



New Trier Township

NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP COURIER

Fall 2008

A Message from Supervisor Pat Cantor . . .

The Township is a very busy place at this time of year as public-funding hearings are underway, new programs are being introduced, and traditional holiday outreach is taking place. I am pleased to welcome two new staffers: Ronald E. Baum, Social Services Administrator, and Aisha G. Nawab, Administrative Assistant, have joined the team to help deliver Township services. We also say goodbye and good luck to retiring Social Services Administrator Bette Vitale and Administrative Assistant Ann Zekelman.

For the better part of November, social service agencies seeking funding of programs that serve Township residents appear before the Township's Advisory Committees. These public hearings provide an overview of the agencies and the programs for which they are seeking governmental funding.

*At the same time, we announce the introduction of **WorkABILITY** and the continuation of the Community Support Grants Program. Both programs—outlined in greater detail in this newsletter—support persons with disabilities within our Township. These programs enhance our capacity to meet the local needs and priorities of Township residents.*

New Trier Township is a community that has always been very generous. Through your contributions to our Angel Fund we were able to provide much needed back-to-school

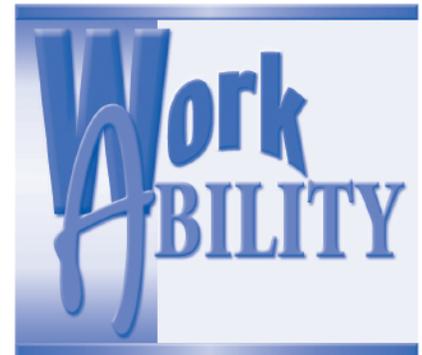
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WorkABILITY to Serve as Catalyst for the Employment of Persons with Disabilities

WorkABILITY, a new initiative to provide employment resources for persons with disabilities, was launched in October as part of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. It is a collaboration between New Trier Township, Jewish Vocational Service, disabilityworks, and New Trier Township High School's Special Education Department. The **WorkABILITY** program is designed to facilitate the employment of persons with disabilities by providing a centralized service within New Trier Township at no charge to residents.

The program operates at two levels. First, individuals with disabilities, including special-needs students, can meet with an employment specialist at the New Trier Township office to create an employment plan. Second, a community education campaign will provide employers and the community at large with information highlighting the opportunities for the employment of persons with disabilities and dispelling lingering myths about them.

For more information on **WorkABILITY**; or to schedule an appointment, call 847-412-4300 or visit www.newtriertownship.com/employment-services.html.



From left to right: (Front row) Earl Jordan, disabilityworks Resource Coordinator, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce; Nanette Cohen, Director, Employment Development, Career Planning Center, Jewish Vocational Service-Chicago. (Back row) Patricia B. Cantor, Supervisor, New Trier Township; Diane Wojcik, Transition/Vocational Coordinator, New Trier Township High School; and Bob Shen, Trustee, New Trier Township.

www.newtriertownship.com

What's inside...

- **Community Support Grants**
- **Holiday Giving Opportunity**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE TOWNSHIP

Disability Advocacy Added to Township Speakers Bureau

Presentations are now available from the Township and members of its **WorkABILITY** program for educational, professional, civic, business, religious, and community groups. The program *Dispelling the Myths of People with Disabilities in the Work Force* was presented to the Winnetka-Northfield and Wilmette Rotary groups in October and November of 2008. *Unlocking the Door to Workplace Opportunities* is a seminar program for persons with disabilities and their caretakers that was presented at the Township Office on November 20th. Participants learned about *Transitional Services from School to the Workplace* along with *Disclosing A Disability & Asking for Accommodations* and *Navigating the Maze of Work Incentives*. Plans are underway for a similar program early next year. To schedule a presentation for your group, call 847-446-8202 or visit www.newtriertownship.com/employment-services.html

NT Passport
Expired?
Call Township
to schedule
appointment.

Peer Jury Marks 10th Anniversary

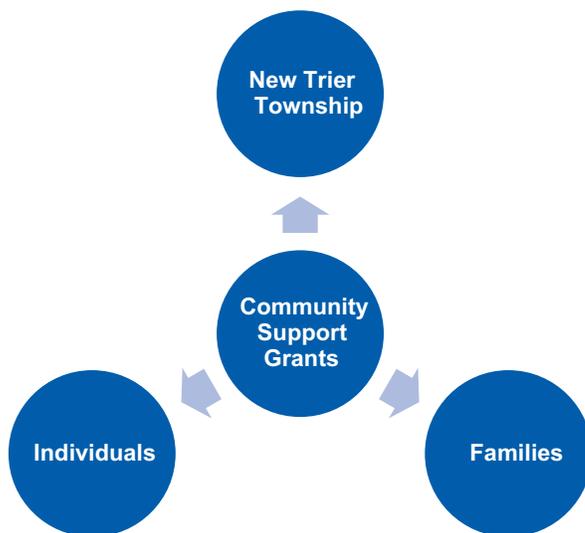
Peer Jury has helped guide area youth by providing juvenile offenders with a meaningful alternative to juvenile court. By all accounts it has been one of the most successful programs that New Trier Township has offered to its residents. Since the program began, Peer Jury has heard over 430 cases, accounting for more than 13,000 hours of community service. To learn more about the program and how to participate visit www.newtriertownship.com/peer-jury.html or call the Peer Jury Coordinator at 847-446-8203.

Gifts of Giving: Opportunities to Share

The holidays are a wonderful time not only to celebrate and give thanks, but also to reach out and share with those who are less fortunate. There are many ways that you and your friends, family, and co-workers can help. The Angel Fund, which relies totally on donations, provides families, children, and elderly individuals in need with special holiday gifts. For some it could be a Thanksgiving gift basket that includes a turkey and all the trimmings. For others it could be Christmas or Hanukkah gifts for their children. If you would like to join your neighbors and contribute gifts or money through the Angel Fund, please call the Social Services Administrator at 847-446-8201.

Community Support Grants Provide Financial Assistance for Persons with Severe Disabilities

Application Deadline: December 29, 2008



With daily living expenses for persons with a disability ranging from three to four times more than a person without a disability, New Trier Township launched a program in 2007 to help defray the extraordinary expenses associated with a disability. As a pilot program, the Community Support Grants Program for Persons with Disabilities was oversubscribed.

To increase access to community support so that persons with disabilities have true choice from a range of quality services, New Trier Township is continuing the Community Support Grants program in 2009.

What Services Are Covered?

Under the program, eligible services for reimbursement include, but are not limited to, a wide range of services such as respite care and therapy, help in finding a job, and modifying a home to make it more accessible.

Who Can Apply?

Because the role of the Program is to provide financial assistance in meeting some of the special service needs and unusual expenses related to a person with a significant disability, individuals with severe disabilities may apply regardless of age or income level. Due to the large number of eligible persons and maximum funding of \$60,000, however, participants will be selected through a random drawing to be held on Friday, January 9, 2009.

How to Apply?

Applications are being accepted until Monday, December 29, 2008, and can be obtained by calling 847-446-8202 or downloading an application at www.newtriertownship.com/news-and-events.html.

Recipients of the grant shared comments such as:

“Your ability not only to recognize the issue so accurately, but also to address the needs, has made us so proud of your service to New Trier Township.”

“Thank you for recognizing a real need in our community and for the help that it provided to our family, and others.”

“It’s nice to know that New Trier Township recognizes the large financial burden that exists when raising a child with a disability.”

WHO DOES WHAT ?

Township Guiding Principles

1. The Township's primary role is to identify and address the needs of our community.
2. Our efforts are to create new, energetic ideas and programs while maintaining existing programs which are relevant and effective.
3. Our intent is to support, given due diligence and fiscal accountability, programs providing services to our neighbors: including youth programs; senior citizen supports; aid to persons with disabilities; food, shelter and emergency relief for people in need.
4. We seek opportunities to meet community needs by providing assistance directly to individuals as well as indirectly, through third-party sources/providers.
5. The Township will pursue coalition-building with other community entities and advocate on behalf of Township residents.
6. We believe that people have the freedom to choose where they receive services and assistance, including those the Township provides and supports.

STAFF

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ELECTED OFFICIALS

Supervisor

Patricia B. Cantor
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Clerk

Sheila K. Mitchell

Collector

Joe Fell

Assessor

JoAnn Shrier Gordon
nttjoann@ameritech.net

Trustees

Diane G. Fisher
Alan Goldberg
Stefan Mozer
Bob Shen

New Trier Township Angel Fund

Voluntary contributions from individuals and organizations help residents who do not qualify for government programs but are in great need. Your contribution will make a difference to someone facing financial adversity.

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL _____

Make check payable to: **Angel Fund – New Trier Township**
Mail to: New Trier Township
739 Elm Street
Winnetka, IL 60093



December

- 3rd Township Committee on Youth Funding Hearings:
Open Studio Project @ 6:30 p.m.
Haven Youth & Family Services @ 7:15 p.m.
Special Gifts Theatre @ 8:00 p.m.
- 8th Township Committee on Mental Health
Decision Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- 9th Board Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- 10th Township Committee on Youth Decision
Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- 11th Township Committee on Health & Human
Services Decision Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- 16th Township Advisory Committee on Disabilities
@ 7:30 p.m.
- 25th Christmas Day – Office Closed
- 29th Deadline for Community Supports Grant

January

- 1st New Year's Day – Office Closed
- 13th Board Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- 20th Township Advisory Committee on Disabilities
@ 7:30 p.m.

The “People with Disabilities Ride Free” permit is available at the Township Office . . .

The new program provides free rides on fixed-route transit (i.e., regularly scheduled Metra, Pace, and CTA buses and trains) to be made available to any Illinois resident who has been enrolled as a person with a disability in the Illinois Circuit Breaker program. Eligible persons may register at the Township Office. Learn more at www.newtriertownship.com/transit-services.htm or call 847-446-8202.

New Trier Township is an acceptance facility for passport applications . . .

Please call 847-446-3810 for more information or to schedule an appointment. For your convenience you may download forms at www.newtriertownship.com/passports.

The Illinois Consolidated Election is Tuesday, April 7, 2009 . . .

If you are a new resident or an individual who will become eligible to vote for the first time, you may register at the Township Office during regular business hours. The last day to register to vote is March 10, 2009. For more information, call 847-446-8202 or visit newtriertownship.com/voterservices.htm

M I S S I O N

The mission of New Trier Township is to provide leadership, advocacy, and resources to benefit the physical, mental, and social well-being of Township residents.



(Continued)

financial assistance to 144 children living in the Township. Such needs, however, continue year round. The annual holiday season begins with Thanksgiving and lasts through the celebration of the New Year. This is the time of the year when for many people huge gaps exist between the "haves," and the "have-nots." If you are among the fortunate "haves" I encourage you to consider a donation to the Angel Fund. An act of kindness such as this will not go unnoticed by one of your neighbors in need.

I look forward to 2009 fully conscious that our troubled economy will be affecting all of us. The financial and social stresses will be widespread. Meeting the physical, mental, and social well being of Township residents will be severely challenged these next few years. As always, I thank you for your support of our Township government.

Patricia B. Cantor
Supervisor

NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Impacting Lives Every Day



Bette Vitale, Social Service Administrator,
and Ann Zekelman, Administrative Assistant

Everyone wants to leave a legacy of sorts. For two Township staffers who retired this fall, it is one of compassion and respect for individuals. Bette Vitale and Ann Zekelman put their heart and soul into their work: helping people.

Bette joined the Township in 1992 as a social worker. Administering programs from the food pantry to financial-assistance programs, Bette's dedication to her social work in New Trier Township was always guided by integrity, respect, and compassion for the individual. She made a difference for those in their greatest time of need.

Ann came on board in 1995 to take on the many facets of providing direct services to residents. Beyond answering phones and greeting visitors, Ann enthusiastically tackled her administrative duties, which ranged from processing passport applications to issuing disability parking placards. She also had a warm smile and showed genuine concern for everyone, no matter how small the request.

"Both Bette and Ann represent the basic fundamentals of life where people help people," noted Patricia B. Cantor, Supervisor. "I cannot think of any greater accomplishment or tribute than that."



Supervisor
Patricia B. Cantor



Clerk
Sheila K. Mitchell



Assessor
JoAnn Shrier Gordon



Collector
Joe Fell



Trustee
Diane G. Fisher



Trustee
Alan Goldberg



Trustee
Stefan Mozer



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Bob Shen

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www.newtriertownship.com

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