

What is the Welcome Movement?

The Welcome Movement is an attitude. It's the belief that suburban communities benefit economically and socially when they embrace people of all ages, abilities, races, religions, ethnicities and income levels.

The Welcome Movement is collective action. It's the common ground on which individuals, organizations, congregations, businesses, and government entities stand as they support current and potential residents in living where they choose.

The Welcome Movement is an outlet. It offers opportunities for residents with diverse backgrounds and circumstances—including those who might otherwise be marginalized—to work together in everyday civic life to build neighborly suburban communities.

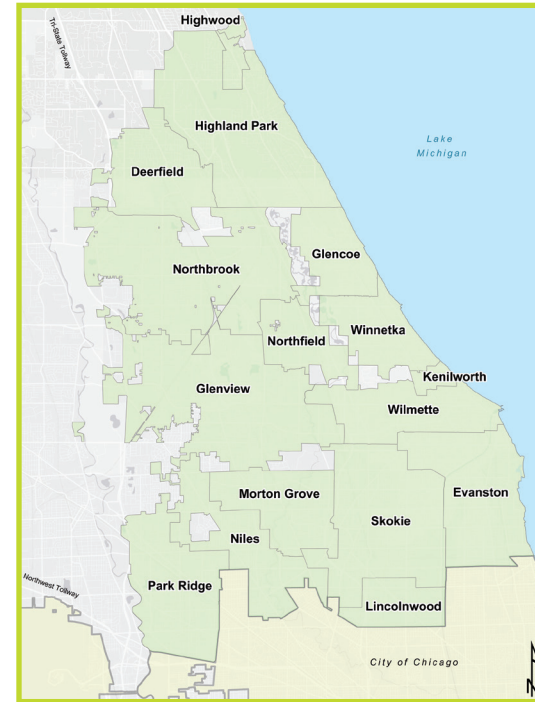
Why does the North Shore need the Welcome Movement?

Our roots as a housing justice agency are in the Civil Rights Movement, when acts of racial and religious discrimination pervaded the suburbs. A group of women and clergy organized the “North Shore Summer Project” in 1961 to act as the vehicle for change. That campaign evolved into the North Shore Interfaith Housing Council in 1972, the Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs in 1986, and in 2012, Open Communities.

Today, the main obstacle to diverse communities is an atmosphere of exclusivity, complemented by costly housing and unequal access to quality education, transportation networks, youth programming, and cultural amenities.

We're still driven by our founders' progressive energy and fearlessness to help communities, grassroots groups and individuals create an inclusive, interconnected and open North Shore.

Our Communities



Becoming A Member



What is Open Communities?

Open Communities is a leading voice for housing, economic and social justice in north suburban Chicago, working to promote inclusive communities that are welcoming to all.

Inclusive and diverse communities are healthy, robust and right. Our communities are richer when those who give to the northern suburbs also live here.

Founded in 1972 by north suburban residents and congregations, we are a nonprofit, membership-based organization dedicated to fostering economically and culturally diverse communities. We educate, advocate and organize in the name of social justice, working collaboratively with current and prospective residents, local groups and municipalities.

We Offer:

Services

- Fair Housing Discrimination Investigation & Education
- Foreclosure Prevention Counseling
- Homesharing
- Landlord/Tenant Advice
- Immigrant Leadership Development

Organizing & Advocacy

- Affordable Housing Advocacy
- Community Organizing.

All of our services are confidential and provided free of charge. Donations are welcome.



614 Lincoln Avenue
Winnetka, Illinois 60093-2308
847.501.5760
open-communities.org



Formerly known as the Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs



How can I help?

Become a member of Open Communities.

Imagine that you're part of a network of "ambassadors of welcome," building grassroots support for a north suburban region that makes accessibility and diversity every suburb's top priority. Join Open Communities and become a proud and visible ambassador for the Welcome Movement today!

We offer memberships for individuals, community groups, religious congregations and government agencies. Your membership shows that you stand for justice, believe in the universal principle of loving your neighbor, and support Open Communities' ongoing work to:

- Prevent and uncover housing discrimination
- Avert foreclosures and keep families in their homes
- Facilitate shared housing matches between homeowners and renters who need safe and affordable living spaces through Homesharing
- Work with landlords and tenants to create better living environments
- Recruit and train immigrants to participate in local government
- Collaborate with and build coalitions to advocate for affordable housing
- Organize residents to work for housing, economic and social justice in local or regional campaigns.

Make a contribution.

We also rely on the generosity of donors to sustain our education, advocacy and organizing activities. We appreciate any amount you contribute.

Volunteer your time and talents.

When you volunteer with Open Communities, you help make the northern suburbs a welcoming place for all people. Become a fair housing tester, serve as a Welcome Movement ambassador, work in the Open Communities office, start a housing or social justice campaign, get involved in fundraising—just raise your hand!

What comes with my membership?

Individual Membership

When you become a member, you receive:

- Membership card
- Welcome Movement magnet
- Newsletters and annual report
- Email updates
- Discounts on educational events (if there is a charge).

Above all, you gain the satisfaction of having taken action to promote an inclusive community.

Institutional Membership

Congregations, community groups, and local commissions also receive listing on our website's member page, newsletter, and annual report, as well as the opportunity to publicize their events.

Sign me up!

Yes, I am/we are ready to join the Welcome Movement. Please add my/our name to the growing list of Open Communities members.

Name _____

Organization/Congregation Name (if institutional membership) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

I/we are a: New member Renewing member

Type of Annual Membership:

- Student or low-income individual \$10
- Individual \$75
- Community Group (< \$250,000 budget). \$100
- Community Group (\$250,000 - \$750,000 budget). \$250
- Community Group (\$750,000+ budget) \$500
- Religious Congregation (< 1,000 members). \$100
- Religious Congregation (1,000 - 2,000 members) \$250
- Religious Congregation (2,000+ members) \$500
- Government Agency \$100

I/we also want to make a one-time, tax-deductible contribution of:

- \$50 Friend
- \$75 Advocate
- \$100 Social Change Maker
- \$250 Community Leader
- \$500 Trailblazer
- \$1,000 Visionary
- Other _____
- Make 100% of this donation unrestricted.
- Restrict \$ _____ to the following program or campaign:

Membership Dues:	\$ _____
Contribution:	+ _____
Total Enclosed:	\$ _____

Please make your check payable to **Open Communities** and mail it to:

Open Communities
614 Lincoln Avenue
Winnetka, IL 60093

If you prefer to pay via credit card, spread your gift out over multiple payments, or set up a recurring monthly donation, visit open-communities.org and click on "Make a Donation."

Thank you for supporting Open Communities!