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THURSDAY, JAN. 13, 2022

## Edward-Elmhurst Health merges with NorthShore University HealthSystem

**Creates network of nine facilities, 2400  
beds, 6,000 physicians, over 300 offices**

By Dee Longfellow  
FOR THE ADDISON INDEPENDENT

According to a release received from EEHealth, NorthShore University HealthSystem (NorthShore) and Edward-Elmhurst Health have come together to transform healthcare and set the standard for community-connected, expert care close to home.

Issued on Wednesday, Jan. 5, the release provided the following information:

### What does it mean for you?

"The same doctors you know and trust will still be here, along with the high level of personalized care you expect," according to the release. "Your doctor won't change, but over time, you will have access to more resources and ways to make your care better, including:

- Top physicians in medicine sharing their expertise;
- Greater access to innovative medicine, research and technology;
- An expanded network of expert physicians, specialists and sub-specialists;
- Top-tier, expert clinical services and personalized care close to home; and,
- Expanded clinical services, including orthopedics, cardiology and behavioral health."

### What does this mean for your community?

According to the release, Ed-

ward-Elmhurst Health and NorthShore both want to see their communities flourish and each has created community investment funds of \$100 million. Each fund is expected to generate millions of dollars annually to support organizations committed to enhancing community health and well-being, advancing health equity and supporting local economic growth.

### What does the new, merged health system look like?

NorthShore — Edward-Elmhurst Health is the third largest healthcare delivery system in Illinois. The new health system includes nine hospitals with nearly 2,400 beds, 25,000 team members, more than 6,000 best-in-class physicians and more than 300 local office locations, serving an area of more than 4.2 million residents across six northeast Illinois counties that stretch 69 miles from Lake County to Will County.

The system offers eight acute care hospitals, all of which are Magnet® recognized for nursing excellence, along with one behavioral health hospital. They include: Edward Hospital, Elmhurst Hospital, Evanston Hospital, Glenbrook Hospital in Glenview, Highland Park Hospital, Linden Oaks Behavioral Health in Naperville, Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights, Skokie Hospital and Swedish Hospital in Chicago.

See MERGES, Page 4



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

## Senior named DAOES Student of the Month

Addison Trail senior Mayra Tiscareno (center) has been named as the DuPage Area Occupational Education System (DAOES) Student of the Month for December. Tiscareno was nominated by Tom Bondi, Criminal Justice Instructor at Technology Center of DuPage (TCD) (right). Pictured at left is Tiscareno's sister, who is an Addison Trail alumna. Tiscareno has taken a variety of honors and Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses and is a member of the girls track team, National Honor Society, Best Buddies, L.A.D.I.E.S. and Interact Club.

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2/26/01

# Montini football welcomes Mike Hohensee to coaching staff

Montini Catholic Football has announced the recent addition of veteran player and coach Mike Hohensee to the Bronco coaching staff. Hohensee will serve as offensive quality control coach and football consultant. Hohensee has served countless student athletes as a quarterback coach for almost two decades.

After being named an All-American quarterback at Mt. San Antonio Jr. College, Hohensee transferred to the University of Minnesota. As a Golden Gopher, he established individual program records for passing attempts, completions, and TD passes and was named the University's Athlete of the Year after both his junior and senior seasons.

His career achievements landed him in both the Mt. San Antonio and the University of Minnesota Hall of Fame. Hohensee went on to play quarterback in the NFL, CFL, USFL and Arena Football Leagues and, after an extensive and successful playing and coaching career spanning 30-plus years, was inducted into the Arena Football Hall of Fame.

"Adding an experienced and talented offensive leader like Coach Hohensee will be an awesome addition to the Bronco football program," said head varsity coach Mike Bukovsky. "Our players and coaches will benefit greatly from his knowledge, work ethic, and winning attitude!"



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Coach Mike Hohensee

# Addison Trail provides programs, services, to build positive futures

By Alexander Martinez  
ADDISON TRAIL SENIOR

The main goal for high schools is to help prepare students for a successful future.

And a great example of a school that builds futures for its students is none other than Addison Trail High School (AT).

Addison Trail is committed to offering flexible pathways to make sure students have ample opportunities, including earning college credits and

gaining workplace certifications and experiences. The school provides a variety of programs and supports for all students such as field trips to college campuses and worksites. Pupils also can contact their counselor for assistance and advice. AT senior Analise D'Alessandro said she relies on her guidance counselor for information about post-secondary-education options.

"My counselor was always helping me," she said. "I would go meet

with her nearly every day with questions on college applications, and she helped me call a college about financial aid and made sure I was on the right track for my goals."

AT Guidance Counselor Shane Cole said a common aspect that can make students feel anxious is not knowing what they are going to do after high school. He said Addison Trail uses a program called Naviance to help with this process. The program begins with questions to assess each student's personality to gauge which careers might be a good fit. Naviance is also able to search colleges throughout the U.S. and recommend campuses that best meet each student's needs.

Another program AT offers is

Blazers Edge, which is available by invitation to juniors and seniors who meet certain criteria such as being the first in their family to attend college. Through Blazers Edge, participants hear guest speakers, attend college visits, receive assistance with college applications and requesting financial aid and more. The purpose is to make sure students reach their future goals - whether in college, the trades, the military, etc.

"I saved a lot of money because of the help I got to fill out my Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)," said Julissa Cobos, an AT senior and a member of Blazers Edge.

For more information, visit [age88.libguides.com/Guidance](http://age88.libguides.com/Guidance).

## • Merges (Continued from front page)

### What can you expect going forward?

The release assured that patients would continue to receive the excellent care and services they have today while over time benefiting from improved access to additional specialties and sub-specialties, a larger breadth of services and an improved experience through state-of-the-art solutions, seamlessly connected throughout the system.

Existing physician and medical groups will be maintained, supported by leading-edge technology, research and Magnet-level nursing care.

"While a thoughtful approach to a new name and brand for the combined entity is underway, the new system will refer to itself as 'North Shore - Edward-Elmhurst Health,'" the release read.

### Hospital executives weigh in

Company executives talked about the merger as follows:

"Our combined organization offers significant promise for our patients, team members and communities,"

said J.P. Gallagher, president and CEO of NorthShore - Edward-Elmhurst Health. "As we deepen our commitment to community connection and expand regional access to leading-edge, expert care in our patients' backyards, we have the opportunity to create something truly differentiated and transformative."

"One of the things I'm most excited about is our mutual commitment to our communities. A prominent feature of our merger is the creation of new community investment funds. Each organization has committed \$100 million to our respective communities. These funds will generate millions of dollars annually to enhance health and well-being, advance health equity and support local economic growth."

"We have so much in common - our values, our cultures and our commitment to our people," said Mary Lou Mastro, South Region CEO. "I am incredibly optimistic that as we bring together two outstanding, award-winning organizations, our future is unlimited and we will be successful."

## Coming events

### Friday, Jan. 14 Creative Studio drop-in help

From 2-4 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, need help with a Creative Studio project? Drop-in to get assistance from staff. Equipment and staff help will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Info: [addisonlibrary.org](http://addisonlibrary.org) or call 630-543-3617.

### Saturday, Jan. 15 Essentrics: Dynamic stretching

Starting at 10 a.m. at the Adult Program Room of the Addison Public Library, Essentrics® is a low-impact, full-body workout that is safe for all ages and fitness levels and helps you improve flexibility. Wear comfortable clothes. We workout in bare feet or non-slip socks. Info: [addisonlibrary.org](http://addisonlibrary.org) or call 630-543-3617.

### Monday, Jan. 17

#### • Book discussion: Caste by Isabel Wilkerson

Starting at 10 a.m. at the Addison Community Rec Center, 120 E. Oak St., Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system—a rigid hierarchy of human rankings. Info: [addisonlibrary.org/events](http://addisonlibrary.org/events).

#### • Bullet journaling for everyone

Starting at 7 p.m. at the Adult Program Room of the Addison Public Library, join us for an introduction to bullet journaling, a creative way to organize and document your life! We'll have supplies to get you started, but you may also bring your own. Info: [addisonlibrary.org/events](http://addisonlibrary.org/events)



# Warriors move to 15-1 with a pair of conference victories

*Willowbrook pushes its West Suburban Gold record to 7-0 with decisive wins over Downers Grove South and Leyden*

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls basketball team improved to 15-1 overall and 7-0 in the West Suburban Gold Conference with last week's pair of conference wins. Playing their first game of 2022, the Warriors beat Downers Grove South 61-29 on Friday in Villa Park. One day later, Willowbrook earned a 72-35 victory at Leyden.

The Warriors completed the first half of their conference season with Friday's game against Downers Grove South. Willowbrook led the Mustangs 17-7 after one quarter and 39-14 at halftime. The Warriors' lead stood at 48-24 at the end of the third quarter.

Senior Sophie Sullivan made four shots from 3-point range and scored 15 points for Willowbrook in Friday's win. Sullivan delivered her first 3-point basket of the game during the opening quarter. She added two more 3-point baskets in the second quarter and made one more long-range shot in the third quarter.

Sophomore Calli Kenny, who made one 3-point shot and sank all four of her attempts from the free-throw line, scored 15 points and pulled down 10 rebounds. Sophomore Elle Bruschk provided eight

points and a team-leading 15 rebounds. Junior Sara Stout contributed eight points and seven rebounds.

Freshman Hannah Kenny added five points and six rebounds. Junior Rimon Kari provided three points. Sophomore Eliza Ramey scored three points by connecting on a 3-point shot in the fourth quarter. Juniors Nina Nytko and Yazmin Setaram both supplied two points.

Sullivan buried six of 11 shots from 3-point territory and scored a team-leading 21 points in Saturday's win at Leyden. Hannah Kenny added 14 points, while Calli Kenny, who went 4-for-4 from the foul line for the second straight game, scored nine points. Bruschk and Nytko provided seven and six points, respectively. Kari scored five points, while Stout delivered four points and seven rebounds. Ramey and Setaram both connected on 3-point shots to contribute three points apiece to Willowbrook's offensive output. The Warriors made 11 of 30 shots from 3-point range in Saturday's win at Leyden. They drained 11 of 15 free throws.

Willowbrook led the Eagles 20-11 after one quarter and 43-20 at halftime. The Warriors extended their lead to 58-27 by the end of the third quarter.

Willowbrook's schedule this week includes conference games against Morton and Proviso East, along with tonight's non-conference game at Nazareth Academy.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's girls basketball team opened 2022 with last week's pair of West Suburban Gold Conference victories. Playing their first contest of the new year, the Warriors defeated Downers Grove South 61-29 on Friday in Villa Park. Willowbrook then beat Leyden 72-35 on Saturday in Northlake. The Warriors improved to 15-1 overall and 7-0 in conference play with the two wins. Senior Sophie Sullivan (above left - No. 1) made four 3-point shots and scored 15 points in Friday's victory. She sank six 3-point attempts in Saturday's contest at Leyden. Sophomore Calli Kenny (above right - No. 15) made all four of her free-throw attempts in Friday's home game. She delivered another 4-for-4 performance from the free-throw line on Saturday at Leyden. Sullivan and Kenny are pictured during Friday's victory over Downers Grove South. Willowbrook finished the first half of its conference season with Friday's contest against the Mustangs.

# Warriors run winning streak to four games by opening January with three victories

*String of wins sends Willowbrook's overall record to 8-8*

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook boys basketball team reeled off three wins last week to improve its overall season record to 8-8.

The Warriors began the week with a 67-50 non-conference victory at Sandburg on Jan. 4. On Friday, Willowbrook earned a 55-38 West Suburban Gold Conference win at Downers Grove South. The Warriors completed the week with Saturday's 56-46 non-conference home win over Lake Zurich. Saturday's game was the Warriors' first of three contests in a Martin Luther King Jr. holiday tournament. That event continues with a game against Chicago's Lindblom Math and Science Academy on Saturday in Lake Zurich, followed by a game on Monday—Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

"So far, we're undefeated in 2022," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins after Saturday's victory. "Our defense and rebounding have been a lot better in the last couple of games, and we've had some balanced scoring."

The Warriors pushed their winning streak to four games with their triumph over Lake Zurich. Willowbrook's overall record stood at 4-8 after losing its first three games at the Hinsdale Central Holiday Classic. The Warriors completed that event with a 64-27 win over Glenbard East on Dec. 29.

Willowbrook held a 24-11 lead

through one quarter of its Jan. 4 game at Sandburg. The Warriors' lead stood at 39-28 at halftime. Willowbrook extended its lead to 56-38 by the end of the third quarter.

Senior Marquel Saleek poured in 26 points to lead the Warriors' offensive attack in the win over Sandburg. Saleek made four of eight attempts from 3-point range and converted both of his attempts from the free-throw line. Senior Noah Campbell, who drained a pair of 3-point baskets, added 16 points.

Senior Alex Simmons scored six points, while senior Evan Stubblefield and junior Joey Tumilty both provided five points. Senior Terrell Walker supplied four points and a team-leading 10 rebounds.

The Warriors jumped out to an 18-9 lead through one quarter of Friday's conference game at Downers Grove South. Willowbrook's lead grew to 29-17 by halftime and 40-26 by the end of the third quarter. The Warriors delivered a 10-2 run at the start of the fourth quarter to build a 50-28 lead.

Saleek scored 15 points in Friday's win, which boosted Willowbrook's conference record to 2-1. Simmons, who made both of his 3-point attempts and both of his shots from the free-throw line, supplied 10 points. Campbell, who went 6-for-6 from the free-throw line, contributed eight points. Stubblefield also provided eight points, while junior Isaac Sobieszczuk scored six points and grabbed 11 rebounds. Tumilty added four points.

Willowbrook trailed Lake Zurich



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's boys basketball team opened 2022 by winning three straight games last week. The three victories gave the Warriors a four-game winning streak and an overall season record of 8-8. Playing its first game of the new year, Willowbrook defeated Sandburg 67-50 in Orland Park on Jan. 4. The Warriors then beat Downers Grove South 55-38 in Friday's West Suburban Gold Conference game in Downers Grove. Willowbrook closed out the week with Saturday's 56-46 non-conference win over Lake Zurich in Villa Park. One photo (above right) from Saturday's win shows junior Isaac Sobieszczuk (No. 15) and senior Marquel Saleek (No. 3). Saleek scored 14 points and made eight rebounds in the win over Lake Zurich, while Sobieszczuk provided five points and six rebounds. Another photo (above left) from Saturday shows senior Noah Campbell (No. 25) while launching and making a shot at the end of the first half to give the Warriors a 32-23 halftime lead. Campbell scored 13 points in Saturday's win. He scored one field goal and made four of five free throws during the fourth quarter.

12-10 through one quarter of Saturday's contest in Villa Park. The Warriors outscored the Bears 22-11 in the second quarter to take a 32-23 halftime lead. Campbell drained a baseline jump shot in the closing seconds of the half to give the Warriors their nine-point halftime advantage.

Lake Zurich unleashed a 13-2 run at the start of the third quarter to take a 36-34 lead. The Bears held a 39-36

See WARRIORS, Page 12

# Terrell Walker's fantastic finish powers Willowbrook

By MATT LE CREN  
For Shaw Media

VILLA PARK — A brief illness caused Willowbrook's Terrell Walker to miss a recent practice.

That meant Walker had to start the Jan. 11 home game against Morton on the bench.

The Mustangs wish he had stayed there.

After missing his first two shots, Walker sank his last 10 and finished with a career-high 23 points to lift the Warriors to a 64-49 West Suburban Conference Gold Division victory. The senior guard scored his team's final 17 points, starting with a buzzer-beating reverse layup at the end of the third quarter.

"He was phenomenal today," Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins said. "He did a great job finishing."

"I thought our guards did a great job getting the ball into the middle, collapsing the defense. Then they were able to find him sneaking in behind the zone."

Walker had only six points until the buzzer beater. Morton (6-8, 2-1) had cut a 14-point deficit to 42-38 on a great spin move by Jamari Ball, but Noah Campbell answered by hitting a pull-up 3-pointer for Willowbrook.

After Morton's Victor Garrett split a pair of free throws, Campbell found Evan Stubblefield for a 15-foot jumper and Walker followed with his layup to give the Warriors (9-8, 3-1) a 49-39 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

"I'm just really appreciative of my teammates that got me a lot of (passes)," Walker said. "Shots were falling tonight and I'm glad to get the win."

Walker put on a show in the fourth quarter. He shot 8 for 8 and had three steals and three offensive rebounds.

Most of Walker's points came on layups, backdoor cuts or short baseline jumpers behind Morton's zone.

"The kid played the game of his life," Morton coach Tony Martinucci said. "He got us on the boards, too."

Walker's production was more vital considering Morton held Willowbrook's top two scorers, Marquel Saleek and Campbell, relatively in check.

Saleek missed 11 consecutive shots at one point and didn't score in the final 11 minutes, finishing with 13 points on 5-of-22 shooting. Campbell had eight points on 3-of-9 shooting. Both had three assists, though, and Stubblefield contributed eight points, seven rebounds, five steals and two assists.

"Marquel is usually our leading scorer, so I knew I had to step up big," Walker said. "They were in a zone. I was just glad I was in the right place at the right time."

Martinucci said he should have used the zone defense from the start. The



Gary E. Durcan Sr. for Shaw Media

Willowbrook's Terrell Walker drives to the basket during the game against Morton on Jan. 11.

**"I'm just really appreciative of my teammates that got me a lot of (passes). Shots were falling tonight and I'm glad to get the win."**

**Terrell Walker, Willowbrook senior guard**

Mustangs began the game in a man-to-man defense, only to see the Warriors race out to a 21-7 lead.

"If I had it to do all over again, I wouldn't come out and play man," Martinucci said. "We got down and then everybody got in foul trouble and it went downhill from there."

Garrett led Morton with 15 points and seven rebounds, but scored only one point in the second half, missing his last seven shots. Armani Flowers added 12 points, while Ball and Dakari Dunham each scored eight.

With the win, Willowbrook avenged an earlier 66-64 loss to Morton and moved a half-game ahead of the Mustangs in the WSC Gold standings.

"We're playing really good right now," Walker said. "We're on a five-game win streak, so we're starting to wake up a little bit."

"We've got Leyden on Friday at home and we're ready to keep the victories coming."

## 3 Reasons Your Toilet May Not Flush Properly

SPONSORED BY



By Brett M. Freese

If you have a toilet that was manufactured between 1994 and 2010, over time you may notice it doesn't flush properly. "During this timeframe, toilets were required to be manufactured so they would use only 1.6 gallons of water per flush instead of the previous three gallons," said Mike Krejci, a professional plumber with Jay's Plumbing. "Problems arose because while toilets were amended to meet the restrictions, they generally weren't redesigned to accommodate the lesser amount of water." Here are 3 reasons why your toilet may not flush properly:

1. Older toilets were designed to hold more water in the tank and use that water for the flushing process. When the Energy Policy Act (which set national water efficiency standards for toilets, faucets, and showerheads) became effective in 1994, it took awhile for manufacturers to create a design to handle the lower water flow and to result in better flushing. Today, newer redesigned toilets are built to flush better with less water to

meet the restrictions.

2. Calcium can build up inside the rim of the toilet bowl, blocking water flow and not allowing the toilet to flush completely. "You can poke holes through the calcium buildup with wire to reestablish proper water flow," added Krejci. "While some homeowners might choose to replace the toilet, others who have a toilet in a specific color that matches other fixtures may want to repair it as needed."

3. A toilet may not flush the right way if repairs were done over the years without using the original manufacturer's replacement parts. A non-recommended replacement part could have an improper fit or be of a lower quality than those from the original manufacturer.

If your toilet doesn't flush properly, there could also be a partial blockage inside the pipe caused by a small toy or dental floss getting accidentally flushed down the toilet. If your toilet isn't flushing properly, contact Jay's Plumbing to have the issue diagnosed and corrected.

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# Bond set at \$1 million each for two Chicago men accused of opening fire at Oak Brook Mall

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert B. Berlin and Oak Brook Chief of Police James Kruger have announced that bond has been set for two Chicago men accused of opening fire at the Oak Brook Mall two days before Christmas.

Tyran Williams, 32, and Steven Lane, 29, each appeared at a bond hearing where bond was set in the amount of \$1 million with 10 percent to apply for each man.

Williams has been charged with five counts of aggravated discharge of a firearm (Class 1 felony) and one count of unlawful use of a weapon by a felon (Class 3 felony). Lane has been charged with one count of aggravated battery—discharge of a

firearm (Class X felony), four counts of aggravated discharge of a firearm (Class 1 felony) and one count of aggravated unlawful use of a weapon (Class 4 felony).

On Dec. 23 at approximately 5:44 p.m., officers with the Oak Brook Police Department responded to a call of shots fired at the Oak Brook Mall. Upon their arrival, officers found four individuals suffering from gunshot wounds.

One of the individuals, later identified as Williams, had been shot four times. It is alleged that officers found a Glock 9 mm handgun near Williams as they began to treat his gunshot wounds. Following an investigation into the shooting, led by the Oak Brook Police Department, it is alleged that Williams and Lane were in a verbal altercation when both men pulled out a handgun and began shooting at each other.

It is alleged that during the incident, both Lane and Williams fired their weapons resulting in Williams being struck four times and four innocent bystanders being struck by gunfire.

It is further alleged that after the shooting Lane fled the scene. Lane was taken into custody at the mall a short time later following a brief foot pursuit by a Nordstrom loss prevention officer and an Oak Brook police officer.

A Taurus G2C 9 mm handgun was also found near the Nordstrom store where Lane was running after the shooting. Williams was transported to a local hospital for medical attention. He was released from the hos-

pital into police custody on Dec. 27. The innocent bystanders who were shot were also transported to a local hospital for medical attention. None of their injuries were life-threatening and they have all been released from medical care. When processing the scene, authorities found twelve fired 9 mm shell casings.

"The allegations that these two men opened fire in a crowded mall of between 15,000 to 20,000 people, on one of the busiest shopping days of the year are evidence of an unconscionable degree of violence and a complete and utter disregard for public safety," Berlin said. "Make no mistake, in DuPage County public safety is our top priority and anyone who commits this type of violent crime in DuPage County will be apprehended, charged and, if found guilty, face a significant amount of time behind bars."

"We are all extremely grateful that the injuries sustained by the four innocent victims do not appear to be life-threatening and that they are all on the mend. I thank all the law enforcement agencies involved in this situation for their assistance. Within minutes, hundreds of police officers from across the county descended on the mall and quickly brought a chaotic situation under control."

"On Dec. 23, members of the Oak Brook Police Department performed heroic actions running toward gunfire that not only placed, what we came to learn, the perpetrators in custody but also took immediate lifesaving action to save the life of one of the defendants," Kruger said. "Words

cannot describe the amount of pride I have for our officers and for law enforcement as we received a tremendous amount of support from surrounding agencies who selflessly responded to our call for assistance."

"I want to start by thanking our first responders for a massive response to the Oak Brook Mall during this stressful and violent incident," DuPage County Sheriff James Mendrick said. "We never know how something like this is going to turn out while we're on our way. Chief Kruger and State's Attorney Berlin have made this process as efficient as possible. I also commend the silent heroes behind the scenes on this case—members of our DuPage County Crime Laboratory, led by Claire Dragovich, who came to work on the shortest of notice during a holiday to solve this case."

"Through scientific empirical processes, they have developed evidence that no person's testimony could ever provide. Thanks to their professionalism and determination we have once again solved a major crime by developing a witness named 'Science' that cannot be impeached. The quality of work produced by this unit is unrivaled and they are to be commended. This is how we make criminals accountable for what they do in DuPage County."

The next court appearance for Williams is scheduled for arraignment on Jan. 20. The next court appearance for Lane is scheduled for arraignment on Jan. 19. Both cases will be heard in front of Judge John Kinsella.

## Local non-profit, library partner to help English learners

By Jane Charnelo

VILLA PARK STAFF REPORTER

In 1995, one woman's observation led to what is now an important mission of People's Resource Center (PRC): helping adults who want to learn—or improve—their English-speaking skills.

This past fall, and close to home, the non-profit agency partnered with the Villa Park Public Library to offer a practical English class on Tuesdays (10-11:30 a.m.) and a conversational English "circle" on Wednesdays (10-11 a.m.).

According to Morgan Abate, PRC grants manager, the origins of PRC go back as far as 1966, when "a group of people who cared about the community" got together in Wheaton to help the less fortunate in the area. Later, in 1975, Dorothy McIntyre became the PRC executive director, when the agency began handing out food from a house window on Illinois Avenue in Wheaton.

The second executive director, Mary Ellen Durbin, saw a need to offer English as a Second Language (ESL) opportunities, she narrated, and became "the driving force" in starting an ESL program in 1995, with the idea that the clients coming for assistance would "need to know English" in order to find work and other opportunities.

The agency grew to add adult literacy programming, besides ESL classes, in such areas as computer/digital literacy, math, citizenship preparation, studying for high school equivalency tests, one-on-one tutoring and applying for employment, among other assistance. Individuals can also take classes to learn Spanish.

Abate said PRC held classes on-site both at the Wheaton site and in Westmont. PRC partnered with Alliance Church in Westmont from 2001-08 and when the need for food assistance grew, the agency rented space, where it offered a food pantry



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Willowbrook senior performs at Rose Parade

Willowbrook High School senior Sadiq Tijani (center, holding the trombone) performed with the Salvation Army Tournament of Roses Band during the Rose Parade, which took place on New Year's Day in Pasadena, California. Tijani marched and played the trombone in the 133rd Rose Parade, which began on the morning of Jan. 1. The parade was part of the celebration that included the day's Rose Bowl football battle between the Ohio State University Buckeyes and the University of Utah Utes. The parade route covered over five miles and featured four types of entries: floral-decorated floats entered by a participating corporation, non-profit organization or municipality, equestrian units, bands and tournament entries.

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