

Unincorporated Willowbrook Community Engagement Impact Report

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Prepared for DuPage County | 2025–2026

Strengthening youth engagement, family support, trusted partnerships, and prevention-focused community coordination.

Coordinator Impact & Community Need

Families furthest away from opportunities need trusted support, not just referrals.

Coordinator Role:

- As an 18-year resident at Hinsdale Lake Terrace I build organic, trusting relationships with residents, youth, and families
- Warm handoffs to county and nonprofit resources
- Partnership coordination and follow-up support
- Attendance, referral, and engagement tracking
- Prevention-focused programming and resident engagement

Result: stronger community trust, improved participation, and more connected systems.

Transportation & Youth Engagement Outcomes

Ride DuPage Transportation Program

- 500+ residents enrolled by promoting and educating residents
- 30,000+ rides provided during 2025
- Increased transportation access for medical, employment, and daily living needs

Tuesday Night Teen Thrive Study and Tutoring program (Grades 8–12)

- 49+ unique students engaged
- Academic tutoring and SEL support
- 1,500+ pizza slices served to build trust and consistent participation
- Weekly mentorship and life-skills engagement
- New financial literacy partnership with Green State Credit Union

Community Engagement & Events

2025–2026 Community Impact Highlights

- 160+ residents engaged during Fall Fest distributed over 100lbs of fresh produce
- 100+ Fresh Thanksgiving meals distributed through community partnerships
- 120+ residents engaged during Winter Fest (holiday support)
- 150+ backpacks and school supplies distributed
- Organized a Community Job Fair with over 15 companies present, 51 residents attended, 4 enrolled in the Salvation Army CEJA program, 1 secured an interview and job w/the State of Illinois, 2 enrolled in certification program via College of DuPage
- Created a new partnership with Compudopt and 15 laptops distributed via the job fair
- 15 active residents: Created a structured Hinsdale Lake Terrace Resident Association w/ monthly Sip & Share engagement sessions launched Fall of 2025
- Community Garden Initiative was launched Spring 2026 at Hinsdale Lake Terrace with over 40 active senior and youth residents
- Expanded partnerships that add resident support by leading SEED Community Coalition

Partnerships, Prevention & Systems Coordination

Strong partnerships create stronger outcomes.

Key Partners:

- CCSD 180
- The Community House
- SEED Community Coalition
- Avanath @ Hinsdale Lake
- Green State Credit Union
- EHAN Health
- UChicago Medicine AdventHealth
- Lurie Children's Hospital LiFT Program
- Youth 4 Excellence
- Cityside Dance
- WorkNet DuPage
- Ladies of Grace Chi

Community engagement serves as a prevention strategy by reducing isolation, increasing access to support, and creating safe, structured opportunities for youth and families.

Community Safety & Crime Reduction Outcomes

Reported Crimes — Estimated 11% Decline

- Decreased from approximately 1,800 incidents in 2024 to a projected 1,596 incidents based on current 2025 trends

Calls for Service — Estimated 26% Decline

- Decreased from 58,033 in 2024 to a projected 42,636 based on current 2025 trends

Community Engagement Connection

- Increased structured youth engagement, mentorship, wellness programming, and resident participation coincided with improved community engagement outcomes
- Beginning in June 2025, intentional community engagement efforts focused on rebuilding trust, increasing positive youth participation, strengthening resident relationships, improving access to supportive resources, and creating consistent partnership-driven programming

Sources: DuPage County Community Needs Assessment | Impact DuPage Community Indicators | DuPage County Community Services Programs | DuPage County Community Transformation Partnership Grants

Upcoming Community Initiatives – Summer/Fall 2026

Elev8 Academy – Ladies of Grace Chi NFP

Free 6-week mentorship initiative for ages 13–19 featuring:

- Life Skills Lab Day
- Mental Health & Wellness Lab Day
- Physical Health & Nutrition Programming
- Dance, Arts & Movement Labs
- Led by trusted educators, fitness coaches, and mentors

Compudopt Community Distribution

- 165 refurbished laptops with 2-year warranties
- Supporting education, digital literacy, and work-from-home access

Community Job Fair & Hiring Event

- On-the-spot interviews and local hiring opportunities
- Employers include Ross, McDonald's, CEJA workforce partners, and more

Juneteenth Community Celebration

- Expecting to serve over 150 residents to cultivate unity, freedom, and progressive work

Closing Vision

Community engagement coordinator is not another outreach role:

It is the ongoing work of building trust, strengthening relationships, coordinating resources, and creating pathways for residents to move from survival toward stability and growth.

A better me = A better we.

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