



## Community Rallies for Crisis Center Need

In the spring of 2018, Palos Heights business owner, Scott Farrow, wanted to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his company, United Insurance Services, Ltd. He threw a huge party, turned it into a fundraiser and unveiled a brand new box truck which he donated to the Crisis Center for South Suburbia. The Crisis Center supports adults and children who are victims of domestic violence through a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, housing, counseling, education and outreach programs.

"The truck was an answer to our prayers," said Lorri Nagle, Director of Development at the Crisis Center. "We were using an old cargo van to transport donations and furniture, and that vehicle was on its last legs." Staff and volunteers at the Crisis Center quickly learned that while the new truck opened up many opportunities to transport donations and help victims move to safe housing, the threshold of the truck was nearly four feet of the ground making it challenging to load and unload it.

Maintenance staff at the Crisis center suggested a lift gate be installed and initial inquiries put the tab at over \$4,000. The Center's tight budget could not absorb the expense so Nagle began reaching out to local civic clubs for support and the "Lift Me Up Campaign" was born.

Bill Paglia, President of Orland Park/Palos Rotary, was the first to ask how their club could help. Soon after, Paglia connected Nagle to other local civic clubs including Moraine Valley Rotary and the Orland Park Kiwanis Club. "We were happy to help lead the campaign and encourage others to support it too. It's what Rotary is all about and our club has been supporting the Crisis Center for many years," said Paglia. Finally, Scott Farrow, the donor of the truck, stepped in with a donation and the fundraising campaign for the project was complete.

Rotary club member, Scott Kallemyn of Kallemyn Collision, helped by negotiating the cost of the lift and installation. "Scott came to the rescue as we really didn't have the knowledge we needed to choose the right lift gate. With his guidance we got the right lift and a great price too," said Nagle.

Today, the Crisis Center truck, featuring its new lift gate, can be seen traveling through the south suburbs carrying donations and furniture to and from the agency's Neat

Repeats Resale shops in Worth and Orland Park, new client homes, and the agency's other sites.

The Crisis Center has been a beacon of hope and educated more than 60,000 people over the past 40 years. To learn more about the Crisis Center for South Suburbia, visit [www.crisisctr.org](http://www.crisisctr.org).