

Western Avenue  
Community Center  
  
Lawrence Irvin  
Neighborhood Center



# *The Center Connection*

Winter 2015

## Dance Showcase



*Save the date for a night of  
dancing and fun at our*

### **2nd Annual Dance Showcase**

**Friday, April 24, 2015 — 6:00 p.m.**

Tickets \$25

The proceeds will be used for our new playground. Check our website in early March for more details. **If you are interested in sponsoring the room for this event, please contact Whitney at 309-829-4807.**

## Thank You Supporters!

**W**estern Avenue Community Center's staff, board members, and clients thank our supporters for making 2014 a success. They say it takes a village to raise a child, but in our case, it takes a village to make Western Avenue a success! We have been blessed by many individuals, businesses, and churches that helped Western Avenue throughout the year.

**Second Presbyterian Church • State Farm Insurance • United Way of McLean County**

All our generous individual, church and business donors, our faithful and giving volunteers, our hard-working student interns, our friends and family of staff and board members.

Heartland Community College • Illinois State University • Illinois Wesleyan University

Midwest Food Bank • Peoria Area Food Bank • All our kind donors who brought in food and other items

All State Insurance • Ameren Illinois • Bloomington Township • Boitnott's Lawn & Landscaping  
Central IL Chapter of LINKS • City of Bloomington • Clay Dooley Tire & Auto • Coldwell Banker  
Commerce Bank • Country Financial • Funk Foundation • Gingerbread House • Golden K Club of Kiwanis  
Hermes Sales & Service • Illinois Prairie Community Foundation • Lone Star Steakhouse • Mavidea  
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Rosati's of Normal • Snyder Family Foundation • Specs Around Town • The Copy Shop • The Music Shoppe  
West Bloomington Revitalization Project • Winks Shell

*[www.westernavenuecc.org](http://www.westernavenuecc.org)*

## Mystery Dinner

The 5th Annual Western Avenue Community Center Mystery Dinner was a huge success and raised over \$13,000 to be used by WACC's programs. The theme was 'A Very Brady Murder Mystery Dinner' and the whole night had a 1970's theme. We look forward to hosting another Mystery dinner this fall! A BIG thank you to Lakeside Country Club; Joel Friend and Erika Sharpe from Without a Net Entertainment Co; emcee Dan Woodman; Matt Giordano, Cathy Stickelmaier, and Aubree Cottone who helped plan the event; and all of the individuals and businesses who donated items and attended!



Pictures Courtesy of The Pantagraph

## Food Pantry



The food pantry hosted a Valentine's Day themed Potluck

## Hispanic Outreach

The **Mexican Consulate** will be at **LINC May 21-23**. Last year during the Mexican Consulate's visit 1300 individuals obtained or renewed their Passports or Consulate ID's. For more information call Socorro at 309-829-4807 ext. 301.

The **Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser** will be Tuesday, **May 5**. An Authentic Mexican lunch will be available for \$10. This year food orders will only be available for carry out. Visit our website in early April for more information.

## LINC Youth Programs



**Top Left:**  
Mentoring 4  
Life at LINC



**Top Right &  
Bottom:**  
Basketball  
Leagues



## After School Program



A member of Rhythmic Circus, a percussive dance group that performed at the BCPA, came to Western Avenue and put on a demonstration for the children in the After School Program. The families that participate in the After School Program also had the opportunity to go to Cirque du Soleil when they performed at the Coliseum in November. Tickets were provided by Tickets for Kids.

**\* WACC/LINC Programming continues due to the generosity of the community. \***

## Seniors ... fun, fitness & friends



Everyone had a nice time at the Senior's Valentine's Dance. A special thanks to Avanti's for sponsoring the food, the Normal Community Key Club for taking pictures and decorating, all of the volunteers, and the attendees!

## Food Fight Update

The 3rd Annual WACC Intercity Food Fight took a different twist in 2014. The Food Fight took place on November 24, 26, 28, 29 and December 1 at the Intercity Basketball Tournament at the IWU Shirk Center. Non-perishable items were collected at the games, as well as the schools the week prior to the tournament. Collected items were counted as opposed to being weighed. Bloomington High School won the Food Fight with the most food collected. A big Thank You goes out to all the schools and people who contributed!



Bloomington High School won the Food Fight!

Please consider purchasing a **Bergner's Community Days** booklet from us! The coupons will be good on Friday, February 27 and Saturday, February 28. We have **coupons booklets available for \$5** that include a \$10 off coupon, a 30% off coupon, a 25% off coupon, and other offers. Contact Whitney at 309-829-4807 for more information.

### General Needs List

- **Gift cards or certificates** from office supply stores or home maintenance stores are welcome so we can buy items as needed.
- **Gas gift cards** would be a great help as we transport many youth to and from our programs every week.
- **Healthy snacks** for our After School youth.
- **Paper plates, cups, napkins** to serve snacks for After School youth.

### Office Wish List

- Postage stamps
- Copy paper, white, 8½" X 11"
- Envelopes, white, legal size
- Post-It Notes
- First aid supplies (band aids, Neosporin)
- Hand Sanitizer

### Food Pantry Wish List

- Canned food such as vegetables, fruits and meat
- Dried rice and beans
- Sandwich bread

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



**Western Avenue  
Community Center  
Business Hours**

Monday– Thursday  
9 a.m.– 5 p.m.  
Friday  
9 a.m.– 12 p.m.

**Main Line  
309-829-4807**

Academic Program Director  
309-829-4807 ext. 311

Development Director  
309-829-4807 ext. 303

Executive Director  
309-829-4807 ext. 300

Financial Director  
309-829-4807 ext. 304

Food Pantry  
829-4807 ext. 309

Hispanic Outreach  
309-827-3794

Interpretation/Translation 309-829-9231  
Volunteers/Interns 309-829-4807 ext.311

**Upcoming Events:**

Volunteer Recognition Reception—April 14  
2nd Annual Dance Showcase—April 24  
Cinco de Mayo—May 5  
Golf Outing—May 29

**Please consider making an investment in  
Western Avenue Community Center's  
programs by making a donation today.**

Mail your tax deductible donation to:  
**Western Avenue Community Center**  
600 N. Western Ave.  
Bloomington, IL 61701  
Attn: Gwinn Campbell, Financial Director

**VISIT US ON FACEBOOK**

*[www.westernavenuecc.org](http://www.westernavenuecc.org)*

*Our newsletter  
is sponsored by...* **State Farm Bank**  


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**Western Avenue Community Center**  
600 North Western Ave.  
Bloomington, IL 61701