



Friends of the POC,

Our organization is called Partners for Our Communities (POC) because that is what we are: schools and churches, cities and townships, libraries and individuals along with Northwest Community Hospital coming together as partners to make our communities stronger. **We partner together to build stronger and healthier communities in Palatine, Hoffman Estates and Rolling Meadows by strengthening families.**

The work of building stronger families and stronger communities takes patience, time and the investment of many people and groups working together. These are not quick fixes or easy solutions, but the impacts are great. (Turn over page for some highlights.)

I would like to introduce you to Elisa who is just one example of the impact that POC has on families. Elisa first came to the POC twenty years ago - a mom looking for food for her family and activities and help for her children. She also began taking English as a second language classes at our Edgebrook location from our Harper College partners. Over time the POC hired Elisa for janitorial support at Edgebrook, and to supervise the front desk of our Community Resource Center (CRC) on evenings when the Park District provided programming.

Over the years Elisa continued to grow along with the POC. Her daughter volunteered providing English translation while her Mom was learning and perfecting her own English. As the POC grew in programming Elisa worked the front desk and volunteered along with her entire family (husband, son and daughter) to give back to others. POC Board Members helped teach Elisa's daughter to drive, and provided mentoring to prepare her for college. Elisa's family and the POC rejoiced when her daughter graduated from Western Illinois University, the first in her family! Her daughter is now employed by the Palatine Police Department, her brother has an enriching job at a local business, and Elisa is still employed by the POC and has a job with the Palatine Library.

The Board of Directors of Partners for Our Communities believes in the impact that our countless partners have on people like Elisa and her family. This is long-term work that demands creativity, resiliency, patience and support.

Will you join with us and be a Partner, so that you can help us meet our POC Annual Appeal goal of \$40,000 and ensure that we can continue to build stronger communities and families? You can track our progress to this goal through March 1st on our Facebook page at <http://facebook.com/PartnersforOurCommunities>.

Best Regards,

Rev. Dr. Seth Moland-Kovash, All Saints Lutheran Church
Partners For Our Communities, Board Chair

P.S. We would also like to invite you to join us for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception on Thursday, February 15th from 6 – 7 pm. We will be welcoming new partners to the Community Resource Center in Palatine!

Your contribution and support to the POC will provide funding for programs to build stronger families and communities. Here are a few examples of the support we provide.



Stimulating participation in physical fitness and potential interest in the arts through offerings like the ICompete Dance program.

Youth Development through connecting with mentors who share their knowledge and talents to improve interpersonal skills and make healthier choices.



Skilled volunteers providing education for English as a Second Language, Citizenship Preparation, Education Certificates, and employment opportunities.



Food, warm coats and essential items to individuals and families in crisis.

