



Summer 2013
Newsletter

empowering ALL people Palatine Opportunity Center

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A Busy Summer at Roots Community Garden

This summer, we've had over 350 visits to the garden by volunteer families.

We continue to harvest tomatillos, tomatoes, onion, broccoli, peppers, lettuce, zucchini, cucumbers and more!

Follow our progress online at rootscommunitygarden.tumblr.com

Wrapping up a successful summer thanks to the help of local businesses

The ICOMPETE campers enjoyed another wonderful summer full of sports and outdoor activities. This year, a volunteer group from **Walgreens in Palatine**, made the annual ICOMPETE picnic a fun and exciting one despite the hot weather. Volunteers met with ICOMPETE campers at Twin Lakes for golfing, paddle boating and fishing. Walgreens also provided a healthy lunch for our children.



If you walk on the east side of the POC you will notice that the hallway has been given a bit of flair. **BMO Harris of Palatine** volunteers donated materials, time and talent to enhance the Born Learning Trail previously donated by **Zurich** through an **United Way** initiative. The hallway now invites children and parents to see, feel, read and learn about the nature around them. BMO Harris also painted the classrooms at POC. Nallely Kaplan of BMO Harris Palatine said that "BMO Harris is committed to helping meet the needs of the many organizations and groups that make our communities strong."



Schneider Electric of Palatine dropped in this summer to offer one-to-one computer tutoring to students at POC. While parents learned from their volunteer tutors, other Schneider volunteers assisted in our Family Learning Lab making crafts with their children.



"Because we are a small staff and of limited resources, the support of local businesses is integral to our mission. It allows us to serve more community members in need. With the continued support of local businesses we can build a stronger community and reach further to empower ALL people.

Thank you to Walgreens, BMO Harris, United Way, Zurich and Schneider Electric for making this summer a success."

--Kathy Millin,

Director of the Palatine Opportunity Center

Help us fulfill our mission of
building a community of empowered people,
healthy families and vibrant neighborhood
by donating online at





While we continue to use and hold true to our theme of "empowering ALL people", we have decided to focus on "welcoming ALL people" during this fiscal year. For close to 20 years, the POC Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and collective agencies have worked at making the POC a welcoming space for all cultures and all people. Look for new changes to our lobby area that celebrate the many culture and people that proudly call POC home. Helping us launch this effort was local Fremd High School student, Nabihah Ahmed. Nabihah created a new cultural board next to our world map in the lobby. This board will be updated monthly as we celebrate the different cultures in the POC family.

A Warm Welcome to Our New Board Members

We are excited to announce the addition of two new members to the POC Board of Directors. New to our board are John Villegas, a State Farm agent in Palatine, and Thakar Basati, a Palatine community member. John says, "I am very excited to have an opportunity to serve on the board. I am a firm believer in the mission of POC and look forward to making a positive impact in the community." Basati was one of the original Vision in Progress Committee members that helped formulate the POC. We are glad to have him back on board. According to Basati, "When we first started, we didn't even imagine how great the need that existed for the POC in this area was. I am very proud of how much has been accomplished in the POC."

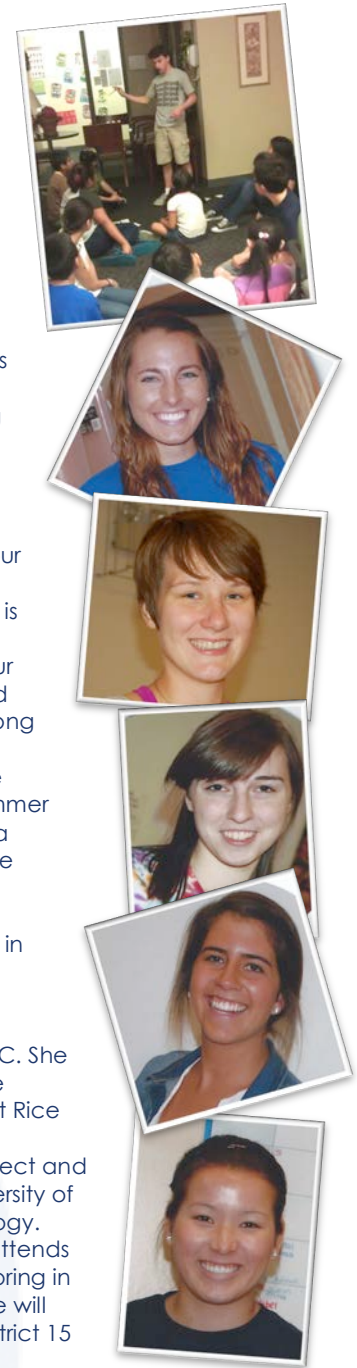
We thank the Palatine Board of Directors for their continued commitment to fulfill the mission of the POC.

- Karen Baker: Northwest Community Healthcare
- Thakar Basati: Community Volunteer
- Lee Concha: Community Volunteer
- Heidi Deininger: Community Volunteer
- Nancy Grybash: Community Volunteer
- Kelli Hedding: Palatine Park District
- Christina Johnson: Village of Palatine
- Karen Kabarec: Community Volunteer
- Nallely Kaplan: Community Volunteer
- Barrington Lopez: Community Volunteer
- Paul Pioch: Palatine Township
- Darice Trout: Harper College
- Dr. Robert Small: District 211
- Hank Sobotka: Community Volunteer
- Susan Strunk: Community Volunteer
- John Villegas: Community Volunteer
- Dr. Cheryl Wolfel: District 15

Nurturing Tomorrow's Philanthropic Spirit

At the POC we are dedicated to nurturing the philanthropic spirit of our youth. We do this by opening our doors to youth volunteers and interns who are interested in learning about a particular service offered at the POC. This summer we were fortunate to have seven teens volunteering in our children's programs. They helped with childcare, played fun games with area children and encouraged art creations through crafting at our Family Learning Lab. Their time with at-risk children in our area is invaluable, and it gives our volunteers a glimpse of how our non-for-profit center is devoted to building a community of strong citizens of all ages.

- Ben M. lives in Palatine. He volunteered during his summer vacation to work with area children teaching them the filmmaking process.
- Lauren W. lives in Palatine and attends Azusa Pacific in California majoring in psychology.
- Renata W. is a veteran of youth programs at the POC. She lives in Palatine and will be majoring in Biochemistry at Rice University in Texas.
- Emma M. lives in Mt. Prospect and will be attending the University of Illinois majoring in psychology.
- Jenna R. lives in Palatine attends Illinois State University majoring in Elementary Education. She will be student teaching in District 15 this school year.
- Izabel S. lives in Wheeling and was our first District 214 Intern.



Save the Date

- Farm to Table Fundraiser: Saturday, October 12.
- Show your POC spirit with a POC t-shirt: Sales begin on Monday, October 21st
- ROLE'S Autumn Artisan's Market: Thursday, November 21st, 2013
- PATH Day of Giving: Friday, November 29th.
- Annual Fall Football Fundraiser: Check our website for this November event

For more information, email us at palatineopportunitycenter@gmail.com

