

**WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S LETTER**

*Message from Lori*

*Volunteer of the Month*

*Safety/Health Corner*

*Upcoming Events*

*Highlights of November*

**MESSAGE FROM LORI...**



**Lori Chesna**  
Executive Director

**Seasons Greetings! Happy Holidays! Feliz Navidad! Merry Christmas! Happy Haunakha! Happy Kwanzaa!!**

Whew! These days, it's hard to be "politically correct" so you don't offend anyone. I've actually found myself sometimes not saying anything at all because I am fearful of hurting someone's feelings, especially if I am uncertain of an individual's ethnicity or religion. Yet, the "Lori" in me just wants to spread joy and well wishes and sometimes doesn't think before she speaks! I just want to spread love to others because to me, love has no boundaries. I WANT to believe people of all race/religions share a common ground; that we ALL want to spread love, good will and peace! (History tells us otherwise). For the most part, it seems that in December, people tend to give more of themselves. They give to food drives and charities; they reach out and volunteer; they make more donations; they even seem happier, more festive and even more forgiving! People really WANT to help others. Sometimes we are just creatures of habit waiting to be asked or waiting to feel the spirit motivate ourselves. However, did you ever wonder why this good will and spirit can't be carried throughout the year?

I just saw the movie "Blind Side" starring Sandra Bullock and Tim McGraw. If you haven't had the opportunity to see a "feel good" movie but want to, I recommend it. It's based on a true story of a young black teen raised in the projects, abandoned by his parents and taken in by the kindness of strangers who opened their minds, hearts and home. He eventually became a NFL superstar as well as a member of this family. I walked away from this movie inspired. I wonder why can't we all take away our prejudice and open our hearts everyday? Not just in December but throughout the year?

Then, I thought about each of you - SWSRA staff and volunteers. You DO give of yourselves throughout the year by working or volunteering with our clients. Most of you hold full-time jobs and go to school full-time, then give of yourself by coming to help SWSRA clients. You ARE the SPIRIT of SWSRA! Your positive attitude, commitment and dedication is inspiring!!! I am so proud of each of you! We are each unique individuals with different backgrounds, races, religions and beliefs, yet we blend together as a TEAM, and it makes for a great recipe for a diverse agency that works together!!!

My hope is that you all continue to carry the good will and spirit in your hearts! Each of you have been given a gift. Thank you for sharing it with SWSRA!

**JUST FOR FUN**

*Sudoku*

*Brainteasers*

*Did You Know*

**VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH**

**Nadia Equahia**



Congratulations Nadia for being December's Volunteer of the month. We really appreciate all that you do. You have been a continuing volunteer and are always willing to step in when needed. You work so well with participants and staff and are truly a joy to be around. SWSRA can

always count on you. You are the type of volunteer every organization should have and we are so thrilled to have you with us!

**SUDOKU**

This month's puzzle level is: Easy

2				5				1
7		9		2				
3	8					7		
	5	2	9	7		1		
		7		1	6	5	4	
		1					8	3
				6		2		5
4				3				6

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

4th - Feed the Hungry Dance

5th - Alsip Park District's

Santa's Landing

12- Holiday Magical at

Brookfield Zoo

18- Christmas at Georgio's

Dance

## Worth Community Center



Extra! Extra! Have you heard all about it?? SWSRA has finally moved into our new facility at 10707 Oak Park Avenue in Worth. Our Superintendent, Erin Lynch and our NEW Recreation Specialist, William Helling, are officially up and running at the Worth Community Center. After all the remodeling and touch-ups, it has really come together. We look forward to holding programs in a facility we can call our own.

Though a part of SWSRA has moved to Worth, SWSRA's main office will remain at the Alsip location (Apollo Recreation Center). Registration, payments, scholarships and other general inquiries will be taken care of at SWSRA's main office in Alsip.

The new Worth Community Center's main purpose is to house the recreation staff and provide space for programs. You can still reach Erin or Will by calling 708-389-9423 or by calling their cell phones:

**Erin, 708-997-2737** or  
**Will, 708-997-2738**

Thank you very much for all your patience during the move and we look forward to a new start!



## NEW SWSRA Recreation Specialist William Helling

SWSRA would like to cordially introduce you to the newest addition to the SWSRA team, Mr. William Helling, SWSRA's Recreation Specialist! Will attended Western Illinois



William Helling  
Recreation Specialist

University where he graduated with a Therapeutic Recreation Degree in August of 2009. He completed his internship at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. Will spent eight summers working at two different camps and recently worked as a Head Instructor and Inclusion Staff at Western Dupage Special Recreation Association (WDSRA).

Will is very excited about his new position at SWSRA and looks forward to making an impact. SWSRA had several outstanding applicants for this position, and are confident we have chosen the right person for our SWSRA Family. We are happy to add Will to our team and equally as excited about the energy and new ideas that Will brings to the agency!

**Welcome Will!**

### HIGHLIGHTS OF NOVEMBER 2009

- We had our annual Candlelight Bowl Fundraiser on November 7th at the Orland Bowl. It turned out great! We had around 100 bowlers and we were selling raffle tickets left and right. Thank you again for everyone who helped out either by staffing the night, bowling or making a donation!
- SWSRA went on the Pigeon Forge trip and everyone had a blast! Everything ran smoothly and SWSRA can't wait for their next trip, the Western Caribbean Cruise.
- SWSRA's Hoedown Dance ended up being a nice day so participants got to enjoy festivities both inside and outside!



1. First think of the person who lives in disguise, who deals in secrets and tells naught but lies. Next tell me what's always the last thing to mend, the middle of the middle and end of the end? Finally give me the sound often heard during the search for a hard-to-find word. Now string them together, and answer me this, what creature would you be unwilling to kiss?



2. What animal is most likely to eat a relative?

### DID YOU KNOW.....

#### ALL ABOUT JUSTICE

Justice is a village in Cook County, Illinois, United States established in 1911.

The population was 12,850 as of 2006.

Elementary and Middle school students attend schools in Indian Springs school District 109. High school students go on to Argo Community High School District 217 in neighboring Summit.

A major road running through the town is Archer Avenue (Illinois Route 171); in addition, Justice lies close to Interstate 55 (also called the Stevenson Expressway, after Adlai Stevenson) and Interstate 294 just east of LaGrange Road (U.S. Route 45).

All information was obtained from wikipedia.org

Answers:  
1.) Spider 2.) An ant-eater!

