



ELMHURST WALK-IN ASSISTANCE NETWORK

Annual Report for 2025

A message from Board President Erin Radcliff

If you've seen the movie *An Officer and a Gentleman*, starring Richard Gere and Debra Winger, then you have been introduced to the small town where I went to school.

The crop of new recruits at the start and end of the movie were my classmates. They required no costumes or hair stylists before stepping onto the scene—they came as they were.

The mill depicted was the Crown Zellerbach paper company. It was the major employer in town and in my graduating class, it was a given that many would work there. For years after moving away, I checked the bottom of paper grocery bags to see if it was "made with pride" by one of my old buddies.

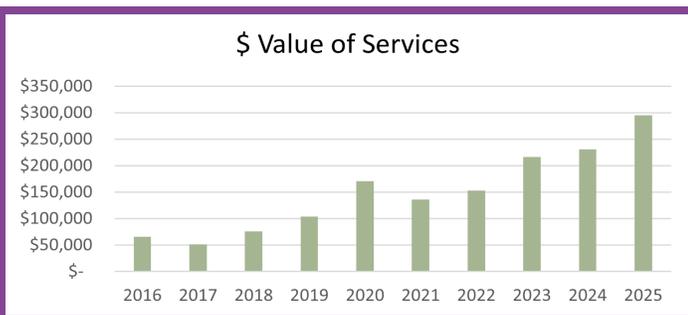
The folks in the background on the factory floor while Richard swept Debra off her feet were not actors, but real neighbors with families to feed, mortgages, rent, car & utility payments.

To understand how a town and everyone in it are affected by economic forces, this is a good illustration. When the mill cut wages and workers, the ripple through the region spared no one: those working families, the stores where they shopped, the schools their kids attended—all felt the gut punch. School referenda were voted down. Spending money on "extras" was out of the question, as even necessities were cut back. Small businesses were strained to their limits—and some went under (with corresponding tax losses for city services). People were struggling, not thriving.

Community was their safety net. Neighbors **showed up** for each other *with their time, talent and treasure*.

EWAN is a hub of an intentional **network** of neighbors—caring donors, our city & park district, churches, school social workers, neighborhood organizers, food pantries & peer nonprofits, and volunteers who lead with heart and skill to resolve challenging and unexpected client situations.

Go ahead and watch the movie, but you don't need to. **EWAN carries out this vital community dynamic right here in Elmhurst, lifting our neighbors in times of need.**



2025 Client Assistance Reached Record Highs

The most ever **total client services: 1,750**

The most ever **client assistance dollars: \$295,218**

The most ever **IC Food Pantry vouchers in a year: 1,032**

The most ever **total client visits: 1,363**



The EWAN Mission: The caring people of Elmhurst unite to provide compassionate assistance to people in need in our community.

2025 Board keeps EWAN buzzing

The old business adage, “If you’re not growing you’re dying,” seems to characterize the ethos of all those working to fulfill the EWAN mission. The board and volunteers are continually seeking ways to do the job the better. Who isn’t being reached? How can we better inform the community about our work? What funds could be put to better use? How can we better serve our clients? These are the ongoing questions behind a number of the initiatives that marked the 2025 board activity. Here are some of the highlights:

- ◆ Partnered with the Elmhurst Park District and YMCA to begin offering subsidies for before and after-school school care.
- ◆ Established Wednesday evening hours at the Elmhurst-Yorkfield Food Pantry’s Lake Street Warehouse location to serve people unable to meet during the day. This required establishing the ability for remote client intake directly to the client database, which can be applied to other off-site assistance in the future.
- ◆ Implemented “Moving Forward” steps to help clients identify ways to proactively improve their current financial situation.
- ◆ In collaboration with Elmhurst-Yorkfield Field Pantry, We Pop Up, and D205 Social Workers, provided gift cards to immigrant families affected by immigration enforcement pressures.
- ◆ Began monthly email to clients to help keep them informed about opportunities in the area.
- ◆ Added a widget to our website to translate website into fifteen languages.
- ◆ Raised \$67,000 with the ‘Cue for a Cause.
- ◆ Received a record-breaking number of grant dollars totaling \$81,500.
- ◆ Participated in the planning and running of the first annual Dan Gibbons Twilight Trot benefitting EWAN, UCCA, Immaculate Conception Food Pantry and Elmhurst-Yorkfield Food Pantry.

Many more accomplishments and improvements occurred on administrative levels, from implementing automated payroll, to improvements to databases and the giving platform, to establishing a repository of resources for grant development, to shoring up gift acceptance policies. Growth occurred across the board.



Associate Exec. Dir. Kim Anciolis and husband Jason prepare to direct runners at the Twilight Trot.



Volunteers Julie Carpenter and Kari Conkle get ready to welcome clients to the newly added evening hours at the EYFP on Lake St.



Board member Jerry Ostermann and volunteer Courtenae Trautmann know how to keep the ticket line moving at the ‘Cue.

2025 EWAN Board of Directors

President	Erin Radcliff
Vice President	Susan Wilson
Treasurer	Dawn Muckian
Secretary	Mike Hauert, JD
Director of Client Programs & Benefits	Jennifer Morrissey, JD
Director of Church Relations	Jerry Ostermann
Director of Finance & Development	John Czyzycki
Director of Marketing, Branding & PR	Kim Anciolis
Directors at Large	Katy Ahern Ken Bartels Sgt. Anthony Cuzzone Ken Gillie Suji LaBine, Coordinator, Site Management Gio Roldan Nat Rosasco Jackie Salek Blanca Vargas Rev. Matt Parker Wrzeszcz
Executive Director	Jackie Crnkovich
Associate Executive Director	Kim Anciolis
Founders	Jan Edgley Harriet Martin (d) Carol Yesko (d)

Thank you Ken Bartels and Jackie Salek for 6 great years!

Term limits seem like a great idea, until they force you to say goodbye to highly valued members.

Ken Bartels and Jackie Salek both fall in the category of board members hard to see go.

Ken and Jackie served as directors at large. Ken’s expertise in development was of great value to EWAN and was put to use on the Finance & Development Committee. He both ran and served on the Strategic Plan Committee and has served on the Nominating Committee.

Jackie ran the Special Events Committee for a number of years and was active on the ‘Cue Committee. As a long-term site volunteer, she was able to represent the client side of operations to the board. She plans on continuing her work as a site volunteer.



Four new board members prepare to get to work in 2026

The Nominating and Board Development Committee worked hard not only to find excellent replacements for members vacating positions, but to look ahead to future needs as well. Four new members begin their term this year.



Mark Hughes

Mark is Chief Administrative Officer with Northern Trust. He lives in Elmhurst with his wife and two young children. Mark was attracted to the EWAN board by the chance to give back to the community in a meaningful way. He cites it as a way to acknowledge his blessings and be a role model to his kids. "I believe strong communities are built when people step up for one another, and I want to provide my time and perspective to help strengthen and uplift those we serve."



Laura Maniola

Laura has been a site volunteer for several years, and has recently begun using her accounting background to assist the EWAN treasurer in her tasks. When Laura began volunteering at EWAN, she discovered a lot of old friends from her many years of volunteering with D205 and other Elmhurst groups. Laura notes these women are "great examples of empathy and selflessness, and if this many wonderful people are part of an organization together, there is something special about the organization."



Heidi Moy

Another site volunteer of several years, Heidi has joined the board to assist Jerry Ostermann with Church Relations. Heidi cites, "a lifelong passion for building community and connecting people to meaningful resources," which is reflected in her career path, from urban planning to working at a camp for children with disabilities, to 10 years as a Special Education teacher. Her current focus is on raising her own three kids, but she remains highly involved in church, school groups, homeless advocacy, and volunteering at EWAN, all reflecting her strong commitment to community.



Joe Quille

Joe began his career as a teacher but switched to public sector consulting a number of years ago. Joe cites his professional experience as part of his motivation to join the board. "Over the last few years, I've worked with a number of government clients to design and deploy pandemic relief programs like Emergency Rental Assistance...and various other initiatives aimed at helping working families." Joe's extensive knowledge of these programs will prove valuable to our clients and board actions. Joe lives in Elmhurst with his wife, and they are expecting their third daughter soon.

2025 financial activity highlights

Full financial statement available upon request

	<u>Year Ending 12/31/2025</u>	<u>Year Ending 12/31/2024</u>
Contributions		
Individual	\$196,235	\$157,243
Churches	\$27,279	\$27,676
Business & Service Groups	\$46,088	\$19,316
Grants	\$81,500	\$26,500
'Cue for a Cause	\$68,600	\$75,026
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$419,702	\$305,761
Assistance Provided (\$)		
Utilities	\$41,024	\$36,045
Rent/Mortgage	\$194,378	\$142,869
Hope Fund	\$10,128	\$8,523
Medical	\$825	\$3,510
Car Repair	\$10,416	\$16,172
Students with Activity Needs	\$7,088	\$7,068
Shoes	\$1,843	\$2,195
Gas Vouchers	\$5,250	\$4,890
Dental Program	\$6,410	\$5,948
Other	\$17,856	\$4,409
Total Assistance (\$)	\$295,218	\$231,629
Operational Expenses	\$72,439	\$51,554
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$367,657	\$283,183

2025 Client Totals by Category

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Total Services	1,750	1,551
New Clients	118	139
Rent/Mortgage	191	139
Utilities	148	118
Car Repair	13	24
Gas Vouchers	115	128
Medical Assistance	8	13
Student Activities	34	37
Food Pantry	1,032	872

♥ Thank You! To all who supported EWAN in 2025!

Donor Honor Roll

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 Community Bank of Elmhurst

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Heroes Circle (\$75-\$149)
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Grateful for the Financial Support of Elmhurst Churches in 2025

Bethel United Church of Christ
 Cityview Community Church
 Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church
 Elmhurst Presbyterian Church
 Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church
 Episcopal Church of Our Savior
 Faith Christian Reformed Church
 First United Methodist Church
 Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
 Immanuel Lutheran Church
 Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church
 St. Peter's United Church of Christ
 Yorkfield Presbyterian Church

Matching Gifts Amplifying Impact

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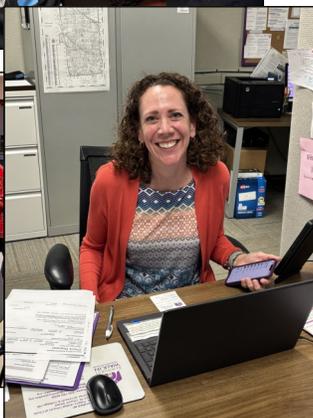
Thank you to our community groups for their special donations and collections in support of EWAN families

Daisy Troop #56852
 Elmhurst Area Moms
 Elmhurst Park District Staff
 Elmhurst Public Library
 Elmhurst Running Club
 HYPTE Branded Solutions
 The Idea Studio, LaGrange
 P.R.I.D.E. Ambassadors of Lincoln
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 Rasnic Friends Thanksgiving Run
 River Forest Book Club
 Tuesday Morning Ladies Golf
 League

Thank you volunteers!

Heidi Bowbin
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Thank You to Our Partners Who Make Our Work Possible

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) provides financial fitness counseling.
Community Bank of Elmhurst donates meeting space for board meetings.
DuPage Animal Hospital aids in our client pet care needs.
Elmhurst Park District & YMCA Elmhurst partners to provide after school care.
Elmhurst Police Department provides a board liaison and offers support.
Elmhurst Yorkfield Food Pantry provides our Wednesday evening space.
Goodwill Industries sends gift certificates twice a year for distribution to clients.
Mehta Motors aids in our client car repairs.*
St. Peter's United Church of Christ donates our site space and is generous with church space and staff help.
Shoe Carnival accepts shoe vouchers.*

**These businesses bill us for their services*

Dental Program Participants:

Dr. Daniel DeSalvo	Dr. Gene Leonard
Dr. Tom McKenna	Dr. Thomas Newman
Dr. Brian Reardon	Dr. S. Spyropoulos

Partners who help provide food & clothing to our clients:

Bethel UCC - shoe vouchers for kids
 Clothing Center - First United Methodist Church
 Community Clothing Closet - Cityview Community Church
 Elmhurst Yorkfield Food Pantry
 Immaculate Conception Food Pantry

providing vital assistance
to neighbors in need

Thank You
 for your support of our mission



EWAN is grateful to receive a **\$25,000 Target Community Impact Grant** supporting housing security and youth development in our community.

These funds strengthen our *Utilities Program* and *SWAN Fund*, helping Elmhurst families and youth thrive.



2025 'CUE FOR A CAUSE

MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROSITY OF OUR COMMUNITY

*Thank
You!*

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BOSS HOG (\$2,500)

Elmhurst Living Magazine, Elmhurst Bank | A Wintrust Community Bank, Kelly Stetler Team | Compass Real Estate, Barbeque Jim's Catering

WHOLE HOG (\$1,000)

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FULL SLAB (\$500)

Dan Gibbons Turkey Trot Foundation, Community Bank of Elmhurst, Don & Joan Hoff, Rich & Jan Edgley, Elmhurst Eagles Football and Cheer, Mary Hallman, Sign Artist USA, Diane & Rick Emich, SBC Waste Solutions Inc., Tony & Mary Pierotti, Bob & Mary Mallon

HALF SLAB (\$250)

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GOODBYE 'CUE FOR A CAUSE

For eleven years, the 'Cue for a Cause has been a Labor Day weekend tradition in Elmhurst—successfully raising critical funds for EWAN, increasing awareness of our mission, and bringing the community together for a truly memorable experience.

After thoughtful consideration, the Board of Directors has decided that the 2025 'Cue would be the final year. This decision was not made lightly and is the result of multiple factors not least of which is the highly labor intensive nature of the event coupled with the challenges of staffing on a holiday weekend. While bittersweet, the Board is confident it can responsibly fill the resulting funding gap through other sustainable fundraising strategies.

To everyone who will miss this fun and delicious send-off to summer, we share your disappointment. But stay tuned—new, creative, and exciting opportunities to support EWAN are on the horizon.

2026 Annual Meeting • Friday, March 20 • Breakfast



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