

DIRECTIONS

Suzan Nash, Executive Director

As Usual, Fall is a Busy Time for WIRC!

I wanted to update you on the Regional Collection Facility, in addition to some other happenings at the agency. As many of you remember, the staff worked to initiate the facility to collect unwanted electronics, including computers, on a year-round basis throughout the eight county area. The project was implemented in September, 2005, with grant funding assistance received from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the financial support received from the McDonough County Board, which continues to provide the primary support for the operation today.

While the collection facility is housed in Macomb, drop-off collection points have been established in seven additional counties, making this a highly coordinated and collaborative intergovernmental undertaking. As a result of these collaborations, the facility has won two national awards for innovation and intergovernmental cooperation: one from the National Association of Counties and the other from the National Association of Development Organizations.

With the initial primary emphasis having been e-waste in late spring of 2006, staff expanded the facility's operation to the collection of unwanted latex paint to process for recycling. Staff later expanded the facility hours to allow for general public drop-off of both used electronics and unwanted paint.

It has been two very busy years for the facility as depicted per the following totals:

Pounds of paint collected January to September 2007/households served: 89,880/1282

Facility two-year totals of pounds of paint/households: 260,463/3527



Pounds of electronics collected January to September 2007/households and businesses served: 138,305/903/98

Total pounds of electronics collected to date/households and businesses: 418,951/2670/266.

A few other brief remarks and updates - Late in the month of September, the WIRC submitted the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, or CEDS, to the Economic Development Administration. This is a six county 'road map' for community and economic development. The document was completed in a truly collaborative process with the assistance of the Strategy Committee, a representative group of elected officials, economic and community development professionals, and interested persons. The document will eventually be available on our website.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and this year, as in year's past, the staff has planned relevant activities to increase public awareness and to "End Domestic Violence".

Finally, kick-off meetings have been initiated for the Human Services Transportation Planning Process. This undertaking is intended to increase collaborations on developing plans to expand and provide service to the under-served rural counties. More on this later.

New VS Training Available



In addition to the standard trainings provided for medical, criminal justice, educational, social service and faith community professionals, Victim Services is offering new trainings for dental professionals.

As domestic violence has gained recognition as a public health issue, there is an increasing awareness that dentists, as well as physicians, have an opportunity – and a legal and ethical obligation – to identify and make appropriate referrals for patients who are victims of intimate partner violence. Studies show that most victims receive head and neck injuries, ones that dentists are able to recognize. However, studies also show that few dentists have protocols in place to provide information and referrals or to facilitate an intervention. Many dentists never received training in dental school about domestic violence. We are offering our dental professionals the opportunity to learn not only about our services to which they can refer patients, but also about the dynamics of intimate partner violence, clinical signs of abuse intervention techniques and developing office protocols and safety plans.

Individuals interested in having trainings for their staff regarding domestic or sexual violence are encouraged to call (309) 837-6622 or (309) 836-2148.

Seven Communities Apply for Housing Funds

Five communities are applying to the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunities (DCEO) Development Assistance Program for funds to rehabilitate single-family owner-occupied housing. Two additional communities are applying to the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) HOME Program for housing rehabilitation funds.

The communities of Astoria, Augusta, Biggsville, Kirkwood, and Vermont, are applying to DCEO for CDAP funds. The program provides grants to very-low and low-income households in a targeted area of the community to improve their housing conditions which results in an overall improvement to the neighborhood. A majority of the rehabilitation work includes replacing roofs, windows, electrical and plumbing, heating systems, siding and addressing lead based paint hazards.

A maximum of \$350,000 can be requested to match from the Housing Trust Fund for another \$9,000 for each home completed. The applications are due November 14, 2007.

The community of Carthage is applying to the IHDA HOME Program for funds to rehabilitate ten homes of very-low and low-income families. The city previously received funds from IHDA in 2005, and rehabilitated eleven homes in the community. The program operates very much like the CDAP program with the exception being that IHDA does not require an area of the community to be targeted. It is also the intent of both programs to serve the very-low income elderly and disabled. Applications were submitted October 25, 2007.

WIRC Assists Nauvoo in Development of its Comprehensive Plan

In October, approximately 20 people met to discuss the future development and growth of the City of Nauvoo. WIRC has worked with the city for over a year to develop goals and objectives and is assisting with the overall development of a comprehensive plan. The Nauvoo comprehensive planning process has been successful in large part due to significant participation from local residents. This participation is critical to local ownership and implementation of the plan.

Communities should have a clear vision for how it should develop and redevelop. Comprehensive planning allows municipalities to construct a vision derived from the review of local data and community opinion. The city has already conducted a community-wide survey and a series of public meetings that covered issues such as economic development, tourism, parks and recreation, land use and historic preservation. Any community interested in the comprehensive planning process should contact Shannon Duncan, Planning Coordinator at (309) 837-3941.

WIRC-CAA Receives Home Modification Grant

It was recently announced by the Illinois Housing Development Authority-Housing Trust Fund that the WIRC-CAA would receive \$180,000 in Henderson and Warren counties for the Home Modification for the Elderly and Disabled Program. Twelve applications were awarded statewide and the WIRC-CAA feels very fortunate to receive the funding. The program is designed to assist elderly and disabled homeowners or renters who have an accessibility issue in their home. Examples of work to improve accessibility would be to widen bathroom, bedroom or all doorways. Other possible improvements include construction of wheelchair ramps, remodeling bathrooms, and making kitchen cabinets and appliances handicapped accessible.

The overall goal of the program is to allow persons to remain in their homes as long as possible, preventing institutionalizing of individuals because of hazards or inaccessibility. The WIRC-CAA is coordinating the program with the Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging and the Centers for Independent Living. These organizations refer eligible individuals who meet the definition of disabled with accessibility problems to the WIRC to begin the application process.

Kevin Wiehardt, Community Services Director, commented that this is the second year the agency has received this funding. Wiehardt feels the highlight of the program is the ability to visit a home and address the client's need and make a real difference in their lives. For further information regarding this program, contact WIRC-CAA Housing Manager Royal White at (309) 837-2997.

Project Santa Sponsorship Program



— It's all about the children —

Give the Gift of a Happy Holiday

For 24 years, the WIRC-CAA has been providing the Project Santa Program to hundreds of families and their children in Hancock, Henderson, McDonough and Warren counties. Last year, 165 households and 404 children received gifts from Project Santa.

The program was developed when the Community Action Agency recognized the difficulty families in need (many of whom fall below the poverty level) had in providing a happy holiday for their children. In addition was the need for food for the elderly, which resulted in the expansion of the program to providing food baskets for the elderly and families. With an established network of schools, social service agencies, and health departments, the WIRC-CAA has been able to continue to identify those families most in need of the program.

Efforts from volunteers and generous donations from businesses, organizations, community groups, churches and individuals have enabled the program to grow and provide to more families every year. The gift giving is directed by "wish lists" submitted by families and used as a basis for the purchasing of gifts. This list is passed on to a sponsor or the staff of the WIRC-CAA, who does the shopping for the family. The average cost per child is \$35.00.

If you are interested in donating to the program, please notify the Project Santa staff by FAX at (309) 836-3640, by mail at the WIRC office, 223 South Randolph, Macomb, IL 61455, or email at wirc-cao@wirpc.org by Monday, December 14, 2007.

- Yes, I would like to adopt a family and/or child by donating the amount enclosed. (Please circle choice of a child or family.)
- Yes, I would like to adopt a family and/or child(ren), and I would like to shop for them. I would like to adopt ___ child(ren). *Please write in number.* You will receive the wish list of the family and/or child(ren) you have adopted in late November.
Deadline for adopting a family and/or child is November 21.
- I would like to make a cash donation to the Project Santa Program.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Donation: _____



Western Illinois Regional Council

Dedicated to People and Communities for Over 30 Years

223 South Randolph Macomb, IL 61455 309.837.3941
FAX 309.836.3640 Email wirc@wirpc.org
Web: www.wirpc.org

TCR & WMC

TCR&WMC Produces Recycling DVD



The TCR&WMC, with Mediacall, Inc., have produced a new recycling infomercial. This latest production was made possible through a grant from the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the support of McDonough, Mercer and Warren counties.

Residents in the tri-county area and beyond will be viewing fresh footage of the landfill, home recycling updates, and how to take advantage of the Tri-County Regional Collection Facility for electronics and waste paint recycling.

The video features Solid Waste Educator Anne Lobdell, who begins by explaining how to recycle household trash and how to shop wisely to avoid non-recyclable packaging. The latter portion of the program highlights what can and cannot be brought to the collection facility. This 15-minute infomercial began airing in October on Channel 15 in Macomb, and may be played through other local access channels. Copies of the DVD are available at the Tri-County Regional Collection Facility, electronic and paint drop-off sites, regional schools, libraries, and the TCR&WMC office. If any businesses or organizations would like to

view a copy of "Recycling: It's All About You," please contact Anne at (309) 837-3941.

Pick-Up Your Copy Today!



A complete guide to electronics and waste paint recycling in your area. Call TCR&WMC at (309) 837-3941 and reserve your copy now! More copies are available for groups.

NetWIRC is funded in part by WIRC local member governments and by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

