

**VOLUNTEERS for WAYS Board of Directors:** Do you enjoy volunteering and assisting in the community? Directors guide the course of WAYS and help create the policies as well as provide for community oversight of the agency. The board meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month, from 6:30-8:30pm. Call WAYS 630-231-7166x119 for more information.

## **What We Do**

### **WAYNE/WINFIELD AREA YOUTH/FAMILY SERVICES (WAYS)**

WAYS is an IRS tax exempt

501 ( c ) 3 charity

WAYS provides: Counseling in English & Spanish, Youth Tutoring, Summer Day Camp, senior services, Parenting & Anger Magement Classes in English & Spanish, and related social services

WAYS is a United Way Agency & meets all Agency Standards

WAYS employs all qualified and licensed staff

Established 1983

Serving: Wayne and Winfield Townships of DuPage County including all of: West Chicago, Winfield, Warrenville, Wayne, Bartlett, Hanover Park, & Carol Stream

Hours: Monday – Thursday 10am-9pm with summer hours 8am-9pm  
Friday 9am-5pm  
additional hours by appointment

Fees: All services are free or on a sliding-scale based on income & family size

Executive Director: Patricia Gherardini, Licensed Clinical Social Worker

**Call Us Today!**

**630-231-7166**

27W031 North Avenue, West Chicago, IL 60185

**Mission Statement: Wayne/Winfield Area Youth/Family Services (WAYS) mission is to develop societal supports which enable youth, adults, and families to grow and maintain healthy and responsible roles in community life.**

# Wayne/Winfield Area Youth/Family Services: WAYS

## WAYNE/WINFIELD AREA YOUTH/FAMILY SERVICES (WAYS) HISTORY:

Wayne/Winfield Area Youth/Family Services (WAYS) was begun in 1977 by Wayne Township; and initially provided prevention programs for youth. In 1983, the agency became a separate not-for-profit **501(c)3** community social services agency, Wayne Township Youth Committee, Inc. That year, the agency also received a grant to provide crisis intervention services and merged with an existing crisis agency in West Chicago. This established the WAYS service area of Wayne and Winfield Townships of DuPage County, including all of Wayne, Winfield, West Chicago, Hanover Park, Carol Stream, Bartlett, and Warrenville.

In 1985, the agency became affiliated as a **United Way Agency**; and then funded by what is now the DuPage Area United Way and Northwest Suburban United Way. Also in 1986, the agency name was changed to Wayne/Winfield Area Youth/Family Services (WAYS) to reflect its expanded focus.

In 1986, **Internships** within a Professional Development Program were initiated with Master's level interns from several Universities. Bachelor's level interns were added to the youth program. Also monthly clinical seminars that provide **Continuing Education Units** for staff were established in 1986 to provide staff and community training.

The Youth Program includes such services as individual youth **tutoring**, parenting seminars, and prevention groups in local schools and community resource centers. **In-school groups** including Growing & Changing Groups for children experiencing loss and Social Skills groups were added in 1991. In 1996, WAYS began working with community volunteers the West Chicago Open Gym project that led to receiving the Governor's Home Town Award in 1999. After-school programming was added in 2001. **Summer day camp** programming was added in 2005.

A Community Needs Assessment identified the need for counseling services on a sliding scale. **Family therapy**, individual therapy, group therapy, marital therapy, and play therapy for young children are provided in our Counseling Program. In 1989, a United Way developmental program led to the establishment of the Hispanic Services Project. It provides services **in Spanish** led by Hispanic Master's level Social Workers and Counselors.

Groups and classes include the following: **Parenting Classes** for high-risk parents were established in 1986. In 1993, WAYS added a Master's level addictions therapist toward providing assessment and treatment efforts toward alcohol abuse, substance abuse, tobacco and eating disorders. Weight Management and obesity prevention programming was added in 2003. Addictions prevention curriculums were added to after-school programming by WAYS. **Anger management classes** for adults and teens were added in 2003. Beginning in 2002, **computer classes for seniors** were added.

WAYS future developments and efforts will continue to be based upon a response to the community needs.