
WAUKEGAN **P**ARK DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

To: All Media

From: Jennifer Dumas
Waukegan Park District
847-360-4705
www.waukeganparks.org

For Immediate Release

Waukegan Park District Announces Partnership with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Waukegan, IL (July 23, 2013) The Waukegan Park District would like to extend its sincere appreciation to the North Lake County Office of Thrivent Financial for becoming a new “Partner” of the Waukegan Park District. An initial donation of \$10,000 supported the 2013 American Independence Festivities, earning Thrivent the designation of title sponsor for the event. Another element of the partnership is Thrivent’s upcoming annual coat drive for needy Lake County youth, Coats for Kids, which will be held from November 18 to December 16. New coats, sizes 5-14, can be dropped off at the park district’s Belvidere Recreation Center, 712 S. Lewis or Thrivent’s North Lake County Office, 927 W. Glen Flora Avenue.

Waukegan resident, Robert T. Viau, a Financial Consultant in the Chicagoland Region, heard about the deep cuts facing the Waukegan American Independence Festivities. He approached the Park District and asked if a donation from his office could make a difference since there was a good chance that the American Independence Festivities would fit into the company’s corporate giving guidelines. Thrivent Financial partnered with the Waukegan Park District covering nearly 50% of the parade and festival expenses. This very generous donation enabled 4,000 parade spectators, marching units, and festival goers to enjoy another fantastic patriotic

event. When asked about the donation, Mr. Viau commented, “Thank you for giving us the opportunity to sponsor the American Independence Parade and Festival. We are proud to serve the Waukegan area and this event helps us further our mission as a Fraternal Organization. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial partnership with the Waukegan Park District.”

Waukegan Park District Sponsorship Committee Chair, Jennifer Dumas noted, “Thrivent Financial has proven to be an outstanding partner. Employees from the North Lake County office in Waukegan were excited to be involved; they created a float for the parade and distributed business information to visitors at the American Independence Festival. They also supported and participated in several events at nearby communities during June. The Thrivent Financial organization is dedicated to providing support to the community, and we are thrilled to have established this new partnership. The Waukegan Park District looks forward to continuing its relationship with Thrivent Financial for many years to come.”

About Thrivent Financial

Thrivent Financial is a Fortune 500 financial services membership organization helping its nearly 2.5 million members to be wise with money and to live generous lives. Thrivent Financial and its affiliates offer a broad range of financial products and services. As a not-for-profit organization, Thrivent Financial joins with its members to create and support national outreach programs and activities that help congregations, schools, charitable organizations and individuals in need. For more information, visit [Thrivent.com](https://www.thrivent.com).

About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 47 properties and 720 acres of land, which includes 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. Properties are managed to

the highest environmental and conservation standards. Facilities operated by the district include the Field House Sports and Fitness Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, an outdoor swimming pool, disc golf course, dog exercise area, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball and tennis. A full range of programs and services are offered year round for all ages from infants to seniors and special populations are included. Healthy lifestyles, wellness initiatives, and a connection with the outdoors and nature are integrated throughout programs, services, and special events. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, the Bowen Park Theatre Company, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone!

The award-winning District employs 57 full-time staff and over 250 part-time, year round, seasonal, and temporary employees. The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), and Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The district maintains national accreditation from the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), the Illinois Association of Park Districts' (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and sustains a Level A Loss Control Program. The district was named a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012 and 2013.