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Waukegan Township History

Waukegan, first visited by Pere Marquette in 1673, is one of the oldest communities in Illinois. The township started as a French trading post and Potawatomi Indian settlement known as "Little Fort." Records dating back to 1829 tell of a treaty signed by the Potawatomi's in which they ceded all of their land in this area to the Federal Government. Waukegan Township was one of the first townships in the State of Illinois incorporating in 1849.

Little Fort became the County Seat of Government in 1841 by virtue of its population. Between 1844 and 1846, the town's population grew from 150 to 750 people. In 1849 when the township was incorporated, the population had risen to 2,500.

Proud of the growth of their community and no longer wanting to be characterized as "little", on March 31, 1849 the residents of Little Fort changed the name of their town to Waukegan, the Potawatomi word for "fort" or "trading post".

Early settlers were initially attracted to Waukegan as a port city and shipped produce and grain from Lake and McHenry County farms to Chicago. The creation of the Illinois Parallel Railroad (now the Chicago & Northwestern) in 1855 stimulated interest in Waukegan as a manufacturing center. The township continued to grow and diversify.

Currently, Waukegan Township encompasses parts of 4 cities including; Waukegan, Beach Park, Park City and North Chicago. It borders up to the south end of Edgewood Road, up to 38000 address in Beach Park, west up to Teske Boulevard in Park City, & south up to the North end of 18th Street in North Chicago.

The Township Board, comprised of four Trustees and the Supervisor, is the policy-making body of Waukegan Township. In addition, the township board consists of the Township Assessor, Highway Commissioner and the Township Clerk.

Waukegan Township has grown over the years since its inception in 1849 and currently serves a population of over 100,000. In addition to continuing to provide financial relief to needy area residents, Waukegan Township funds and administers many programs for area seniors, transitional facilities for men and women with children, scholarships for our youth and many, many more.

Elected Officials



Patricia Jones
Township Supervisor



Percy L. Johnson
Township Trustee



Nathaniel D. Hewitt
Township Trustee



Opal D. Rice
Township Trustee



Sylvestre I. Castellanos
Township Trustee



Mark Strickland
Township Assessor



Rose Staben
Township Clerk



Arthur Craigen
Township Highway Commissioner

Waukegan Township Programs

- **General Assistance** – Provides benefits to adults who meet established eligibility guidelines. These clients participate in community work training, job readiness and job search.
- **Park Place Senior Center** – Provides a variety of activities and programs to senior citizens 55 and better.
- **Staben House** – Transitional housing program for women with children.
- **Eddie Washington Center** – Transitional housing program for men
- **Home Sweet Home** – Provides lawn maintenance and snow removal to senior and disabled citizens who reside within Waukegan Township boundaries.
- **Reclaim, Reconnect, Re-enter** – Provides job readiness, job search and employment referrals to ex-offenders.

Services

- Notary Public
- Voter Registration
- Passport Acceptance Agency
- Senior Citizens Taxi Tickets
- Youth Scholarships
- Legal Help Desk
- Prescription Discount Card
- Repatriates Support & Empowerment Workshops
- Anger Management Workshops

Park Place History

Waukegan Township Park Place Senior Center opened in 1992 and has continued to grow and expand to meet the needs of senior citizens. Under the direction of Patricia Jones, Township Supervisor, the Center offers a variety of services for adults 55 years of age and better.

Approximately 4,000 seniors participate monthly in a variety of activities at Park Place. Its programs attract seniors with diverse backgrounds and interests. They frequent the center for social interaction, educational, fitness and wellness programs, support groups, trips, complimentary transportation service, a gift shop, and many other events and recreational activities. Delicious noon-time meals are provided daily Monday through Friday by Park Place Café.

Our mission is to improve the lives of senior citizens by providing services to promote self-reliance, health and independence in a caring and supportive manner.

Park Place Hours:

Monday	9 AM – 7 PM
Tuesday	9 AM – 4:30 PM
Wednesday	9 AM – 4:30 PM
Thursday	9 AM – 9 PM
Friday	9 AM – 4:30 PM
Saturday	9 AM – 3 PM
Sunday	Closed



Staben House History

Waukegan Township Staben House is a subsidiary of Waukegan Township. The eradication and addressing the causes of homelessness has long been on the forefront of Waukegan Township's mission. In keeping with this goal and vision, Patricia Jones, Waukegan Township Supervisor, and the Board of Trustees opened Eddie Washington Center, a transitional housing program for homeless men, in 1993.

The House was built in 1930 for Dr. Robert Smith, a native of Barbados, who later became Chief of Staff at St. Therese Medical Center. In 1963, the house was sold to Dr. DeLong, another prominent physician at St. Therese. He converted the rear of the house into treatment rooms. Waukegan Township purchased 3000 Grand Avenue in 1996 and converted it into a transitional housing facility for homeless women with children.

The house is named in memory of the late Milton E. Staben, former Waukegan Township Supervisor, and his son Peter Staben, a Lake County attorney. Both Milt and Peter dedicated their lives to protecting the rights of the impoverished.

The program was designed to provide comprehensive case management, budget management skills, and education to develop the necessary skills to succeed, break the cycle of homelessness and live independently. The opening of Staben House in July of 1997 provided a counterpart to Eddie Washington Center by providing assistance for homeless women and their children.

Today, homelessness is less a housing issue than a poverty issue, an education issue, a family support issue, and most importantly, a children's issue.



Eddie Washington Center History

In 1993, Patricia Jones, Waukegan Township Supervisor and the Board of Trustees, began the unique and challenging task of renovating the historical Waukegan Fire Station building. With the renewed spirit of saving lives, many volunteers, friends, community leaders, and concerned citizens, transformed an old garage for fire trucks into a useful and much needed homeless shelter for men.

The Eddie Washington Center was named in memory of Milton E. Staben (1919-1993) former Waukegan Township Supervisor and his son, Peter Staben (1944-1993). Both men dedicated their lives advocating for the rights and better conditions for the underprivileged in Lake County.

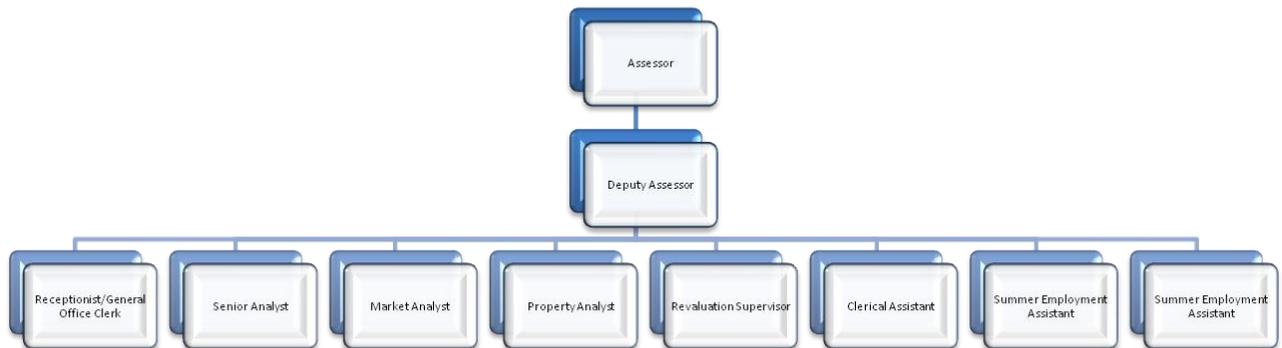
The Eddie Washington Center has won various awards because of the uniqueness and creative ways of confronting the homeless issues in Lake County. The awards include a 1st place winner of the 1994 Governor's Home Town Award and the 1996 Lake County Affordable Housing Award Winner.



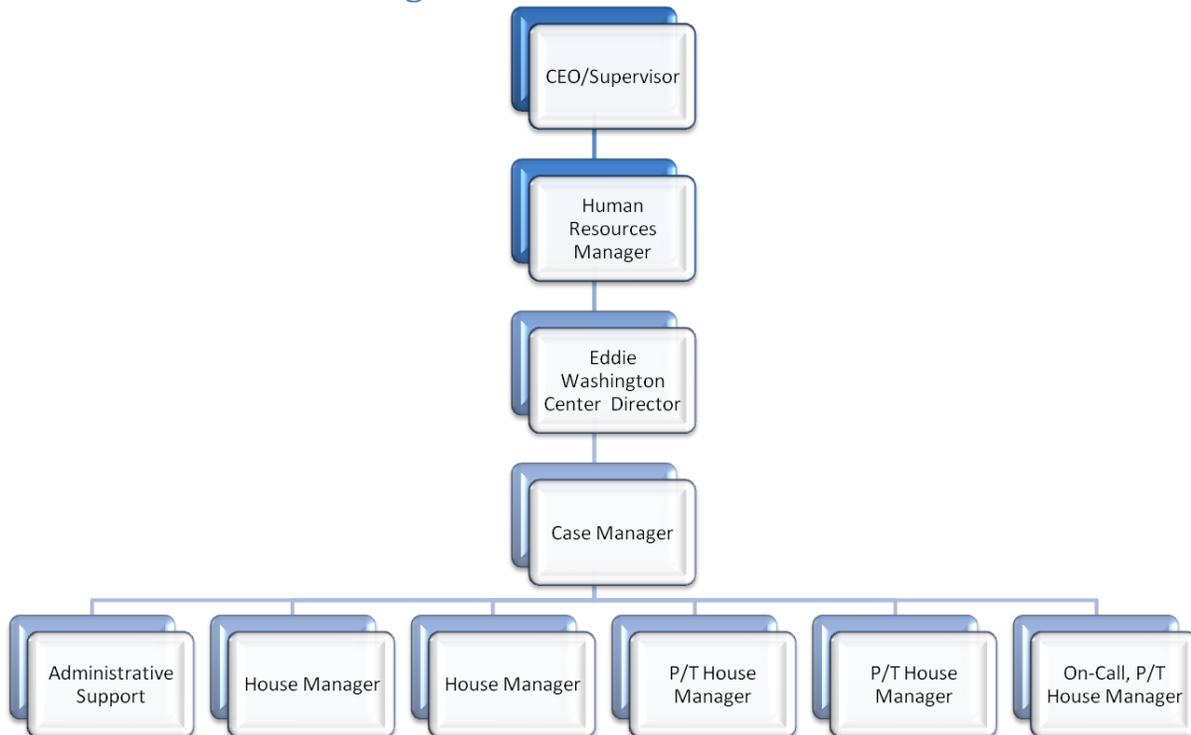
Organizational Information

Organization is fundamental for any agency. The following organizational charts will help you get familiar with our hierarchical structure.

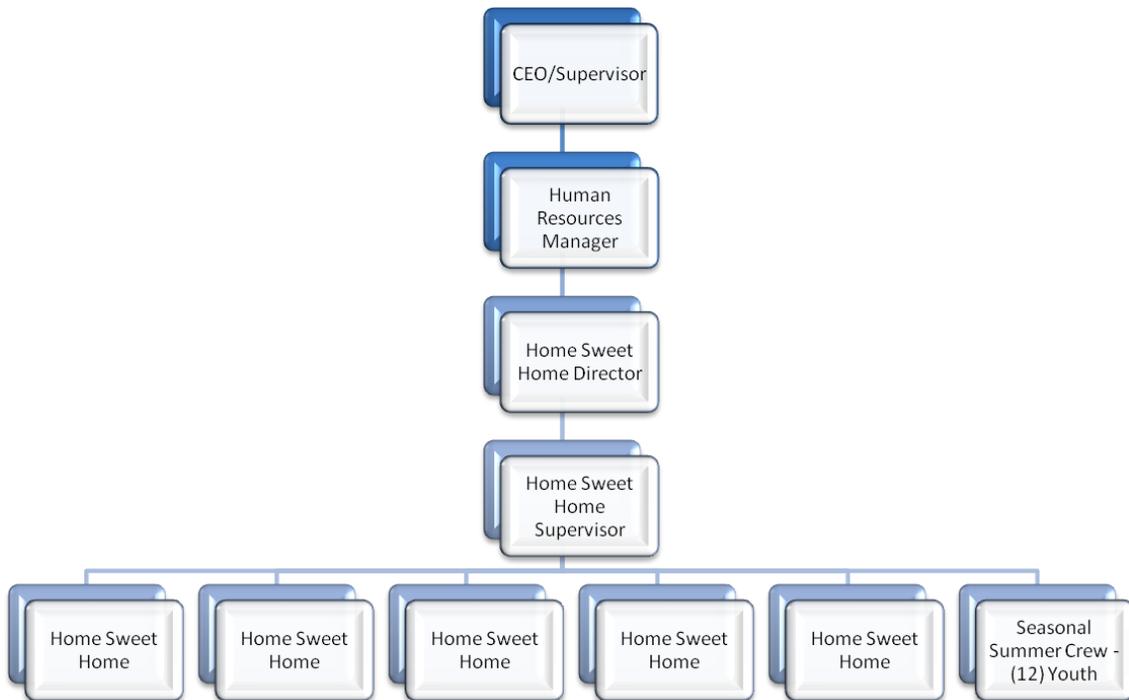
a. Assessor's Office



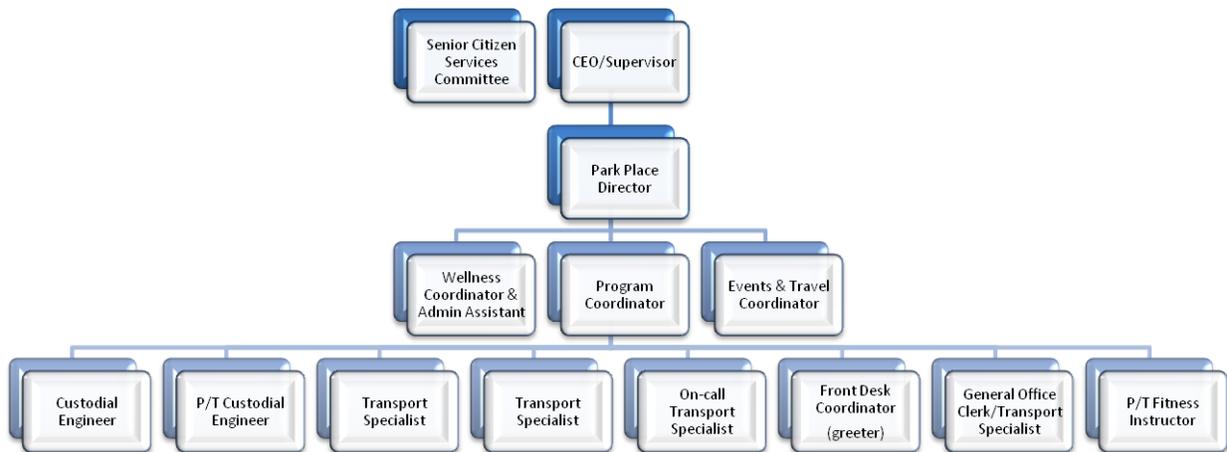
b. Eddie Washington Center



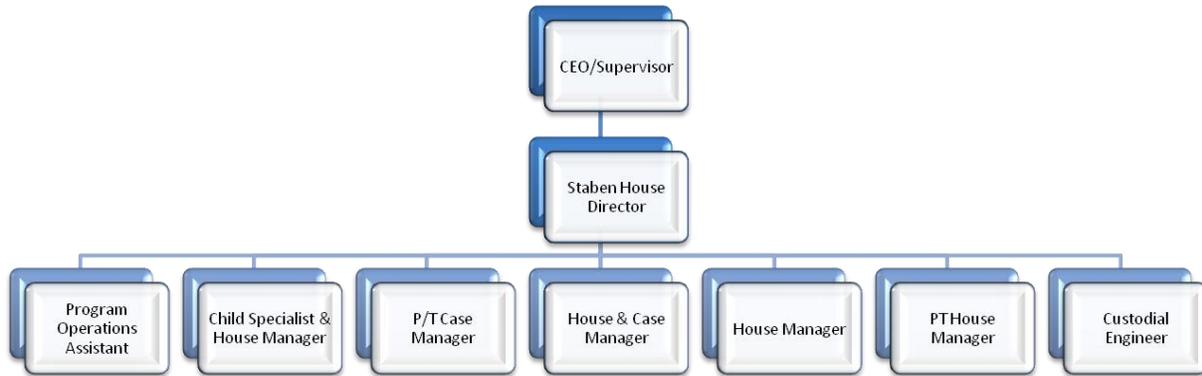
c. Home Sweet Home



d. Park Place



e. Staben House



f. Supervisor's Office



g. Highway Department

