

2022 Spring Grant Making – Western Suburbs Giving Circle Awards

Center for Advancing Domestic Peace	WESTERN SUBURBS GIVING CIRCLE Freedom from Violence	Award: \$5,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:
 The Center for Advancing Domestic Peace is the only Cook and DuPage County agency solely dedicated to preventing domestic violence by helping those who have harmed take responsibility for their actions, critically evaluate beliefs that support their abusive behaviors, and learn healthy relationship skills that foster safety for survivors and future intimate partners. We began in 1997 as a collaborative between Connections for Abused Women and their Children and three other Chicago organizations. Prioritizing victim safety, the collaborators developed services for men seeking help to end their abuse. Incorporated as a nonprofit in 2003, began providing services in February 2004. The Center is an IDHS protocol approved partner abuse intervention program (PAIP). We started with two offices in Chicago but in 2018 added an office in DuPage, now in Lombard. Our PAIP services play a key role in strengthening the coordinated community response to domestic violence in the western suburbs.

Cicero Independiente	WESTERN SUBURBS GIVING CIRCLE Economic Security	Award: \$5,000
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Project Name: General Operating

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:
 In 2019, three Cicero residents decided to launch a newsroom to fill a critical lack of investment in independent bilingual news coverage specifically for communities of color in the southwest suburbs. We publish weekly on our website a variety of original reported projects and distribute print editions of our resource guides throughout Cicero and Berwyn. We mentor & pay young people, high school and college-age with little to no journalism experience, to report on local issues. Our work has covered local organizing, spotlighted residents and businesses, uncovered injustices through in-depth investigations that center community members' needs and connected residents with vital information during the pandemic lockdown. This has contributed to an increase in participation at government meetings, documentation of issues that would otherwise go unreported, more authentic reporting by and for immigrant communities and a reinvigorated sense of community for many of our readers.

Magdalene House Chicago, Inc.	WESTERN SUBURBS GIVING CIRCLE Freedom from Violence	Award: \$5,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Magdalene House is a residential home and social enterprise for positive personal change for women survivors of sex trafficking, abuse and addiction. We provide a two-year rent free safe and clean home, based on a community living, survivor led model in which women can heal and recover from past trauma and abuse. MHC promises women survivors the flexibility, advocacy and humanity they need to heal and become emotionally and financially secure survivor leaders. The Residential Housing Program employs a successful stages program emulating the 20 year model of Thistle Farms, Nashville, Tennessee. Each stage is individually designed to meet the women's unique needs as she moves from recovery to self-sufficiency.

The Answer Inc. Autism Awareness & Support Agency	WESTERN SUBURBS GIVING CIRCLE Health	Award: \$5,000
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Project Name: Spectrum Socialite

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

For the past 14 years, The Answer Inc. has provided families impacted by autism, developmental differences and hearing and vision impairment with advocacy, education, resources, recreation and support services in the Proviso Township, Austin and Garfield communities. Our primary objective is the concentrated campaign of destigmatizing societies' misconceptions of individuals with developmental challenges and special needs.

The proposed Programs will be offered to female children, youth, and adults with developmental disabilities. New participants will be introduced to the Spectrum Socialite and Sexual Health Education. Existing participants will further explore etiquette in social and sexual intimacy and health. Both Programs will be offered in-person and will concentrate on the multiple communities that are relevant to the individual - family, workplace, public, and social. The Socialite Training will focus on developing skills to encourage and reinforce appropriate social etiquette and communication skills. It will involve hands-on participation through a variety of role-playing activities. It will help the participants acquire confidence and build their self-esteem by teaching them how to recognize and apply appropriate social and communication skills, while making them aware of how their behavior impacts their academic, work-related and social environments. These skills are important in helping to build and maintain healthy relationships with teachers, coworkers, family members, peers and the general public. Ultimately, these skills will enable the participants to feel comfortable in a variety of social situations

Un Nuevo Despertar-A New Awakening	WESTERN SUBURBS GIVING CIRCLE Economic Security	Award: \$8,000
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Project Name: Supporting the Financial Growth of Latinx Women

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Un Nuevo Despertar-A New Awakening assists survivors of domestic violence through prevention and intervention programs and services such as counseling, skill-building training, basic financial literacy, support groups, and referrals to legal, social, and medical assistance.

Loss of jobs and inflation affect many Latinx women who are experiencing a shortage of income and lack of opportunities for a well-paid job. Deepening this problem are the facts that many people in the community we serve carry other issues such as language barriers, lack of training in new technologies, and even lack of immigration status that allow them to pursue a better economic situation. Supporting the Financial Growth of Latinx Women responds to the hurdles many women face due to the present

economic conditions. We plan to offer financial assistance to pay the rent and computer skills training throughout this year. Candidates for financial assistance and the training will fill out an application, income assessment, and interview. There will be computer classes every week and the candidates for financial assistance will be selected twice a month.