

POC Newsletter

Summer 2016

Mission Statement

Empower people and change lives.

Vision

A community of strong citizens, healthy families and vibrant neighborhoods.

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Swinging for POC Helps ICompete Kids

POC announces a huge thank you to *Swinging for POC* Co-Chairs Karen Kabarec and Dr. John McGillen. \$21,000 was raised for children and families in our community! *Swinging for POC* took place at the Medinah Country Club and was our first golf fundraiser.

ICompete was highlighted at the golf event because this July marks its 10-year anniversary. ICompete offers a variety of programs. Each program is designed to provide academic assistance or exposure to new opportunities. In doing this, ICompete builds strong leaders and healthy youth. All ICompete programs are free or designed to be affordable for all families. ICompete has grown over the last 10 years through the dedication of donors, partners, and volunteers.

ICompete is a collaboration among many community partners. POC is responsible for providing the cost of transportation, food, craft supplies, and admittance fees for field trips. **Do you know of a transportation provider or someone who would like to get involved with ICompete?** Contact Rachel Lara at rlara@palatineparks.org.



Kelli Hedding, Palatine Park District and POC Board Member and Aylin from ICompete enjoy the sunshine at *Swinging for POC*.

"ICompete has been an amazing program to be a part of. ICompete has taught me to become responsible, dependable, and a leader. I began ICompete when I was seven and I've stayed in this program ever since. I hope to give back to the program and volunteer as a summer camp leader and help with the ICompete program in high school. It's made me the person I am today and I hope that it will do the same to another young child.

Also, ICompete has given me the opportunity to play many different sports I wouldn't have the opportunity to play. Now after playing these sports I have found three that now are my passion: basketball, soccer, and golf. Now going into high school I'm going to try out for all these ICompete influenced sports."

Aylin

Future Eagle Scout Builds for Kids

Remember childhood games like Connect Four and Jenga? Well, Tom Knuth built life-size versions of your favorite games to be played outside. Knuth is a senior at Fremd High School working on his Eagle Scout project and decided to give back to his community by introducing kids to fun and games. Children in summer camp and afterschool programs will play these handmade games outside while getting fresh air and exercise. Knuth offers a great opportunity for families to play together and enjoy spending time together. What an inspiration!



Tom Knuth with the games for summer camp!

You Made a Difference!

With YOUR support, **Cinco de Mayo** raised \$40,000 for children and families to receive education and health and wellness programming!

2016 Sponsors

\$5,000 - Allstate, PATH

\$2,500 - Northwest Community Healthcare, BMO Harris, Wintrust (Hoffman Estates and Palatine Community Banks)

\$1,000 - Conant High School, Deer Grove Covenant Church, PHS Student Council,

\$500 - Amita, Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist, Creekside Health, Fremd High School, Harper College, Hoffman Estates High School, Palatine Parks Foundation, Palatine Senior Citizens Council

Teen Advisory Starts Strong

Congratulations to Bhavana Bheem, POC Teen Advisory Board member for earning the Citizen Award from the Village of Hoffman Estates for her community service at the Higgins Education Center. As part of the Teen Advisory's orientation, Bhavana toured POC's facilities. She felt such a tug on her heart for the children and families that she decided to do something about it. She organized a book drive at the Higgins Education Center in Hoffman Estates.

Bhavana is also piloting a badminton clinic and teaching moms and daughters a form



Bhavana Bheem and her proud parents pose with the Village of Hoffman Estates Trustees.

of Indian dance called Bollywood. POC is so fortunate to have her share her talents. The new Teen Advisory Committee is made up of special teens from all five D211 high schools. We look forward to contributions from this talented group!

Dear Friends,

*Twenty-two years ago when the doors at 1585 Rand Road were first opened; our founding members chose to inscribe the phrase - **Enter with a Happy Heart**. This legacy lives on as a focus for POC and is our daily reminder to treat each person at all of our campuses with dignity and respect. We expand people's strengths and develop strategies to meet their areas of need as human beings through our generous donors, dedicated volunteers, collaborative partnerships, and skilled staff. Now, in 2016, as our state faces challenging issues, POC will continue to focus on acceptance and tolerance and ensure that **ALL** people not only enter with happy hearts but leave with a lighter load and a pathway to success.*

*Kathy Millin
Executive Director*



Thank you to the Latino Giving Circle Fund of the Chicago Community Trust Foundation for their grant of \$1,500 for new marketing materials. We've already started working with a marketing professional to design and print new brochures.

The Chicago Community Trust is a community foundation dedicated to improving our region through strategic grant making, civic engagement and inspiring philanthropy.

Your support will change a life in our community!

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ \$500

Checks payable to:
POC

OR

Go to www.poc.news to make a donation through our website and for information about our satellite sites. Email us at info@poc.news.

1585 N. Rand Road
Palatine, IL 60074

We can do amazing things together!