

APCC CASE STATEMENT

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 20 program departments serving more than 4,500 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.

As the largest social service agency exclusively serving the multi-cultural residents of the Albany Park neighborhood, APCC provides a host of vital services and programs that enhance and inspire both the residents and businesses of Albany Park. As one reflects on these many programs and services, it's natural to recall how the community looked before APCC was there to answer its needs and to try to imagine what the community would be like if APCC were not here today. In essence, without Albany Park Community Center,

- Families would not be able to take part in their children's educations.
- New immigrants would not be able to speak English, find a doctor, report a crime.
- Elementary school children would have no safe place to go after school.

- Teens would have no alternative to street life.
- Potential workers would not have access to job search and training programs.
- Parents would not have childcare while they work or attend classes.
- Young children would not be ready to begin kindergarten with the necessary language or social skills.
- Many Albany Park residents would have a much more difficult time integrating into and contributing to their community.

Thankfully, Albany Park Community Center *is* here and, through its many programs and services, is improving the lives of thousands of community residents. In addition to our funding sources, Albany Park Community Center depends on the time and resources of individuals and institutions. By investing in APCC, you are not only investing in individual lives but you are investing in the future of Chicago . . . and the value of both is immeasurable.