is located at 1144 E. Galena Blvd. in Aurora in a low-income area where gangs, drugs, and crime are present on a daily basis. This facility provides day care services and a comprehensive developmental program for the social, emotional, physical, and intellectual growth of low income and other eligible children. These services are provided in cooperation with appropriate community agencies and organizations. Together they work to meet the needs of the child and the child's family. The Center provides parents in the community with a reliable, safe, and affordable child care center so that they can work and/or enroll in an educational training program.

The community environment is conducive to a variety of underlying problems that present themselves daily in a classroom setting. The Center includes in the normal pre-school curriculum, social skills, non-violent solutions to problems and goal setting for positive growth in classroom interaction. To accomplish these goals the Center must offer a multitude of hands on activities to hold the children's attention. In addition, and very importantly, parental training is also a high priority. Parents of children attending the Center also need the skills to handle the every day problems that encompass their children's lives. For the first time in a number of years, the Center has a waiting list of students.

The Kane County Riverboat Grant in the amount of \$10,000 has allowed the Marie Wilkinson Child Development Center to successfully address facility issues and enabled them to continue providing needed leadership, training and development to the children and families in the East Aurora area.



G-06-29

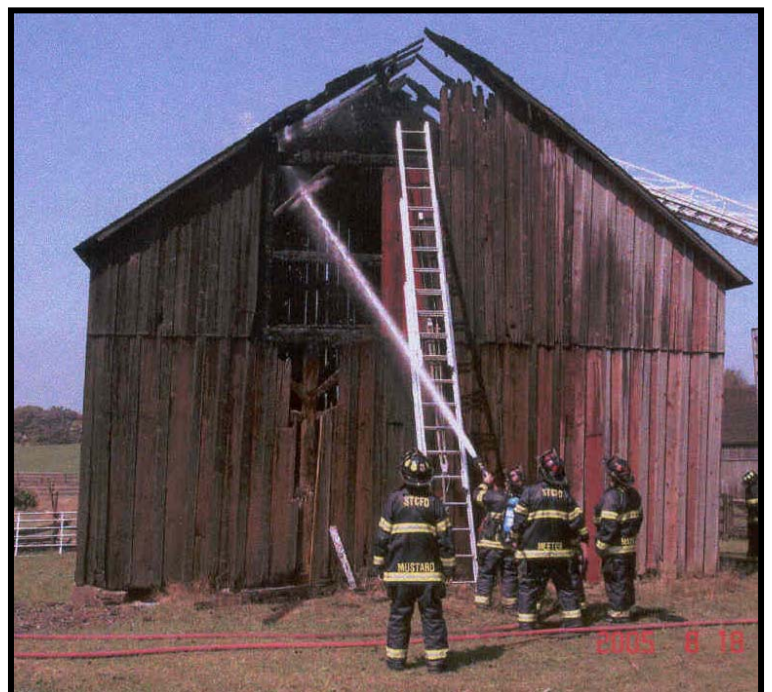
Garfield Heritage Society (*Education*)

\$15,000



The Garfield Heritage Society was founded in 1977 to operate a living history museum to demonstrate and describe the experience of the 19th century settlers of Kane County. Residents, students and tourists of Kane County benefit from the Garfield Farm Museum in LaFox. Over two thousand students visit the museum annually to learn about Illinois history. Over 80 Eagle Scout projects have contributed to the museum operation and restoration.

One of the oldest barns in Kane County and the oldest building on the property (1842 barn) was struck by lightning in August, 2005. This is a county historic building that is on the National Register of Historic Sites. Although there was insurance coverage, the insurance did not entirely cover the cost to appropriately restore the roof. This Riverboat Grant request was for funding to be used to restore the roof using 1840's material and techniques and to prevent rain damage to the interior of the barn. Repair of this roof will ensure new generations will continue to be exposed to the 19th century settlers' way of life at this living history museum.



G-06-30

Day One Network

(Education)

\$35,000



DayOneNetwork was established in 1989 to facilitate and better coordinate a wide variety of services for individuals with disabilities. The mission of the agency is to further the dignity of life and community interaction of individuals with disabilities.

Services are provided at no cost to the client/family and assure that persons with delays and disabilities of all ages are identified as early as possible. Their needs are evaluated and a service plan developed, and then clients/families are linked with the services they need. Crisis intervention services and ongoing follow-up and advocacy are provided. DayOneNetwork services are often the only option for individuals with disabilities and their families who are in emergency circumstances or in need of highly specialized services.

DayOneNetwork provides service coordination and advocacy for persons with developmental disabilities that reside in Kane and Kendall Counties, and Hanover Township in Cook County. Services are provided to over 2500 individuals annually. Based on significant growth in clients and staff, the agency built expanded office space (12,000 square feet) in Geneva. DayOneNetwork received a Kane County Riverboat Grant in the amount of \$35,000 for furnishings for the newly expanded facility in Geneva.

The primary reason for the expanded office space was to accommodate the growing number of clients and, therefore, the staff needed to serve them. Based on service trends, they anticipated the need to add approximately 11 positions over the next few years. The new facility has room to grow, provides easier access and improved parking for clients and staff. They now have the additional space for client/family education, evaluation, and other direct service activities.

Services are provided through six programs: Pre-admission screening, Bogard Lawsuit Case Coordination, Individual Services and Support Advocacy, Community Case Coordination, project Ground Floor, and Child and Family Connections. The Child and Family Connections Program serves infants from birth to three years of age with developmental disabilities. Approximately 70% of the individuals served by the agency are served through this program. With an average of over 100 new referrals per month, they expect the majority of the agency's future growth in clients and staff will be concentrated in this program. Since FY 1999, the number of clients served has increased by 157% and the number of full time equivalent staff has increased by 95%.

The Association for Individual Development (AID) received a Kane County Riverboat Grant in the amount of \$100,000 towards the purchase of a group home for individuals with developmental disabilities on Bonnie Lane in St. Charles. They are licensed by the State of Illinois Department of Human Services to provide Community Integrated Living Arrangements (CILA's) and are working toward their tenth consecutive three-year accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).



AID was incorporated in 1961 to meet educational needs of children because the school system was not equipped to serve children with severe to profound disabilities. From that point, AID has established a history of developing new programs to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities. AID has been providing residential services to individuals with disabilities since 1976, and today operates 25 group homes scattered throughout Kane and Kendall counties. The service area includes more than 45 communities in Kane, Kendall, DeKalb and DuPage Counties, as well as Hanover Township in Cook County and parts of Will County. Today, AID annually serves over 2500 individuals who have development, physical and/or mental disabilities. AID provides high quality services throughout the entire lifespan of an individual including early intervention, pediatric therapy, respite, housing, vocational habilitation, job placement, crisis intervention, victims services, community education, mental health treatment, behavioral intervention, and advocacy.

Due to medical advancements, the life span of individuals with developmental disabilities has dramatically increased, and they need lifetime supervision and care in an environment that promotes growth and independence. The parents are becoming increasingly unable to care for their disabled child/relative forcing them to establish formal living arrangements. The Kane County Consortium's Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan for program years 2005-2009 confirms this, as the Plan states, "The County estimates that approximately 0.15% of its population, or 6,062 people, are developmentally disabled. Many have access to family and other supports, although they may fail once parents lose the financial and physical capacity to provide care. An estimated 25%, or 1,515 people, are not financially able to secure the help they need." U.S. census reports comparing 1990 to 2000 population growth reflect a 27.3% increase in Kane County. In addition to the growing population, the majority of new individuals seeking AID services are those exiting Special Education programs annually. AID has been instrumental in reducing the waiting lists by opening six new group homes over the past few years.

The ultimate goal of the project is to reduce the amount of individuals waiting for residential services, and allow more individuals with developmental disabilities the independence and quality of life they deserve.



The Literacy Volunteers of Fox Valley received a Kane County Riverboat Grant in the amount of \$34,189 to improve organizational effectiveness by upgrading computers, purchasing high speed internet, improving its website and expanding the student enrollment and assessment function.

The mission of this organization is to help adults acquire and validate the literacy skills that they need to function more effectively in contemporary U.S. society. Through trained community volunteers and organizational staff, they offer free, one-to-one and small group tutoring focusing on reading, writing and speaking in English.

Literacy Volunteers of Fox Valley is an independent 501(c)(3) organization housed at the St. Charles Public Library. In 2005, they were awarded ProLiteracy American accreditation. This accreditation is designed to recognize literacy organizations that are distinguished by superior professional leadership, effective program, committed governing boards and outstanding volunteer support. They target adults who live or work in the communities of Batavia, Elburn, Geneva and St. Charles, especially those who speak, read and write at the lowest levels of English and have the fewest resources.

Adult students benefit as they work to improve their literacy skills and learn to navigate our complex society. The tutors are more than teachers. They are friends, mentors, companions, connections, confidence builders, coaches and resources. The literacy volunteers provide a critical need in our community. Adults who improve their literacy skills lift themselves and their families out of poverty. They gain the language skills they need to obtain or keep a job and are mentored so they gain a greater understanding of how to succeed and contribute more to our society.

Adult literacy is inextricably connected to children. They learn extremely important things from their parents about the world and how it works. A parent's horizon of experience – the kinds of work they do, what they know about keeping healthy, how they maximize their resources and plan for the future – is fully imparted to their children. This organization helps adults provide their children with role models that extend what they learn in school, breaking any cycles of poverty that may exist.

From 7/1/06 to 12/31/06 they enrolled 208 adults. Of those, 142 were carried over from previous years and 66 were newly enrolled in FY2007. Newly enrolled students say that they found out about the program from their employers, friends/relatives, the library, the newspaper, Batavia Apartments (where there is an onsite program), their children's school and other places.



All students were tested with standardized tests and will be post-tested in the spring. All students are improving their lives and the lives of others through literacy. Three examples are given below:

- A student had a prescription that said “take two pills once each day.” Her tutor explained that “once” means “one time” not the “eleven” that “once” means in Spanish, which averted an overdose.
- A student ordered gym equipment from a TV commercial that he thought would cost \$16, but the total bill was \$900, more than his entire life savings. His tutor explained the fine print and helped him cancel the order without penalty.
- A tutor explained to his student, who lost her health insurance, how to take advantage of drug companies’ patient assistance programs, resulting in access to needed epilepsy medication, thousands of dollars in savings and continued employment. She cannot work without the medication.

Forecast:

1. Literacy Volunteers of Fox Valley expects to meet and exceed their enrollment goal of 230.
2. With additional staff hours they will be able to reevaluate all of their students with standardized tests and provide support.
3. They will purchase an additional computer and a PowerPoint projector.
4. They will submit a revamped tutor web page to their webmaster for placement on the web.



Eileen Mueller, Paul Mueller, Marsha Byers. Paul was one of ten tutors in the State of Illinois who won a Spotlight on Service Award from the Secretary of State Literacy Program and Illinois Press Association.



Centro de Informacion received a Kane County Riverboat Grant in the amount of \$12,000 to pay for the replacement of an existing, undependable phone system to enhance its bilingual services to Kane County Spanish speaking residents. A not-for-profit social service agency, it carries out its mission through: bilingual information, advocacy, and referral; employment initiatives and training; education efforts such as life skills seminars; emergency food; clothing; individual and family counseling; parenting skills training; case aids; immigration and naturalization services; and programs for at-risk families.

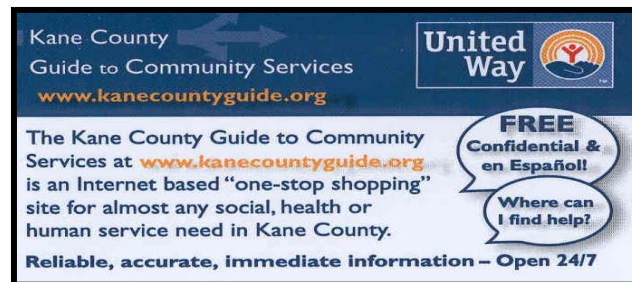
Centro de Informacion was founded in 1972 in Elgin to help address the needs of a growing Hispanic community. When language and culture prove to be barriers, people contact Centro de Informacion to find out how and where to get the help they need. Centro serves, principally, the Fox Valley area's growing Spanish speaking population that may lack the understanding and knowledge of what it takes to secure the information, goods, and services needed to carry out their daily lives.

The strengths of the phone system replacement project are:

1. The agency now has a new telephone system to serve more effectively the Spanish-speaking, Kane County residents who call Centro de Informacion for information and referral.
2. The new system has allowed the agency to add two additional phone lines to handle more calls.

This project was important and relevant to Kane County because the county's Spanish-speaking population is rising rapidly. In 2005, Centro de Informacion provided bilingual services to 22,979 women, men, and children—more than 20,000 of them from Kane County.

The United Way of Elgin received a Kane County Riverboat Grant in the amount of \$25,000 to develop a web-based information and referral site, Kane County Guide to Community Services, www.kanecountyguide.org. The end product is the result of a collaborative effort with representatives from both southern and northern Kane County.



Through Elgin's 2005 community assessment and the assessment that was conducted in Aurora in 2000 the common thread that was seen in both assessments was not the lack of services but rather knowledge of available services. There was a definite need for a collaborative effort for a single countywide information and referral program. This program is reducing individual crisis line costs, increasing organizational efficiency and increasing public awareness of available services in Kane County.

The *Kane County Guide to Community Services* is a web-based information and referral site that is the result of a collaborative vision to assure community access to resource information. The site is available in English and in Spanish, and provides residents and service providers with one centralized website with the most comprehensive and up-to-date information of the available services in Kane County. The goal was to connect people in need with the appropriate programs and services that are currently available. The specific objectives were:

1. Create a practical website that was navigable by the average resident
2. Ensure the program/services record represented on the website was accurate and regularly reviewed
3. Ensure that all appropriate programs and services were included
4. Promote the Kane County Guide to Community Services as "one stop shopping" for anyone in need of services.

With an estimated number of one out of three individuals using a social service program, it is estimated that approximately 33% of Kane County's residents will visit the site looking for services, or a service provider will look for wraparound programs for their clients.

After the site was officially launched in mid November, 2006, the 60 day report showed the site had 10,969 page views of which 381 utilized the find help/decision tree page. In the next year, Kane County's 404,119+ residents and health & human services providers will increase their knowledge of health and human services available via this guide.

As of February 8, 2007 the website had 34,234 hits. The program has opened complementary lines of communication between clients and service providers. While the primary goal is to link people in need with the appropriate assistance, the ultimate aspiration is the increased self-sufficiency of the residents in Kane County. The *Kane County Guide to Community Services* is one tool that can be used to empower people facing the challenges of daily life.



Habitat for Humanity of Northern Fox Valley received a Kane County Riverboat Grant in the amount of \$30,000 to purchase property to build a duplex in Carpentersville. The ultimate use for the property is housing for two families who meet the following requirements:

- Families must earn between 30 – 50% of the area's median income
- Families must have a housing need by living in a distressed situation
- Families must demonstrate ability to repay a no interest mortgage based on home costs
- Families must commit to working with our volunteers in the construction of their home

From 1991 to present, this organization has built 42 homes within their service area. The property that was purchased in 2006 will be home to the organization's first duplex construction project. The project itself will allow for minor economies of scale (two homes) and some added flexibility in volunteer scheduling. It will present a coordination challenge since they will use two crews with each building one home. Knowledge from this project will be applied to any additional duplex or multi-family construction project.

Two low income families will be housed on the property, with a goal of long term successful homeownership. Partner families are counseled on money management to understand the requirements of saving for repairs and tax increases. The impact on homeownership on children has been shown to improve academic achievement and lower teen pregnancy rates.

Habitat for Humanity for Northern Fox Valley has built 42 homes since its inception in 1990. There are documented procedures for family selection, mentoring, volunteer coordination and construction that are working well. HFHNFV recruits, evaluates, and selects families for the homeownership program and follows a nondiscriminatory family selection policy. Families are provided support and education throughout the entire process. Each family is matched with a family support volunteer for one-on-one assistance. Families also attend a financial literacy class run by Family Service Association of Greater Elgin.

