We’ve just passed through the most generous time of year with the 2014 holiday season. There’s thoughtful gift giving and a host of 4th quarter charity galas to raise funds for the nonprofit sector. But for the people who make a world of difference to those in need, the real work of 2015 is just getting started. We invited a handful of the nearly 200 charities and philanthropists operating in our area to show the wide range of services that exist.

And we applaud them for all they do.
Founded in 1936, Barrington Junior Women’s Club is a nonprofit organization that prides itself on friendship and philanthropy. Our various fundraising events each year enable us to provide generous grants to more than 18 local charities, as well as to provide six college scholarships to some of Barrington High School’s most altruistic and dedicated students. Our largest fundraiser is our Fall Fashion Show which was held a few weeks ago in Hoffman Estates. Over 400 women gathered for an afternoon luncheon that included fun, shopping, and philanthropy. Each year our organization works in conjunction with Barrington Giving Day to provide items needed for the Back-to-School event, as well as toys for the holiday Giving Day event in December. This year we provided enough toys for about 300 families on the free and reduced lunch program in Barrington 220.

Our organization is comprised of 15 or more committees, some of which include Community Service (Meals on Wheels), Safety Town (the only permanent site in the Northwest Suburbs, for children ages 5 to 7), Character Counts (service awards for outstanding citizens) and Service to Seniors. We are a group of more than 200 women who are committed to serving our community and helping others in need. The organization is successful largely in part to the dedication of its members, but also to the generosity of our community and local businesses. We thank you all for your unyielding support, generosity, and friendship.

I am so proud to be a Barrington resident and a member of BJWC. Our community has a heart of gold! With your help, we can continue to make a difference. If you are interested in joining our organization, we would love to welcome you at our next meeting on February 3, or at our Spring Fundraiser. Please visit our website for more information.

BARRINGTON JUNIOR WOMEN’S CLUB
P.O. Box 803
Barrington, IL  60011
www bjwc org

VERONICA THOMPSON IS THE PRESIDENT OF BARRINGTON JUNIOR WOMEN’S CLUB.
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as ALS or Lou Gehrig’s disease, is an “orphan” disease, meaning it affects fewer than 200,000 people nationwide. Barrington has adopted this orphan, and the Les Turner ALS Foundation could not be more grateful.

Barrington’s support helps the Les Turner ALS Foundation remain a leader in research, patient care, and education. The Foundation offers patient service programs and funds the Les Turner ALS Research and Patient Center at Northwestern Medicine, bringing together a multi-disciplinary center and three research laboratories under one umbrella.

This past year has seen an unprecedented outpouring of support for ALS globally. In Barrington, about 120 volunteers participated in the Tag Days drive, which has received long-time support from the BHS baseball team and coaches. The community’s generosity continued when Barrington resident Doug McConnell achieved the Triple Crown in Open Water Swimming and became the 84th person in the world to swim around Manhattan Island.

Barrington residents rallied in a community-wide ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. Also, 200 people walked as Paul Launer’s “Iron Horse Brigade” for the Les Turner ALS Walk for Life, raising a record-breaking $140,000 this fall. And, a transformative donation from the Barrington-based Foglia Family Foundation is helping advance research studies.

The gift of time, energy, and funds from Barrington area residents has made a measurable difference to people with ALS (PALS). In 2014, we served 90 percent of PALS in the Chicago area, allocated more than $2 million toward research and patient care, and hosted several educational events. We remain committed to moving forward with unwavering focus until the day when there are ALS survivors.
In 2001, I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Unable to work, drive, or walk independently, I asked myself *what do I do now?*

Fourteen years later, the fitMS NeuroBalance Center strives to answer that question for others newly diagnosed, and those searching for ways to live better with neuromuscular and autoimmune diseases that threaten independence. The Center is a comprehensive resource for those living with progressive, disabling conditions affecting balance and mobility. Conceived as a post-rehabilitative exercise program, our Center offers a wide variety of specialized fitness classes and other services. Our on-site nurse, chiropractor, personal trainer, counselors, and massage therapist are available by appointment. We offer counseling including: disease management, nutrition, and strategies for living with debilitating conditions such as MS, Parkinson’s, Fibromyalgia, stroke, and many others.

Isolation is the enemy, whether it’s the physical isolation that accompanies a loss of mobility, or the emotional isolation that comes with diagnosis. The toll can be devastating. The NeuroBalance Center offers a place to go, someone to see, and the opportunity to meet with others who share a common goal. The Center hosts education events on site (open to everyone) presented by experts on a wide range of topics from disability law and government programs to healthcare issues. We’ve partnered with Cuba Township to provide wheelchair accessible bus service to and from the Center for those who need it.

Once considered radical, our program has gained a widespread acceptance within the medical community, with each physician referral bringing new validation. The goal is simple: use every tool in the box. Community support is crucial: your time, your donation, and your help getting the word out to those who need to know can make all the difference.

Joy Wagner is the founder of fitMS, located in Barrington on Hart Road.

**Finding Your Balance**

FitMS® NeuroBalance Center, NFP
800 Hart Road, suite 140
Barrington, IL 60010
847-800-6162
Joy Wagner RN, BSN, Founder
Email: joy@fitms.org®
www.fitMS.org
Our days are made up of all the little happenings with the people around us. The ability to connect to those people is a severely underrated component to quality of life. To laugh with someone else, to feel their empathy, to be relaxed in their company—these are all priceless things that are often taken for granted. Those that suffer from an intellectual or developmental disability, or IDD, are in a constant struggle to enjoy those simple social aspects of everyday life.

Barrington Buddies is a high school social club that has over 90 members. Together, we create an environment of friendship, acceptance, and inclusion for our buddies that have an IDD. Each buddy is in a friendship family (a group of up to 15 members) that sits together at meetings, goes to basketball games together, and hangs out on weekends. This circle of people becomes a comfort zone for the buddies, a group of people that are excited to see them in the halls, support them at their plays and Special Olympics games, and go out for pizza or play laser tag. To have a home base of people, a social comfort zone, is an invaluable part of the high school experience for any teenager.

We ask you to help spread an environment of inclusion. We love invitations to community events and support at Special Olympics games. It is greatly appreciated when the community makes an effort to make events wheelchair accessible. We ask that everyone works with us to eliminate offensive, discriminatory language such as the ‘R’ word (for more information, look up “Spread the Word to End the Word”).

The impact of Barrington Buddies can be felt with every high-five, fist bump, and hug, and seen in the big smiles on every face during a dance party, at a club meeting, and heard in the rushed excitement of voices between buddies in the hallways. In Barrington Buddies, I have found a deep respect for the kindness of human companionship, and I hope that this very simple joy will spread outside of the borders of our club and into the entire Barrington community.
Let It Be Us is a startup nonprofit whose mission is to build awareness and inspire the adoption and care of foster children. Our work has launched in Illinois, which has the 3rd largest number of foster children in the United States who age out of the foster care system without ever finding permanent families. Not only do these children go out into the world alone, the statistics about what happens to them next is shattering: 50 percent will graduate from high school, and 3 percent will graduate from college and will continue suffering throughout their lives as a result of being undereducated and unemployable.

Our mission is multifaceted:

To build awareness about the 3rd type of adoption – adoption from foster care. People know about adopting a newborn from an agency and foreign adoptions, but few know about adopting from foster care, which is free and available to everyone. These children range from newborns to teenagers, and represent a full spectrum of ethnicities. In the United States, there are 96,000 foster children available for adoption, with 3,300 living in Illinois. To care for children in foster care, particularly those who live in group homes, which accounts for 15 percent. Some of these group homes have as many as 140 children and some have as few as six. Group homes are often a child’s last stop before they are sent out into the world with absolutely nothing. We have discovered group homes that have never been approached by a helping hand, and we are retrofitting these homes to address their needs of hunger, comfort, and education.

We believe that when we help these children, we will change the course of their lives and trigger a multitude of effects that will benefit generations to come.

Our major fundraiser for 2015 is a golf outing that is scheduled for September.

We are looking for corporate and foundation sponsorship during this opportune time in Illinois, as the State stands ready to solve problems. This is one of its biggest.

Let It Be Us

For more information or to help, visit www.letitbeus.org (there is a contact page) or reach out to Susan McConnell at: susan@letitbeus.org.
Riding the Storm Out

I am deeply passionate about serving the mental health needs of the Barrington community. At some point, everyone experiences emotional difficulties. Barrington Youth & Family Services (BYFS) is a place that people in our community can trust and turn to for support to help them get through difficult times. By helping children and families, we build the strength of our entire community.

BYFS is a social service agency that addresses the immense need to provide mental health services such as counseling, prevention, and outreach to the Barrington area. Our organization provides counseling to children, families, couples, and adults in a safe and confidential environment. It is our goal to help our community through difficult life circumstances including depression, anxiety, grief and loss issues, trauma, stress, substance abuse, suicidal ideation, and self-harm. BYFS’ mission also emphasizes the importance of providing services to those that may be struggling financially. Presently, about 60 percent of our clients receive services at a sliding scale rate and nobody is turned away due to an inability to pay.

BYFS is grateful for the support we receive from Barrington Area United Way, Barrington Area Community Foundation, Barrington 220, as well as local churches, townships, women’s groups, and foundations. However, additional funding is still necessary to provide quality mental health services. We are working on our Winter Campaign, which draws financial support through generous local donors. Our major fundraiser is the BYFS Gala, which will take place on April 18, 2015 at Barrington Hills Country Club. We can always use help to support our mission in these areas: funding; volunteers to work on special projects such as BYFS’ annual Winter Campaign and Donor Thank You Reception in May (invitations go out in April) and everyday promotion – please tell your friends and neighbors about the services we offer.

DR. AMIT KAKKAR IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BYFS AND OVERSEES THE AGENCY.

BARRINGTON YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES
110 South Hager Avenue
Barrington, IL 60010
847-381-0345
www.barringtonyouthandfamilyservices.org
Dr. Amit Kakkar may be reached at: dr.amit.kakkarbyfs@live.com
If you are unfamiliar with Stillman Nature Center, it is an independent 501(c)3 nature center that is self-sustaining (receives no tax monies). The Stillman property is an 80-acre preserve located on the south side of Penny Road in South Barrington.

In 2013, the Center was honored with an environmental preservation award from Garfield Farm Museum. The museum has been presenting these awards for over 25 years. Here are comments from Garfield Farm:

*It began in 1984 with Alexander Stillman’s gift of his 80 acre estate…. Since the initial bequest, dedicated volunteers have worked to present the site as an environmental education center raising funds and laboring to improve wildlife habitat. The Center has also provided refuge for injured birds of prey that can no longer survive in the wild.*

In addition to the award, Executive Director Mark Spreyer, a Barrington native, was recognized:

*One of its founding board members, Mark Spreyer, helped establish the peregrine falcon’s return to Chicago in the 1980s. After working in Minnesota, Spreyer returned in 1995 to become the first executive director of Stillman. His determined dedication to the success of Stillman and his great enthusiasm to educate the public, best represents what so many nonprofits depend upon, hours of labor that fit no job description and go beyond any 40-hour work week.*

Stillman hosts all of District 220’s first-grade classes in spring, and second-grade classes in autumn. Mark Spreyer has given his raptor programs to tens of thousands in the Chicagoland area.

Stop by for a visit on any Sunday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Weekday programs and off-site raptor talks can be scheduled by using the contact information listed below. Donations are needed and always appreciated.

**STILLMAN NATURE CENTER**
33 W. Penny Road
South Barrington, IL  60010-9578
847-428-OWLS(6957)
www.stillmannc.org
Email: stillnc@wildblue.net
Every Moment Counts

MEMBERS OF JOURNEYCARE’S TEAM INCLUDE MAGGIE MCMEKIN, RN; VOLUNTEER JAMES CHISHOLM; AND THE REV. DR. ZINA JACQUE, MEMBER OF THE JOURNEYCARE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

JourneyCare’s history of compassionate care has remained committed to a single mission – to make every moment count for those touched by serious illness and loss. We are honored to care for families in the 10 counties we serve, and proud to be the largest community-based nonprofit palliative and end of life care provider in the Chicago area.

JourneyCare’s patient and family-centered team approach to expert care, pain, and symptom management and emotional and spiritual support includes specially trained doctors, nurses, certified nursing assistants, social workers, chaplains, and volunteers. They work closely with the patient, family, and personal physician to create an individualized plan focused on comfort and quality of life.

Last year, we cared for more than 3,600 patients and their families, the most ever in our history. Many of these families struggled to make ends meet, and lacked insurance or the ability to pay for services. Thanks to the generosity of the community, JourneyCare has never turned anyone away who needed our care, regardless of ability to pay. In 2014, the JourneyCare Foundation provided $1,140,000 in unreimbursed care and support. Some families received assistance for basic needs, such as food, a utility bill, or an auto repair so they had reliable transportation for doctor’s appointments. Others had end of life wishes to fulfill such as a special ceremony to marry their soul mate, or a get-together for family and friends to say goodbye to a seriously ill child. JourneyCare is able to make moments like these count because of donations to JourneyCare Foundation.

Help JourneyCare keep its promise for everyone who needs it now, and in the future.

JOURNEYCARE
405 Lake Zurich Road, Barrington, IL
847-381-5599
224-770-2489 (Referrals)
www.journeycare.org

Online donations may be made through the website at www.journeycare.org/donate

SIGNATURE FUNDRAISERS:
Decades Dance
(Supports JourneyCare for Children)
Saturday, February 28, 2015 • Crystal Lake Holiday Inn

The Gala: Saturday, June 27, 2015 • Tudor Oaks Farm, Barrington Hills
Impact 100 Chicago’s mission is to award membership funded, transformational grants to local nonprofit organizations while empowering women to improve lives through philanthropy.

Members join our organization by making a $1,000 tax-deductible donation. For every 100 women who join, we give away a $100,000 grant. All members receive a vote in selecting our Impact grant recipients and the opportunity to participate in the grant review process. Membership is a unique, educational, and exciting experience. Impact 100 Chicago has two chapters to join, either city or suburban.

We believe the by-product of our efforts is a win-win for the community. By joining Impact 100 Chicago, our members have the opportunity to become more knowledgeable about the needs in our Chicagoland communities and the nonprofits that are working hard to address those needs. The nonprofits that apply to us gain access to a network of philanthropic-minded women who have pooled their resources to make a bigger impact.

In June of 2015, we will have awarded over $1.2 million to worthy, local nonprofit organizations in just five years. We will have awarded $100,000 Impact grants to 10 different organizations, as well as provided merit grants to over 25 worthy, local nonprofit organizations.

We welcome women from throughout the Chicagoland area to join our organization. The suburban chapter annual Grant Award Celebration, at which our members vote to select the Impact grant recipients after listening to presentations from the finalist’s organizations, will be held on June 2, 2015.
Miracles do come true, thanks to the Carolyn Gable “Expect A Miracle” Foundation and its donors.

Those miracles are delivered as a financial bridge to enable children to experience extracurricular activities such as dance, sports, tutoring, and music opportunities for single parent families who otherwise would not be able to afford them. While the majority of the families are that of single mothers, the Foundation also helps single or widowed fathers and their children.

The statistics for the nearly half a million single parent families in Illinois represent they live with very low incomes, and often below the poverty line. For these single parents, it is nearly impossible to fund extracurricular activities that help build character, create opportunity, and grow the self-esteem in their children.

Carolyn Gable, the Foundation’s founder, knows what it’s like to be a single parent, and in her case, with seven children at her side. Gable is the owner of New Age Transportation in Lake Zurich, Ill., and as her business grew, she was ready to give back to the community. She and her Foundation’s board of directors have helped thousands of people across the United States, many locally, as well as in Chicago’s inner city.

The Foundation reports that the needs are great and the miracles they provide can help change a child’s life. The best support you can provide is the much-needed funding. Donations are welcome, as well as participation in the annual Cosmic Bowling fundraiser held in August.

**EXCEPT A MIRACLE FOUNDATION**
1881 Rose Road
Lake Zurich, IL 60047
847-545-1157
Email: info@expectamiraclefoundation.org
www.expectamiraclefoundation.org

Carolyn Gable is the owner of New Age Transportation and founder of the Expect A Miracle Foundation.
Maria and Alexander Magnus founded Magnus Charitable Trust in 1995 to make a positive impact on the world by feeding and educating those that were in need, and provide them with the tools and skills to succeed.

When Alexander passed, his wife continued the mission of the charity and has since traveled the world in an endless pursuit to help – from providing 60 metric tons of food and supplies to villages in Africa, to building the Magnus Star School in Rwanda, to helping save Pope John Paul II Elementary School of Chicago from closing.

In 2013, her daughter, Victoria, took her place as director and works alongside her mother to give back. From the knowledge of her own struggles, Victoria takes her experience and turns it into a positive, helping those in similar situations know that they are not alone, and that the fight to succeed is worth the reward.

This past June, Maria and Victoria held their 3rd successful scholarship luncheon for 40 hand-selected students from low-income families, to help them attend college. This scholarship provides a mentor, and also the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty, homelessness, and gang violence. These students have the chance of achieving the bright and successful future they deserve, and in the end, are simply asked to help “pay it forward” and to be a hand up, instead of a handout.
A Horse’s Field of Dreams

The Hooved Animal Rescue & Protection Society (HARPS) gives voice to the horse world by offering help to farm animals through rescue and intervention. HARPS assists animal owners by providing resources, education, and advocacy programs all designed to ultimately end abuse and neglect.

HARPS has plans to break ground by the spring of 2015 with a 100-acre model horse rehabilitation facility in partnership with Barrington Hills Farm. The “Horses Field of Dreams” will soon be a lifeline for animals in need, and will give them the ability to take an additional 50 emergency rescues in at one time.

Ewing started the first national horse rescue right here in Barrington over 40 years ago, and after heading four separate rescue operations, has made a full circle back to her hometown. Through investigation and legislature, Ewing has saved and given life to thousands of horses and farm animals whose fate would have otherwise been inevitable. HARPS’ most recent rescue involved saving 75 abandoned horses, the largest single case in the organization’s history and a proud addition to their accomplishments.

For as little as $5 per month, you can become a sustaining member of HARPS and help support its continued mission of ending hooved animal cruelty, finding horses homes, and helping at-risk youth. HARPS looks to continue its outreach to youth and adult educational programs in the Barrington area.

A visit to HARPS facility can offer real hope and a powerful visual appreciation of how love, proper treatment, and unselfish giving can bring about remarkable change.

“The donation of a lifetime – of a perfect hundred acres of prime land in Barrington Hills on which to build yet another shelter – has come true,” Ewing says. “The entire community will benefit in so many ways, that space here will not allow me to elaborate. All I can ask of you is to join me and HARPS’ staff on our exciting journey of faith into a brighter future for both animals and humans. We will need your continued moral and financial support.”

HARPS IS LED BY (FROM LEFT) PROGRAM DIRECTOR, JASON BITTON; OPERATIONS MANAGER RONDA GRIFFIN; EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JASON HORNICKEL; AND FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, DONNA EWING.

HARPS
P.O. Box 94 • Barrington, IL 60011
www.harpsonline.org
847-382-0503
The Alexian Brothers Center for Mental Health serves as a safety net for our community in a number of ways, one of which is to provide outreach and intervention services to 11 area middle schools and high schools.

We realize the stressors our children face in today’s society, and the important impact that early intervention has on the development of the most vulnerable members of our community. Our team of therapists do not wait for someone to contact them, instead they work right here in the schools providing individual and group counseling and crisis intervention to students in need. They also educate the entire student body, staff, and families on a variety of topics including bullying, suicide intervention, and mental health.

Our Center has been active in our community for 52 years and follows the Alexian Brothers 800-year path of addressing unmet needs in our society. We do this because it is the right thing to do. We are losing our children cognitively, emotionally, and physically, and cannot stand back and let this happen. One example of a life literally saved is the teen that approached a counselor after a school assembly, where the counselor discussed depression, and wanted to talk with her. This student had a suicide note in his pocket with a plan to take his life. This student did not take his life; instead, his life was saved as a result of this moment.

Our School Mental Health program is funded completely by philanthropy, receiving no funds in any other form. In order to maintain and expand this program in future school years, our top priority is securing the funding to do so. Please think of your child, or that of a neighbor or loved one, and consider making a donation in their honor to support this critical mission.
PHD’s programs employ evidence-based practices effective in promoting mother and babies’ healthy development: support groups for parents with babies and young children strengthens social networks; postpartum care and counseling reduces maternal isolation; counseling services for grief and loss provide hope for the future. Our Motivate Prevention Programs teach adolescents about healthy sexuality and relationships, goal setting, and how decisions you make today can affect your life for years to come.

I am passionate about women, children and families, and that children are given the chance to grow up knowing the love and stability of a family. Addressing the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of a mother during her pregnancy and early parenting years can only lead to a strong family and thus, a strong community.

The teenage years are confusing enough without adding a pregnancy or an STI in the mix. PHD will continue to go into local area junior highs and high schools to share fact-based solutions to avoid each. The counseling center knows first-hand the brutal consequences of becoming sexually active at an early age. We want to be sure adolescent’s truly understand these consequences and the choices to avoid them.

Last year we served 550 clients with over 6,000 visits to the counseling center. And our Motivate Prevention programs were presented to over 7,000 students!

The community’s financial support is the key, and PHD relies on the generosity of individuals to sustain our mission. PHD also needs volunteers to go out into the local area junior high and high schools and teach our Motivate Prevention Programs. We also welcome diapers donations in sizes 3, 4, and 5 to distribute to those in need.

CATHY VINCUS IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PHD IN INVERNESS.

PHD
1610 Colonial Parkway • Inverness, IL
847-359-4967
www.sphd.org
Cathy Vincus, Executive Director
Email: cvincus@sphd.org

SIGNATURE FUNDRAISER:
Spirit of Life Gala, April 25 at Wynstone Golf Club
The purpose of the Toys for Tots program is to provide toys for less fortunate children to ensure that every child has toys for Christmas. The Marine Corps Reserve spends the months of October, November, and December partnering with the communities to raise monetary donations and toys for children in need. We have businesses that help by becoming a drop-site for anyone to drop off toys, and the funds raised will be used to buy additional toys or toys for the older children.

I have enjoyed the sparkle in children’s eyes on Christmas morning and would love to see it in many other others. I work alongside the Marines of Marine Air Control Group 48 (MACG-48) Great Lakes, to volunteer my time in the Barrington area, providing toy boxes to businesses and arranging pick-up of all toys collected. I also work with the Village of Barrington in their tree lighting ceremony to collect toys and raise monetary donations, with all proceeds going to the Marines. My motivation for doing this every year is that I want to make a difference in my community and to help other less fortunate kids within the Lake County area.

In the campaign for 2013, we really pushed to get the public into the giving spirit for Toys for Tots, and we were able to get a total of over 70 boxes full of toys in the Barrington area. We worked really long hours to accomplish this for the program, and our efforts were greatly appreciated by the Marines. Gunnery Sergeant Jones told me earlier in October that we really need to exhaust all means of collecting toys for this year, and together we collected over 95,000 toys for Lake County.

We get a lot of toys for children for ages nine and below. We would like to let the community know that we need toys for the many older children who are ages 11-14.

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS GUNNERY SERGEANT DENNIS M. JONES, TOYS FOR TOTS COORDINATOR, AND ROBIN DAVIS-SCHULTZ, TOYS FOR TOTS BARRINGTON AREA COORDINATOR.

TOYS FOR TOTS
2205 Depot Dr. Bldg. 3200
Great Lakes, IL 60088
224-256-6053
http://highwood-il.toysfortots.org
Email: Gunnery Sergeant Dennis M. Jones Jr. (toys4totslakecounty@gmail.com)

ROBIN DAVIS-SCHULTZ
Local Toys for Tots Barrington Area Coordinator
Signature Fundraiser: Village of Barrington Tree Lighting Celebration
847-494-9112
Quintessential Barrington thanks photographer Matthew Bowie for his dedication to our Faces of Philanthropy project. You can learn more about him at www.matthewbowie.com.

Special thanks to Dee Dee Johnson of Bataille Academie of the Danse for her support of this project.