

# Neighbors Helping Neighbors: ZANIES FUNDRAISER PUTS THE 'FUN' IN FUNDRAISING



Jody and Dan Whalen organized the charity event to benefit the Des Plaines Community Foundation at Zanies Comedy Club at 5437 Park Place in Rosemont.

The Whalen family and Rosemont-based Zanies Comedy Club recently worked together to raise nearly \$5,000 to support the Des Plaines Community Foundation.

“This was our first year of doing this charity event for the Des Plaines Community Foundation,” explained Dan and Jody Whalen. “But next year we plan to be even more successful with at least 200-plus guests.”

According to the Whalens, who have lived in Des Plaines for 31 years, the profit from the Zanies fundraiser was \$4,670.

“Zanies Comedy Club and Cyndi Nelson, the general manager, worked with us to host this fundraiser and allowed the entire ticket price to go to the charity,” said Dan Whalen.

“All 100 of the event guests purchased a ticket and two items off the menu—such as a drink or an appetizer—and they enjoyed the show.

According to Rosemary Argus, the executive director of the Foundation, the Whalens provided a fun evening and raised a significant amount of funds for the Foundation. “We appreciate their good work,” said Argus.



Alderman Dick Sayad, Jan Goczkowski, Langos & Christian Centry 21 and DPCF Executive Director Rosemary Argus attend the Zanies comedy fundraiser.

The Whalens are planning to hold the event again next year. Jody Whalen prepared 15 raffle gift baskets that were packed with items from local businesses. The baskets also included gift cards and gift certificates.

There was a “Split-the-Pot” raffle and the Whalen’s daughter Jessica won and donated the \$250 prize to the Des Plaines Community Foundation.

## RIVERS CASINO DONATES \$10,000

Rivers Casino donated \$10,000 to the Des Plaines Community Foundation earmarked to help develop a tutoring program for low income children in Des Plaines who are exhibiting low test scores.

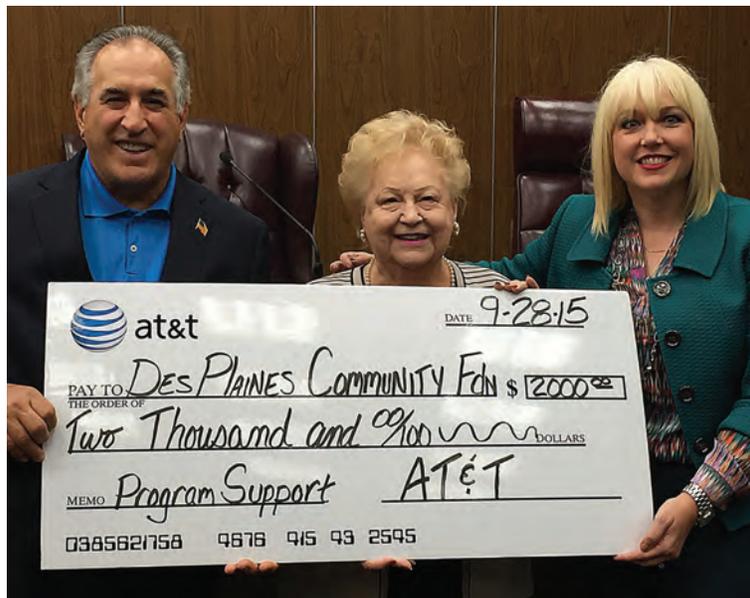
Experts say there is a correlation between low test scores and children from low income households.

“We are developing a program to pay Maine West students for tutoring Des Plaines elementary and/or middle school students,” said Argus.



(Left to Right) Mary Zehnder, Rivers Casino, Dick Sayad and Rosemary Argus, DPCF and Amanda Dale, Rivers Casino.

## DPCF WINS AT&T 'INVESTING IN ILLINOIS AWARD' OF \$2,000



State Representative Marty Moylan, Rosemary Argus, executive director of DPCF and Tricia Conway, external affairs manager, AT&T.

The Des Plaines Community Foundation received an AT&T “Investing in Illinois Award” for its non-profit work to help people in Illinois.

The Des Plaines Community Foundation received \$2,000 from AT&T to be used to assist this organization with their mission of setting up a tutoring program for low-income students in the Des Plaines area.

Elementary and middle schools within District 62 will be the focus of the future tutoring program.

“There are great non-profit organizations improving lives in Illinois. By supporting these organizations, we’re strengthening the communities we serve,” said Tricia Conway, external affairs manager, AT&T.

State Representative Marty Moylan nominated the Des Plaines Community Foundation for the recognition from AT&T Illinois.

The AT&T “Investing in Illinois Awards” provide resources and recognition to organizations and programs that improve lives in their communities and the state. They are advancing education, economic growth, new technologies and other essential community services.

Digital You offers Digital Compass™, a free interactive game developed by Common Sense, to teach 6th to 9th graders about the real-world impact of their online choices.

## \$4,500 Donation: DPCF & CHICAGO MAR THOMA CHURCH WARM UP DES PLAINES



Board members Rosemary Argus and Chris Pesche welcome Sunny Cherian of Chicago Mar Thoma to the Board in 2014.

Chicago Mar Thoma and their diocesan bishop presented the Des Plaines Community Foundation with a check for \$4,500 to fund foundation programs, such as college scholarships, donations to food pantries, and the purchase of coats for needy families.

“Mar Thoma Church parish members wanted to take this opportunity to help people in our community,” said Pastor Thomas. Rosemary Argus and Dick Sayad of the DPCF were invited to the congregation during the holidays.

The diocesan bishop presented the foundation with a check to support the foundation’s programs: college scholarships, donations to local food pantries, and providing winter gear to needy Des Plaines residents.

“The Des Plaines Community Foundation is very happy to work with the parish members of Mar Thoma Church to help the residents of Des Plaines,” said Argus.

“The parishioners at Mar Thoma have helped with the P.A.D.S shelter at St. Mary’s parish in Des Plaines,” she said. “They have collected paper goods like paper towels, diapers and toilet paper for the Self Help Pantry in Des Plaines.

The parishioners also have worked with the Salvation Army during Christmas on the Angle Tree project where they drew a name and then purchased a special gift for that needy child.”

## A SPECIAL THANKS TO PAUL BARTHOLOMAE FOR THE MAINE WEST BUILDING- TRADES STUDENTS



Paul Bartholomae at The Homestead House in Des Plaines.

The Des Plaines Community Foundation appreciates Paul Bartholomae and sincerely thanks him for his work with the Maine West Building-Trades students at The Homestead House in Des Plaines. The Homestead House is the headquarters for the Home Maintenance Class students at Maine West High School.

The Foundation gives a special "thank you" to Bartholomae for working with the students and encouraging the building of wheelchair ramps to help free disabled and elderly people who are trapped in wheelchairs in their homes.

"The wheelchair ramps allow folks to take a walk, go to the park or even go out for ice cream," said Argus. "The Building-Trades students have touched the lives of residents, young and old, with various challenges."

The Des Plaines Community Foundation buys the supplies, like tools and wood, while the students provide the labor during 45-minute class periods. The program is great for students who are eager to learn construction skills and helping the community is an added boost.

Since 2006, Maine West High School Building-Trades students have touched the lives of Des Plaines residents, young and old in 2016, with various challenges, noted Argus of the Foundation.

"Utilizing their construction skills to build ramps, decks, picnic tables, and paint houses, they have come to the aid of many residents that needed assistance," Argus said. "During winter even helped shovel snow for those with various challenges."

During spring and summer, they have mowed lawns and cut bushes for residents. Headquarters for the Home Maintenance Class students is The Homestead, an old farm house that has been converted through the efforts of the Building-Trades students for life skills classes.

"What makes the program so successful is the cooperation among students," said Bartholomae, a 40-year veteran instructor at the school. "They divvy up tasks and each brings different strengths to the table. And, they work—just like a real-life crew."

"They have even expanded to building sheds and minor cabinetry. It is really a hands-on experience for some of these students and can turn into a future career."

"We just completed our 39th ramp, several new sheds, shelving and picnic tables at Maine West," said Bartholomae. "The ramps are the most important thing we do for the Des Plaines residents in need."

"It becomes a problem when the elderly or disabled can't get out of their homes to get to the doctor. There are requests for two new ramps for the students to construct when they return to school in the fall."

Bartholomae said he would like to see more students volunteer at The Homestead, including students enrolled in the Applied Technology class from Maine West.



Maine West High School Building-Trades student putting the finishing touches on a metal access ramp.

## FOUNDATION AND LOCAL BUSINESSES PROVIDE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING FOR NEEDY DES PLAINES RESIDENTS



Rosemary Argus meets with Ted Roombos, Victoria LaGuidce, Chris and Barb Roombos, Maggie Melody and Bob Kuzmanic of T-Bob's to discuss how many volunteers will be packing up the turkey dinners and delivering them to the needy and or disabled residents.

The Des Plaines Community Foundation, T-Bob's Smoked Bar-B-Q, 1165 S. Elmhurst Road, Sysco Foods Chicago and Panera Bread in Metropolitan Square worked together Thursday, November 26, 2015, to provide and deliver Thanksgiving Day dinners. As a result, more than 200 families, homebound seniors and people with disabilities had a very Happy Thanksgiving.

According to Rosemary Argus, the executive director of the Foundation, turkey dinners were delivered to those in wheelchairs, on oxygen and the blind, who have difficulty leaving their homes.

"This is our fifth year making the meals and delivering the turkey dinners," explained Argus. "It was T-Bob's and my idea, as well as local churches. It's a group effort." T-Bob's owner Ted Roombos and his family and staff have donated their time every year to help on Thanksgiving," Argus added. Roombos roasts all the turkey breasts for the dinners.

Lacey Belle Argus, and her schoolmates from CHIPPEWA, made Thanksgiving Day "we care about you cards" which were included with the meals. Also, the Des Plaines Girls Softball team wrote Thanksgiving Day cards to the recipients of the meals so that they will know people care about them.

"There are a lot of good people in Des Plaines," said Argus. "Every member of the Des Plaines Community Foundation is a volunteer. We have no paid employees."



Volunteers from Sysco Foods-Chicago and other volunteers pack up the turkey dinners and prepare to deliver them on Thanksgiving Day. From the Left: Kristie Lord, Charley Forness, Mary Ann Forness and Paul Brown.

Sysco Foods provided 80 pounds of turkey breasts, vegetables and potatoes. T-Bob's roasted the turkey. Volunteers packaged the corn, sweet potatoes, main entrée, and bread and pumpkin pie. DPCF volunteers picked up Panera Bread's contributions of bagels, other bread and pastries and delivered them to T-Bob's.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors also delivered on about 500 requests for help from Des Plaines residents in need this year. The NHN Program links community volunteers with residents in need of transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, yard and home care, installation of emergency response boxes, wheelchair ramps and decks.

DPCF also gives a special thank you to the Edward and Wanda Jordan Family Foundation for their generous \$5,000 donation for the NHN programs and fundraiser.

Volunteers from the Foundation can provide transportation to Des Plaines residents. All residents have to do is call the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Hot Line (1-888-646-8898) and request help.



The Des Plaines Girls Softball team wrote Thanksgiving Day cards. (From Left to Right) Madeleine Larsen, Makenna Delafeld, Mia Thomas, Kylie White and Maddie Chiakas. Together they completed 104 cards.

(From Left to Right) Lacey Belle Argus and her schoolmates from CHIPPEWA are making Thanksgiving Day "we care about you cards" to be included with the meals.



---

## FOUNDATION SUPPORTS UNITED AIRLINES CHRISTMAS FANTASY FLIGHT TO NORTH POLE

The Des Plaines Community Foundation supported United Airlines' Fantasy Flight again this past Christmas season for the third year in a row.

United Airlines and the Starlight Foundation gave more than 50 ill Chicago-area children and their families a Fantasy Flight to the North Pole to visit Santa Claus.

The "Chicago United Fantasy Flight" departed O'Hare International Airport in December of 2015. The Fantasy Flight was flown by professional United Airlines flight crews and flight attendants.

The Starlight Foundation supports families with life-threatening diseases. The families came from all over the Chicago area and are being treated at various Children's Hospitals.

Numerous volunteers helped out with their generous support of both time and money. After the flight everyone was greeted to the Winter Wonderland by hundreds of United employees.

The gate where the children landed was decorated with Christmas trees, wreaths and poinsettias donated by the Foundation's Board past president Chris Pesche of Pesche's Flowers. The Foundation and the building Trade Students built scenery for the Fantasy Flights several years ago, along with a fireplace and shed.

DPCF Board member Bob Argus of United Airlines and Tim De Long, both Iron Men from South Park Church, put up and took down the scenery for the event with the help of Steffan Argus, Lacey Argus and Paul du Vair (Rosemary's grandchildren).

Tim De Long's son, Colton, also was a great help. "The Fantasy Flight puts our lives in perspective. It is a Christmas memory to treasure," said Argus.

---

## Des Plaines Community Foundation



### Neighbors Helping Neighbors

888-646-8898

1420 Miner Street, Room 402A  
Des Plaines, IL. 60016

### Neighbors Helping Neighbors...

#### A program where you can get help.

- Do you need transportation to a medical appointment?
- Help with personal shopping?
- Help with yard and /or home care?
- Help with the purchase and installation of an emergency response box (Knox Box) or wheelchair ramp?
- Whatever your need, we might be able to help!

**Call 888-646-8898**

If you would like to volunteer for  
this program, please call.

**We need volunteers!**

**We need people to drive residents and  
to do light yard and /or house work.**

**Des Plaines Community Foundation**

Des Plaines City Hall  
1420 Miner Street, Room 402A  
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016  
Phone: 847-827-6352  
Fax: 847-296-6352

**SIGN UP TO ATTEND RIVERS CASINO FUNDRAISER**

The Des Plaines Community Foundation’s 13th Annual Fundraiser is on Friday, September 9, 2016, 4:00p.m. to 8:00p.m., at the Cube, located inside RIVERS CASINO.

To purchase event & raffle tickets or to sponsor a basket online go to [www.desplainescommunityfoundation.org](http://www.desplainescommunityfoundation.org) or:

Mail or Fax this form to:  
**Des Plaines Community Foundation (DPCF)**  
City Hall, 1420 Miner Street, Rm 402A  
Des Plaines, IL 60016

FAX:  
**847-296-6352 or 847-297-3468**  
For questions contact the Foundation office at:  
**847-827-2304 or 847-297-4932 or 847-525-5566**

**Registration**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization/Company \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Check all that apply**

\_\_\_\_\_ No. of Event tickets at \$85 each  
\_\_\_\_\_ No. of Raffle Tickets at \$10 each  
\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to make a Foundation contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to sponsor a basket for \$200  
 Check Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on my  
 Discover  VISA  Mastercard  
 American Express  
Name on card \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ 3 digit code on back \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature required to process*

\*The Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 entity. Receipts furnished according to law. No one under the age of 18 may participate in the raffle.