Since 1975, People’s Resource Center has been bringing neighbors together to respond to hunger and poverty in DuPage County. With a team of over 1,500 volunteers, we offer nutritious food and other basic necessities like clothes and rent assistance for people facing tough times. And we connect people with resources—education and tutoring, jobs, technology, art, a caring community—to create a future of hope and opportunity for all.

Mission Statement:
People’s Resource Center exists to respond to basic human needs, promote dignity and justice, and create a future of hope and opportunity for the residents of DuPage County, Illinois through discovering and sharing personal and community resources.

In Her Own Words: How PRC Changes Lives

Diane Virella was unemployed and in need of food when she visited PRC’s food pantry. While there, she spied a flyer describing Microsoft Office Specialist Certification classes. These classes, which are part of the Job Assistance Program, offer certification in Microsoft Office programs. She signed up and began to utilize other job-related services at PRC such as: Job Assistance, the professional portrait and Poised for Success. Using the skills she learned at PRC, Diane found a job! Here’s her story:

The PRC Microsoft Certification and Job Assistance programs helped me secure a job in Project Management. The Certification classes increased my skill level in Microsoft Office and made a difference to employers viewing my resume. I began work and have received a competitive salary and full benefit package.

Judy Wolthausen, my career coach, assisted me with re-creating my resume. Judy was professional and really convinced me to take a chance by changing it. I am confident that my new resume got me the interview. Judy was also involved in the job club, which offered interview workshops. Those helped me prepare for the interview, which had always been a struggle for me. Judy is an amazing professional and I have made a lifelong friend.

Mary Blair, my Microsoft Certification teacher, is an amazing instructor and kept the class on track. She is professional and always prepared for class. She freely shared her knowledge in an “easy to understand” manner. I was well prepared for my tests and was always confident. Having the certification program on my resume was also impressive to my new employer. I came into the class having worked in all Microsoft programs, and am leaving with a broader knowledge base of Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

At PRC, I was able to have a professional profile picture taken for online social media networking. PRC also provided me with professional attire for my interviews through Poised For Success, which provides complementary interview and business-appropriate clothing to women in the job market. I am scheduled to receive 3 additional professional outfits through Poised for Success now that I have secured employment. I am confident and prepared for my new job because of the preparation tools provided by PRC. I am grateful that I was given the opportunity to participate in these programs.

Thank you!

In April, 2013, PRC’s Job Assistance program helped 20 clients – a record high – find jobs.
A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As summer unfolds in DuPage County, People’s Resource Center is faced with a variety of challenges. With schools, church groups and service organizations disbanded for the season, we see a dramatic decline in food and monetary donations. At the same time, we see an influx of clients who need extra food for their home, because their hungry children aren’t receiving meals at school.

The good news is that many of you regularly donate produce from your gardens, and some larger groups, like Vacant 2 Vegetables, grow thousands of pounds of fruits and vegetables to help fill our pantries.

But we still need help. You can support our mission in a variety of ways:

• Do a food drive: On our website at www.peoplesrc.org, under the “Donate” menu, you will find toolkits with signs and information on how to hold a food drive in your neighborhood.

• Donate food: When you buy one food item and ‘get one free’, consider donating the ’free’ item to PRC.

• Eat at a Dine Away Hunger restaurant: July 17 and August 14, participating restaurants in Glen Ellyn and Wheaton, respectively, will donate 10% of their sales to the PRC food pantry. Have a meal at one of the restaurants on the specified date and money from your bill will go to buy nutritious food for your neighbors in need. (See participating restaurants at www.peoplesrc.org, under “Upcoming Events.”)

• Or make a monetary donation: $30 allows us to fill a shopping cart with $130 of food.

People’s Resource Center is here to meet our community’s needs, neighbor to neighbor.

We thank you for your generosity. We couldn’t do it without you!

Sincerely,

Kim Perez

PRC Southeast Celebrates Its 5th Anniversary!

In July, 2008, People’s Resource Center opened a new location at 649 Blackhawk in Westmont to serve the residents of Southeast DuPage. Only the food pantry and job assistance were available that summer, but by fall, PRC Southeast offered all our programs, as well as an $18,000 community technology center funded by Tellabs.

Currently, 27% of our client families (about 997 per month) are accessing services at PRC Southeast. Congratulations to the PRC Board, staff and volunteers for creating a much-needed resource for our low-income neighbors in need.

Raising Hope

Congratulations to our Director of Development, Jennifer Williamson, and her husband Mark, on the birth of their first child, Hope Kathryn.

As you can see, mother and daughter are doing fine!
On May 3, People’s Resource Center and its supporters celebrated “Cultures Coming Together” at our 2013 “Many Hands, One Heart” Gala. Over 200 guests enjoyed a sumptuous dinner at the DoubleTree Hotel in Oak Brook, and an evening of fun, prizes and dancing, while learning about the different cultures that make up PRC. The Beloved Community Award was presented to DuPage Medical Group, which, in a surprise move, generously matched the monies raised in our “Fund-a-Need” auction. The night raised over $130,000 to support PRC’s work.

Words of Thanks

From a PRC Client

Wow! A free computer for our home! We are very grateful. My daughter will be able to use it for school and this will help her tremendously at COD. I continue to benefit in so many important ways from the fabulous services from PRC. I thoroughly enjoyed the computer class I took earlier this year.

Thanks to all who made this possible.

Sincerely,

Alice
Smile! New Free Dental Clinic Opens

In 1989, PRC filled an unmet need in the county by creating the DuPage Community Clinic (DCC), which provides free medical care to low-income residents. At the time, the founders realized that a dental clinic was also necessary, but they didn’t have the space or resources to get it operational until 1995, when it opened at PRC’s former Roosevelt Road location.

The Dental Clinic ultimately merged with the DCC in 2001, after six years as an offshoot of PRC. In June of 2011, the DCC closed down the clinic to expand its medical services, leaving a void for the 1,600 individuals who visited the dental clinic each year.

Through hard work, perseverance, and a concern for those DuPage residents, The Chicago Dental Society Foundation Dental Clinic (CDSF) opened in March on Roosevelt Road in Wheaton. The clinic provides primary dental care at no cost to patients who demonstrate need and reside in Cook, Lake and DuPage counties.

One of the original clinic founders, PRC Board Member Keith Suchy, D.D.S., was heavily involved in making the new dental clinic a reality. “We began trying to resurrect the clinic in 2011, once the DCC announced it was closing,” he said, referring to himself and the six volunteer dentists who began searching for backers and an alternate location. “We basically went to several partners in the community, looking for thoughts, partnerships or funding money.

“About five or six months into it, we went to the Chicago Dental Society Foundation and presented them with a proposal. After a couple of months deliberation, we got board approval, found a location, remodeled and opened.”

The Chicago Dental Society also paid for storage and the removal of all the dental equipment that had been used at the clinic. This equipment can now be found at CDSF and is used by the 40 dentists and 8 hygienists who are currently volunteering their time at the agency.

The CDSF can always use more volunteers, including dentists, hygienists, assistants, disposable dental supplies and monetary donations. For more information, contact them at cds.foundation.clinic@gmail.com.

Graduation Day

Over 80 adult graduates received their high school diploma at the annual graduation ceremony at College of DuPage on May 18. In order to attend the festivities, students had to reside in DuPage County and pass the GED exam during the previous calendar year. PRC was well represented at the ceremony, due to its partnerships and classes that help students to prepare and pass the GED.

PRC teaches GED in English four mornings and two afternoons a week in our Open Classrooms in Wheaton and Westmont, where volunteers help students learn basic math skills to essay writing to reading comprehension. This past year, six students in the class have taken and passed parts of the exam. PRC also partnered with COD to offer a fall online GED class resulting in two graduates, Lisa Horna with honors and Keanna Smith.

Several of our students passed the test in Spanish. PRC has a partnership with Tutors on Wheels through the Sisters of St. Joseph to offer a weekly GED in Spanish class with instructor, Jeanie Jadrnan. In addition, PRC volunteers Luciano Rodriguez and Gerardo Henriquez teach Saturday GED classes in Spanish at St. Paul Lutheran church in Wheaton.

Congratulations to all our new GED graduates, and good luck to those still studying!
**Neighbor2Neighbor**

**Ruth Wood** (l) from the Glen Ellyn Newcomers Club presents PRC Executive Director Kim Perez with a check from “A Celebration of Tables,” the club’s annual fundraiser. PRC received the proceeds from the event and is extremely grateful to have been chosen as its beneficiary.

Clothes Closet volunteer **Helen Mensing** (l) and Literacy volunteer **Pattzica Bernhold** enjoy the Volunteer Celebration 2013, which was held at the Crowne Plaza in Glen Ellyn in April.

Volunteer **Susan Millikan** taught digital photography this spring in Wheaton. She displayed photographs shot and edited by four of her students at an exhibition at Wheaton College.

PRC Southeast’s Food Pantry Supervisor **Hank Anzelone**, with students and their donations from **Prospect School** in **Clarendon Hills**. Students, parents and staff recently concluded a collection that resulted in over $1300 in donations and goods for PRC. Thanks to the school for its support!

PRC celebrated **Mary Hamlin’s** long history with PRC at her farewell party. A PRC volunteer since 1997, Mary helped launched our Women’s Wisdom art program. We’ll miss her and wish her well as she retires to Colorado!

A big thank you to **Sofia Aragones**, who staged her own PRC book drive with help from our Book Drive Toolkit. (You can find all our Toolkits at [www.peoplesrc.org](http://www.peoplesrc.org).) She collected over 200 children’s books!
People’s Resource Center is partnering with the DuPage County Historical Museum for an Oktoberfest themed golf outing at Arrowhead Golf Club on Tuesday, October 22.

Enjoy 18 holes of golf on a spectacular course, a traditional German Oktoberfest buffet, and craft beers throughout the day. All proceeds go to PRC and the Historical Museum.

Register for golf or a foursome. Sponsor a hole. Join us for dinner. For more info, go to www.peoplesrc.org.