

News You Can Use Summer 2024



Sippin' On Sunshine

Another Successful Young Professional's Board Fundraiser!

POC's Young Professionals Board extends a huge THANK YOU to all who attended, sponsored, and supported their recent fundraiser, Sippin' on Sunshine. ✨ The event was a huge success and raised over \$13,000 for POC's Youth Development & Family Engagement programs.

The Young Professionals Board is a group of service-oriented professionals who aim to be the voice of the younger generation in the communities that POC serves. Through fundraising, program development, and volunteerism our goal is to provide new opportunities and resources for the families in our community through the POC, its programs, and partners.

Thank you to the Sippin' on Sunshine sponsors:

- **Palatine Park Foundation**
- **Wells Fargo**
- **Coordinate Machine Co.**
- **Dros Kivlahan McMahon & O'Connor LLC**
- **Wintrust**
- **Xfinity**



ICompete Summer Camp This July

The annual ICompete Summer Camp will run from July 8 to July 26. The hybrid camp model includes camper drop-off days and family engagement evenings. ICompete will offer six different camps from June thru August reaching various age groups.

Thank you!

A Special Thank You to Our Grant Funders



Megan Butz Legacy of Hope awarded POC with a grant for \$25,000 to support POC's Skyward Bound mental health program for young adults. This is the 2nd year POC received this grant and Megan Butz Legacy of Hope committed to a 3rd consecutive year of support for 2025



Schaumburg Township Mental Health Board supports POC's Skyward Bound program through a grant to serve its residents. Liza G. and Lisa HB met with their Executive Director in May and look forward to a long partnership.



Palatine Township supports POC's wrap-around services by funding the clothing closet and our crisis center which includes connecting families to resources and helping individuals build resumes, get jobs, and connect with Harper.



Learning Lab Update

POC's Learning Lab has experienced a significant increase in guests over the past fiscal year. Guests come from over 14 countries and range from 18 to 87. They come to POC intending to practice their English but have stayed for the additional benefits and resources.

Thanks to the care, skill-sharing, and support of our 15+ volunteers, guests share their lives in small groups. While sharing, they address other needs such as resumes, job opportunities, health care, connecting to their child's school, or registering for Harper College or District 211.

Over ten guests earned their driver's licenses, which increased their knowledge of their community and allowed them to know their community better and modes of transportation to help them find jobs and access resources. These clients give back, volunteer as ambassadors in the Faith Feeds Food Pantry and POC's Clothing Closet, and help other families assimilating to the USA.



POC Focusing on Advocacy

POC actively advocates for our vital work at the local, county, and state levels. **Seth Moland-Kovash**, our Director of Advocacy and Legislative Relations, leads these efforts in many ways.

This year, we have been active in state-wide coalitions advocating for funding for health care for all residents of Illinois regardless of

immigration status, strategies and funding for care for newcomers and asylum-seekers, funding for schools with large numbers of newcomers, and other important issues core to our mission.

We have also been at the forefront of a successful effort to pass a resolution in the General Assembly urging President Biden to extend work permit authorization to our long-term undocumented neighbors. We have also been working on funding for important POC programs like Illinois Access to Justice (A2J), our Parent Mentor program, and our direct services for under-resourced families.

On Thursday, May 23, six of our A2J case workers joined Seth in Springfield to advocate for A2J funding and see how the process works, pictured above!

If you'd like to participate in the efforts, email pocsethmk@gmail.com and he will add you to our email list with periodic calls to action about issues important to the work of POC.

Save The Date for Upcoming Special Events

J&D CHARITY
GOLF OUTING
BENEFITING **POC**

J & D Golf Outing for POC

Friday, September 20

Palatine Hills Golf Course,
Palatine



Farm to Table Dinner

Saturday, October 12

Soulful Prairies, Woodstock



Roots Community Garden Relocated to Falcon Park Recreation Center

Palatine Park District and Fremd High School permanently placed six 10x7 raised garden beds in the ground. The garden opened on May 25 for the first planting.

Interested gardeners and POC families began signing up in March and will help tend to garden beds and activities during the summer. The transition of the garden from its former location has been a project over one year in the making.

With the Village of Palatine beginning construction at our former location in the fall of 2024, POC committed to relocating the garden so clients and volunteers could grow locally. The garden will open twice a week in the evenings and on Saturday mornings beginning in June.

Interested gardeners should contact [847-776-9500](tel:847-776-9500) for more information or follow [Roots Community Garden on Facebook](#).



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