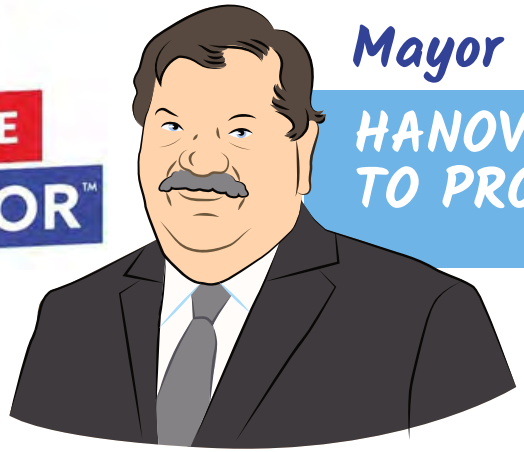
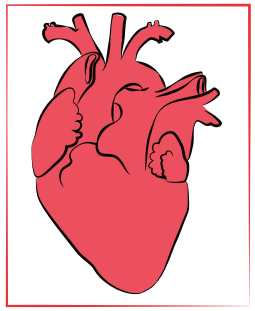
MOVE WITH THE MAYOR™



Mayor Rod Craig

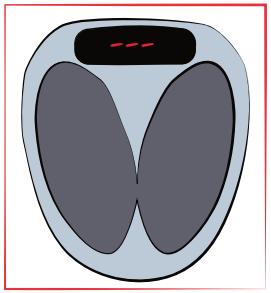
HANOVER PARK, ILLINOIS PARTNERS TO PROMOTE HEALTH EQUITY

- Food insecurity impacts a person's health and ability to thrive.
- Lack of adequate access to nutritious food leads to chronic conditions.

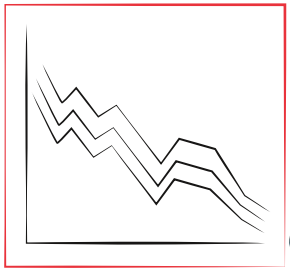


heart disease

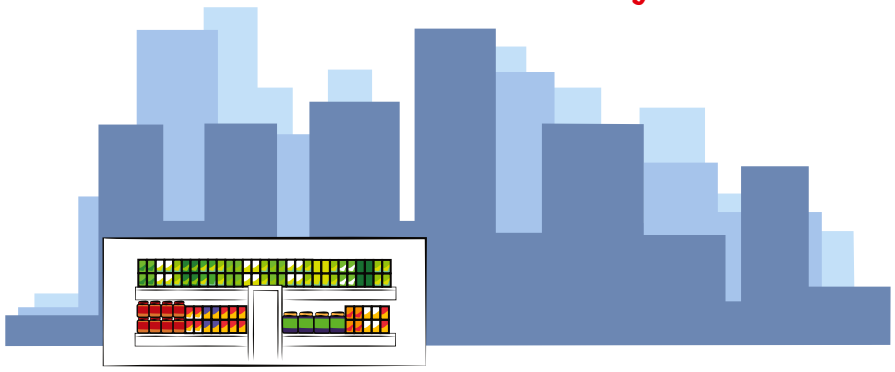
diabetes



obesity

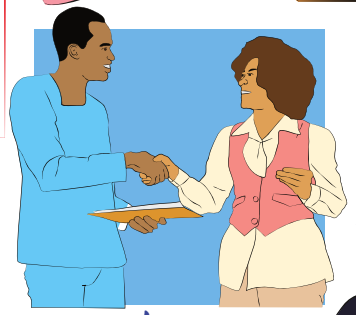


lower life expectancy



Hanover Park created a pantry to address food insecurity.

Hanover Park employs a social worker at the Hanover Park Police Department.

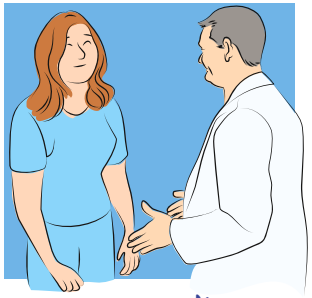


advocacy

Residents can be referred by police officers for additional **social services.**

clinical assessments

crisis situations



counseling

Improved capacity to connect residents to healthcare, education, and economic stability.

NATIONAL FORUM
FOR HEART DISEASE & STROKE PREVENTION

Hanover Park Partners with Police Department to Promote Health Equity

Food Pantry

Food security is crucial to a person's ability to thrive. People without adequate access to nutritious food have lower life expectancy and higher risk of chronic conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and obesity compared to people who are food secure. Hanover Park partnered with Hanover Township to bring a food pantry to serve residents experiencing food insecurity. The food pantry is strategically placed in a neighborhood of high need. People who visit the pantry can also get referred for additional social services. The police department partners with the food pantry on the Food for Fines program whereby residents can bring in a food donation to pay their parking ticket fine.

Police Social Worker

The Hanover Park Police Department employs a full-time social worker at Village Hall. The police social worker helps people in crisis situations and connects residents to resources including clinical assessments, advocacy, counseling, and other referrals. When faced with a crisis, people often recognize the need for professional help but don't know how to obtain appropriate services. This role fills that gap.

All services provided by the Social Services Unit of the Police Department are free and confidential. Hanover Park started employing a social worker more than 30 years ago. Hanover Park helped to found the police social worker's association to share resources and lessons learned on improving public safety and health equity.

Having a full-time social worker as a member of the police department has made a dramatic impact on Hanover Park's capacity to improve the social determinants of health for residents by connecting them to resources related to healthcare, education, and economic stability.

The Village of Hanover Park and the Police Department have a highly engaged following on social media. Here are their social media recommendations:

- *Create the perception that social media is how residents stay up to date on what's happening*
- *Encourage residents to follow social media accounts at all events*
- *Post each day and use the content scheduler as much as possible*
- *Save time creating posts by utilizing graphics, data, and other resources from the National Forum and Move with the Mayor™*
- *When in doubt, social media content including pets is always well received*