

Talk of the TownshipSM



Newsletter of Moraine Township, Illinois

Vol. 2, No. 2 - Fall 2007

Township "Delivers" Santullano, Food Drives Holiday Giving Drives Consolidated, Coordinated Resident Donor Help Invited!

Moraine Township has assumed responsibility for the annual holiday gift drive conducted since 1992 in memory of Phyllis Santullano, a dedicated community activist who had run similar drives via her North Suburban Self-Help Center for many years before that. A formidable task to coordinate, Moraine officials believe it complements the annual holiday food collection drives by churches and classrooms, and distributed by the Township.

"One of our ambitions has been to coordinate the various giving drives, especially around holiday times, so that every needy resident is served equally and residents aren't confused by too many competing messages," Supervisor Mari Barnes pointed out.

"We are gratified to be entrusted with the Santullano Drive, which will focus on individual children's gift needs."

Adds Trustee Margoth Moreno, "We hope that all residents wishing to share their resources with others less fortunate will recognize the Township as the appropriate place to call — all year around."

Recipients are identified by District 112 and 113 school social workers; the Township; local day care providers; and social service agencies, according to established guidelines and need.

Donors indicate how many children they are willing to "adopt," and are given anonymous information about ages, sizes, gender and requests made by the children for holiday gifts of new clothing and toys. At the donor's option, adults in the family may be given gifts, but the Township's

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Moraine Awarded 'Innovative Senior Program' Recognition State Group Cites Commitment to Senior Transportation Services

Moraine Township was awarded recognition as 2007's most "Innovative Senior Program" among Illinois Townships. The competitive *Commitment to Senior Services Award* was given based upon transportation initiatives comprised of Moraine Door-to-Door paratransit van service and the taxi subsidy program.

The Illinois Township Association of Senior Citizens Services Committee presented a plaque citing Moraine Township at the Township Officials of Illinois annual state convention in mid-November.

"The Board is extremely proud of this recognition," declared Trustee Cynthia Plouché, who helped plan the transportation program in 2005. ■

Talkin' About:

- ▲ *Holiday Drives in Full Swing*
- ▲ *Families Served by Grantee Agencies*
- ▲ *Moraine Recognized for Door-to-Door Vans & Taxi Subsidy*
- ▲ *AssessorTalk: Ouch! Reassessments*
- ▲ *ClerkTalk: Election Calendar*
- ▲ *SuperTalk: Collaboration Growing*
- ▲ *Have you seen the new website?*
- ▲ *RTA Passes Offered at Township*
- ▲ *Grant Applications Due February 1*
- ▲ *Calendar*
- ▲ *Contact Us*

Mission

Moraine Township government administers public funds to provide responsive, efficient and compassionate services and support for residents in need.

Our boundaries include all of Highwood, most of Highland Park, and small portions of Deerfield and Lake Forest. The Township officially provides general assistance to individuals; property assessment services in the Assessor's Office; election and record-keeping functions in the Clerk's Office; and operates two cemeteries, Mooney and Daggitt, in Highland Park.

Calendar

Moraine Township Board of Trustees meets in the Township Office
 777 Central Avenue, Highland Park
 2nd Thursdays of the month at 5:00 pm
 &
 4th Thursdays of the month at 7:30 pm
 at Highwood City Hall, 2nd floor
 17 Highwood Avenue, Highwood
 This meeting is recorded for cablecasting.

~ Of Special Interest ~

Spotlight on Nonprofit Agencies

Agencies receiving Township grants discuss their services & community needs
 4th Thursdays (attend our regular meeting in person) or catch it on cable
 Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, Fridays at 7:00 pm
 Cable Channel 10



Moraine Township Grant Application
 Deadline: February 1, 2008

Talk to the Township

Township Office (847) 432-3240
 Supervisor (847) 432-3240
 Clerk (847) 432-3240
 Assessor (847) 432-2100



Van Line (847) 432-3000



Fax (847) 432-2178



Email info@morainetownship.org

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 Margoth Moreno TrusteeMoreno@morainetownship.org
 Cynthia Plouché TrusteePlouche@morainetownship.org
 Jeff Zaluda TrusteeZaluda@morainetownship.org

<http://morainetownship.org>

SuperTalk: Mari Barnes



The theme developing for this issue of *Talk of the Township* is “coordination,” and we couldn’t be more pleased to see that!

Your Board has been actively engaged in efforts to improve communication and coordination among agencies providing services and groups providing donations of one kind or another since our administration began. It has been extremely gratifying to see the degree of good will and public spirit combined rather than duplicating efforts. The synergy is worth more than the sum of its parts.

Over the years, generous operations have been run by churches, schools and neighborhood groups with similar aims, but not necessarily an awareness of one another. Often, goods ended up at the Township for distribution, but not always – and not always with advance communication.

We are delighted to have made so much progress: with the Phyllis Santullano Holiday Drive now complemented by our annual Holiday Food Drive, this season is proving to be one of the best ever in terms of serving every needy family, and seniors, in the area.

In addition, the coordination and communication noted among our grantee agencies, and in essence the consolidation of their efforts, should improve delivery of services in the Township as well.

Coordinating response priorities in meeting the needs of small-scale emergencies like fires has been an ongoing project for which we’re proud to have taken a leading role.

The Township is pleased to be part of the community, ear to the ground, by having Trustees who serve as liaisons to the Highland Park Senior Center Advisory Board and Human Relations Commission, as well as to the Community Family Center Board, the Lake County Coordinated Transportation Services Committee and the like. We stay in close contact with the Lake County Health Center, and I’m enjoying my tenure as Chairperson of the Highland Park Hospital Community Advisory Committee.

Internally, we’ve made progress in coordinating public services thanks to the efforts of staff and volunteers. An extensive guide to available human services that Director of General Assistance Tracy Coleman has at her fingertips for client referrals was developed by volunteer Ada Goldstein. The Food Pantry stays in good order because of dedicated volunteers like Sharon Eisendrath. Two staff members, Paula Peddle, who coordinates Moraine Door-to-Door van rides and also speaks Spanish, and Shannon Mosier, who is officially our bookkeeper, both contribute to the friendly atmosphere, enhancing our efforts in coordination and collaboration.

We hope you’ve taken the time to visit our completely re-designed website, now rich in

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**Do think of the
Township all year...**

*...when you have good used clothing
or fresh canned/boxed foods to donate.
Our Food Pantry and Clothes Closet
can use more volunteers! Call our
Office at (847) 432-3240. Thanks!*

Families Served by Grants to Local Agencies

Moraine Township's formal Grant Program supports a variety of local nonprofit organizations. In this issue of *Talk of the Township*, we offer a closer look at several agencies serving families with young children in our community.

Family Network, Highland Park Community Nursery School and Day Care Center, Highland Park/Highwood Home Child Care Association and Tri-Con Child Care Center are among our grantee organizations receiving significant, consistent, longterm support. Last year, they were awarded a total of \$52,000, or 52% of all grant money allocated. Adding in Family Service, a partner in their proposed Community Family Center (see page 4), the total comes to \$66,000 in direct support of families from Moraine Township grant funds.

Family Network is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. From humble beginnings but clearly-realized vision of local founding members who were leaders in preschool education and parent support, their Parent/Child Drop In Center has outgrown its basement space at Highland Park Presbyterian Church. Programming also includes Right From the Start, established in 1994 to support the emerging Latino immigrant community. In 2004, working families were further supported with the creation of ASAP, After School Activity Program, a unique school-based after school program. Learn more about Family Network at www.familynetworkcenter.org or by calling (847) 433-0377.

Highland Park Community Nursery School and Day Care Center is also familiar to many of our residents, having been in place at the Karger Center for several decades. Early on, this agency recognized the need for quality, affordable day care to support working families, while maintaining their traditional nursery school environment. Full-pay and subsidized pre- and primary-schoolers meet on equal footing in this nurturing, multicultural environment. Moraine Township contributes to the scholarship fund at Community, now celebrating their 57th year. Learn more at www.hpcommunity.org or (847) 432-3301.

Tri-Con Child Care Center, likewise a longstanding preschool agency, was founded in 1971 solely to provide economically disadvantaged residents with quality early childhood care and education. There is a significant waiting list for those needing education and care that offers peace of mind to working parents; Tri-Con has also outgrown their church basement space at Trinity Episcopal. Contact them at (847) 433-1450.

Relatively new to this mix of preschool support is the Highland Park/Highwood Home Child Care Association, founded in 1996 to ensure that home-based day care operators are fully trained and compliant with licensing standards. Moraine Township contributes funds to a program that pays for approved infant and toddler day care so that teenage mothers can complete their high school educations, thereby benefitting several strata of citizens. Contact them at (847) 604-2956 or online at www.hphhomechildcare.com.

Each of these organizations has proven their value to the community. Nonprofit agencies, they perpetually need funding support and welcome active volunteer participation on their boards.

Multiply our impact: team your private dollars with our public ones. Invest in young families in Moraine Township. ■

Fund Closes Community In Good Hands

The School Age Child Care Fund, founded by the League of Women Voters of Highland Park in 1991 as an independent nonprofit, was dissolved this past summer. Remaining funds were distributed to area day- and after-school care centers.

The Fund's mission, according to a founder, Priscilla Scott, former Highland Parker and League past-president, was to help close the gap in quality child care for working parents, particularly in before and after-school hours. The Fund worked to raise community awareness of the needs; to establish after-school programs in certain elementary buildings; and to raise money for scholarships.

With the success of ASAP, Family Network's on-site after school programs; the establishment of community funding-raising like YEA! Highland Park and the Highland Park Community Foundation; the Township's grant support; and efforts to create the CFC (see page 4), the Fund's retirement, announced by Linda Kellough, can be said to be "mission accomplished." ■

Talk of the Township

Moraine Township is pleased to communicate with residents about Township business. We hope this periodic publication will foster our goal to keep the public fully informed about Township services and activities.

Supervisor	Mari A. Barnes
Clerk	Ellen S. Gussin
Assessor	Peter J. Koukos
Trustee	Bryna G. Gamson
Trustee	Margoth K. Moreno
Trustee	Cynthia R. Plouché
Trustee	Jeffrey A. Zaluda

Consult our website for timely information, including Agendas, Meeting Minutes, links to related information and on-line versions of *Talk of the Township*.



<http://morainetownship.org>

Grant Applications Due February 1

Revisions to Last Year Noted

Annual Grant Program applications are now available from the Township's website in PDF form, as well as from the Township Office. They are due February 1.

Current grantee organizations are cautioned to note that the Application Form has been edited again this year, and to be sure to adjust their cover pages and narratives accordingly.

Board liaison to the Citizen Grant Advisory Committee, Trustee Bryna Gamson, stated that the Application Form was revised to obtain a clearer summary picture of each agency's operations, and improved reporting of budgets.

All nonprofit agencies serving residents and/or employees within Moraine Township boundaries are invited to inquire before going to the trouble of completing a full application.

The budget calls for \$100,000 for the Grant Program for FY08-09.

The website defines boundaries and priorities. For further information, do not hesitate to contact the Township. ■

Catch us on Cable!

Board of Trustees meetings held on 4th Thursdays of the month are recorded.

These meetings include reports on community needs from our grantee agencies and all public business.

Shown on Cable Channel 10, Tuesdays at 5:30 pm and Fridays at 7:00 pm

Community Family Center Plans Progress

What Is the CFC?

Many dedicated community leaders and activists have been working diligently to establish a Community Family Center. These leaders and five local nonprofit preschool and family resource agencies have come together to secure improved facilities while sharing overhead costs. Partners include Highland Park Community Nursery and Day Care, Tri-Con Child Care Center, Family Network, Highland Park/Highwood Home Child Care Association and Family Service.

The central objective of the CFC is to provide high quality early childhood programming, educational opportunities and mental health services for children and families who are currently being housed in cramped spaces scattered throughout central Highland Park.

Who will fund CFC?

Under the previous Township administration, \$100,000 in special capital funds were pledged to this effort, pending literal groundbreaking progress. Current Moraine Board members are watching closely – and readying the checkbook – as efforts begin to flower.

Last spring, District 112 agreed to provide the land for a new 45,000 square foot building adjacent to Red Oak/Sherwood Schools, representing an enormous step forward in the frustrating process of locating an appropriate site. Funding was secured to create a design plan from Holabird & Root. Public support including donations and grants from foundations, corporations, and private individuals will be solicited in a widespread campaign about to begin, to make the building a reality.

Clerk Ellen Gussin acts as Moraine Township's liaison to the Community Family Center Board. Gussin urges all interested citizens to tour the current facilities of the agencies to gain a better understanding of how much a new facility is needed.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for everyone in our greater communities to come together to develop a model center for our cities and Township," Gussin said. ■



Mari Barnes, Paula Peddle and Tracy Coleman work the Welcome Desk

Moraine Hosts Township Officials of Lake County Annual Dinner & Installation November 2

Clerk Gussin swears in officers of Lake County group



at
**Highland Park
Community House**



ClerkTalk: Ellen Gussin Ready, Set, Vote!

As the news continues to build around candidates and issues in the upcoming elections, I am happy to report on the following aspects of voting in Moraine Township. Please feel free to contact me at any time about any matter of concern. I can be reached at (847) 432-3240, or via email clerk@morainetownship.org. Also be sure to check our webpages for up-to-date voting information by clicking on “Clerk” from <http://morainetownship.org>.

Early and Absentee Voting

For the Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, February 5, 2008, registered voters may vote early from Monday, January 14 through Thursday, January 31, at the Lake County Health Center located conveniently in downtown Highland Park at 1840 Green Bay Road or the County Clerk’s Office in Waukegan – (847) 377-2406 – Monday through Friday between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm. The County office will also be open the last three Saturdays before the election from 9 am to noon.

Absentee Voting, for which the voter must state a reason not to be able to vote in person on Election Day, takes the place of Early Voting on the Friday, Saturday and Monday before the Tuesday election at the same locations and hours.

Future Election Dates

Next up on the election calendar after the February 5 General Primary is the General Election of November 4, 2008. The Lake County Health Center site accommodates early voters and absentee voters who are Moraine Township residents.

Temporarily Absentee Student Program

An absentee ballot application can be sent to a student’s college address. The student must already be registered to vote in Lake County. Students can register in person at the Moraine Township office at 777 Central Avenue, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, or at the Lake County Clerk’s Office. Call (847) 377-2406 for more information or visit <http://www.co.lake.il.us/cntyclk/elections/voterservices/absentee.asp>.

Military Voting

Members of the Uniformed Services and their family members may request an absentee ballot by completing and submitting the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) or visit <http://www.fvap.gov/index.html> for forms and details.

Snowbird Program

An absentee ballot application can be sent to a resident’s part-time address outside Lake County. The person must be a registered voter in Lake County or register in advance in person at the Moraine Township Office or the Lake County Clerk’s Office.

Disabled Voters Program

Once enrolled in the program, a registered voter with an Illinois Disabled Person ID card or a physician’s affidavit stating permanent disability is sent an absentee ballot a few weeks before the election. Phone the County Clerk’s Absentee Department at (847) 377-2406.

Need to Register?

To register to vote, bring two forms of identification – at least one with your name and current address – to the Moraine Township Office Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Voter registration services are also available at the Highland Park City Hall for

Highland Park residents and the County Clerk’s Office in Waukegan. The last day to register to vote for the February 5 Primary is Tuesday, January 8, 2008.

We encourage all of our young adults turning 18 this year to come in and fill out the registration application, as well as all newcomers to our community. We also process changes of address at the Township Office; the change of address card is completed by the voter and then submitted to the County.

Make sure you and everyone in your family is registered to vote at their current address. Additional voter registration information is also available at the County website at: <http://www.co.lake.il.us/cnty-clk/elections/voterservices/registering.asp>.

Important Dates for the February 5, 2008 Primary Election

Thursday, December 27
Absentee voting begins in the County Clerk’s office
Monday, January 14
First day for Early Voting
Thursday, January 31
Last day for Early Voting
February 1-4
In-person Absentee Voting at Early Voting sites
Tuesday, February 5
Illinois Primary Election

Polling locations

Polling place locations found online at: <http://www.co.lake.il.us/cntyclk/elections/voterservices/pollingplace.asp>.

Election Judges

The County is always actively recruiting Election Day judges. All registered voters who may be interested in this very part-time position are encouraged to find out more about serving your community in this capacity. For information on the duties, training, selection, compensation and more: <http://www.co.lake.il.us/cnty-clk/elections/electionjudges.asp>.

Found on Our Webpages

No need to copy it all down: links to these sites are found at our website. Go to <http://morainetownship.org/clerk.html>. ■

SuperTalk...continued from page 2

detailed news, facts and even the history of the Township. This, too, is a pulling-together, unifying sort of process – and was accomplished “in-house” by the volunteer services of one of our Trustees, at a huge cost savings.

Moraine took its turn as host of the 18-member Townships of Lake County’s Annual Dinner and Officer Installation on November 2. Participants pay to attend. They were very complimentary, especially about the Highland Park Community House location. Dishes for an event there have to be provided, and we pulled off a



Dozens of place settings ready for clients

win/win: instead of renting at \$7 a place setting, we purchased complete sets online at \$6 each – and have ended up owning 120 sets of dishes now made available to Food Pantry clients!

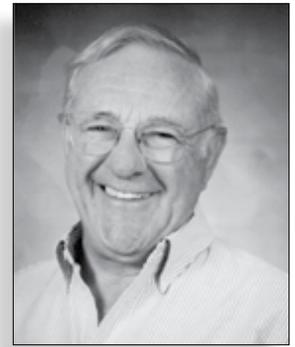
Kudos to the Highland Park Community Land Trust and all partners involved in creating not only affordable but also “green” townhouses at Hyacinth Place. Trustee Jeff Zaluda serves with me as a liaison to their Board.

You can learn more about Township activities by attending our meetings, reading the Minutes found online, or just stopping by the office.

It is a pleasure to work with so many wonderful people, and on behalf of a warm-hearted community that opens its arms to a diverse population.

On behalf of our Board and staff, a very happy, healthy season’s greetings. The best to you in the coming New Year. ■

AssessorTalk: Pete Koukos First, the Bad News



You’re probably not too happy to see the results of real estate sales from 2004, 2005, 2006 showing up on your property assessment notices, but our hands are tied. That’s how, by law, we must affix value during a quadrennial reassessment period. Falling markets in 2006 did not offset enormous property value gains in the strong (but perhaps unrealistic) boom in 2004 and 2005.

In addition, a level of assessment “equalizer” is imposed by the Chief County Assessment Officer (CCAO), and that multiplies the figures we submit from the Township.

On The Other Hand

I expect that next year, the equalizer might be a negative number since the 2004 sales will be replaced by the 2007 sales numbers.

As we go to press, we expect to have about 1,400 appeals filed with the Lake County Board of Review. I am told this is a rather low number for Moraine Township in a quadrennial reassessment year. Of that number, we took the initiative to encourage about 300 property owners to file just in case the Lake County Board of Review does not approve the assessment changes we filed on the taxpayer’s behalf.

There are over 13,200 parcels in Moraine Township. 26% of the assessments remained the same or were reduced; 36% were increased up to 10%; and 38% were increased over 10%. These numbers include the 1.8% equalizer increase the CCAO added to the Township assessments to bring our level of assessment up to 33.33% of fair market value.

Staff met with property owners evenings and weekends through the October 29 deadline...

Staff met with property owners evenings and weekends through the October 29 protest filing deadline to accommodate all the inquiries and appeals resulting from those “blue cards” received in late September.

We have been trying to help taxpayers in the appeal process wherever we could. Part of the problem is that comparable properties have also received some ridiculous increases. We strongly suggested an appraisal if we were not able to help.

I think our staff has been amazing, functioning under huge pressure. Your complimentary comments about our Deputy Assessors are much appreciated. Of course I agree that the staff in this office is exemplary.

I’m pleased to report that we have met some wonderful people during these interviews with taxpayers. In fact, in the 22 months I’ve been office, I have met only three obnoxious people. Are these great communities or what?! ■

Outstanding Assessor's Office Staff Fully Credentialed

You may have noticed, as announced on our website, that all of our staff have become Certified Illinois Assessing Officers (CIAO) by taking extensive coursework training; thus all of our staff can now be designated Deputy Assessors.

We are pleased to report that the latest hire (2007), Mark McCraren, recently joined the others in earning his CIAO, and thus, likewise, a promotion to Deputy Assessor.

Chief Deputy Assessor Patricia "Trish" Lenzini, CIAO, has been with us since 2001, and Sam Whitehead, CIAO, in our office for over four years. Patty Powers, who earned her CIAO earlier this year, has been with the Township since 1997. And finally, Sheila Platt, who transferred over from the Supervisor's Office in 2005, also earned her CIAO this year.

This high level of professionalism is another aspect of service in Moraine Township of which we are justifiably proud. ■

Holiday Drives...continued from page 1

priority is on the children. The Township will provide foodstuffs donated for this purpose in the traditional Food Drive, collections made by churches and civic groups, and supplemented as needed by the Township's Food Pantry purchases.

The Township will accept the gifts beginning on December 20 at Trinity Episcopal Church, with distribution/pickup by parents on Friday night and Saturday that weekend.

Self-Help Center Legacy

The North Suburban Self-Help Center was established in the 1970s by Phyllis Santullano, a Highland Park resident who recognized a need for support for a growing immigrant population, especially from Mexico.

Born Phyllis Lee, she was a Chicago southside native, University of Chicago graduate, physician and lifelong political activist. Married to Mike Santullano, she lived in Mexico for a time, where she studied medicine. A tireless community activist in spite of eventually becoming wheelchair-bound due to polio earlier in life, Phyllis served on the Highland Park City Council; a side benefit of her election was the consequent necessity to construct an elevator at City Hall, thereby raising civic consciousness of accommodating handicapped individuals.

According to friend and longtime volunteer associate, Helene Stone, a Highland Park resident now retired from the Oak Terrace School faculty,

"Phyllis was an ombudsman for the Hispanic community, especially, because of her fluency with the language, but she cared deeply about all needy people.

"Back in those days, the community just wasn't equipped to handle this population. Phyllis worked on legal issues, school issues, and poverty by establishing the North Subur-



*Hallie Redman and Barbara Weiner
pause during Holiday Drive labors circa 1995*

NOT on the Blue Card

What you DO NOT see on the blue card (2007 property appraisal) is the final tax bill or exemptions that will knock it down somewhat. For details, go to our website, but here's a short list.

Homestead Exemptions include:

- *automatic \$5,000 from every home that is a primary residence;*
- *Senior specials like \$3,500 for just being 65 (if you register); and Senior income-based assessment freeze.*

Holiday Drives...continued

ban Self-Help Center."

"At Christmas, she would see to it that every needy family received gifts of food, clothing and some toys. She knew who needed gifts. We didn't wrap items; parents would come to her house (which was the Self-Help Center) and pick up boxes we'd arrange as appropriate for a particular family, with things donated or purchased with donated funds."

"After Phyllis died in August, 1992, we did do holiday baskets for a couple of years more at Oak Terrace, but finally we just donated remaining funds to the League of Women Voters of Highland Park [which she'd served for a time as President]. The League had established a 'Phyllis Fund,' much of whose donations eventually were allocated to a League project, the School Age Child Care Fund, to provide day and after-school care scholarships," according to Stone.

Phyllis Santullano Holiday Drive

In an independent undertaking after Phyllis' death, attorney and Highland Park resident, Barbara A. Weiner, set about organizing an all-community holiday drive to serve needy families of all backgrounds. She decided to name her efforts for Phyllis Santullano, out of respect for

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Board Briefs & News Bits

- The Township enrolls qualifying seniors and disabled persons for RTA reduced fare passes. The Board voted to extend this service to non-residents for a nominal fee to cover costs, \$5.
- The Supervisor's "Small Emergencies" Task Force continues to meet and work out response priorities. Township Trustees agreed to serve as calling tree organizers.
- Grant Program applications are due to the Township Office by February 1. Nonprofit agencies are urged to inquire before submitting.
- Moraine Door-to-Door paratransit van service statistics are climbing! In October, 2006, around 80 trips were made; in October, 2007, over 400! No wonder the Township won a statewide award for transportation services to seniors. (see page 1 story)
- Carbon Monoxide, Smoke Detectors are available for qualified residents.
- Check out our completely-redesigned website at morainetownship.org

Talk Back/Volunteer

We welcome feedback on any or all of our programs in Moraine Township. If you have a comment or question about something you've read in this issue of *Talk of the Township*, contact the Supervisor's Office at (847) 432-3240 or email Super@morainetownship.org.

We are always looking for volunteers to serve on Citizen Advisory Committees, in the following or other developing *ad hoc* capacities:

- Food Pantry/Clothes Closet
- Grant Advisory Committee
- Pantry Plants Garden Project
- Senior Services
- Transportation
- Holiday Drives



Moraine Township
777 Central Avenue
Highland Park IL 60035
ph 847.432.3240 • fx 847.432.2178
Door-to-Door Van 847.432.3000
Assessor's Office 847.432.2100
info@morainetownship.org
<http://morainetownship.org>

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 31
Highland Park IL

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the pioneering work Phyllis had done.

Weiner's plan was to collect items for economically strapped residents, many identified by elementary and high school personnel based on federal poverty guidelines.

"Truckloads of goods and foodstuffs like turkeys and hams were delivered to my garage that first year – an overwhelming community response. High school groups had adopted families; we served 50 to 75 families that first year," Weiner recalled.

"[Donor] Hallie Redman took a look at my filled garage and said 'You need help!' We ended up working together for the next several years, until we turned it over to others in about 2000," she said. "By that time, we had grown to provide for 1,300 people – 200-250 families and about 70 seniors living in subsidized housing.

"The two high schools particularly embraced these efforts, and Rotary – especially Bob Barnard. Rotary would adopt 20 families.... I always insisted that a thank you note be delivered back by the family to donor families....For me, it was exciting because in enlisting student collections, I was helping create the next generation who would grow up to be givers and help other people," Weiner observed.

Credit is also due in particular to Melanie Harris, Cindi Elkins, and Lisa Appelbaum for taking over management of the Santullano Holiday Drive, according to Weiner. Each had participated in adopting other families right from the beginning. Many others followed.

Phyllis Santullano, Food, Senior Holiday Drives at the Township

Moraine Township is delighted to be the new home of the Santullano Holiday Drive. We invite those in our community who can do so to share their good fortune in every season. Contact the Supervisor's Office or check out our website for further information on the Santullano and Food Pantry Drives.

In addition, the Township is pleased to be working with a Northbrook senior care firm to help make holidays brighter for about 100 area seniors. The firm, Home Instead, has placed "giving trees" in local business places like grocery stores. Shoppers are invited to take from the trees an "ornament" representing holiday needs of an anonymous area senior. Donors purchase appropriate gifts, and drop them off at the Moraine Township Office for distribution. Look for the "giving trees" or contact us for more information. ■