

## **St. John's Missions**

### **Back Bay Mission**

A community ministry of the United Church of Christ that serves the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Volunteers from St. John's work in conjunction with Back Bay to rehab low income housing for the homeowners who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

### **The Cancer Support Center in Mokena**

A founding member of the Cancer Health Alliance of Metropolitan Chicago, it is a resource for accurate and current information providing programs and strategies that help people gain a sense of hope and control which can improve their quality of life during the cancer experience. The professional staff strives to maintain a warm, welcoming environment while ensuring that visitors have immediate access to free programs and resources. *It is a community-based, volunteer-driven, donor-supported organization.*

### **Cornerstone Services Since 1970**

In Joliet provides progressive, comprehensive services for persons with disabilities, promoting choice, dignity, and the opportunity to live and work in the community. Each person receives individualized training to meet their particular needs. They offer a variety of residential alternatives. The agency maintains group homes throughout the area and also serves a number of adults who rent from local landlords. Individuals seeking residential services must be 18 years old or older and diagnosed with a developmental and/or a mental illness. Their personal enrichment program offers a variety of activities to enrich their lives for better living, employment, health, recreation and leisure.

### **Crisis Line of Will County**

Crisis Line is dedicated to providing help to people in need. It is a 24 hour – 7 days a week referral hotline offering services in the following ways:

1. Telephone counseling
2. Information and referrals
3. Emergency service
4. Suicide prevention and intervention workshops
5. Latchkey children's program
6. TDD (teletype for the deaf)

Crisis Line serves Will, Grundy, Southern Du Page and Southwestern Cook Counties.

### **Daybreak/Shepherd's Table**

Catholic Charities flagship program in Will County is Daybreak Center.

It is a non-denominational mission located at 611 E. Cass Street., Joliet, serving approximately 100+ of the area's neediest people every night. Emergency shelter, clothing, food, entertainment, learning opportunities for all ages, pharmaceuticals, minor eye and health care are only the beginning of a long list of help provided to those they serve.

For many individuals homelessness or fear of losing one's home is a painful reality. When housing is uncertain, everything else becomes unstable. Daybreak Center provides quality services and programming that include homeless shelter services, homelessness prevention efforts, emergency assistance for basic needs, educational and employment programs, and supportive, professional case management service.

### **Emmaus Homes**

Emmaus Homes provide quality of life for adults of all beliefs who have cognitive, intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

### **First United Church of Christ in Joliet**

Offers a very specialized ministry to Hispanics in a high-crime-risk area of the city. Services are in Spanish. English classes are given throughout the year. The minister and her husband, also a minister, have stimulated growth in the congregation with their expanded Bible classes on Sunday for all ages and their home visits. They now have an after-school program on Wednesdays for children in the neighborhood ages 6 – 12. The church sponsors a clothing and food pantry. They also frequently help in court cases involving youth of the area.

### **FISH**

FISH is a local, community based “helping hand” available to persons in need. It is comprised of Christians from area churches joined together to help neighbors.

FISH’s philosophy is to put their faith into action and offers food, clothing, counseling, overnight shelter, help with utility bills and transportation assistance and referral services to appropriate agencies. At Thanksgiving, Easter and Christmas, food baskets are provided by the Mokena Lions Club, Frankfort Lions Club, Project Share and Berkots Super Foods. At Christmas time, we maintain “FISH Trees” throughout the community so that residents can purchase gifts for FISH clients as well as residents of Trinity Services homes.

### **Guardian Angel – GROUNDWORK**

Groundwork provides a safe temporary residence for abused women and their children with 24 hour accessibility. It extends assistance and supportive services to victims who seek orders of protection and to press criminal charges. Groundwork offers to survivors of domestic violence victims and their children time to explore the cycle of violence in their lives and to define goals that empower them to realize their self worth. Also, they offer a safe, supportive environment for survivors of domestic violence to share experiences, to be educated on the Illinois Domestic Violence Act, and to learn new skills for living.

### **Habitat For Humanity**

Will County HFH is a locally run affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a non profit, ecumenical Christian housing organization. HFH works in partnership with people in need to build and renovate decent affordable housing. The houses are then sold to those in need at no profit and with no interest charged.

Volunteers provide most of the labor and individual and corporate donors provide money and materials to build Habitat houses. “Partner families” themselves invest hundreds of hours of labor into building their homes and homes for others.

### **Lamb’s Fold**

Is a nonprofit ministry dedicated to help unwed mothers. It is a community outreach program that is rooted in Christian principles. They offer physical assistance such as lodging, meals, clothing and personal hygiene necessities. They provide spiritual guidance and an educational program that assists the women in getting their GED, returning to high school, or attending Junior College. They provide guidance in obtaining work and will transport the women to and from work and doctor’s appointments. They also provide an educational; program within the house that includes weekly counseling, parenting and adoption classes, help with budgeting, and other self-improvement classes. The house can accommodate 6 women at a time. They must be 18 years or older and agree to abide by the rules and regulations set up for the house.

### **LIFELINK**

Lifelink is a charitable not-for-profit human service organization related to the UCC. They provide access to education, resources and services for low-income children and their families. They also provide in-home care, services and affordable housing to seniors and physically challenged adults, sponsor nursing homes, foster care. Head Start, domestic violence counseling as well as adoption services.

### **MorningStar Mission Ministries, Inc.**

Is a non-denominational organization dedicated to relieving the spiritual and physical hunger of the poor. They do this by providing food for the hungry, clothing for the needy, shelter for the homeless and the Gospel of Jesus Christ for all. Peter McCarthy founded MorningStar Mission in Joliet in 1909 because of the great need he saw to feed the less fortunate. This ministry has been carried on ever since, and is the only agency that provides three hot meals a day to the homeless and needy in Will County. In 2007 the Mission served 135,327 meals. The Women, Children and Family Center was opened in 2007. On any given night, there are over 153 families without shelter. This facility is now the only center in Will County that houses intact families.

### **Shepherd's Table**

Shepherd's Table provides meals for the homeless and needy. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner are served every day at Daybreak. The food is prepared and served by volunteers from churches of all denominations, some civic organizations and even individual families. The food pantry at Shepherd's Table depends upon donations. The pantry is always in need. St. John's presently prepares and serves one meal a month.

### **SOS Children's Villages Illinois**

Provides a viable alternative to traditional foster care for children who have experienced abuse, neglect or abandonment. A full time professionally trained foster parent lives with the children who stay with their biological brothers and sisters in individual homes. These clusters of homes share recreational facilities and administrative offices, creating a sense of community. It is the mission of SOS to give these vulnerable children the resources, knowledge, and experiences they need to become healthy, thriving adults by guiding them toward wise choices. Through this program children find new hope and trust in a loving stable home.

### **Trinity Services**

Is a local agency that provides services for people with developmental, physical and emotional disabilities. They provide services for over 300 individuals with a residential waiting list of over 600 people. Besides the 3 Living Centers on the main campus in Joliet, they have group homes in Mokena, New Lenox, Frankfort, Manhattan, Wilmington, Homewood and other communities. The residents live on public aid and receive only \$30.00 a month for all incidentals including all clothing, toiletries and haircuts. Many have no other family to provide support or to care about them.