

RESTORE HOPE. BUILD DREAMS.

2021  Spring Campaign for
Outreach Community Center



outreachcommunityministries.org/give

Outreach
Community Center
in Carol Stream



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Our Mission

OUTREACH COMMUNITY CENTER (OCC) is a multi-purpose neighborhood resource center serving residents in southeast Carol Stream. Since 1986, the Center's mission is to restore hope and provide opportunities for people to become all that God intends them to be.

All residents of the community benefit from OCC's holistic approach and services are provided regardless of a person's ability to pay any fees there may be for service. Through its comprehensive range of services, Outreach Community Center acts as a catalyst for hope and opportunity in our community. |||

What We Do

Youth Development Programs

Jubilee Neighborhood School is an educational program that partners with parents and schools to support the academic achievement and social and emotional development of 1st–5th grade students. In the after-school program, students are provided homework assistance, life skills activities and recreation plus Christian education with parent permission. The summer program includes math and language arts, problem-solving activities, Christian education, recreation, swimming and field trips.

Superb Student Program is an after-school program for 6th–8th grade students that combines homework completion, recreation and life skills activities. During the summer, students take part in Learn2Earn, an eight-week program that combines interactive academic courses, life skills classes, job-readiness training, recreational activities and faith development opportunities with parent permission. As part of Learn2Earn, students are given an opportunity to earn a weekly stipend based on performance.

The College Opportunity Program removes the barriers preventing promising students from seeking higher education and vocational training. This holistic approach includes college preparation and employment training for high school students, faith development opportunities, scholarships and support in transitioning to college. Each spring, students take a spring break trip to visit colleges and universities across the country. |||

Family Stabilization

Case Management services assist people with a variety of concerns including financial struggles, housing needs, emergency food needs, accessing and navigating public systems, budget counseling and information on employment opportunities.

The Older Adults Program provides support services and case management to local older adults to help maintain their independence and well-being. Services include emergency financial assistance, transportation, regular social activities, volunteers called Friendly Visitors who frequently visit participants in their apartments, and mental health services through a partnership with Wheaton College.

Counseling Services are provided through Outreach Community Counseling Center. Staff therapists are professionally trained in the latest research and use practices proven effective at addressing a wide variety of concerns. Psychological testing services by trained psychologists are offered at a manageable fee for students who might otherwise wait months or years for similar testing through the public school system. III

OCC: A catalyst for hope
and opportunity in our community.



Your Gifts at Work

In FY20, because of your support:

- **1,474** individuals were served at OCC.
- **217** students benefited from OCC Youth Development programs.
- **100%** of junior high and high school students remained in good standing in school and in the community with no school suspensions, expulsions or law enforcement contacts.
- **100%** of students enrolled in elementary school programs met standards for grade level.
- For the **11th** consecutive year, **100%** of high school seniors graduated and were accepted to college or a vocational school.
- Requests for financial hardship assistance were up **100%** in calendar year 2020 with OCC providing over **\$220,000** in assistance to local families in need.
- **289** clients received counseling services. Of those that successfully completed therapy in FY 2020, **78%** experienced a reduction in their symptoms and/or distress.
- **277** individuals were served through the Older Adults Program. **94%** were low-income.
- **87%** of older adults served received access to medical care.



Building dreams for
a brighter tomorrow. . . .

Melanie's Story

CARMELITA JONES moved her family from the south side of Chicago to Carol Stream to ensure her children received a good education in a safe and supportive environment. Connecting with the Outreach Community Center was a blessing for the Jones family. During her four years at OCC, Carmelita's daughter, Melanie received academic tutoring, leadership training, college and career counseling and faith support that reinforced her drive toward college and various life passions. When Melanie toured Howard University (a HBCU) her junior year

on the OCC High School Spring Break College Tour, she shared, "That was probably the highlight of all of my time here at Outreach. Having that experience, especially with my friends from OCC and the staff here at Outreach, really helped me on my journey to get to Howard."

This past fall, Melanie started "her freshman year at Howard—a dream come true. "Coming from a single parent home, I'm no

stranger to financial struggle. So, being able to know that you have a support system like Outreach financially, spiritually, emotionally, mentally and physically is absolutely amazing." Melanie plans to major in journalism. III



About the *Restore Hope, Build Dreams* Spring Campaign

EACH YEAR, THE OCC SPRING DINNER RAISES CRITICAL FUNDS for life-changing youth development and family stabilization programs provided at the Outreach Community Center. This year, in lieu of a large in-person gathering, the Restore Hope, Build Dreams Campaign will engage our community in raising much-needed support for these essential programs. Funds raised through the campaign will help provide the financial foundation for the Center throughout the year, expanding our capacity to restore hope at a time when it is needed most and build dreams for a brighter tomorrow.

The Need

LAST YEAR WAS A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected low-income families and young people, including families served at the Outreach Community Center.

Youth Development

Thanks to your support, OCC has been on the frontlines from the start of the pandemic. When the Jubilee Neighborhood School (JNS) After School Program began meeting online at the end of March in response to stay-at-home orders, JNS staff maintained close contact with all students and their families. This communication included engaging in homework assistance and tutoring through Zoom, providing tools for academic enrichment, and providing recreational activities for kids during online meetings. They continued collaborating with students' schools to ensure each child had the technology and support to succeed.

Families in Need

The demand for both our crisis case management services and community counseling services spiked and continue to remain high. Requests for financial hardship assistance are up over 100% from previous years with OCC providing over \$220,000 in assistance to local families impacted by COVID—an unprecedented statistic. OCC's crisis case managers assisted families in resolving various crisis situations including financial issues, loss of employment, potential loss of housing, emergency food, legal matters and navigating public systems such as unemployment insurance and disability. The Center initially shifted to all virtual visits when possible and experienced an

increase in requests for services, as the challenges of people already struggling were further amplified.

Within four days of the stay-at-home order, all counseling services successfully transitioned to 100% telehealth, allowing therapists to provide mental health treatment virtually during the pandemic—which is crucial for the hundreds who rely on these services. Currently, in-person sessions are offered as necessary under safety protocols. The increase in demand for both crisis case management services and counseling services created a backlog of cases that persists in 2021.

Older Adults

Due to the medical vulnerability of older adults, in-person contacts and activities were limited. However, the OCC staff quickly implemented safe and inventive practices which allowed core services to continue throughout the year. Monthly in-person luncheons morphed into hot meal deliveries. Weekly grocery bus outings were replaced by a small army of volunteers who shopped for and delivered contact-free groceries to the older adults' doorsteps. Monthly field trips became "Sing-A-Longs" for older adults to listen to live music and sing along from their courtyards and balconies.

As the devastating impact of COVID-19 continues to bear upon people's lives, the demand for crucial services provided at the Outreach Community Center also continues. With your support, the Outreach Community Center will continue to serve as a beacon in our community, restoring hope to all who walk through our doors and building dreams for a brighter tomorrow. III



Together, We Can Restore Hope and Build Dreams.

THIS YEAR'S GOAL FOR THE RESTORE HOPE, BUILD DREAMS SPRING CAMPAIGN IS \$250,000 to fund life-changing youth development and family stabilization programs at OCC. This is ambitious, but the need is great, and our opportunities to make a Kingdom impact in the lives of the most vulnerable in our community are even greater.

We invite you to partner with us in making a direct impact in the lives of those we serve with a gift to the campaign. Every gift makes a difference! Every dollar received is immediately invested in holistic programs that restore hope and build dreams for vulnerable youth, families and older adults in our community.

Here's How Your Gift Makes a Difference

- **\$5,000** provides an undergraduate college scholarship for one year for a student in the College Opportunity Program.
- **\$2,500** provides counseling services for a family for six months at OCC.
- **\$1,200** provides four months of participation in an after-school program for one child.
- **\$500** provides a Summer Work Experience Scholarship for a junior high school student in the Superb Student Program
- **\$300** provides a scholarship for one month for an elementary school student to be enrolled in the JNS After-School Program at OCC.
- **\$100** provides support for social activities for older adults.

Ways to Give

Online

Visit us online at outreachcommunityministries.org/give to make a secure online donation. Select "OCC Restore Hope, Build Dreams" in the gift designation field.

By Mail

SEND PAYMENT TO:

Outreach Community Ministries

Attn: OCC Restore Hope, Build Dreams Campaign
373 S. Schmale Road, Carol Stream IL 60188

Become a Dream Builder!

You can build dreams for those we serve by consistently supporting the OCC mission long-term with a monthly gift.

Visit outreachcommunityministries.org/give to set up an automatic Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your checking or savings account.



When you give to the Restore Hope, Build Dreams Campaign, you are changing lives! **Thank you for your support!**

QUESTIONS?

Contact Fredia Martin, VP of Strategic Development, Events and Communications at 630.682.1910 or fmartin@outreachcommmin.org.

Visit outreachcommunityministries.org to learn more about the **Restore Hope, Build Dreams** Campaign.



Every gift

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makes a difference.



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About Outreach Community Ministries

Outreach Community Center in Carol Stream is a division of Outreach Community Ministries (OCM), a family of faith-based community service organizations serving DuPage County. OCM programs are based on a philosophy of compassion ministry that includes:

- Neighborhood and community-based locations
- A concern for the whole person—mind, body and spirit
- Relationships based on integrity and mutual respect
- A desire to equip people to reach their God-given potential

Outreach serves people of all races, ethnicities, creeds, gender and orientation regardless of their ability to pay. Some activities and services, because of their specific purpose and goals, are limited by age, gender and capacity.

Contact Us

For details on a corporate or personal investment, please contact:
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