

COMMUNITY SERVICES GUIDE

Downers Grove School District 58

At District 58, we are dedicated to helping our over 5,000 students grow academically and develop their skills, believing in fostering innovation and creativity, and building strong partnerships between our schools and the community. We understand that families may sometimes need support beyond what the school district directly provides. This guide is designed to help students and families easily locate and access valuable community services and resources available in and around Downers Grove, addressing needs such as food, housing, mental health, and educational support.

This Community Services Guide will be made available to District 58 families through our District 58 website, specifically under the "Family Resources" and "Community Resources" sections. It can also be shared via e-flyers and referenced by school staff, including our homeless liaison, to connect families with appropriate outside resources.

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This guide provides families with a centralized hub of resources and programs available within the Downers Grove School District 58 community. We hope that the easily navigable format of this guide will make finding the support your family needs even easier. From education, to health, to family and community programs, District 58 and Downers Grove are here to support you.

Section 1 - Food & Basic Needs Assistance

Blessings in a Backpack (District 58 Program)

This program provides students who are food insecure with meals on weekends and school breaks. It aims to ensure that children receive nutritional meals over the weekend, bridging the gap when federal government school programs do not provide food. The program distributes bags of ready-to-eat food to thousands of children nationwide. District 58 partners directly with this organization.

- **Website:** <https://giving.blessingsinabackpack.org/organizations/downers-grove-dg-58>
- **Email:** info@blessingsinabackpack.org
- **Address:** This is a program within District 58; no separate physical address is provided for local distribution. Please contact your school's social worker for more information.
- **Phone:** (800) 872-4366

People's Resource Center (PRC)

PRC responds to hunger and poverty in DuPage County, assisting nearly 26,000 DuPage residents annually. They offer nutritious food, clothes, and rent assistance to neighbors in need. Additionally, PRC connects people with resources for education, tutoring, jobs, technology, and art. They provide workshops on computer skills like Excel and Word, and adult literacy classes.

- **Website:** <https://www.peoplesrc.org/>
- **Email:** <https://www.peoplesrc.org/contact/> (Contact Form on Website)
- **Address:**
 - Main Office (mailing address): 201 S Naperville Rd, Wheaton, IL 60187
 - Westmont Office: 104 Chestnut Ave, Westmont, IL 60559
- **Phone:** (630) 682-5402

West Suburban Community Pantry (WSCP)

WSCP works to create opportunities for neighbors to thrive by providing nourishing food and access to supportive resources. Serving approximately 1,000 families each week in Fiscal Year 2024, WSCP provides groceries, including fresh produce, non-perishable foods, dairy, eggs, frozen meat, bread, and baked goods. They are committed to breaking down barriers to food assistance and implementing new services for the community.

- **Website:** <https://wscpantry.org/>
- **Email:** <https://wscpantry.org/contact/> (Contact Form on Website)
- **Address:** 6809 Hobson Valley Drive, Suite 118, Woodridge, IL 60517
- **Phone:** 630-512-9921

Other Community Food Pantries (within Downers Grove and nearby Westmont)

- **FISH Food Pantry**
 - **Website:** <https://www.downersgrovefish.org>
 - **Email:** info@downersgrovefish.org
 - **Address:** 4341 Saratoga Avenue, Downers Grove, IL
 - **Phone:** (630) 964-7776; Financial Assistance: (630) 719-6614
 - **Drive-up Food Distribution Hours:** Tuesday 4-6PM, Friday 8:30-11:30AM

- **St. Joseph Church**

- **Website:** <https://stjosephdg.org/events/st-vincent-de-paul-weekly-food-pantry>
- **Address:** Parish Center, 4824 Highland, Downers Grove
- **Phone:** St. Vincent De Paul Society at [630-964-0216](tel:630-964-0216) x1011
- **Hours:** Open every Thursday from 8:15-10:30 a.m.

- **St. Mary's Church**

- **Website:** <https://stmarygostyn.org/ministries-christian-service/>
- **Email:** parish@stmarygostyn.org
- **Address:** 444 Wilson Street, Downers Grove
- **Phone:** [\(630\) 969-1068](tel:630-969-1068)
- **Hours:** Open Wednesday from 8-11 a.m.

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Section 2 - Housing & Homelessness Support

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (District Resource)

Every school is required by law to designate a local liaison for children and youth experiencing homelessness. The liaison works to make sure that homeless children and youth enroll in school and have the opportunity to succeed academically.

- **Website:** <https://www.dg58.org/family-resources/mckinney-vento-homeless-act>
- **Contact Person:** Jessica Stewart, Homeless Liaison/Assistant Superintendent for Special Services
- **Email:** jstewart@dg58.org
- **Phone:** 630-719-5824

DuPagePads' Access Center

DuPagePads' mission is to end homelessness in DuPage County. As the largest provider of interim and permanent housing in the area, they offer vital support services, including case management, life coaching, employment support (job coaching, employer engagement), to help individuals work toward self-sufficiency. Their year-round programs provide feeding and sheltering, and they operate a Street Outreach program for immediate assistance. They focus on homelessness prevention by helping with rent or emergency bills to keep individuals housed.

- **Website:** <https://dupagepads.org>
- **Address:** 703 W. Liberty Drive, Wheaton, Illinois 60187 USA
- **Phone:** (630) 682-3846, option 1
- **Hours:** Monday – Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. -3 p.m., Thursday: 8:30 a.m. -12 p.m., Friday: 8:30 a.m. -3 p.m.

Hope's Front Door

Hope's Front Door represents the best of what a community can do when we come together to help neighbors in need. DuPage County neighbors in need of immediate assistance and long-term solutions to some of the most pressing social challenges faced by individuals, children and families will be provided assistance by caring and compassionate staff members who will hold meetings and offer guidance to meet individual needs.

The foundation partners with a network of social agencies in our community to provide continuing care, support and a pathway towards self-sufficiency. While their passion for service is limitless, their resources are not. In order to meet our clients where they are, the foundation depends on Community Partners, volunteers and donors. You are welcomed to their community of goodwill!

- **Website:** <https://hopesfrontdoor.org>
- **Email:** info@hopesfrontdoor.org
- **Address:** 1047 Curtiss, Downers Grove, IL 60515
- **Phone:** (630) 322-9803

Catholic Charities (DuPage County)

Catholic Charities provides services with the goal of helping people achieve self-sufficiency, including general support and services for veterans. They are actively involved in homelessness prevention, working with other

organizations to help families pay rent or cover emergency bills to avoid experiencing homelessness. They also provide counseling services and distribute donations.

- **Website:** <http://catholiccharitiesjoliet.org>
- **Contact Person:** Tanya Singh, Outreach Support Specialist
- **Email:** tsingh@cc-doj.org
- **Address:** 3040 Finley Road Suite 200, Downers Grove , IL 60515
- **Phone:** (630) 519-6547
- **Hours:** Monday thru Friday 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

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Section 3 - Mental Health & Wellness

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

NAMI DuPage was founded by a group of parents in 1985 as an affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, a nationwide mental health advocacy organization who were dedicated to improving the quality of lives of people affected by mental illnesses. These parents were looking for services for their children, who had been diagnosed with mental illnesses. By joining forces, their goal was to advocate for improved services. NAMI DuPage has grown from this handful of parents to an organization of over 1,000 members, and has become one of the largest and most innovative of over 600 affiliates nationwide. NAMI has been a catalyst for change and reform in DuPage County.

Info



Immediate Crisis Information: If you or a loved one are experiencing mental health-related distress — including thoughts of suicide and depression, anxiety or other panic disorders, substance abuse crisis, danger of physical injury, or any other kind of emotional distress — dial “988” to be connected to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, available 24/7.

- **Website:** <https://namidupage.org>
- **Email:** <https://namidupage.org/contact-us/> (Contact Form on Website: Please note that although we will answer as soon as we can, if you need assistance you should call us at (630) 752-0066. **If it is a mental health emergency please call 988.**)
- **NAMI Dupage Address:** Linda A Kurzawa Community Center, 115 North County Farm Rd., Wheaton, IL 60187
- **Phone:** (630) 752-0066

grit2

grit2 is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering parents and teens to flourish in mind, body, and spirit by connecting them with information, tools, and resources. They offer confidential support and a platform for sharing concerns and issues relevant to parenting and adolescence. grit2 also provides mental health resource links for the community.

- **Website:** <https://www.grit2.org>
- **Email:** info@grit2.org

Navigate Adolescence

This volunteer-driven nonprofit provides weekend workshops designed to help young people navigate their relationships. Their programs support social and emotional learning standards and aim to empower young girls and boys to develop skills needed to thrive during adolescence. They also offer parent education and "Navigate Dads" events locally.

- **Website:** navigateadolescence.org
- **Email:** info@navigateadolescence.org
- **Address:** Navigate Adolescence, P.O. Box 504, Downers Grove, IL 60515

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Section 4 - Youth & Family Development / Childcare

Champions Program (Before & After School Care)

This program offers a "right-at-school alternative to child care," providing before and after school care at all District 58 elementary schools. Several other area childcare providers also offer pick-up and drop-off services.

- **Website:** www.discoverchampions.com
- **Email:** ChampionsHelp@KC-Education.com
- **Address:** Offered at all District 58 elementary schools
- **Phone:** Champions Family Support at 1-800-246-2154

Downers Grove Park District

The Park District offers a variety of programs and events for all ages, including youth sports, general youth interest programs, preschool (Lincoln Learning Center, NaturePlay School), and summer camps. They also have a Financial Assistance Program for recreation.

- **Website:** <https://www.dgparks.org>
- **Email:** regi_staff@dgparks.org
- **Address:** Administrative Office: 2455 Warrenville Road, Downers Grove
- **Phone:** 630-960-7500
- **Hours:** Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

Downers Grove Park District Financial Assistance Program

- **Website:** <https://www.dgparks.org/financial-assistance-program>
- **Email:** financialassistance@dgparks.org
- **Address:** Administrative Office: 2455 Warrenville Road, Downers Grove
- **Phone:** 630-960-7500
- **Hours:** Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

Community High School District 99 Early Childhood Learning Program

High school students studying child development take an active teaching role in early childhood programs for young children in the community. Programs like "Pinto's Play Group" (2-3 year olds) and "Little Mustangs" (3-5 year olds) are offered at South High, and "Little North Stars Academy" (3-5 year olds) at North High. These programs are open to all, regardless of residency.

- **Website:** <https://www.csd99.org/community/earlychildhood>
- **Email:**
 - South High: Contact Jennifer Jordan at jjordan@csd99.org or Liana Ploski at lploski@csd99.org
 - North High: Contact EMcErlean-paske@csd99.org
- **Address:**
 - South High: 1436 Norfolk St, Downers Grove, IL 60516
 - North High: 4436 Main St, Downers Grove, IL 60515
- **Phone:** (630) 795-7100 (District 99 main line)

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Section 5 - Education & Employment Support

Downers Grove Public Library (DGPL)

DGPL offers extensive support for education and employment. For students, they provide homework help databases, live tutoring (2-11 p.m.), interactive virtual book readings, and age-appropriate articles. They maintain a directory of local tutors. For younger children, the "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" program encourages early literacy. For adults, DGPL provides career help, resume creation tools, skill development resources (LinkedIn Learning, Universal Class), and job lists. They also facilitate the "Museum Adventure Pass" program, allowing library card holders discounted access to museums.

- **Website:** <https://dglibrary.org>
- **Address:** 1050 Curtiss Street, Downers Grove, IL 60515
- **Phone:** 630-960-1200 (main line)
 - ext. 4274 (Adult & Teen Services Desk)
 - ext. 4279 (Kids Room Desk)
- **Hours:** Mon – Fri: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Chamber630 Workforce Education Foundation

This foundation aims to empower students for a better future by providing educational programs to the current and future workforce. They support workforce development through scholarships and work-ready programs, connecting students with skills needed to be job-ready directly with the local business community.

- **Website:** <https://www.630wef.org>
- **Email:** info@630WEF.org
- **Address:** 2001 Butterfield Road, Suite 105, Downers Grove, IL 60515
- **Phone:** (630) 968-4050

Hope's Front Door

Hope's Front Door provides a job list with local openings updated weekly. The packet for this list can be found on the Jobs Board in the Downers Grove Public Library. They are also involved in addressing homelessness in the community.

- **Website:** <https://hopesfrontdoor.org>
- **Email:** info@hopesfrontdoor.org
- **Address:** 1047 Curtiss, Downers Grove, IL 60515
- **Phone:** (630) 322-9803

College of DuPage Resources

Provides various resources for career and educational development. College of DuPage and its Foundation work with organizations like DuPagePads to provide funding opportunities for two-year degrees or certifications.

- **Website:** <https://www.cod.edu/academics/academic-opportunities/workforce-development/index.html>
- **Contact Person:** Adela Meitz, MS LCPC, Workforce Development and Student Resource Specialist
- **Email:** meitza@cod.edu
- **Address:** Workforce Development Services, 2525 Cabot Drive, Suite 302, Lisle, Illinois 60532

- **Phone:** (630) 942-2389
- **Resource:** ICCB Advisory Committee Guidebook

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