

# WEST WALKER WIRE

DECEMBER 2011

[www.westwalker.org](http://www.westwalker.org)

## Potpourri of Holiday Tunes, Old & New!

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents **A Potpourri of Holiday Tunes, Old & New** on Sunday, December 11, at 2:00 p.m., at the Irving Park Lutheran Church, located on 4100 N. Harding in Chicago. Free-will donations will be shared with the Irving Park Community Food Pantry.

The concert will feature soloists Brianna Boger, Rebecca Calaiendo, Christopher Richard and Grant Clarke, accompanied by Roger Bingaman on piano. The best-loved holiday favorites will be saved for a rousing audience sing-along. A festive reception with the artists will follow the concert.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Series, now in its 18th season, was begun by Roger Bingaman, Director of Music at Irving Park Lutheran Church. The intent of the series is to bring high quality, professional musical and theatrical events to the Irving Park neighborhood.

Concerts to follow in 2012 are: The Plymouth State Chamber Singers on Thursday, January 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.; The Avanti Guitar Trio on Sunday, February 26, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.; and cellist Dorothy Deen accompanied by pianist Roger L. Bingaman on Sunday, April 29, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. All programs and dates are subject to change.

We hope you can join us on December 11th to usher in the holiday season and help the Food Pantry at the same time! For additional information, visit [carlsoncommunityservices.org](http://carlsoncommunityservices.org) and click on "Events."

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Sat., Dec. 10th • 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.**  
Angel Team Gift Wrap for the Homeless  
IPLC Gym, 4057 N. Harding

**Sun., Dec. 11th • 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**  
St. Ed's Cookie Walk / Santa's Breakfast  
St. Edward's Buckley Hall  
4447 N. Lowell

**Sun., Dec. 11th • 2:00 p.m.**  
A Potpourri of Holiday Tunes, Old & New  
Irving Park Lutheran Church  
4100 N. Harding

**Sat., Dec. 17th • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**  
St. John's Art & Reflection Day  
3857 N. Kostner

**Dec. 26th - Jan. 6th • 7 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.**  
Irving Park YMCA Winter Break Camp  
4251 West Irving Park Road

**Friday and Saturday,  
Jan. 6 (7:30 p.m.) & 7th (5 p.m.)**  
***This Journey*** by Christina Calvit  
St. John's, 3857 N. Kostner

**Wed., Jan. 18th • 7:00 p.m.**  
17th District CAPS Meeting, Beat 1723  
4650 N. Pulaski

**Through Dec. 18th • 5 p.m., 8 p.m.**  
**St. Nicholas** by Conor McPherson  
Seanachai Theater  
Irish American Heritage Center  
4626 N Knox, 3rd Floor



You can also visit our  
Community Calendar online at:  
<http://westwalker.org/calendar.html>

# Dear Neighbor,

Dear Neighbor:

**gëzuar Krishtlindja Shnorhavor Surb tsnund**

*veselá koledá* shèng dàn kuài lè SELAMAT NATAL

**Nadelek lowen Sretan Božić God Jul**

*veselé Vánoce* **glædelig jul**

**vrolijk Kerstfeest Joyeux Noël Gílotstívt, Shobas**

fröhliche Weihnachten **Mừng Chúa Giáng Sinh**

**hala christougenna hag molad saméa'h**

KRISMAS KI SUBHKAMNA boldog karácsonyt

**Buon Natale souksaan wan Christmas**

**merii kirisumasu** SEUN-TAN CHU-KA-HAE-YO

Noela we piroz be **srečan božić** priecīgus Ziemassvētkus

SU KALĒDOMIS **Wesołych Świąt** un Crăciun fericit

VESELE VIANOCE **FELIZ NAVIDAD**

No matter how you say it, have a wonderful Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Mike Webber  
President, WCCA



## WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION

### West Walker Mission Statement

"The pursuit of the West Walker Civic Association is to make our diverse neighborhood the best it can be by securing the services, safeguards and improvements the West Walker community is entitled to have."

**Celebrating more than 99 years of service to the West Walker Community**

### 2011-2012 OFFICERS

President Mike Webber  
773.539.8346

Vice President Davor Engel  
773.202.1010  
dengel@studiode.com

Secretary Vacant

Treasurer Jack Prikos

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER  
Dorie Westmeyer

CAPS COORDINATOR  
Jane Nagle

Send crime concerns to **Nicole Price**  
at [crimealerts@westwalker.org](mailto:crimealerts@westwalker.org).

### WEST WALKER CARRIER STAFF

Carol, Augie, and Gabie Barry  
Glenda Begecke  
Judy Cicero  
Connie Engel  
Patti Freko  
Amanda Hayman  
Peg Klimek  
John & Betsy Minor  
Mark Pascale  
Tricia Ramirez & Mike Hawlitzky  
Melanie Reschke  
Pat & Marianne Turk  
Max & Charlie Webber

EDITOR  
Lee Samsami Stein

*The West Walker Wire is published monthly September through June by the West Walker Civic Association.*

**All story ideas, text, and ads are due a week before the first of the month.**

**Submit ideas and text to:**

**[west\\_walker\\_wire@yahoo.com](mailto:west_walker_wire@yahoo.com).**

*Please include a phone number in case we need to follow up with you. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for space and content.*

*For information on advertising, please contact Shannan Bunting at [WWWire@solsticepr.com](mailto:WWWire@solsticepr.com)*

## News from St. John's Episcopal

### Art & Reflection Day

Saturday, December 17, from 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Take time away from the business of the holiday season for a day of quiet reflection and creativity. We will read and reflect on the psalms, those ancient poems that are the songs of real people filled with real human emotion. Local artists will help us explore these poems through various media. No previous art experience is required and all supplies will be provided. Mark your calendar now so that you can treat yourself to this mini-retreat. RSVP by e-mail to [info@stjohnschicago.com](mailto:info@stjohnschicago.com) or call 773-725-9026.

### This Journey by Christina Calvit

Friday, January 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 7 at 5:00 p.m.

Award-winning playwright Christina Calvit has adapted *This Journey* from scripture, poetry, and the true stories of the people of St. John's. This world premier will be presented by the St. John's Players on January 6 & 7, 2012 at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Avenue in Chicago. Parishioner Christina Calvit is a member of the Artistic Ensemble at Lifeline Theater. She has written over a dozen theatrical adaptations which have been performed throughout the United States and Canada. She has received a Jeff Award, four Jeff Citations, an After Dark Award, and an Agnus Nixon Award.

**Margaret Laurino**  
Alderman  
39th Ward

39th Ward Public Service Office  
4404 West Lawrence Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60630-2511  
Ward Office: (773) 736-5594  
[Ward39@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Ward39@cityofchicago.org)



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# CAPS Report

## Beat 1723, November 16th, 2011

by Jane Nagle, CAPS Coordinator

The corner of Monticello and Belle Plaine and the immediate surrounding area continue to be an issue with respect to reported criminal activity. Among other things, there were reports of multiple instances of shots fired, suspected drug dealing and gang activity. The 17th District Police held an outdoor roll call for Beat 1723 on October 28th. Two arrests have been made and the police continue to monitor the situation.

In the 3800 block of West Irving Park, there have been reports of drug and gang activity. Two officers were specially assigned to this issue and two arrests have been made in connection with the problem property.

In the 4100 block of Lawndale, there have been reports of gang and criminal activity. Progress is being made with respect to a particular building and police continue to monitor the situation.

Commander Melissa Staples reported that 96 arrests have been made and over 250 contact cards have been written in Beat 1723 during the period of October 1 to November 16, 2011.

Garage break-ins, thefts and burglaries are continuing issues in West Walker. Please make every effort to secure your property.

The Commander stressed that if you see suspicious activity or if something seems out of place, call 911 immediately so that police may respond to an incident in progress. If you do not want to provide your name, state that you wish to remain anonymous when you begin speaking to the 911 operator. For incidents which are no longer in progress, remember that rather than calling 911, you may call 311 to have a police officer complete a report for incidents such as theft, criminal damage to property, lost property and other non-emergency situations. Even if a neighbor has already reported an incident or activity that affects a group of neighbors, other neighbors should make separate calls. The more calls received by police with respect to a particular situation, the more of a priority it becomes.

CAPS meetings for our beat are currently held monthly at the 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski, in the Community Room. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month and typically last one hour. **PLEASE NOTE - NO MEETING WILL BE HELD IN DECEMBER, 2011.** The next regularly scheduled meeting for Beat 1723 is Wednesday, January 18, 2012.

## O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

**"Come ... join us for worship as we prepare our heart, soul, mind and strength for the Coming of the One who changed the world - Jesus."**

Children's Christmas Pageant  
Dec. 18, 10 a.m.

Caroling for Hands to Help Outreach,  
Refreshments follow at our church  
Dec. 19, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Community Food Pantry  
Holiday Distribution  
Dec. 21, 8:30 a.m.

Candlelight Christmas Eve service  
7 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship 10 a.m.



Special Advent music weekly, with percussion ensemble Christmas Eve.

**WE INVITE YOU TO COME EXPERIENCE THE EXCITING WORSHIP AND WITNESS TAKING PLACE HERE**



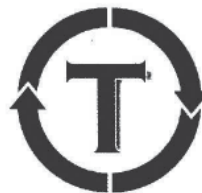
**Sunday worship** - Holy communion served weekly  
10 A.M. (ENGLISH) - Vickie Hadaway, lead pastor  
NOON (SPANISH) - Cecilia Obret, mission pastor  
Jonathan Braun - director of music  
Hope Reyes - director of children & family ministries  
Michael Bates - student intern

3801 North Keeler Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60641 • 773-283-6262 • www.irvingparkumc.com

**We are a welcoming community of faith that is Rethinking Church**

## Have a CAPS issue?

You can submit concerns to CAPS online at <https://portal.chicagopolice.org/portal/page/portal/ClearPath>. Then on the left-hand side, click "Report a concern about an issue affecting your neighborhood."



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# 39th Ward Report



Dear Friends:  
I hope you have the opportunity to take advantage of all that Chicago offers during the holidays. Whether taking in the lights on Michigan Avenue, caroling at Millennium Park, or strolling through Christkindlmarket at Daley Plaza, there is no place like Chicago, especially this time of year.

Holiday lights, if installed and used safely, can transform our neighborhoods into a winter wonderland. If used incorrectly, lights can lead to fire.

The Chicago Fire Department asked me to pass along the following tips to avoid fires this holiday season:

- Avoid overloading extension cords or light strings.
- There should be no more than three sets of lights on an extension cord.
- Do not connect large light sets through miniature light sets.
- Never use an open flame near a real or an artificial tree.

- Candles should be held firmly by non-flammable holders. Do not leave unattended. Keep candles away from flammable materials and out of the reach of children.

I'm sure that most people have working smoke detectors in their homes. Are you aware that you should replace the smoke detectors every ten years? I have a limited number of free smoke detectors available to seniors 65 and older. If you're a senior in doubt about the age of your smoke detector, please stop by my Ward Office (4404 W. Lawrence) and pick up a free detector.

If you have any questions, please contact my 39th Ward Office at 773-736-5594 or [Ward39@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Ward39@cityofchicago.org).

My staff and I send best wishes to everyone in the West Walker community for a happy holiday season!

Sincerely,  
Margaret Laurino  
Alderman, 39th Ward

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**Emergency** 911

**Non-Emergency** 311  
(Always request a tracking number)

**17th Police District** 312.744.8346  
Beat 1723 CAPS Meeting: third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. at 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski Road

**17th District CAPS Phone** 312.742.4410  
[CAPS.017District@chicagopolice.org](mailto:CAPS.017District@chicagopolice.org)

**39th Ward** 773.736.5594  
Alderman Margaret Laurino [ward39@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ward39@cityofchicago.org)  
4404 W. Lawrence Ave. [www.aldermanlaurino.com](http://www.aldermanlaurino.com)

Constituent night: Mondays, 6-8 p.m.  
(Call ahead. Meet Alderman Laurino to discuss Ward concerns.)

**39th Ward Streets and Sanitation** 312.744.8163

**33rd Ward** 773.478.8040  
Alderman Richard Mell [rmell@cityofchicago.org](mailto:rmell@cityofchicago.org)  
3649 N. Kedzie Ave. [www.33rdward.org](http://www.33rdward.org)

33rd Ward Advisory Council: third Thursday of each month at Horner Park Fieldhouse, 2741 W. Montrose Ave., 7 p.m.  
(Discuss your issues with the advisory council)

**33rd Ward Streets and Sanitation** 312.744.1451

**40th District State Representative** 773.267.2880  
Deb Mell

**20th District State Senator** 773.283.7000  
Iris Y. Martinez

**5th Congressional District** 773.267.5926  
Mike Quigley

**Independence Branch, Chicago Public Library**  
3548 W. Irving Park Road 312.744.0900

**Independence Park, Chicago Park District**  
3945 N. Springfield Ave. 773.478.3538

**Graffiti Removal Hotline** 312.744.1234  
(Always request a tracking number)

**Neighborhood Relations** 312.744.3774

**Poison Control Center** 800.942.5969

**Illegal Businesses, City Department of Revenue** 312.747.5317

**www.cityofchicago.org** All city departments

**www.cookcountyassessor.com** Property assessments

**www.cookcountytreasurer.com** Property taxes

**www.legis.state.il.us** Check pending state legislation

# WWCA Members

Thanks for renewing or becoming members of WWCA! A list of those neighbors who have joined or renewed as of December 1st appears below.

Bob & Glenda Begeske  
Joe & Ginia Jahrke  
Patti & Lou Losacco  
Beth & Lachlan Tidmarsh

## It's Membership Renewal Time!

WWCA MEMBERSHIP runs May 1 through April 30 annually. Your dues help fund a variety of items:

- Ten issues per year of the *West Walker Wire*, delivered to residences and businesses in West Walker, free of charge.
- The annual community garage sale.
- Area non-profit groups like the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, Independence Park, and Independence Library.
- Free e-mail updates on neighborhood events and area crime.
- Free special events, like the Halloween Party and Fall Festival and 4th of July celebration at Independence Park.
- The Art In My Back Yard artistic series.

Bring your 2011-2012 dues to our next WWCA meeting in March. Or you can mail in the application below.

## WEST WALKER WIRE AD RATES

	<u>1 TIME</u>	<u>3 TIMES</u>	<u>6 TIMES</u>	<u>10 TIMES</u>
<b>Business card</b> <i>(3.5" wide x 2" high)</i>	NA	\$45 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$90 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$125 <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>1/4-page ad</b> <i>(3.7" wide x 5" high)</i>	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$80 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$160 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$260 <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>1/2-page ad</b> <i>(7.5" wide x 5" high)</i>	\$60 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$165 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$330 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$520 <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Full-page ad</b> <i>(8" wide x 10" high)</i>	\$120 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$330 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$660 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,050 <input type="checkbox"/>

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- The *Wire* is published 10 times a year (September through June).

- ALL AD ARTWORK is due on the 20th of the month prior. High-resolution pdfs, tiffs, and jpgs (black-and-white) are preferred. Microsoft Word files and camera-ready "hard copy" versions also are acceptable.

- WE PREFER that ad artwork be submitted as a file attachment and sent in an e-mail to: [WWWire@solsticepr.com](mailto:WWWire@solsticepr.com).

Send all ad copy and payments (and any ad questions) to:  
SHANNAN BUNTING AT [WWWire@solsticepr.com](mailto:WWWire@solsticepr.com)  
4214 N. RIDGEWAY · CHICAGO, IL 60618

## WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yearly Membership Dues: Effective May 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012

Check one:            FAMILY \$15             BUSINESS \$20             SENIOR \$5

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Please print. Write your name as you would like it to appear in the West Walker Wire.)*

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note your e-mail address if you would like to receive e-mail updates:

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
Mail or drop off your application and dues to: Jack Prikos, 4238 N. Avers Ave., Chicago, IL 60618

## News from Seanachai Theater

By Marlena Ascher

It is early December. Our days are shorter. Our nights are longer. We are spending more time indoors, and we are looking for something fun to do when the sun sets. Our ancestors used this time to gather around fireplaces with hot cups of warm beverages to entertain themselves with storytelling. We still do that today, and it is still fun.

If you are looking for something fun to do with friends this month, gather them together in the third floor theatre of the Irish-American Heritage Center to enjoy a well-told story by Conor McPherson, one of the hottest voices in theatre today all over the world. *St. Nicholas* is a one-man play written in 1997 before McPherson became famous. Like a lot of his plays, *St. Nicholas* touches on the supernatural; and is it not always fun to be told a scary story in the dark? Especially in winter.

Even if vampires taunt the main character, an acerbic Dublin theatre critic and a man without a soul, this is not a horror tale with scary macabre effects. *St. Nicholas* is better described as a psychological drama – the story of a man's odyssey of soul as he winds his way through different tribes of people that make up his life: his family, other journalists, actors and directors, other critics, and yes, the tribe of vampires he begins to work for. What happens to him, what he learns, and how he might or might not change is worth telling.

Those of you who enjoyed Conor McPherson's play, *The Weir*, know how entertaining was its campfire-like quality of hearing a group of characters tell stories in the dark. Matt Miller, director of *The Weir*, is also the director of *St. Nicholas*. Matt is a stage director, acting teacher, and associate casting director with Paskal Rudnicke. Currently, he is staging the world premiere of Carly Mensch's *Oblivion* for Steppenwolf's First Look Repertory.

One-man plays are most enthralling when that one man is a fine actor with excellent storytelling skills. Get ready to be enthralled because the actor in this play is Steve Pickering, a renowned Chicago actor who has appeared in over 30 productions for Chicago's Goodman Theatre since 1987 including *The Seagull*, *King Lear*, *Long Days Journey into Night*, and *Death of A Salesman*.

This Production of Conor McPherson's **St. Nicholas**, directed by Matthew Miller and performed by Steve Pickering will Benefit Seanachai Theatre Company and Shanghai Low Theatricals in the Seanachai Space. Seanachai is located on the 3rd Floor of the Irish-American Heritage Center, 4626 N Knox in Chicago.

Show runs December 1–18th; Thursdays, Friday, Sundays at 8:00 p.m., Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. and at 8:00 p.m. Preview Tickets for December 1 and 2 are \$10. All other tickets are \$20 (\$17 for seniors and students; \$15 for veterans and Seanachai Theatre subscribers). Tickets may be reserved by calling 866-811-4111 or visit seanachai.org.

## News From Irving Park YMCA

By Celia M. Stennett, Member Relations Director

For the month of January, Irving Park YMCA will hold its annual **January \$0 Enrollment Fee** campaign. The campaign starts Jan. 2nd and will run until Jan. 31st; perfect time to start your New Year's resolution! Whether it's getting yourself healthy or the entire family, the Irving Park YMCA features activities for the entire family all under one roof! Check out the new upgraded fitness area!

### Winter Break Camp December 26th - January 6th

Don't let your camper sit inside with old man winter! Bring them to the YMCA for swimming, arts and crafts, sports, games, field trips and tons of winter camp fun! Ages 5 to 14 years old, from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Weekly Fees are \$220 for members/\$340 for non-members. Per-day fees \$50 members/\$80 non-members. For more information call 773-326-2623.

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## News and Events from Carlson Community Services



**Carlson Community Services**

*Carlson Community Services, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, serves the Irving Park*

*community with a variety of outreach efforts.*

## West Walker Holiday Fair Raises Holiday Spirits and Funds for Garden

The Third Annual West Walker Holiday Fair was the scene for festive holiday shopping among 23 artists selling everything from hand-made scarves and hats to photography and hipster t-shirts for kids. The fair raised just under \$2,000 for Three Brothers Garden, a community vegetable garden that donates all of its produce to the Irving Park Community Food Pantry. The fair also featured a delicious lunch served by Tre Kronor Restaurant, music by the Independence Park bluegrass band, a kids table featuring handmade items for sale by neighborhood kids, and a raffle of items donated by the artists in the show.



Thanks to fair organizers Sarah Steedman and Lynette Schroeter, Irving Park Lutheran Church for hosting the event and Tre Kronor Restaurant for a generous donation. Thanks also to chef Ed Gardner for making Three Brothers piccalilli, sold at the fair, Patty Whitehouse for heading up the kids craft room and the many volunteers who helped with the day.



*Top: Sara Anderson and Yaz Ebeid sell winter bulbs and Three Brothers Piccalilli! Bottom: Shoppers shopping!*

To be considered for next year's holiday fair, contact Sarah Steedman at [westwalkerartfair@sbcglobal.net](mailto:westwalkerartfair@sbcglobal.net).

## Wrap Gifts for the Homeless

All are invited to join the Angel Team Gift-Wrap for the Homeless event on **Saturday, December 10th** in the Irving Park Lutheran Church gymnasium (4057 N. Harding). Come when you can, leave when you must! Bring donations of gifts, wrap them for homeless children and adults. Potluck lunch. Bring a dish! Anytime between 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. For more information, email Terri Santiago at [AliveandJoyful37@aol.com](mailto:AliveandJoyful37@aol.com).

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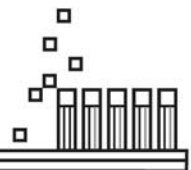
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## News from Irving Park Community Food Pantry

By Craig Shutt



*Volunteering at the Pantry's Christmas distribution on December 21st can be a family affair! Last year's volunteers included (l-r): Jim and Nora Byrne, daughter-in-law Lisa Byrne, her sister Gina O'Hehir and Lisa's daughter Amanda Byrne.*

### Help Neighbors Enjoy a Happier Holiday!

Our neighbors in need will enjoy a happier holiday season with your help, by contributing money or food for the Irving Park Community Food Pantry's annual holiday distribution on December 21st.

We especially need

donations of juice, stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned yams and vegetables, instant potatoes, cake mixes and pumpkin-pie filling. Even more, monetary donations are particularly helpful to supplement donations and allow us to provide gift certificates so our largest families can buy a turkey to complete their meal.

**Toy Drive:** We also are gathering new toys, books and games suitable for any age infant to 12 years old. We anticipate having about 360 children eligible through their parents, who have the opportunity to "shop" our "Holiday Gift Room" and surprise the children with their gifts.

Collection boxes for unwrapped new toys are located at churches sponsoring the Pantry and other business locations, or they can be brought to pantry. Cash donations help purchase additional gifts so no age group is underrepresented. Volunteers are needed to help collect toys, organize the toy room, and help with the distribution on December 21st, including translators. For information or to volunteer, contact Vicci Rodgers at [viccirodgers@gmail.com](mailto:viccirodgers@gmail.com) or 773-316-9754.

**Coat Drive:** We began giving out gently used coats in early November as the donations and the need grew. Those went quickly, and now we are giving out as many as we collect each week. If you can donate, please bring coats to the Pantry at the Irving Park United Methodist Church at 3801 N. Keeler on Wednesday mornings during Pantry hours. They also can be left any day during church business hours at the Pantry's donation site inside the Grace Street entrance at the bottom of the stairs. For more information, contact Pat at [repe1931@sbcglobal.net](mailto:repe1931@sbcglobal.net).

**Christmas Concert:** Don't forget to attend the Irving Park Fine Arts Committee's Christmas Concert which will benefit the pantry! (See front page article.)

Thanks to the Community Animal Rescue Effort in Evanston, which chose the Pantry to receive donations (of people food) during its Howl-O-Ween C.A.R.E. Scare on October 29. Six boxes of food were collected, which came in handy during our November distribution. C.A.R.E. also donates excess pet food to the Pantry, which we distribute to clients with pets. Thanks to pantry volunteer Marsha Niazmand for initiating this partnership.

Additional food drives have been held recently or are underway now. These include ones by Bankrate Inc., Community Savings Bank, CICS Irving Park Charter School, Irving Park United Methodist Church, Kidwatch Plus Child Care, Mount Olive Church, St. Viator Elementary School, State Senator Iris Martinez's office and State Representative Deborah Mell's office. Thank you to all for helping at this special time of holiday need.

The Pantry is grateful to the J.R. Albert Foundation Inc. in Naperville, which supports Chicago-area food banks and pantries, for its donation of \$1,000 to the Pantry. Thanks also to Carter Westminster Presbyterian Church in Skokie for donating more than \$1,000 towards our holiday and toy distributions this year.

Special thanks to the Lane Tech High School library, which is conducting a children's book drive to aid our Holiday distribution to clients' children. Thanks also to pantry volunteer Donna Schmidt-Black, who has crocheted 35+ scarves as gifts for pantry clients during the holiday distribution!

**The Pantry will be closed on Wednesday, December 28, and will reopen January 4th.**

In November, the Pantry served **781 families with 2160 people**, an increase of 335 people over the month of October. We appreciate all your help in ensuring that we have never had to turn away one of our neighbors because we ran out of supplies!



*Pantry volunteers Leslie Washington, Nick Calderone and Craig O'Connor prepare the food-distribution line prior to opening the doors on Wednesday.*



## CICS-Irving Park School

### **Mathletes!**

Our middle school students participated in the Chicago Junior Math Leagues Math Competition

with math teacher Ms. Green. Sixth grader Brysen Godfrey came in 1st place of all Division B schools and our 6th grade team (Isaiah Anderson, Damian Garcia, Brysen Godfrey, Luis Juarez, Christopher Mazariegos, Jennifer Medrano, Cecilia Reillo and Anthony Wagner) came in 3rd place. We are very proud of them and look forward to their upcoming competition in February.

### **Thinking Green**

CICS-IP will have a solar panel installed prior to our winter break. We also are collecting recyclables (e.g. batteries, printer cartridges, drink pouches, etc.) and partnering with TerraCycle to earn money for our school.

### **Animal Assisted Therapy**

We are excited to be starting a partnership with Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy! This organization will work directly with our Specialized Services Department to identify and focus on the unique learning objectives of some of our children with special needs. Our students will be working directly with special therapy dogs to help acquire new skills, increase self-esteem and motivation.

### **Smoque-In!**

CICS-IP school would like to thank Barry Sorkin and Smoque BBQ for generously donating their amazing food for our annual Teacher's Holiday Luncheon. Our teachers will enjoy a well-deserved (and tasty) spread to send them off for the Winter break!

## Disney II Magnet School

### **Caution! Young Scientists at Work!**

As our 5th grade students approach the middle school years, the need for a modern Science Lab is imminent. Fortunately, funding the science lab now has a solid foundation. With collaboration from a Disney II parent, IBM has contributed a \$13,000 grant towards the establishment of the lab. This actually represents two grants: A "community" grant recognizing the work IBM volunteers have contributed to Disney II this year and an "impact" grant intended to help establish programs that will help change the communities in which students live and work.

### **Junior Achievement**

On Friday, November 4th, Junior Achievement led by IBM volunteers visited Disney II for a good portion of the day. The mission of Junior Achievement is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. It's not an easy task, but it's the kind of challenge that JA takes on with creative energy, fervor, and decisive action. Passionate people comprise a movement that seeks to educate and inspire young people to succeed in a global economy. Through age-appropriate curricula, JA programs begin at the elementary school level, teaching children how they can impact the world around them as individuals, workers and consumers. JA programs continue through the middle grades and high school, focusing on the key content areas of entrepreneurship, work readiness, and financial literacy. All of this is done with the help of local business volunteers...volunteers who so care about our youth they take time out of their day to make a difference.

### **Extreme Gym Makeover/Annual Fund Drive**

The teachers and staff at Disney II have proven their commitment to Disney II children and a longer school day through their support of the Longer School Day Pioneer Program. They are sacrificing for our children, and in return, they have asked us to help them by raising funds for an EXTREME GYM MAKEOVER! The Disney II gymnasium is not solely utilized for sports and physical education. It is a meeting and conference room, a performing arts space, and much more. The space, however, is sorely antiquated for any sort of performance or athletic competition. Some necessary updates include soundproofing the gym, stage and lighting modernization, electronic scoreboard inclusion, efficient and comfortable seating.

Our goal as parents is to preserve and promote the educational programs of Disney II and ensure that they are on par with the best public and private schools in the country. We can no longer depend on tax revenue to fund public school needs at the appropriate level. We must come together to fund important initiatives ourselves! In order to begin the MAKEOVER in the summer of 2012, we need to raise these funds this year! Should you, as a community member, wish to support this fund drive, please refer to the Disney II website, [www.disneyiimagnet.org](http://www.disneyiimagnet.org), or call the school 773-534-3750. Ultimately, we wish to make this space an asset to not only the students and families of Disney II, but to the community at large.



## St. Edward School

December is an extremely busy month for our school community. We hope you are able to join us for some or all of our events.

If you love home baked Christmas cookies, come to the St. Ed's annual **Cookie Walk and Santa's Breakfast**. On Sunday, December 11, our gym is transformed to a holiday extravaganza! From 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the St. Edward Parent Organization (SEPO) sells delicious cookies by the pound. There is also Breakfast with Santa, but tickets sell out early so buy yours today! To purchase tickets, please call the school at 773-736-9133. We also have a vendor blender with everything from Tupperware to Arbonne to St. Ed's Spirit Wear. We hope to see you there.

Mark your calendar! **St. Ed's Open House** for families is Sunday, January 29 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is an excellent way to meet our faculty, speak with current families and learn why our school is different. We also have an Open House when school is in session on Wednesday, February 1st from 9 to 11 a.m. For more information, please contact Jenn Hegener at [RSVP@StEdwardSchool.com](mailto:RSVP@StEdwardSchool.com)

St. Edward School, now celebrating its 101st year, provides a quality, Catholic education to children from three-year old preschool through eighth grade. St. Edward students enjoy an average student-teacher ratio of 18:1, and the school features an extensive music program as well as art, gym, sports, chess, and Spanish at all grade levels. Our students matriculate to highly selective CPS and Catholic schools in Chicagoland. The School is located at 4343 W. Sunnyside. For more information on the School call 773-736-9133, or by visiting [www.StEdwardSchool.com](http://www.StEdwardSchool.com).

## St. Viator School

### World Languages Offered

We are thrilled to announce the implementation of the Rosetta Stone Immersive Learning Program for our world language studies. This award-winning program features innovative technology and engaging activities while correlating with state and national standards. First through Eighth grade students will have the opportunity to choose from 26 languages to study for each school year. These computer based classes will be integrated into the curriculum four days per week as the children progress through a self-paced program under the supervision of a teacher. Our youngest learners in Pre-School and Kindergarten will start off with a choice of one of three languages: Chinese-Mandarin, French, or Spanish.

At St. Viator School, we believe in preparing our students to be global leaders of the twenty-first century. The launch of the Rosetta Stone language learning program is just the latest addition to the strong St. Viator curriculum, which also includes the fine arts program - Art Zone, a dedicated Science Lab, the Junior Great Books reading program, and an up-to-date Computer Lab.

Come find out more about what St. Viator can offer at our next **Open House** on Saturday, January 28 from 2-4 p.m. St Viator School is located in the heart of Old Irving Park. For more information, please call 773-545-2173 or visit our website [www.stviatorchicago.org](http://www.stviatorchicago.org).

## Special Services at Irving Park Lutheran Church



We invite everyone to join us for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (10:30 p.m., Dec. 24th) and Christmas Day Lessons and Carols service (10:30 a.m. Dec. 25th... obviously!). We are located at 4100 N. Harding. Happy Holidays from all of us at IPLC!



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