UNITED WAY OF METRO CHICAGO
NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK INITIATIVE

PARK FOREST / RICHTON PARK NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK



OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

The Park Forest/Richton Park Neighborhood Network (PRNN) was established in June 2023 through a powerful collaboration between United Way of Metro Chicago and Cook County's Transforming Places Program, with support from the Nicor Gas Foundation. At the heart of this effort, OAI proudly serves as the "community quarterback," convening partners and amplifying residents' voices to drive shared progress.

Park Forest was founded in 1948 as a planned community for veterans returning from World War II. It was the first post-war planned community, and its innovative design has been recognized and used as a model for towns throughout the world. Richton Park is located along the Sauk Trail, used by the Sauk and Pottawatomie tribes. The Illinois Central Railroad was developed in the area in 1852. Later, Richton Park was the last stop on the electrified line, which was established in 1926. Today, both communities support affordable housing developments, sustainable practices, and plentiful parks and recreation facilities to encourage growth.

LEAD AGENCY

OAI

COMMUNITY VISION

Envisioning a community where all members have the right to quality living, regardless of race, gender, or social economic status, and feel safe, empowered, and respected

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES:
A DUAL APPROACH IN PARK FOREST / RICHTON PARK



- Food Access
- Individual Health and Wellness

RESPONDING TO IMMEDIATE BASIC NEEDS OF Park Forest / Richton Park Residents

BUILDING NEIGHBORHOOD SYSTEMS STRONGER IN Park Forest / Richton Park



- Education and Youth Development
- Community Health and Wellness
- Workforce Development

NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK IN ACTION

The Park Forest/Richton Park Neighborhood Network (PRNN) is comprised of more than 10 community organizations that subscribe to PRNN's mission of supporting community members from a holistic approach and ensuring access to quality living is obtainable and equitable for all residents.

Since inception, PRNN has grown through deep-rooted partnerships and the active involvement of local residents. Through initiatives like the PRNN Scholarship, Family Stability Assistance Program, and Youth Advisory Board, the Network is advancing a collective vision of stronger families, empowered youth, and a more resilient community.

Imagine a place where every family can find fresh, affordable food, quality healthcare, and the support they need to live healthier, stronger lives—all in one welcoming location!

That is the vision behind the PRNN Health & Wellness Hub.

Since October 2025, the Park Forest-Richton Park Neighborhood Network (PRNN) has been working with residents and community partners to advance this transformational, community-driven initiative. Guided by resident surveys and ongoing community engagement, residents identified two of their greatest priorities: access to fresh, healthy food and quality healthcare. The Health & Wellness Hub is being designed to respond directly to those needs.

- The Hub will feature a fresh produce grocery store and a community health clinic, creating a trusted destination where residents can nourish their bodies, care for their health, and access essential services close to home. It will also include community workshop and gathering space for health education, wellness programming, financial empowerment, and neighborhood events, along with workforce training, administrative offices, and on-site benefits enrollment services that connect residents to critical resources in real time.



> *This vision is being advanced through the collective leadership and partnership of OAI, Inc., IFF, the Southland Development Authority, the Village of Park Forest, Cook County, United Way, and the dedicated members of the PRNN Steering Committee, whose shared commitment continues to transform community priorities into meaningful action.*



CHERISE WILLIAMS
Park Forest/Richton Park
Neighborhood Network Organizer, OAI

JOIN US! Together, we can build neighborhoods like Park Forest /Richton Park stronger. Direct your United Way gift to **"Neighborhood Networks"** to be a part of this critical strategy. Learn more at LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/neighborhood-networks

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