



News...

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY DONATES VEHICLE TO LOCAL COMMUNITY AGENCY **CEDA/Neighbors at Work, Inc. receives City truck to help continue its much needed work**

EVANSTON, IL – Neighbors at Work, Inc., a local community action agency, recently received a donation of a surplus vehicle from the City of Evanston to help continue its much needed work in the area. The new truck will be used for the organization's minor repairs, interior and exterior painting services provided to Evanston homeowners.

"Our organization offers these services to area residents who meet the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program income guidelines," explained Patricia Vance, Director of Neighbors at Work, Inc. "The majority of our clients utilizing this program are senior citizens, female-headed households and individuals residing in the CDBG target area."

Neighbors at Work, Inc. is an affiliate agency of the Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc. (CEDA) serving the northern Townships of Cook County- Evanston, Nilens, New Trier and Northfield. It is a comprehensive, private and not-for-profit community action agency serving the diverse needs of low to middle income residents throughout the area since 1965.

Since 1984, CEDA/Neighbors at Work has been operating the Minor Repairs and Painting Assistance Program in Evanston. The program offers these repair services to Evanston homeowners. The program hires residents of the community as a part of the crew that performs the work on the homes. The vehicle is used to transport the crew and supplies to and from the various job sites.

"The current used vehicle, a 1994 orange Chevy Van, was purchased in 2004 from Cahill and has more than served its purpose over the years," explained Vance. "We are very grateful to Alderman Ann Rainey (8th Ward) for helping secure this donation from the City of Evanston."

Over the past couple of years, the original van has not been operating properly and the maintenance costs increased considerably. The current HUD guidelines do not allow for the program to purchase a vehicle. The board, under the leadership of President Hecky Powell, had as one of its goals to secure a vehicle for the program. Powell contacted the Chair of the CDBG Committee, Alderman Rainey, to come out to the worksite where the crew was working. The alderman was able to see the good work being done and the vehicle that was being used. After seeing the condition of the old vehicle, the alderman moved to help the agency secure a vehicle

donation from the City of Evanston who had some surplus vehicles that it was getting ready to auction.

“Thanks to the hard work of Alderman Rainey, we are now the happy owners of a 1996 GMC Tahoe which will help us continue to assist those in need in our community,” explained Vance.

CEDA/Neighbors at Work’s mission is to assist families and communities with services and economic opportunities that allow them to achieve self-sufficiency. In support of this mission, the organization operates a wide variety of programs in addition to the Minor Repairs and Painting Program designed to assist and equip eligible residents. These programs and services in Evanston include: Community Nutrition Network Senior Programs; Head Start services; Emergency Housing; Shelter and Food; Housing Counseling Programs; Workforce and Economic Development Programs; Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP); Women, Infants and Children (WIC); family case management; Small Business Loans; Scholarships; ESL classes; Weatherization; Senior Handyman Services; and ACCESS TO CARE Intake.

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Patricia Vance, Director of Neighbors at Work, Inc., with staff and new City of Evanston donated vehicle on left and old orange van on right.