

# Project Concern

Connecting people to services April 2009 Update



Spring has sprung and for those of us who help people in crisis, we are wondering what the weather will bring. this spring. We are continuing to meet with individuals who still have flood damage from the June 2008 rains. The staff's efforts this past year have been remarkable in attempting to help as many as possible recover. While not at a Cedar Rapids magnitude, there were over 400 applications from Dubuque County to FEMA for assistance. People who have lived in their homes for over 50 years had damage and flooding at a level they have never before experienced. Federal dollars covered approximately 1/3 of the actual costs to repair damage. It was after the federal and state agencies and dollars left, that the Long Term Disaster Recovery Committee stepped up to the plate and began to process additional claims. Many social service agencies participated in the process and are members of this committee, but it was through Project Concern's and Catholic Charities' efforts that individuals received additional assistance. Each application required a financial and need assessment in addition to site visitations and obtaining quotes for repairs, which took anywhere from 1 hour per application to weeks of work and contacts. The case managers put in countless hours and ultimately, we still were not able to help everyone with all their financial needs. The United Way and Dubuque Community Foundation contributed disaster dollars to cover the cases and these agencies have joined forces for the next disaster to handle all fundraising activities in the area. This frees the Committee to work with those in need and process applications. The work for the June 2008 flood was truly a community collaboration—one that deserves credit and one that all should be proud of. In the end, people came together and sent the message, "WE CARE". Isn't that a great feeling and sense of community!

Nancy Lewis, Executive Director

## MCGRAW HILL VOLUNTEER DAY

Once again, McGraw Hill will volunteer for Project Concern on Wednesday, May 20. Volunteers will be raking yards, cleaning windows, painting, etc. Seniors who are homebound, low-income individuals, and those who for whatever reason cannot complete work themselves can phone PC 588-3980 to sign up for a crew. Last year over 10 homes were served with projects such as building porch steps, painting a door, cleaning gutters and windows and raking yards. McGraw Hill purchases all the necessary supplies for the projects. If you know of someone that could use some assistance, please let us know!

**FOSTER GRANDPARENT LEGISLATION:** New legislation has passed Congress that will change the requirements for the FG Program. The age limit has been lowered to 55 and the income level allowed has increased. What this means is that for quite a few interested individuals, they will now qualify to be a Foster Grandparent. For the schools, more students will be served through the addition of volunteers to the program. More schools in outlying counties will also be added as FG sites. Reaching more at-risk students and assisting them with subjects in which they are struggling and also with social skill development means they will be better prepared to advance to the next grade in school and their chances for success are better. Additionally, senior citizens in the program will have a stipend check to help them financially. It is a win-win situation for two at-risk populations!



## Annual Fundraiser

Get your tickets now for this great event!

Its that time again....Our Annual Fundraiser is in the planning stages and promises to bring good food, a good time, great auction items and an enjoyable evening. Please join us in this vital fundraiser. Proceeds from this event assists the agency in reaching to those in need.

**When:** Thursday, June 18, 2009    **Where:** Diamond Jo

Rockin' by the River

**Time:** 5:30-6:30 Cocktails, 6:30 Dinner (pork BBQ) 7:30 live and silent auction including that scrumptious Desert Auction!!

**Tickets:** \$20/person (avail. at PC office or by phoning: 563-588-3980)



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# Project Concern

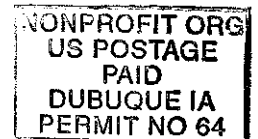
Connecting people to services

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The mission of PC is to identify unmet needs of individuals. PC assists these individuals in maintaining independence in society and strives to improve the lives of those the agency serves. PC identifies and responds to unmet needs in society through collaboration with other social service agencies or through development of new programs and services to meet those needs.

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1789 Elm St. #B  
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Return service requested