

Blasts from the Past

Program Highlights

by Jill McWilliams

Changing Demographics and Implications for Fundraising



On Jan. 16, **Candace King**, executive director of DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform/DuPage Funders Collaborative, presented at Easter Seals DuPage/Fox Valley Region in Villa Park.

Supported with statistics and demographic trends in DuPage and West Cook counties, King defined: Who are the New Neighbors? The rapid demographic changes occurring in the western suburbs and the failure of both public and private funding sources to recognize the growth in suburban need require organizations to find new fundraising approaches and communication strategies. DuPage County's major demographic changes include increased diversity, growth of poverty, aging population and effects of adverse childhood experiences.

King's highlights include:

- The "social safety net" is supposed to include government-sponsored programs, social insurance programs and charitable programs that are intended to alleviate poverty, disability, illness, death, disruption of families and disaster or other misfortune, but the safety net has been deteriorating.
- The federal government, State of Illinois, local governments and nonprofits are responsible for providing and paying for human services but political and economic trends have led to many cuts in funding. Of the funding that still exists, more goes to Chicago per capita than to counties like DuPage, and the need in DuPage is not completely recognized by many people.
- More government funding cuts are coming, and just when the need is increasing rapidly, funding is decreasing rapidly. This is where philanthropy becomes extremely important.
- Human services should be supported because community services save money for more expensive systems. For example, in-home care keeps seniors out of nursing homes and youth services for delinquent teens keeps them out of correctional institutions.

What can we do? Raise awareness. Policy makers and the public, in general, need to be informed. Also, advocating is necessary

for increased federal, state, and local support of health and human services and for increased local charitable giving.

New resources can be cultivated in nontraditional partners (such as the business sector) by making a case about low-wage workers, local government support by demonstrating public value, using new tools and technology to improve efficiency and create capacity, enhancing grassroots support and more efficient use of volunteers, and improving the effectiveness of raising philanthropic funding.

Collaboration for Fundraising Success

On February 20, Barb Szczepaniak, director of programs of The DuPage Community Foundation, moderated a panel of nonprofit leaders at PACT, Inc. in Lisle.

Financial Fitness Collaboration



David Neary, executive director of DuPage Habitat for Humanity; Amy Van Polen, resource development director of Bridge Communities; Deb Olson, executive director of DuPage Homeownership Center; Barb Szczepaniak

Mental Health First Aid Collaboration



Barb Szczepaniak; Nan Silva, senior program officer of Community Memorial Foundation; Ann Schreiner, president and CEO of Pillars; Charles Thorpe, NAMI Metro Drop-In Center