

THINGS TO
KNOW:

- Genoa outreach site open August 8&22, September 12&26
- Shabbona outreach sit open August 2 & September 6
- Free Tax Preparation services begin February 2013
- CSBG Scholarship deadline has passed. Look for 2013 CSBG Scholarship at the end of January 2013.

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

Outreach Sites 2

GYP Social 2
Living Group

Inside the 2
Numbers

Client 3
Resource Area

Client Services 3
Approach

Our Programs 3

History of 4
DCCS



Community Action Update

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SUMMER 2012

Community Gardens Taking Root

Mission:

DeKalb County Community Gardens is a local organization of committed volunteers who are working to build a healthier and more sustainable community. Our main objective is to provide access to fresh, wholesome food sources by facilitating school and neighborhood gardens in our area.

Growing Community,
One Garden at a Time

If you are interested in becoming involved in the effort, to inquire about starting your own neighborhood garden, or to join the discussion, please visit our Facebook group page, our website dekalbgardens.org or write us at DeKalb Community Gardens P.O. Box 348 DeKalb, IL 60115

Who We Are:

At our core is a group of concerned citizens, educators, parents, farmers, community activists, and master gardeners who have come together, bringing with them a wealth of



Volunteers preparing the gardens at Lewis Street Apartments in DeKalb.

knowledge and experience.

DeKalb County Community Gardens recognizes that gardening has a posi-

tive impact on the community in a multitude of ways. Community garden

- Improve the quality of life for the people involved with the garden
- Be a catalyst for neighborhood and community development
- Produce nutritious food
- Reduce family food budgets
- Encourage self-reliance
- Increase agricultural literacy
- Provide an outlet for sustainable gardening practices
- Beautify neighborhoods
- Provide opportunities for intergenerational and cross-cultural connections

- Create opportunity for recreation, exercise, therapy, and education

From the Director

It's been an exciting year that has seen lots of changes at DCCSD. We have four new staff members and have implemented some new programs but our mission is still the same: to provide opportunities for individuals and families to access opportunities to achieve self sufficiency and economic

security.

It is inspiring to watch the success of one of our new programs, Community Gardens, as the year progresses. In a year that we hoped to simply organize a plan for future gardens, we have experienced the start of

over 15 gardens throughout the county that are building community and helping to provide organic produce to food pantries to feed families that otherwise might not have access to them. To me, that is the spirit of Community Action and a project of which we are proud to be a part!

Outreach Sites



DCCS serves DeKalb County, located in north central Illinois.

In order to provide services to all residents of DeKalb County, the DCCSSD Intake and Assessment Specialists offer outreach in the Northern and Southern areas of the County.

Lori Imes is in Genoa at the Citizens First National Bank, 327 W. Main St. from 9:00 am to 11:30 am on the 2nd and 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Ashley Warren is in Somonauk at St. John's Lutheran Church, 235 S. Green St. from 8:30 am to 10:30 am on the 1st Thursday of the month.

To inquire about the documentation requirements to determine eligibility for the program and to make an appointment call 815-758 3910.

"This group invites all residents of the Plaza to participate in the variety of activities which encourage positive supportive social interactions and relationships."

Golden Years Plaza Social Living Group

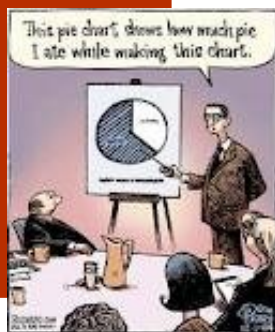
Case Managers, Rhonda Brown and Victor Mendoza provide a Social Living Program for residents of the Golden Years Plaza, 507 East Taylor St. in DeKalb, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. This group invites all residents of the Plaza to participate in the variety of activities which encourage positive supportive social interactions and relationships.

Call Rhonda or Victor to see what the next program will be at 815-758-3910.

The goal of the group is for the residents to socially interact with each other, build community, and have a good time with different fun activities .



"This pie chart shows how much pie I ate while making this chart."



DCCS sees many families and individuals with varying levels of need. For FY '12 through June 30, DCCS has seen 152 households with a total of 306 persons making up those households. Seven households were served in the Family Economic Development Program. All seven are

progressing toward increasing their income due to earnings. 212 persons received emergency intervention services. 36 families are progressing in the Family Stability and Support Program with the eventual outcome of a higher level of self-sufficiency. 29 persons received Income Tax Counseling, and 21 persons are en-

rolled in the Social Living Group. There are numerous other families and individuals who receive Information and Referral services. The main qualifications to receive DCCS services is to fall below a household income of 125% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines and reside in DeKalb County.

Client Resource Area



Client resource area at DCCS.

DCCSD offers a warm and welcoming area for members of the community to come in and utilize two computers, phones, and printer/copier to assist them in their job search. Internet access is available to check job listings, complete applications, and/or to contact employers. There are programs available to help with building resumes and interviewing skills.

DCCSD provides updated information on community agencies and resources across all areas of personal and family needs, such as; day care, mental health providers, health care providers, services for disabled, domestic violence,

etc.. As well as providing information on job postings, classes, and community events.

Office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. We are closed for holidays.

“We believe that the holistic approach with which we offer services can assist all low income households to maintain household stability.”

Client Services Approach

DeKalb County Community Services Department strives to help each individual and/or family to achieve success based on the specific needs of each household. We do this by creating a space at our agency where all can feel welcome to search for community resources, utilize phones and computers to connect with others in our community, or simply to touch base with a

supportive case manager. Those who choose to utilize our support begin the process by meeting with an Intake and Assessment Specialist who will do a comprehensive assessment to identify needs and goal priorities. Given the results of the assessment, the case manager will assist the program participant to access community resources that will be able to address those needs.

Our Self Sufficiency Specialists are available to meet with participants to provide on-going support and information as they work to address myriad tasks that must be completed to attain goals that will lead to economic security. We believe that the holistic approach with which we offer services can assist all low income households to maintain household stability.

Our Programs

DCCS offers a variety of programs to help low-income families residing in DeKalb County achieve and maintain their highest level of self-sufficiency. The Family Economic Development Program uses an intensive case management style approach to help individuals increase their income due to employment earnings. The CSBG Scholarship helps low-income students pay

for tuition, etc. to earn a post-secondary degree. Income Tax Counseling helps prepare low-income households tax returns for free to help them receive the tax breaks they deserve. Emergency Intervention helps families address a current crisis to alleviate the crisis ASAP. Community Gardens gets the community involved with building and maintaining gardens

with fresh fruits and vegetables for higher nutritional standards. Information and Referral gives families and individuals necessary information to address needs. The Social Living Group increases life skills and supporting social environments. The Family Stability and Support program uses an intensive case management style approach to help families achieve and maintain their

highest level of self-sufficiency.





DeKalb County Community Services Department

2550 N. Annie Glidden Rd.

DeKalb, IL 60115

Hours: M-F 8:00am-4:30pm

Phone: 815-758-3910

Fax: 815-758-3407

E-mail:

communityservice@dekalbcounty.org

Community Action-People Helping People



Mission Statement:

Address the systemic roots of poverty and provide comprehensive support and assistance to households that either live in poverty or experience a temporary crisis situation that causes potential homelessness.

Vision Statement:

To provide leadership in the coordination of diverse services in order to increase the strengths, resources, and stability of DeKalb County individuals, households, and the community.



History of DeKalb County Community Services

DeKalb County Community Services was established in 1984, but its mission's history dates back to 1964. DCCS is DeKalb County's Community Action Agency. There are over 1,000 CAA's nationwide. Virtually every county in the United States is covered by a CAA including Puerto Rico and the Trust Territories. CAA's date back to Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty and the signing of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. Community Action Agencies are designed to alleviate the cause and conditions of poverty in the communities they serve. Each CAA is governed by a tripartite board that includes three facets of the local community including up to one-third from the private sector, exactly one-third public officials and at least one-third from the low-income community.

Community Action Agencies such as DCCS are charged with the task of helping low-income families achieve and maintain a higher level of self sufficiency. To do this, CAA's offer a variety of programs including, family self-sufficiency, emergency services, education, food and nutrition, training/employment, and so on. A key funding component of CAA's is the Community Services Block Grant which was established in 1981.



President Lyndon Johnson signing the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 into law.