

When a child sexual abuse or assault case is reported, the Center is notified by the investigating law enforcement agency and the Department of Children & Family Services. The Center then contacts the victim's family to set up a victim sensitive interview for the child.

Interviews...



Victim-sensitive and child-friendly environment



Skilled forensic professionals



Neutral, non-suggestive interviews helping to ensure successful prosecution of dangerous sex offenders



Uniform protocol followed in all cases

Medical Evaluations...



Unprecedented partnership with Provena Saint Joseph Medical Center



Physical exams by medical specialists



State-of-the-art digital video colposcope able to detect the slightest injury



Worldwide consultations available with the foremost medical specialists

Counseling...



In-house victim and non-offending family member counseling program



Continuing support groups for victims and their non-offending family members



Referrals for additional treatment when appropriate



The Will County Child Advocacy Center
 54 N. Ottawa St., Suite B-10
 Joliet, Illinois 60432



*Office of the Will County
 State's Attorney*

The Will County Child Advocacy Center

54 N. Ottawa Street
 Suite B-10
 Joliet, Illinois 60432

Phone: 815-727-0710
 Fax: 815-727-0712

*Serving Will, Grundy, and
 Kendall Counties*



About the Will County Child Advocacy Center

The Will County Child Advocacy Center was established in 1995 to address the needs of young victims of sexual and physical abuse in Will County. The center is funded through grants and donations from a variety of public and private entities. Services were expanded to now include Grundy and Kendall Counties.

Child sexual abuse is a multi-dimensional problem that can have far-reaching effects on the lives of its victims. When abuse is revealed, children come into contact with complex legal, medical and child welfare systems that can be bewildering and frightening.

The Will County Child Advocacy Center uses a victim-friendly approach to remove some of the fear from the process for the children and their families. The center provides a safe, non-threatening environment designed to be a special place for any child who walks through its doors. The goal is to coordinate a single child interview, thereby reducing trauma and increasing the likelihood of the statement's admissibility in court. Support for the victims and their families is provided throughout the entire judicial process.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

For many Illinois households, energy costs place a severe and continuing stress on the family's budget. In some instances, the household is forced to make painful decisions regarding which bills to pay and which necessities to survive without. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to

assist eligible low-income households pay for winter energy services. LIHEAP will provide a one-time benefit to eligible households to be used for energy bills. The amount of the payment is determined by income, household size, fuel type, and geographic location.

An overdue bill or cut-off notice is not

required. You do not have to own your home or pay energy bills directly to be eligible for assistance. Your source of fuel does not have to be natural gas or electricity in order to receive assistance.

Emergency Assistance may be available if your household is disconnected from an energy source needed for heating and/or a

delivered-fuel supplier has refused to deliver and the tank contains 10 percent or less.

Assistance for reconnection will only be provided to households that have made a good faith effort to maintain their energy services, or can pay a portion of the amount owed for reconnection.

How Does It Work?

First Step: Application
Use the listing in this brochure to find the local agency that serves your area.

Contact the agency and tell them you want to apply for the Energy Program. If you are homebound, special accommodations can be made to assist you in applying.

The worker who takes your application will help you to understand:

- The program requirements
- The type of assistance available
- Your rights under the program

When you apply for assistance bring the following with you:

- Proof of gross income from all household members for the 30-day

period prior to application date

- A copy of your **current** heat and electric bills (if you pay for your home energy directly)

- Proof of Social Security Numbers of all household members

- If a member of your household receives TANF, you must bring their "Medical Eligibility Card"

- If you rent, bring proof of your rental agreement that must state your monthly rent amount

Second Step: Notification

The agency will determine if you are eligible based on the information provided.

Who Is Eligible?

You may be eligible to receive assistance under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program if your household's combined income is at or below the following levels shown in the chart to the right.

If you rent, and your heat and/or electric is included in the rent, then your rent must be greater than 30 percent of your income in order to be eligible to receive benefits.

# of People Living in Household	*Gross Income for 30 Days Prior to Application Date
1	\$ 1,164
2	1,561
3	1,958
4	2,355
5	2,752
6	3,149
7	3,546
8	\$ 3,943

For each additional member add \$397.

You will be notified of eligibility status within 30 days. If you are eligible, you will be informed of the amount of assistance you can receive.

gram if you have an energy bill.

The agency will also notify your energy provider of your participation in the program.

If you are eligible, the local agency will make the appropriate payment to your energy provider(s) on your behalf or, in some cases, directly to you.

Questions?

Call the local agency that serves your area or call the toll free

Energy Information Line
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday

312/456-4100
(Inside the City of Chicago)
800/252-8643
(Outside the City of Chicago)

"Tamblen Tenemos Este Folleto En Espanol"

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Shawnee Development Council, Inc.
530 W. Washington Street
Karnak, IL 62956-0298
618/634-2201 or 618/634-2373
Counties Served: Alexander, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski and Union

St. Clair County Community Action Agency
19 Public Square, Suite 200
Belleville, IL 62220-1624
618/277-6790, ext. 3313
27 N. Illinois Street
Belleville, IL 62220-1624
618/257-9246, ext. 3342
County Served: St. Clair

Tazewood Community Services, Inc.
Field Shopping Center
2005 S. Main Street
Morton, IL 61550-2915
309/266-9941 or 309/694-4391
Counties Served: Tazewell and Woodford

Tri-County Opportunities Council
405 Emmons Avenue
Rock Falls, IL 61071-0610
800/323-5434 or 815/625-7830
Counties Served: Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Stark and Whiteside

Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials
1125 Hampshire, Suite 100
Quincy, IL 62301-4188
217/224-8171
Counties Served: Adams, Brown, Pike and Schuyler

Urban League of Champaign County
314 S. Neil Street
Champaign, IL 61820-4914
217/363-3333
County Served: Champaign

Wabash Area Development, Inc.
110 Latham Street
Enfield, IL 62835-0070
618/963-2387
Counties Served: Edwards, Gallatin, Hamilton, Saline, Wabash, Wayne and White

Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council
1 Industrial Park
Steelville, IL 62288-0007
618/965-9031
Counties Served: Jackson, Monroe, Perry and Randolph

Western Illinois Regional Council
223 S. Randolph Street
Macomb, IL 61455-2209
309/837-2997
Counties Served: Hancock, Henderson, McDonough and Warren

Will County Center for Community Concerns
304 N. Scott Street
Joliet, IL 60432-4035
815/722-0722, ext. 3
County Served: Will

The Hearing impaired may access all numbers through the Illinois Relay Center. 800/526-0844.



**The John W. Maitland
Low Income Home Energy
Assistance Program**



www.liheapillinois.com

PROGRAM SERVICES

INFORMATION AND

REFERRAL: When a person is facing a difficult situation, Crisis Line can provide a referral for assistance. We can help with any type of referral from food assistance to counseling. We work with the United Way agencies as well as other organizations in the community.

TELEPHONE

COUNSELING: Crisis Line provides non-directive, non-judgemental telephone counseling. We are a 24 hour, 7 day a week listening ear.

EMERGENCIES

SERVICES: Accredited through the American Association of Suicidology for the intervention and prevention of suicide.

SUICIDE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

WORKSHOPS: The workshops focus on the warning signs of suicide, suicidal behaviors and depression. Workshops are presented to schools, parent groups, churches and organizations.

REASSURANCE

CALLS: Everyday, Crisis Line calls numerous elderly, handicapped and homebound people with a friendly chat to check on their well-being. This allows people to stay independent in their own homes.

LATCHKEY CHILDREN'S

PROGRAM: Unfortunately parents have to work, and many children come home from school to an empty house. Crisis Line calls these children everyday after school to check on them.

TDD (Teletype for the deaf:

Crisis Line assists the hearing impaired community to accomplish the everyday tasks everyone else takes for granted.

The calls range from calling their employment, making appointments to ordering a pizza.

TRAINING: The training to become a paraprofessional operator is extensive. It is approximately 40 hours of training in normal and abnormal psychology, suicide prevention and emergency procedures, sex and family problems, drug and alcohol abuse, the structure of the community services and the techniques of non-directive counseling. This training is provided by local mental health professionals.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

SERVED: Crisis Line serves a geographical area which includes Will, Grundy, Southern DuPage and portions of Southwestern Cook Counties.



MISSION
STATEMENT

Crisis Line is
dedicated to
providing help to
people in need.

Crisis Line of

Will County

P.O. Box 2354
Joliet, IL 60434

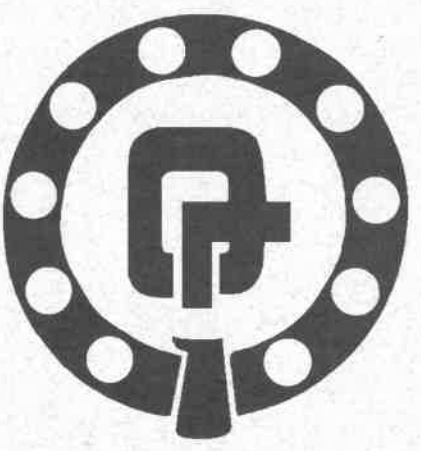
Administration
(815) 744-5280
Fax
(815) 744-7782

24 HOURS A DAY

*HELP IS JUST A
CALL AWAY!*

*PROBLEMS INFORMATION
EMERGENCIES*

Bolingbrook... 630-759-4555
Peotone... 708-258-3333
Mokena... 708-479-1399
Joliet... 815-722-3344
Frankfort... 815-469-6166
Wilmington... 815-476-6969
New Lenox... 815-485-7366
Grundy Co... 815-942-6611



**CRISIS
LINE**

Of Will County

Overview

Over the last three decades Spanish Center has evolved from an agency helping only the Spanish speaking people of the neighborhood to a agency of Hispanic people helping the entire community. Today's activities and services assist and welcome all members of the Will County and surrounding area regardless of race or ethnic origin.

Our Mission

Spanish Center, Incorporated is a bilingual community center dedicated to providing educational and social services. The center is committed to helping our neighbors as well as assisting the newly arrived resident in settling into the community.

Activities

- **Community Service Program** provides supervision and certification towards community service hours for high school graduation or for the judicial system.
- **English as a Second Language (ESL)** classes are available at Spanish Center both mornings and evenings through Joliet Junior College.
- **Groundworks** networks with the center for clients who need assistance with family relationship issues or domestic violence.
- **KidCare** health insurance program helps pay for the health care needed by pregnant women and Illinois children ages 18 or younger.
- **The Latino Youth Rehabilitation Project** provides services to Latino/Hispanic youth ages 16 to 21 who have disabilities.
- **Narcotics Anonymous** holds meetings in Spanish every Friday night from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Spanish Center Day Care

Spanish Center Day Care opened July 19, 1999. The Day Care is a State of Illinois licensed Day Care Center for children ages 2 through 12. The Day Care Center offers:

- Pre-school Classes
- Full Day Kindergarten
- Half Day Kindergarten Enrichment
- Before & After School Programs
- Full-time Vacation Programs
- Summer Youth Camp

Breakfast, lunch and snacks are provided. The Day Care Center is open to everyone. Department of Human Services subsidies are welcome. Call the Day Care Center (815) 727-6343 for additional information.

Special Programs

- **Holiday Food Baskets** are distributed based on availability and need during Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.
- **Holiday Gifts** for the children of clients in the 60432, 60435, 60436 and 60431 zip codes.
- **U.S.M.C. Toys for Tots** Program is administered through the Spanish Center for Will and Kankakee Counties and the Aurora area of Kane County.

Cultural Festivities

Spanish Center sponsors an annual **Cinco De Mayo** celebration. This historical event celebrates the Mexican Army's victory over the French.

The **Joliet Latin Music Festival** is an annual fundraiser that commemorates Mexican Independence Day. This festival features a variety of Latin music with a free public concert at Bicentennial Park. The festival includes ethnic vendors, food, a carnival, folkloric dancers, a grito contest, and the Little Miss & Little Mr. Spanish Center Contest.

Services

- **Clothing** is available through local vouchers.
 - **Citizenship Workshops** are provided to assist legal United States residents to gain citizenship status with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.
 - **Collaboration** with other agencies for shelter, food, clothing, medical needs and legal assistance.
 - **Employment Services** include resumes, job applications, postings and placement.
 - **Food Pantry** distributes food bags every Tuesday to the economically disadvantaged and the elderly.
 - **Immigration** services include assistance with Adjustments of Status, Affidavits of Support, Petitions, Extensions of Visa, Citizenship Applications, Replacement of Alien Card, Translation of Certificates, Petition to Remove the Condition on Residence, and photographs. Spanish Center is an INS Community Based Organization and is registered with the Illinois Attorney General for immigration services.
 - **Notary Service**
 - **Translations** English to Spanish and Spanish to English of birth, death, and marriage certificates.
- Spanish Center Motto:**
"Dedicated to the Progress of the Community"

Background of the Organization

Spanish Center was founded in 1967 in the city of Joliet, Illinois by Pete and Pat Hernandez for the purpose of providing social services to the city's growing Hispanic population. The goals were:

- To meet the everyday needs of the people in their native language
- To make the transition of settling in the community
- Learning English as a Second Language



Groups Served

Since its initial inception Spanish Center, Incorporated has evolved into an agency that has opened its doors to all of the members of the community regardless of race or ethnic origin. Today's Spanish Center serves the economically disadvantaged Hispanics from Mexico, Central and South America, African Americans, Europeans, Asians and Caucasians. The various programs and services benefit all age ranges of the population.

Memberships:

- Agencies United
- Community Services Council
- Hispanic/Latino Coalition
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights
- Joliet Alliance for Youth
- Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce
- Latino Business Association
- United Way of Will County

Board of Directors

Officers:

- Jean Hansen, President
- R. Dale Evans, Vice President
- Dianne Harmon, Treasurer

Members:

- Martina Campus
- Ofelia Delgado
- Marge Franchini
- Tony Jertsha
- John Kilday
- Hector Lopez
- Jim Riggs
- Laura Schmidt
- Howard Wright

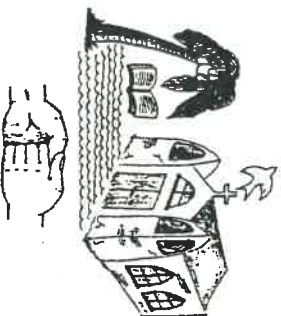
Illustration by

Alejandro Masso

July, 2004

Spanish Center, Inc.

"Dedicados al Progreso de la Comunidad"



309 N. Eastern Avenue
Joliet, Illinois 60432
(815) 727-3683
Fax: (815) 727-9459

Lois Nelson
Executive Director

A United Way of Will County Agency

