



PUBLIC ACTION TO DELIVER SHELTER

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April 11, 2017

Annette M. Miller, Township Supervisor
Town of Elgin
729 S McLean Blvd, Suite 200
Elgin, IL 60123

Dear Supervisor Miller,

Over the past several years, Elgin Township has helped fund a very valuable service to the clients served by a collaboration of Elgin Social Service Agencies. This collaboration includes PADS of Elgin, The Community Crisis Center, The Ecker Center, AID and the Kane County Mental Health Court. The previous grant has been a tremendous help in our efforts to supply adequate transportation to our clients. The funding provided by Elgin Township to support these programs has proven to be the most effective way to provide needed transportation services to the residents of Elgin Township and so we are requesting the renewal of funding of this grant for the upcoming year.

During this past year funding from Elgin Township has been used to provide transportation through a number of ways including Pace Bus passes, cab vouchers, staff reimbursement for transportation expenses, and fuel and maintenance costs for owned vehicles. Through this program we have been able to provide our clients with transportation opportunities to destinations such as medical appointments, employment opportunities, appointments with Social Security or Department of Human Services, educational opportunities, transportation to mandated programs and many other locations relating to case management.

Being able to ensure that our clients reach these important appointments has been an integral part of our programs for many years and with the threat of state funding cuts, the need for your support is greater than ever. For that reason we request that Elgin Township renew funding in the amount of \$22,500. \$20,000 will be divided equally among the 4 human service agencies, and \$2,500.00 will be used to supply Mental Health Court client's transportation to much needed services.

If you concur that the request should be considered, please advise the date of the meeting on which the item will appear and I will see that an agency representative is in attendance and available to answer any questions or address any concerns.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Sarah J. Ponitz, B.S., J.D.
Executive Director

"Homeless doesn't have to mean hopeless."

Elgin Township Social Service Fund 2016/2017 Interim Activity Report from Administer Justice

Administer Justice, founded in 2000, provides civil legal assistance to low income individuals and families while also strengthening the local community through our educational and outreach programs. Located in the heart of Elgin Township, we serve all who income qualify for our services, regardless of race, national origin, religion, gender or any other status. Our service model is built on three key pillars: **Safe and Healthy Families** (family law options and rights, housing issues and client advocacy programs); **Employment and Financial Stability** (through our Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, removal of employment barriers through expungement of a criminal record, consumer debt education and financial counseling); and **Freedom from Exploitation** (through project ATLAST-Attorneys Targeting Labor and Sex Trafficking, and assistance with identity theft and consumer fraud). Our collaborative approach with other legal and social service agencies, coupled with our outstanding community reputation and diversified funding model, allows us to efficiently serve those of limited means with nowhere else to turn for legal assistance.

According to a 2016 report by the Center for American Progress, in 70% to 90% of family law, domestic violence, housing, or small claims cases, at least one party did not have an attorney. Per the same report, "about 80 percent of the civil legal needs of those living in poverty go unmet." Without legal assistance, our area's most vulnerable often do nothing about their legal issue (ultimately turning a relatively simple problem into a much greater one), or they attempt to represent themselves in court with little chance of success in our complex system of laws. With only two full time legal aid service providers in all of the northern Illinois suburbs, the demand for services is urgent. While Prairie State Legal Services provides excellent service, declining economic conditions have created extreme needs among low income families which cannot be adequately met by one service provider. Administer Justice receives daily requests from social service agencies, court personnel, attorneys, churches and others to serve our area's most under resourced individuals and families.

We are grateful to the Elgin Township Social Service Fund for helping to make these services possible. For the grant period commencing October 2016 through May of 2017, the following has been accomplished:

NEW PROGRAMS LAUNCHED:

- Our F.A.C.T.S. Workshop was launched in late 2016 and serves those contemplating or facing divorce. This free 90 minute workshop, which stands for **Family, Assets, Children, Trials, and Safety**, educates attendees on the process of divorce, not only from a legal standpoint, but also how it will impact the various aspects of their life. With this knowledge, participants can make the best decisions moving forward for their family. After the workshop, participants are provided with counseling referrals and the opportunity to meet with an Administer Justice attorney, financial counselor, or conflict coach. This same workshop is also now being offered in Spanish.

- In response to recent concerns by area immigrant residents regarding detainment and/or deportation, Administer Justice began offering legal assistance with temporary guardianships for minors. This measure helps secure the minor's well-being until more permanent measures can be arranged.
- Project Virtual Bilingual Consumer Debt Education, which offers legal advice on line via videos in Spanish and English, was launched in early 2017. Through this program, individuals can access videos concerning their legal rights as it relates to credit card debt, payday loans, debt collection practices, student loans and reverse mortgages.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

- 537 individuals received legal advice and counseling via a one on one meeting with an attorney. 145 of these individuals reside in Elgin Township.
- 142 of these individuals received assistance in completing and filing legal documents. 36 of these individuals reside in Elgin Township.
- 63 of these individuals also received extended representation from a pro bono attorney (including court appearances). 15 of these individuals reside in Elgin Township.
- 118 individuals facing a controversy with the IRS received assistance from an attorney. 19 of these individuals reside in Elgin Township.

OTHER ASSISTANCE PROVIDED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD AS PART OF PROJECT FULL SERVICE:

- 48 area residents (in addition to those listed above) met with an Administer Justice attorney regarding various civil legal issues at the Kane County Judicial Center through the Lawyer in the Library program. Both staff and volunteer Administer Justice attorneys, including our bilingual staff attorney, serve at this location.
- 92 clients were served by an Administer Justice Volunteer Client Advocate. These volunteers serve a critical role in ensuring our clients leave our clinic with not only sound legal advice, but a plan to address other needs they and their family may be experiencing. The Volunteer Client Advocates are trained on area social services and other agencies that assist low income individuals. They meet one on one with clients following their meeting with their attorney to explore those needs, provide referrals, connect the client to other service providers, and to encourage the client who is facing difficult circumstances.
- During the reporting period, 7,751 area residents were offered information about legal rights and services through our outreach efforts.
- During the reporting period, 910 individuals attended our various educational seminars/workshops.

- Our volunteer efforts remain strong with 253 volunteers serving our clients in 2016. Our volunteer team continues to grow as we are able to attract professionals with a variety of skills due to our proven training and support programs, as well as our reputation within the community. During the reporting period 43 new volunteers joined our team. This includes 20 volunteer attorneys. Of our current volunteers, 38 reside in Elgin Township, including 7 attorneys.
- In response to the alarming increase in sex trafficking in the Chicago metropolitan area, we enhanced Project Aware ATLAST. Via a grant with the Kiwanis Club of Elgin, safety tip fliers for both parents and children were distributed at various outreach and networking events (attended by a total of 17,598 individuals in 2016). These fliers, in both English and Spanish, were also provided to 542 clients upon their first appointment with Administer Justice in 2016. Monthly safety tips are now also distributed via various social media sites.
- We continued to strengthen our partnerships with area organizations such as the Community Crisis Center, Centro de Informacion, Ecker Mental Health Center, Food For Greater Elgin, numerous churches and other local organizations dedicated to serving our low income neighbors. In 2016, 61% of our clients were referred to us by a social service agency or church.

While quantifying our services is necessary in order to understand our impact on area residents living in poverty, we are most inspired by the individuals who find life changing practical hope and help through our efforts. The following are just a few samples of actual Elgin Township residents that we assisted during the reporting period:

- Client has been divorced since 2010. Needs assistance modifying the current child support as ex-husband's employment and income has changed (increased). Also has concerns regarding safety of young daughters during visitation with father-she is seeking modification of existing custody and visitation agreement. Administer Justice is helping her to prepare the needed court documents and coaching her on upcoming court appearance.

-67 year old client on disability (brain injury) whose wife recently passed away. The mortgage on their home is in his wife's name only. He also has several life insurance policies that he is confused about and is not sure how to handle. An Administer Justice pro bono attorney is helping the client work through these issues including preparing a Small Estate Affidavit so he can assume the mortgage and remain in his home.

-Client has two children, ages 6 and 7. Mother has full custody. Client recently learned of DCFS charges against mother. Client would like to establish paternity and formalize parental responsibilities and parenting time. An Administer Justice attorney is working with the client to determine and pursue best legal options.

We truly appreciate the support of the Elgin Township Social Service Fund and the difference it is making in the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors with nowhere else to turn.



Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association

285 Memorial Drive, Crystal Lake, IL 60014
Phone & TTY: (815)459-0737 Fax: (815)459-0388

May 16, 2017

Ms. Annette Miller, Supervisor
Elgin Township
729 S. McLean Blvd.
Elgin, IL 60123-4981

Dear Ms. Miller:

Thank you to the Elgin Township Board of Trustees for approving the grant of \$7200 in support of Elgin Township residents with disabilities who will be participating in the 2017 NISRA Summer Day Camp program. Please share our thanks with the Township Board of Trustees for their wonderful generosity. The NISRA staff and Board of Directors are proud to have earned your continuing support and will work hard to provide high quality community-based therapeutic recreation programs for your residents. Your grant will be specifically used to support our Summer Day Camp program for Elgin Township residents. Every child and adult deserves the opportunity to participate in healthy, skill building and enjoyable leisure activities in the community. With your assistance, NISRA will be able to do so in an affordable manner.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 815-459-0737 if you ever have questions or concerns that may help us better serve your community. Enclosed is the original signed contract you've requested. We would greatly appreciate it if you would mail the grant check to the NISRA office at 285 Memorial Dr., Crystal Lake, IL 60014.

Thanks again for your outstanding support!

Sincerely,

Jim Wiseman
Executive Director

Enc.


NATIONAL
GOLD MEDAL
AWARD RECIPIENT
FOR EXCELLENCE
IN THE FIELD OF
PARK & RECREATION
MANAGEMENT
1987 and 1993

Providing recreation programs for people with disabilities residing in the Barrington Park District, Cary Park District, Crystal Lake Park District, Dundee Township Park District, City of Elgin, Hampshire Township Park District, City of Harvard, Huntley Park District, Village of Lake in the Hills, Marengo Park District, City of McHenry, Wauconda Park District and the City of Woodstock.



www.RenzCenter.org

ADMINISTRATION

One American Way
Elgin, IL 60120
(847) 742-3545
Fax: (847) 697-5583

May 15, 2017

OUTPATIENT OFFICES

Two American Way
Elgin, IL 60120
(847) 742-3545
Fax: (847) 742-3559

409 Illinois Avenue, #1A
St. Charles, IL 60174
(630) 513-6886
Fax: (630) 513-6892

1535 Burgundy Parkway
Streamwood, IL 60107
(630) 837-6445
Fax: (630) 837-7184

Passage Program
Two American Way
Elgin, IL 60120
(847) 742-3545
Fax: (847) 697-5685

PREVENTION OFFICE

One American Way
Elgin, IL 60120
(847) 742-3545
Fax: (847) 697-2719

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE SERVICES

One American Way
Elgin, IL 60120
(847) 742-4033
Fax: (847) 697-5583

Elgin Township Board of Trustees
Town of Elgin
729 S. McLean Blvd.
Elgin, IL 60123

Dear Trustees:

Thank you for approving our application for funding our youth summer program. It is greatly appreciated and is much needed given the uncertainty and difficulties with the State of Illinois budget.

Enclosed is the signed Agreement. Kindly send the check to our administrative offices, One American Way, Elgin 60120.

Again, thank you for funding the youth program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Skogmo".

Jerry Skogmo
Executive Director

JS/sl

Enclosure

*Restoring Hope &
Recovering Lives . . .*

*For A Healthier, Safer
Community*

