



# Des Plaines Community Foundation

Helping Hands Brighten Lives

Summer News - 2011

## A NIGHT AT THE DES PLAINES RIVERS CASINO IN SEPTEMBER

Come bet on the Des Plaines Community Foundation on Friday, September 9, 2011 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the 8th annual and only fundraiser at the Cube night club in the Des Plaines Rivers Casino. The Rivers Casino is a state-of-the-art, 147,000-square-foot casino that opened in Des Plaines in July. Tickets for the event are \$75 per person before August 20th (\$95 after) and will include appetizers, dinner and open bar. There will be a raffle and silent auction. There will be additional entertainment. You must be 21 years old to attend.

The Foundation raises funds to identify, link and mobilize assets to support the service programs of the Des Plaines Healthy Community Partnership Programs whose activities improve the lives of those that live and work in Des Plaines. Some of the programs include; Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program Committee; Healthy Community/Healthy Youth Program Committee; Intergenerational Program Committee; and Seasons of Service program Committee.

The Foundation has no paid employees and is 100 percent volunteer. Foundation funds are obtained from individuals, businesses, and corporate tax-deductible contributions as well as from other foundations.

**For tickets to the annual fundraiser call 847-827-2304 at city hall or Rosemary Argus at 847-297-4932.**



## 8th ANNUAL BIG DAWG INVITATIONAL 2011 ITW FASTEX CHARITY GOLF OUTING

The 8th annual Big Dawg Invitational Golf Outing will be held Monday, August 15th at the Mount Prospect Golf Club at 600 See Gwun Avenue.

Sponsored by Illinois Tool Works/Fastex of Des Plaines, golf enthusiasts will enjoy 18 holes of golf, a golf cart, range balls, lunch and post-round dinner and drinks. There will also be prizes for raffles, longest drive, closest to the pin, longest putt and closest to the pin 50/50 charity pot. The cost is \$90 per person and \$360 for foursomes. Tee times begin at 10 a.m. "We are inviting you, your friends and co-workers to spend a day with us

Turn page



Photo left to right:  
Mike Hartley – ITW Fastex; Dave Nebl –ITW Shakeproof; Tom White – PM Mold; Jim Zielinski –ITW Fastex at the 'Big Dawg' 2009.

## 8th ANNUAL BIG DAWG:

on the links,” said Jim Zielinski, engineering manager at ITW Fastex CVA. “The ITW Fastex Annual ‘Big Dawg’ Invitational Charity Golf Outing is our effort to give back to the Des Plaines community that has served Fastex for so many years.”

For the past eight years, ITW/Fastex has been donating the profits from the annual “Big Dawg Invitational” golf outing to the Des Plaines Community Partnership Foundation. To date they have donated more than \$100,000.

ITW/Fastex designates a large portion of these funds be contributed for use by the Maine West Building Trade Students to pay for tools, supplies and coveralls to build wheelchair ramps, and decks for the Des Plaines disabled and elderly residents who have been identified by the city’s Human Services Division and the Des Plaines Community Foundation.

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## MAINE WEST BUILDING TRADE STUDENTS RAMP-UP TO HELP THE DES PLAINES COMMUNITY

Since 2006, the Building Trades program at Maine West High School has built about 21 ramps and decks to assist the elderly and disabled residents in the community, said Paul Bartholomae, the 28-year veteran instructor. In the fall, another wood ramp will be constructed. Permits are pulled and 12 to 15 of the special education students work on it and then the ramp is inspected by the city.



Left: Students building a ramp.



Right: The Homestead house.



Photo from left to right: Chris Winters, Angel Trujillo, Eric Powell, Angelo Giannos (on Eric’s shoulders), George Antar, Josh Nelson, Jonathan Males, Rosemary Argus, Claudia Cortes, Colleen Avery (partially hidden), Jason Choi, Job Coach-Vickie Hudak, Paul Bartholomae and Mayor Martin J. Moylan.

It can take anywhere from six weeks to three months to build a ramp, depending on the size. Requests come into the Des Plaines Community Foundation or the city’s department of Health and Human Services, which relays them to Bartholomae.

“We just completed our 21st ramp during final week at Maine West,” said Bartholomae. “We got a request to take one ramp out and put another one in. So the students actually engineered a cart to roll the dismantled ramp about two blocks to install it on another home. They took it apart in four pieces and one piece was pretty heavy—but they did it.

“The ramps are the most important thing we do for the Des Plaines residents in need,” he said. “It becomes a problem when the elderly or disabled can’t get out of their homes to get to the doctor.”

Headquarters for the Home Maintenance Class students is The Homestead house, an old farm house that has been converted through the efforts of the building Trade students for life skills classes. One of the recent additions to the Homestead built by students was a ramp and deck, which allow wheel-chair access to the facility. The Homestead is the remarkable result of what inspired youth are capable of building given the necessary resources and leadership.

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.

“The Building Trades students have touched the lives of resi-

# STUDENTS RAMP-UP:

dents, young and old, with various challenges,” said Rosemary Argus, executive director of The Des Plaines Community Foundation. “Utilizing their construction skills to build ramps, decks, picnic tables, or to paint houses or even during the winter help shovel snow for the elderly and disabled, they have come to the aid of many residents that needed assistance.”

“What makes the program so successful is the cooperation among students,” he said. “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.”

Bartholomae said he would like to see more students volunteer at the Homestead, like maybe someone in an Applied Technology class from Maine West.

The Des Plaines Community Foundation recently held a “Thank You” pizza appreciation party for the Maine West Building Trade students.



Lenny Thorne of Why Not Aluminum and Rhonda Vendegna in front of her rehabbed trailer.



and home care, installation of emergency response boxes, wheel chair ramps and decks.

The NHN has helped residents in need of minor and major home repair such as fixing phones, toilets, kitchen sinks, broken locks, gates and doors, painting, repairing floors and roofs.

These volunteers include Lenny Thorne (owner, “Why Not Aluminum?”), Yarek Nowick, Tim de Long, Bob Argus, Pat O’Toole, Manny Ochoa (from R. Franczak & Associates) and others. Lenny Thorne has spent countless additional hours along with his crew, working on the larger projects including floor and roofing repairs. Often, Bob Argus is the person who goes out, after the call comes in for help, to see what needs to be done.

Recently, Rosemary Argus, executive director of the Foundation and NHN reached out to volunteers to seeking help for Rhonda Vendegna, a Des Plaines resident whose trailer was destroyed by a fire in March.

The Des Plaines Community Foundation is seeking donations for Vendegna, who has since relocated to another trailer home in the Buckhorn Ranch Estates Mobile Park off South Street. She lost her dog, Elliott, in the fire.

To have the burned trailer removed it would cost Vendegna \$4,800. Vendegna, who was unemployed, basically gathered some friends and her daughter and broke down the trailer in pieces to a dumpster.

The trailer park offered Vendegna an older, run-down trailer that needed much work including, light fixtures, floor panels, replacement windows, a roof, refrigerator, microwave, stove and even a shower head. The park sold the trailer to her for a \$1. Rhonda now has the title of ownership of the trailer. She needs to pay \$620 per month for the space the trailer occupies.

The Foundation and volunteers have been repairing the trailer. Bob Argus is usually the first person on the scene after the call comes in for help. He makes a list of repairs needed. And then volunteers are asked if they can get the work done.

After the story appeared in the Des Plaines Herald, many people donated clothing (Rhonda needed size 6), small appliances, dishes, furniture, a microwave, stove, etc. Rhonda has moved into her trailer; it still needs work but it is somewhere to stay.

The foundation’s help has been a blessing, said Vendegna. “I appreciate everything everyone has done for me. God bless!”

## NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Chris Peterson, owner of Corporate Coach, leads The Bridge Church volunteers, who provide transportation to Des Plaines residents. Residents call the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Hot Line 1-888-646-8898 and request help.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors delivered on about 300 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

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## SELF HELP CLOSET & PANTRY OF DES PLAINES

Local schools, churches, businesses, fraternal organizations, and individuals, as well as the Foundation, provide the majority of food and financial support to the Self Help Closet & Pantry. Volunteers collect paper goods and volunteers help to distribute paper goods like paper towels, toilet paper and diapers for those in need.

To date, the Des Plaines Community Foundation has donated \$11,000 to the Self Help Closet & Pantry. The Foundation board members also volunteer their time to transport clients and collect donated paper goods for the Self Help Closet & Pantry. As part of the Seasons of Service Committee, Foundation members and volunteers collected paper goods (towels, diapers, etc.) last month. The Des Plaines Community Foundation also donated \$250 to buy additional paper goods to bring the donations over the \$1,000 mark.



Photo left to right: Kathy Puetz, Des Plaines Community Foundation secretary, and Gloria Ludwig, City Clerk of Des Plaines.

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## FOUNDATION DONATES TO PARK DISTRICTS

The Des Plaines Park District and the Mt. Prospect Park District receive contributions from the Des Plaines Community Foundation to provide scholarships to children who can not afford programs. These monies help families who cannot provide at this bad economic time. The Foundation donated \$500 to the scholarship fund and its board members are the volunteers.



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## SNOW ANGELS SPREAD WINGS TO HELP ELDERLY

During the big snowstorm this past winter, Paul Bartholomae and approximately 30 Maine West students (dubbed the "Snow Angels" by the Des Plaines Journal newspapers) shoveled many driveways. Elderly Des Plaines residents called Neighbors Helping Neighbors for help to shovel drives filled with 4 to 5 feet of snow and 6 feet piled on the end of their driveways. The disabled and elderly were very grateful for the help.

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## AFTER PROM: Maine West and Elk Grove High School

This is the 20th year the parents of Maine West students are offering an After Prom celebration for high school seniors. The goal of the After Prom program is to continue to offer seniors a fun, safe, chaperoned alternative to other after-prom activities.

More than 200 students each year join the "Stay up all night" in an alcohol and substance-free atmosphere. The organized and supervised event is way to keep the prom safe for the kids and provide a place for them to celebrate safely. The Foundation donated \$500 to Maine West and Elk Grove High School for their After Prom Programs.

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## CENTRAL CARE PROVIDES HUMANITAIRIAN EFFORTS FOR LOCAL KIDS

The Des Plaines Community Foundation supports “Central Cares” Backpack Drive every year.

Rosemary Argus, former 8th ward alderman and executive director of the Des Plaines Community Foundation, recently presented a check for \$600 to the Central Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) to assist with Central Cares, a Humanitarian Outreach Committee that recently did a local backpack drive to assist those students in the district whose families are unable to provide backpacks and school supplies. They gave 60 backpacks out to K-5th grade.

There were many families at Central School, as well as throughout School District 62, that benefitted from the backpack drive.

Mayor Martin J. Moylan reached out to Argus who immediately responded that the Des Plaines Community Foundation would support the backpack efforts.

“The Des Plaines Community Foundation is all about assisting our own in need, particularly when it means children and families. I am proud to present this financial support to Central Cares,” Argus said.



Photo left to right/front row: Emma Halverson, Andrew Schacke, Joshua Schacke, Greta Martin, Steffan Argus, Anotnio Gaspari, Matthew Halverson, Klara Sorensen, Greta Sorensen, (back row adults left to right) PTO Member and Chairman of Central Cares Kari Schacke, Director of the Des Plaines Community Foundation Rosemary Argus, and Des Plaines Mayor Martin J. Moylan pose for a photograph as Argus presents the check for the backpack project. Argus and the Mayor helped student and PTO volunteers fill the backpacks with school supplies.

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## GENEROUS HELPING GRANTS FROM DES PLAINES BUSINESS

For the past several years, the Des Plaines Community Foundation has been fortunate to receive a grant from Juno Lighting/Schneider Electric. The first year the grant was \$10,000. In more recent years, the grant has been \$5,000. The Foundation is very appreciative that this Des Plaines company continues to believe in what volunteers do to bring a better quality of life to those who live and work here. Dan Fink, regional vice president of sales, has agreed to serve on our Board of Trustees and he will be installed at our next meeting.

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## SPRING FUN FAIR



Mayor Martin J. Moylan enjoys the Spring Fun Fair with Des Plaines families.

For the past several years, including this year, the Des Plaines Community Foundation had a presence at the Spring Fun Fair and Pet & Pooch Parade at The Mountain View Adventure Center in Prairie Lakes.

The Foundation hosted a “Bike Rodeo” for the children and gave out 100 bicycle helmets to the first children who attended and needed a helmet. Bike safety checks, bike safety information and minor maintenance were provided by R.E.I. at the event.

The idea of the bicycle project was presented to the Foundation for funding by Dr. Mike Bagby, who continues to head up the project and work every year.

“The families there were really grateful, more grateful than usual, too,” said Dr. Bagby.

## Des Plaines Community Foundation

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**Des Plaines Community Foundation**  
Helping Hands Brighten Lives

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## A NOTE FROM ROSEMARY:

The Des Plaines Community Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that is made up completely of volunteers.

The Foundation funds the programs and services provided through the Des Plaines Healthy Community Partnership. The Partnership brings Des Plaines resources together to improve quality of life for those who live and work in the community.

Together the organization supports programs that provide support for youth, senior citizens, and people with special needs and helps promote a healthy and safe community environment.

Please help our cause by attending and/or supporting the 8th annual fundraiser at the new Des Plaines Rivers Casino on Friday, September 9th. You can "Bet on the Des Plaines Community Foundation" because for every \$1 we receive, we provide \$12 of service to our residents. We are able to do this because we are all volunteers.

**For tickets to the annual fundraiser call 847-827-2304 at city hall or Rosemary Argus at 847-297-4932.**



Rosemary Argus