

“What is in the public interest? It is in the public interest to eliminate a threat to public health and safety”.

- Bill Nelson

The Ralph Medhurst Comfort Fund

This fund assists with personal hygiene senior care for indigent senior residents. It was started by the family of Ralph Medhurst, a long time park resident and health supporter.

The Edgar Allen Youth Fund

This fund was an endowment from the estate of Edgar Allen (a former health department client who received notable care through the Local Health Department Services). He started this youth fund to help supplement school physicals and immunization costs for uninsured children without Medicaid.

Both the Medhurst and Allen families continue to donate to the two funds annually. Their objective is to take proactive responsibility for supporting the ongoing community services of the Park Forest Health Department for seniors, children, and adolescents. The Allen family now resides in Chicago, Illinois but continues to support the Park Forest Health Department as a viable south suburban area resource.



The Board at Work

The Friends of the Park Forest Health Department Board Members meet every two months on the second Tuesday throughout the calendar year. The Board reviews health department outstanding vouchers that need reimbursement for services delivered to either elderly Park Forest seniors who needed bath services and could not afford to pay the hourly service fee and unpaid vouchers for immunizations and school physicals for children who needed shots or a physical to comply with school requirements, but had not insurance or medical home provider.

“America enjoys the best health care in the world, but the best is no good if folks can't afford it, access it, and doctors can't provide it”.

- Bill Frist



THE FRIENDS OF THE PARK FOREST HEALTH DEPARTMENT, NFP



Mission

The Mission of the Friends of the Park Forest Health Department is to provide community and financial support for ongoing Park Forest Health Department services offered to the residents of Park Forest and surrounding communities. Our goal is to ensure that south suburban residents have equitable access to public and community health resources.



WWW.PFHEALTHFRIENDS.COM

PFHEALTHFRIENDS@GMAIL.COM

About US

The Friends of The Park Forest Health Department (FPFHD) is a 501c3 nonprofit (NFP) board. The Board was formally incorporated 1987 and incorporated as a NFP in 2001. It was established by a group of concerned Park Forest residents and community stakeholders who protested against rumors that the Village Board of Trustees were planning to close the Village owned local health department. FPFHD original founders believed in the “**Agpall**” concept of 1970. This concept states that local government is ultimately accountable for ensuring the health and well-being of the citizens of the Park Forest municipality. The acronym stands for “*a governmental presence at the local level*” (Turncock, 20212).

The FPFHD’s overarching goal is to work with the Park Forest Health Department to safeguard and improve the health and quality of life for Park Forest residents. This is accomplished through promoting services and administering health promotion activities that address pressing health trends and concerns, which present unique public health challenges throughout the Village of Park Forest. Another goal is to create fundraising opportunities that provide a safety net for individuals in need of clinical, health promotion, health protection and services. The Ralph Medhurst Comfort and the Edgar Allen Young funds were established to ensure access to services for individuals who otherwise would be denied assistance because of the financial inability to pay.

THE FRIENDS OF THE PARK FOREST HEALTH DEPARTMENT BOARD MEMBERS

President – Alicia McCray, Local GSU Administrator

Board Secretary – Susan Zinner, MSJ, MHA, JD, Professor, Indiana University Northwest

Acting Treasurer/Board Member – Jenise Ervin, RN, MSN, DNP Candidate Local Health Department Director

Board Member – DeLawnia Comer-HaGans, Assistant Professor, Governors State University

Board Member – Sally Fuhrmann Local Director of Rich Township Senior Center

Board Member – Zo Ramanonjarivelo Associate Professor Governors State University

Board Member – Eula Burge Founder/CEO/Executive Director Proactive Community Services

THE FRIENDS OF THE PARK FOREST HEALTH DEPARTMENT

350 Victory Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 748-1118