



ELMHURST WALK-IN ASSISTANCE NETWORK

 connecting people in need to community resources

Fall 2025

Newsletter

EWAN launches Wednesday night hours at Elmhurst-Yorkfield Food Pantry warehouse

For 28 years, the hours of operation at EWAN have remained the same: weekdays 10-noon. Clients with day jobs have frequently had to take off work to visit us or find a time to meet with after-hours volunteers.

Now, for the first time, clients have an option to visit EWAN in the evening. The goal is to make assistance more accessible for those for whom days prove difficult.

The evening hours are being offered on Wednesday evenings at the Elmhurst-Yorkfield Food Pantry (EYFP) warehouse location at 501 W. Lake St. The EYFP recently launched an order-ahead food distribution at this location on Wednesdays.

By joining forces with the food distribution, our volunteers and clients have a place to safely meet with plenty of people and activity on dark winter evenings. It also brings EWAN's services to another part of town which is convenient for those living in North Elmhurst or South Bensenville.

The technology that allows remote access to our database from the



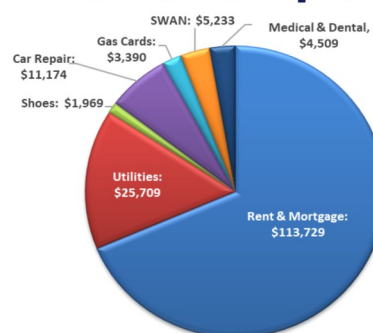
Volunteers Julie Carpenter (l) and Kari Conkle (r) stand ready to greet clients at the Elmhurst-Yorkfield Food Pantry warehouse location.

warehouse has the potential to be utilized in other locations as well. This may present further opportunities for EWAN to broaden its outreach in the community down the line.

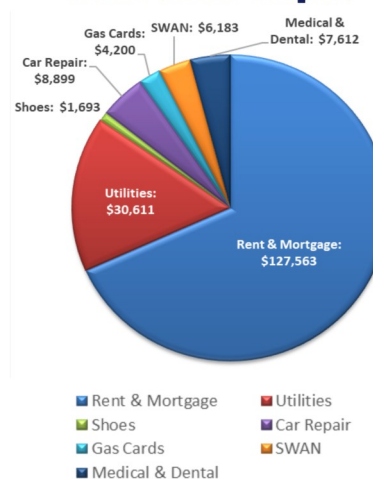
As an added bonus, the evening hours allow for some volunteers who had left for full-time employment to return to volunteering.

Client Services Provided

2024 (Jan.-Sept.)



2025 (Jan.-Sept.)



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

Client Testimonial

It's very gratifying when clients take the time to share how their experience at EWAN made a difference in their lives. This letter is a beautiful expression of the work we do. We are so proud of our volunteers!

Dear [EWAN],

I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to you and everyone at the Elmhurst Walk-In Network. The support I received during such a challenging financial season has been nothing short of life changing. Your rental assistance provided me with the bridge I needed to keep my apartment and regain stability.

Like so many others, my challenges began when COVID severely impacted my small business. The company I worked for at the time also suffered tremendous losses, and while there was some recovery, I later started other services and took on a new job—only to suffer loss again due to tariffs. It's been a difficult road, but your kindness and generosity gave me the space and encouragement I needed to keep going.

I'm thrilled to share that I start a new job next week. This step forward wouldn't have been possible without the support you, Jessica, Karen, and Julie provided. Each visit left me feeling cared for and encouraged, and that emotional and mental boost meant as much as the financial help.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for being such a source of hope and support during this season. Your compassion has truly made a difference in my life, and I will always be grateful.

**With deep appreciation,
A very grateful long-term
Elmhurst resident**



Three new volunteers join the EWAN ranks

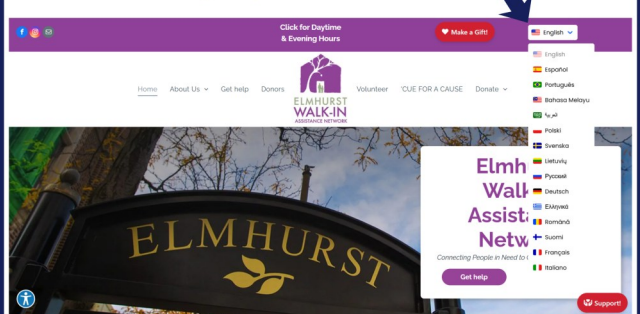


Three new volunteers are in the midst of training, and will take a place at an intake desk starting in November. The volunteers, from left to right, are Jenifer Zacharias, Rashidat Brobbey, and Jennifer McDaniel. EWAN is fortunate to have a waiting list of interested volunteers which it can draw upon as openings arise.

Did you know?

The EWAN website is now available in the top 15 languages spoken in our school district!

Just visit the site and select your preferred language from the menu.



Donor spotlight

Will and Tammy Conrardy share the fruits of their success

When Will Conrardy and his wife Tammy set out to start their business in 1993, they did so from scratch. They sold their car and condo and moved into a tiny, run-down apartment in Chicago. Their refrigerator was missing a freezer door, so they splurged on a \$100 dented refrigerator they couldn't afford. That fridge has followed them through life.

Skip ahead thirty years, and their business, C&C Power, has grown from a 1,200 square foot facility in Elmhurst to a 230,000 square foot facility in Carol Stream, where they are again bursting at the seams. Clearly, the couple's risk in starting a company paid off. Through extraordinarily hard work, they made a success of it. The company focuses on engineered power products, including the manufacturing and servicing of battery systems, telecommunication equipment, and electrical equipment. What began as a company of 2, Tammy and Will, now employs 130 people.

Not long after the company moved to Elmhurst, the Conrardys followed. They bought an old house that required extensive renovations. They soon began a tradition of Friday gatherings with neighbors in their yard, helping to build a tight-knit community.

It was in 2017 that Will and Tammy became acquainted with the Elmhurst Walk-In Assistance Network through some of those same good neighbors.

They have been generous supporters ever since. They have been top sponsors of the 'Cue for a Cause for 9 of it's 11 years. Additionally, Will has been known to send an email saying, "What do you need? Tell me what you need."

When asked what motivates him to support EWAN, Will responded, "We're proud to support EWAN and everything it stands for. The organization offers tough love and real support, giving people the chance to get over life's hurdles. I'm constantly amazed by how your team shows up every day to help others. It's truly a blessing to witness the impact you have on our community."

For a long time, Will states they were solely focused on surviving and growing their business. They didn't always think to look up to see others who were struggling too. He said EWAN helped him change that perspective. When his friend Jay encouraged him to start thinking beyond his challenges and to give back, he did just that. "It's an honor to support such a meaningful organization, and we plan to continue doing so for years to come."

Aside from his business and family,



To celebrate their hard work, Will took the 'Cue for a Cause committee members out on his boat on Lake Michigan in September. He loves to share with others the thing he loves most—being on the water.

Will has another passion: anything on water. He has owned a succession of boats, and has fished, cruised, and raced on sailboats, even trying out for the Olympics (without great success). In addition to extensive travel throughout the Great Lakes, his boating adventures have taken him all the way to Mobile, Key West, and the Bahamas.

His generosity to EWAN has extended to hosting the 'Cue for a Cause Planning Committee on his boat in Lake Michigan to celebrate all the work they put into the fundraising event. Those who have attended these evenings have all been struck by Will's and Tammy's kind, humble, and generous spirits. EWAN is lucky to have this couple in its camp!

**Help Us
Help Elmhurst Neighbors**



Watch for our
Annual Appeal
Coming in November

www.elmhurstwalkin.org/EWANannual



'Cue for a Cause brings the heat — and raises over \$68,000!

EWAN's Labor Day weekend BBQ fundraiser, 'Cue for a Cause, was a smokin' success! Held on Sunday, August 31st, the event brought together hundreds of community members for an unforgettable day of music, food, and fun — all in support of EWAN's mission.

We're thrilled to share that, thanks to the generosity of attendees, sponsors, volunteers, and vendors, the 'Cue raised **\$68,600** to help provide financial assistance to local individuals and families.

The day was filled with great energy — kids had a blast in the activity area, adults enjoyed cold drinks and delicious eats from local vendors, and the stage stayed lively with performances from **DJ Daniel**, **The Diego Rodriguez Band**, and **LiveStream Chicago**.

Of course, the star of the show was the **BBQ competition**, where **13 incredible teams** grilled their hearts out for the title of Grand Champion. Guests also got in on the action by voting for the **People's Choice Sauce** — and let's just say, the competition was *fierce* (and tasty!).

A huge thank-you goes out to everyone who made the day possible — from the amazing volunteers and competitors to the generous sponsors and attendees. The funds raised will go directly toward helping neighbors in need — and EWAN is grateful to be part of such a generous and supportive community.

Thank you for being part of our mission, and for making sure help is always within reach for those who need it most.



Photo Credit:
Clark Maxwell



WINNERS! 2025 CUE FOR A CAUSE BARBEQUE COMPETITION WINNERS!

GRAND CHAMPION
NEIGHBROS - Craig Loss
RUNNER UP: SKY HIGH BBQ - Ken England

RIBS

1st: Tuxedo Park - Frank Pedote
2nd: The Brisket Brothers - Michael Arcurie
3rd: Smoke Show BBQ - Robert Chambers

CHICKEN

1st: Neighbors - Craig Loss
2nd: Sky High BBQ - Ken England
3rd: U Bacon Me DR! - Sean Tomlinson

JUDGED SAUCE

1st: 2 K's and a Q - Maura Kinsella
2nd: Big Ten BBQ - Joe Calcagno
3rd: Tuxedo Park - Frank Pedote

PEOPLE'S CHOICE SAUCE

1st: 2 K's and a Q - Maura Kinsella
2nd: Haber 'Cue - Joel Haberkorn
3rd: Foxy Boys BBQ - Adam Hoffman





2025 'CUE FOR A CAUSE' RAFFLE DONORS!

Andy Crnkovich	Jaynie Dunne
Anyway's Pub	Jelly's Children's Boutique
Armands Pizzeria	Jersey and Grace
Bachabee's	Jill Riecker
Beer on the Wall	Karen Exiner
Betty's Blow Dry & Beauty Bar	Kevin Koch
Bottle Theory	Kie&Kate Couture
Brad Sopko	Kimberly Felton
Bruce and Colleen Horek	Photography
Cara & Kevin Hovorka	La Jolie MLN Boutique
Carr Family	Makeup by Jen
Chicago Bulls	Mama Maria's Pizza
Chicago Line Cruises	Marilyn Arado
Classic Cinemas	Mike Fleming
Courtenae Trautmann	Patrick Hilby
Dawn Muckian	Phillip's Flowers & Gifts
DiLeo's Pizzeria	Pinot's Palette
Elijah's Coffee	Pints
Elmhurst Park District	Pots with Purpose
Elmhurst Photo Boutique	Riley's Gathering Place
Elmhurst Presbyterian Church	Roberto's Ristorante
First Course Productions	Ruff Life
Gia Mia	Smiley Nails
Glo-Up Salon, Beth Bartoik	Southtown Hot Dogs
Helping Hands Cleaning	Starbucks
Hinostroza Family	Steak Burrito

Thank you!

Thank you! 2025 'CUE FOR A CAUSE' SPONSORS!

FULL BOAR PLUS (\$5,000+)
C&C Power, Inc.

BOSS HOG (\$2,500)

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

WHOLE HOG (\$1,000)

Advanced Orthodontic Specialists, Bill & Julie Albin, Beyond Shades Hunter Douglas Gallery and Showroom, The Butler Family, Darley Family Foundation, Endeavor Health, Golden Boy Barbeque, Golf Group and Friends, Hauert Law Office, International Contractors, Inc., Lakeside Bank, Mehta Motors Inc., Wisdom Eldercare

FULL SLAB (\$500)

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

HALF SLAB (\$250)

Bethel UCC, Capannari Ice Cream & Catering, Custom Bindery, Dean G. Kekos and Associates, George & Andrea Hutchinson, John & Vicki Julian, Jim & Jan Kinsella, John & Kim Libert, Joe & Laura Maniola, John Noldan, Rate, John & Maria Shannon, Tom & Julie Wolfe

BACON (\$100)

Jean Bruno, Wally & Joyce Callahan, Michael Delaney, Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce, Enerpace Leadership Development, Fitness Formula Clubs, Stephanie, Patrick, Lucy & Molly Savage, Vinny & Susan Warren, Bryant & Corinna Wojcik



Partnership with schools helps EWAN support families

While care for all people lies at the heart of the assistance EWAN provides, the children who are affected by the tough financial situations are of particular concern. It's for this reason EWAN works to maintain a strong partnership with the Elmhurst schools.

Numerous programs are in place that directly serve students and their families.

- ♦ **The SWAN Fund.** SWAN stands for Students with Activity Needs. Students who want to participate in an activity that will provide academic, social, or physical enrichment can tap into this fund by making a request through their school social worker. The social worker passes the request to EWAN's coordinator of the program. Once the activity is approved, EWAN sends a check to the appropriate provider.
- ♦ **School Snack Program.** It's no secret growing kids like to eat. Some families though don't have the resources to send the snacks needed to see their students through a long day at school. To help these families,

EWAN provides D205 schools with a supply of healthy snacks students can access when needed. At most schools, the snacks are distributed via the social workers, but they might also be given out by a parent liaison, a teacher, or in the school office.

- ♦ **Subsidies for After-School Care.** Brand new this academic year, EWAN is offering families with students in the Park District Rec Station or the YMCA After-School Program a portion of the cost of these programs. The goal is to increase a family's earning power while providing a fun and safe place for children while their parents work.

In addition to these programs, EWAN maintains a close relationship with parent liaisons, school social workers, the D205 Foundation Board, and other entities that can provide an inroad to school families in need.

The pictures below show some of the ways EWAN has connected with the schools this fall.



Top Left: EWAN participated in the Annual Back to School Resource Fair on August 9, in the York High School Field House, hosted by the Elmhurst Resource Collaboration. Families could pick up school supplies and spirit wear, get health checks, and learn about resources available to them throughout the County, including EWAN.

Bottom Left: School Snack Program volunteers met with students who are part of the Lincoln School P.R.I.D.E. Ambassadors. These students are launching their second annual snack collection to donate to the EWAN School Snack Program.

Top Right: Conrad Fisher School held its annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration and invited EWAN to set up an information table and enjoy the fun. Families brought picnics, and kids enjoyed games, dancers from Ballet Folklorico, dance lessons, and sweet treats.

Check out EWAN's new Explore Elmhurst marketing video!



We're excited to share EWAN's brand-new 60-second marketing video—created in partnership with **Explore Elmhurst!** This engaging video highlights EWAN's mission and celebrates the strength of our local business community.

A big thank you to the Explore Elmhurst team and production crew for their excellent work, and to our dedicated volunteers who took part in bringing this video to life. The finished product is being shared across multiple platforms, including the **Elmhurst TV YouTube channel**, **Explore Elmhurst** and **EWAN websites**, and both organizations' social media pages.

Watch the video here



125 W. Church St.
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
ELMHURST, IL 60126
PERMIT NO. 125

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

New in 2026: The Annual Meeting will be in March!