

Our Vision

To be a county where core ethical values, which form the basis of good character, are consistently taught, promoted, supported, and modeled by individuals and community organizations. This begins in our homes, is reinforced in the schools and supported throughout the community.

Our Mission

To establish and maintain an alliance that consists of representatives of the communities in DuPage County that are involved in character development initiatives.

To foster a common language so that shared values may be recognized, discussed and supported across community boundaries.

To provide a forum for the sharing of information and ideas regarding programs, concepts and implementation.

To serve as a resource for program development, measurement and evaluation.

Our Goals

1. To encourage, facilitate, and coordinate the adoption of community-based character development initiatives in all of DuPage County.
2. To foster the establishment of multi-sector, character development coalitions in every community.
3. To establish a resource center of sample character development materials.
4. To coordinate the character development efforts throughout the County by working with countywide organizations.
5. To develop a process and tools that can be used for measurement and evaluation of impact in individual communities and on a countywide basis.

PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY COALITIONS:

Addison	Elmhurst	Villa Park
Bartlett	Glendale Heights	Warrenville
Bensenville	Glen Ellyn	West Chicago
Bloomingtondale	Itasca	Wheaton
Carol Stream	Lisle	Wood Dale
Downers Grove	Lombard	Woodridge
Elk Grove Village	Roselle	

Additional communities are forming coalitions.

DuPage Character Development Coalition

National Memberships:



Supported by:

**THE ABRAHAM
LINCOLN CENTER
FOR CHARACTER
DEVELOPMENT**

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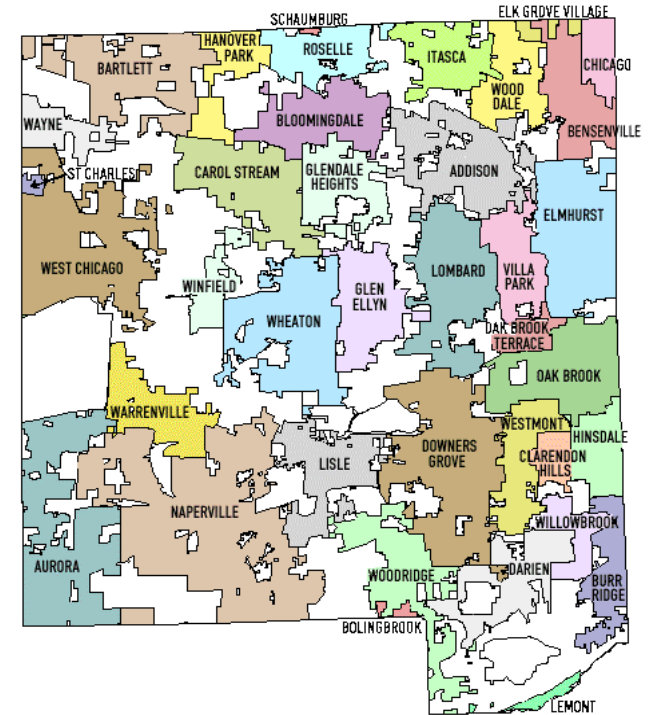
with partial funding from:



CHARACTER COUNTS! is a service mark of the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition,
a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics.

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THE DUPAGE CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT COALITION



Most of the communities in DuPage County have formed coalitions to focus on Character Development as a community-wide initiative. The DuPage Character Development Coalition serves as a forum and catalyst for representatives of these groups.

THE INITIATIVE:

HEALTHY DUPAGE

Healthy DuPage was formed in 1999 as part of the international Healthier Communities movement. It is a grassroots, regional planning and implementation organization that addresses not only the physical health needs in DuPage County but also identifies and addresses other broad health issues related to socioeconomic, mental and environmental dimensions of life in the communities. It is a not-for-profit organization and receives funding from a variety of sources.

CHARACTER AND VALUES ACTION TEAM

Action Teams were formed at the April 23, 1999 Healthy DuPage Stakeholders meeting. As one of the seven initiatives that were established, this Action Team identified the need to enhance the character and values of the residents of the County, particularly the youth, as a way to improve the overall health of the County. After several months of researching the needs and what was already being done, the initiative was ‘commissioned’ by Healthy DuPage in August 2000.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT COALITION

The countywide Coalition has been meeting regularly since November 2000. A part-time Director and Coordinator and an Executive Committee lead the Coalition. Private business and foundations fund this initiative. Besides serving as a coordinator and resource for each community, the Coalition works directly with countywide organizations.

LOCAL COMMUNITY COALITIONS

Independent groups began forming in 1997 in individual communities to plan and implement the strategies and activities for their own community. They are composed of representatives from many parts of the community: schools, social service agencies, government (i.e. police, fire, parks departments, etc.), hospitals, businesses, and civic, faith, and youth organizations.

Countywide Activities

HOW WE WORK TOGETHER

The Character Development Coalition meets on the second Wednesday of every month (except August) and is open to anyone who is interested in the subject. This is a luncheon meeting at which several things happen:

1. Information is shared among this network of participants regarding what is being done locally, regionally and nationally
2. Small group action teams meet to work on specific areas of interest: Awareness, Programming, Measurement and Continuity
3. Countywide activities are discussed and planned
4. A process for measuring and evaluating the effectiveness and impact of character development within each community and the whole County is being developed.

C³ - THE COUNTY CHARACTER COLLEGE

In October, the Coalition sponsors a one-day Character Leadership training day for Middle School students from throughout the County. Each year, about 400 students from over 40 public and private schools have attended sessions at the College of DuPage and North Central College.

MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION

The area of measurement and evaluation is a primary focus of the Coalition. A grant from the Community Memorial Foundation has allowed the Coalition to engage an expert in the measurement of character education and conduct a three-year study. This project has produced measurement and evaluation processes and tools (e.g. *The Global Portraits of Social and Moral Health*) that each community can adapt for its particular needs.

FOUNDATIONS FOR LIFE

The Coalition sponsors this essay contest for middle and high school students on a county-wide basis each spring.

Character Development Programs

CHARACTER COUNTS!SM - SIX PILLARS OF CHARACTER

Although the Coalition is not exclusively sponsoring the Six Pillars of Character from the Josephson Institute of Ethics, this model has become the predominant ethical framework that is being used in most of the communities in the County. Over 750 people in the County have been officially trained by the Josephson Institute in this approach.

These are the ‘core ethical values’ – others may be added:

TRUSTWORTHINESS– Be honest • Be reliable – do what you say you’ll do • Be loyal – stand by your family, friends and country.

RESPECT– Treat others the way you expect to be treated • Use good manners. • Be considerate of other’s feelings

RESPONSIBILITY– Think before you act • Do what you are supposed to do • Be accountable for your choices

FAIRNESS– Play by the rules • Be open-minded • Make decisions without favoritism or prejudice

CARING– Be kind • Forgive others • Help people in need

CITIZENSHIP– Be a good neighbor • Stay informed; vote • Protect the environment.

FORTY DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS

Some communities are using the Search Institute’s Forty Developmental Assets, a framework of critical factors for young people’s growth and development. We are working with these communities to coordinate this effort.

CHARACTER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (CEP)

As an active member of CEP, a national organization, we are particularly focused on Principle 10 of the *Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education*: “The school must recruit parents and community members as full partners in the character-building effort.”