

**Interim Activity Report  
submitted by  
Centro de Informacion  
May 24, 2019**

### **Social Services Provided**

With the support of Elgin Township, Centro de Informacion provides bilingual information, referral, advocacy, crisis support, employment assistance and job fairs, legal clinics, housing assistance, public aid information, and life skills seminars to Spanish-speaking immigrant residents of Elgin Township.

### **Elgin Township Clients**

In the six months from October 2018 – March 2019, 85% of Centro clients have had incomes below the Federal Poverty Level and 95% below 200% of poverty. Bilingual services have been provided to children (6%), youth (5%), adults (74%), and seniors (15%). In these six months, Centro provided services to almost 2,000 township clients from 24 countries plus Puerto Rico. Within this population, 96% speak Spanish as their first language and only limited English.

### **Emergency Services**

Among the Elgin Township men, women, and children who have come to Centro for services in the past six months, almost half (47%) have come for one or more emergency services—children's winter clothing, housing (eviction notice, imminent foreclosure, lack of utilities, or homeless), food, diapers, a death or other family crisis, fraud or identity theft, violence, on-the-job injuries, or auto accidents, with official looking papers they cannot read, emergency room or utility bills they cannot pay, or legal, medical or mental health issues. With the current anti-immigrant sentiment and the administration in Washington harder on immigrants, fear has intensified in the Hispanic community. Although Elgin Township Spanish-speaking families in crisis are reluctant to approach police, local agencies, or government at any level with their questions or problems, when they need answers or help, they come to Centro de Informacion.

### **Information and Referral**

In these first six months, attendance totaled 251 Elgin Township residents at 15 seminars and legal clinics that Centro held on such topics as citizenship, domestic violence, 12 steps to a successful job search, a 6-week course on living with diabetes, Social Security and Medicare, income tax, what to do about bullying, money management, debts and bankruptcy, saving on utility bills, public benefits, and community resources. These were presented through collaboration with local attorneys, bilingual professionals in the community, and partner organizations such as the Gail Borden Library, Fox Valley Hands of Hope, Restoration America, the Citizens Utility Board, and Advocate Sherman Hospital.

With Elgin Township support, Centro bilingual community outreach workers answer the questions of what, where, when, why, and how, organize job fairs and medical screenings, and provide advocacy with landlords and employers, interpretation help and assistance in filling out forms in English such as for food stamps, unemployment benefits, victim compensation and consumer complaints through the Illinois Attorney General's office, and various forms of emergency assistance. Finally, we link individuals and families to needed services and supports that Centro does not provide.

# Thank you!

Your support makes a difference for hungry neighbors.

May 22, 2019

Franklin Ramirez  
Town of Elgin  
729 S McLean Blvd  
Elgin, IL 60123-6704

Dear Franklin,

Thank you for supporting Northern Illinois Food Bank with your donation of \$5,100.00 (Check #56518) on 5/17/2019. This has been designated for three Mobile Pantry distributions at summer meal sites in June, July and August. In collaboration with EPEL and the City of Elgin we will also be providing information on other services available to families.

We are grateful for Elgin Township's continued support as we feed our hungry neighbors. We know that together we are providing a vital service to residents struggling to make ends meet and put food on the table for their families.

We encourage you to look at our website, read our blog and get connected through Facebook to stay informed about how your support is making a difference for our hungry neighbors or to find out about events throughout our area and volunteer opportunities at our four centers: [www.SolveHungerToday.org](http://www.SolveHungerToday.org).

Sincerely,

  
Julie Yurko  
President & CEO

*Wow! Thank  
you for this*

Northern Illinois Food Bank acquires food and distributes it through our network of 800 nonprofit food assistance sites in 13 counties. Northern Illinois Food Bank is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, EIN# 36-3203648. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.

*wonderful gift!  
"*

West Suburban Center  
273 Dearborn Court  
Geneva, IL 60134  
630.443.6910

Northwest Center  
765 Research Parkway  
Rockford, IL 61109  
815.639.1257

North Suburban Center  
440 Keller Drive  
Park City, IL 60085  
847.336.3663

South Suburban Center  
171 South Larkin Avenue  
Joliet, IL 60436  
815.846.1041

A member of  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**





www.RenzCenter.org

May 21, 2019

**ADMINISTRATION**

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

Franklin Ramirez  
Supervisor

**OUTPATIENT OFFICES**

Two American Way  
Elgin, IL 60120  
(847) 742-3545  
Fax: (847) 742-3559  
TDD: (847) 742-0242

Town of Elgin  
729 S. McLean Blvd  
Elgin, IL 60123

Dear Mr. Ramirez and Elgin Township Trustees:

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

Through the support of the Elgin Township, 40 at-risk teens in our community will have an opportunity to attend Renz Center's Leadership Empowerment And Development (LEAD) program. The Township's \$12,000 award ensures that these teens get the necessary skills to lead alcohol- and drug-free lives while also learning leadership skills and ways they can give back to their community. Your support also means several of these teens will be able to attend the Cebrin Goodman Teen Institute and spend a week creating a substance abuse prevention action plan to implement at their school and/or in our community in the fall.

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

Thank you for your continued support, and for helping us make our community a healthier, safer place to live and work.

**PREVENTION OFFICE**

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb Howe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Deb" and "Howe" being capitalized and prominent.

Deb Howe  
Marketing & Fund Development Director

**EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE SERVICES**

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

P.S. All donor names are acknowledged in Renz Center's Annual Report. For exclusion, please contact me at (847) 742-3545 ext. 236 or through email at [dhowe@RenzCenter.org](mailto:dhowe@RenzCenter.org).

*Restoring Hope &  
Recovering Lives . . .*

*For A Healthier, Safer  
Community*





