

Albany Park Community Center (APCC) is a not-for-profit, community-based organization located on Chicago's northwest side. Albany Park's zip code, 60625, is the 3rd most ethnically diverse in the nation. Incorporated in 1975, APCC is the largest social service agency in the Albany Park neighborhood.

For the past 30 years, APCC has been ranked as one of the top community organizations in Chicago, and continues to be a model for many programs nationwide. APCC has grown to a multi-service organization with over 25 program departments serving more than 5000 clients annually. All programs are grouped into one of four major program divisions: Children's Programs, Youth and Intervention Services, and Adult and Community Programs. APCC's programs educate and support members of the community as they determine their own path of growth and development, through diverse services offered to a broad range individuals, families, groups and businesses.

Presently, Albany Park is a port of entry for immigrants of many countries and is home to numerous low-income, working families. Our 'continuum of services' affords this unique population the specific services they require. Albany Park has more children -- and more foreign born children -- than any other neighborhood in Chicago. Because of this, family services are crucial to our residents. Head Start, Pre Kindergarten and after school care for "at risk" children and parent education workshops all provided through the Children's Program Division. Counseling, after-school care, tutoring, and summer camp provide the elementary school children a safe and educational space away from the dangers and stresses of urban life. Drug and gang prevention, tutoring social groups, and life skills are offered to "at risk" pre-teens and teens by our Youth Services in order to intervene and redirect youth to a positive path for the future. Our Adult Programs offer English as a Second Language, Adult Basic Education, GED, family literacy, financial literacy, citizenship, and job search assistance to adults residing in the Albany Park neighborhood. These programs encourage and support our adults to become more involved family members, workers, and community members. Lastly, a full range of services to the community, including housing assistance and business and community planning, contributes to a vibrant and economically sound community.

The population we serve is characterized by:

- **Ethnic and linguistic diversity.** Albany Park is a multi-ethnic port of entry for new immigrants of many nationalities. APCC's clients reflect this diversity. In 2004, the population we served was 58% Latino, 15% Asian, 4% African-American, 14% Caucasian, 8% Other, and less than 1% Native American. It is significant that each racial/ethnic group includes recent immigrants (for example, from Africa and Europe) as well as native-born Americans. According to the 2000 Census, more than 26,000 adults in Albany Park are foreign-born, and at least 11,000 adults in the community speak little or no English.
- **Low levels of education.** Community demographics indicate that 42% of Albany Park residents aged 25 and older (native-born and foreign-born) have not completed their high school education. Only 19% of the area's population has earned an Associate's degree, and fewer than 7% completed four years of college. Some residents have completed higher education in their native

countries, but lack resources to have their credentials translated and evaluated to their U.S. equivalency.

- **Poverty, unemployment, and underemployment.** In 2000 in the six Census tracts closest to APCC, fully 20% of families were living with incomes below poverty level. The median family income of the Albany Park area was 65% of the median family income for the Chicago metro area. APCC's services reach these families: in 2004, more than 70% of clients were economically disadvantaged. Hand in hand with poverty is unemployment: an estimated 7,000 unemployed and underemployed persons in the Albany Park community need assistance in getting and keeping employment.

The Albany Park Community Center (APCC) works to meet the needs of these poor and working-poor residents from a wide variety of backgrounds.