



Fall 2014
Newsletter

empowering ALL people Palatine Opportunity Center

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POC joined with collaborating partners and offered two new events for the community: A Multicultural Fair and Neighborhood Block Party. Over 900 people attended the block party and over 120 attended the Multicultural Fair.

September Volunteers Help Clients Learn, Grow and Lead

Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give".

It is no secret that POC runs on the countless hours of work by volunteers. We want to thank each and every one of our volunteers who have dedicated themselves to helping our clients. **Your efforts change lives and for this, we thank you! Here is a glimpse at what you have accomplished in the month of September alone:**

- **4** high school aged volunteers tutored school aged children while parents attended a literacy program
- **5** interns from UIC and Loyola volunteering in social work capacity with children and parents
- **7** skilled based volunteers tutored GED and English Language Learners in our Family Learning Lab
- **8** local high school students volunteered over 20 hours each selling beverages for POC at Oktoberfest
- **24** hours of community service hours were completed with the POC
- **37** parents and children studied the horticultural changes happening at our Roots Community Garden as it prepared to rest for the winter
- **80** Order of the Arrow Scouts wrote letters to local businesses in support of the POC mission
- **220** volunteer hours were put in by ROLE members and their children working side by side with POC staff and board members to raise funds for the POC
- A special thank you to ROLE member Lori Laskwoske for attending training thru Hands On Suburban Chicago on best practices. This training will help us manage our ever-increasing requests from community members to volunteer with the POC.



Pictured top right: Local high school students helped raise funds for the POC at Oktoberfest. Middle: With the help of volunteers, children gathered data on flowers at Roots Garden. Last: Arrow Scouts met to write to local businesses in support of the POC.

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



Second Annual Farm to Table Dinner: A Deliciously Enchanting Fundraiser

For a second year, the Palatine Opportunity Center has partnered with Linda and Robert Bruce of Soulful Prairies and Chef Dave Esau of Dave's Specialty Foods to bring a magical evening to life at our Annual Farm to Table Dinner. This exclusive fundraiser hosted 60 guests and brought in \$10,000. The evening started with appetizers in an authentic log cabin dating to 1835. Once again, the barn at Soulful Prairies, decorated with the help of ROLE members, was set to charm its dinner guest. Chef Esau's menu was, as one guest put it, "deliciously divine" and incorporated vegetables from our very own Roots Community Garden. Dinner was followed by scotch by the fire and a Cowboy Smores dessert. Dancing along to Hudson and McCoy's live performance kept everyone entertained until past our closing time, but no one complained given the great ambience of the evening. If you missed the dinner this year, join us next Fall. This event has limited tickets and sells out very fast. Be sure to keep an eye out for our announcements via social media, our newsletter or at palatineopportunitycenter.org. This amazing dinner would not be possible if it weren't for the help of our POC staff, ROLE volunteers and our sponsors. Thank you for making our Second Annual Farm to Table Dinner a success. All of the funds raised at this event go directly to sponsor POC programs.

A special thank you to the following Farm to Table sponsors:

Whole Foods Kildeer, Central Standard Craft Distillery, Dave Esau of Dave's Specialty Foods, Goose Island Beer Co., Kabarec Financial, The Millin Family, Rische Log and Home, Robert and Linda Bruce of Soulful Prairies, ROLE, Wes and Jill Nelson of Two Feathers Honey, Whole Foods Market Kildeer.

Our Board of Directors Welcomes Jeff and Anthony!

We want to congratulate Susan Strunk, former director of the Palatine Public Library and POC board member, on her recent retirement. We also want to thank Susan, Lee Concha, Christina Johnson and John Villegas, for serving on the POC board. We will miss you all and thank you for all of your hard work for the POC. We are thrilled to announce the addition of two new members to our board who joined in the 2013/14 fiscal year: Jeff Kreye and Anthony Auston. Jeff lives in Palatine with wife Angela and sons Joe and Drew. Jeff and his family are members of Willow Creek Community Church, where they all volunteer in various capacities. Jeff serves on the board of Fellowship Housing Corp., which provides housing and mentoring to homeless single moms. When not volunteering, Jeff is a lawyer at the law firm of Robinson Payne LLC in Hoffman Estates, where he focuses his practice on business, banking, estate planning and non-profit law. Anthony is the Director of the Palatine Public Library District, and has been serving the Palatine Library community for nearly 7 years. He's been working in libraries for over 20 years. In his spare time he enjoys collecting and listening to music, reading, cycling, and eating his way around the world. Anthony is excited to serve and help ensure the success of the POC. Each newsletter we will highlight new board members joining us in 2014/15.



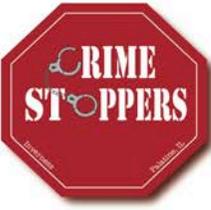
POC Fall Fun

- Lunch and Learn With ROLE: October 30th
- Pumpkin Carving Contest: October 27th and 28th
- ROLE's Artisan Market: November 20th
- Day of Giving, in collaboration with PATH, November 28th
- I COMPETE Ballet Recital: November 22nd

For more information on upcoming programs, visit us on online or email us at palatineopportunitycenter@gmail.com.



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