

First Bank of Highland Park

Where Community is First!



Curt's Café

First Bank of Highland Park is pleased to welcome Curt's Café as the featured non-profit organization on the Ruth Fell Wander Community Art Wall throughout the month of August. Curt's Café is a non-profit organization that works with student-trainees, 15-24 years old, who are living in at-risk situations.

Curt's mission is to improve the outcomes for young adults living in at-risk situations through work and life skills training. Proven at-risk or formerly incarcerated young adults have few resources available to them. Even a short confinement dramatically affects one's ability to thrive outside incarceration. With little hope of securing employment, even for entry-level positions, many end up living on the streets and return to destructive habits. These young adults are determined to build a positive future for themselves.

"We are all very excited to begin serving the Lake County Community", says Susan Trieschmann, founder & Executive Director of Curt's Café. "Our mission and our vision align perfectly with all of the people in the community that have worked hard to raise the funds to get the café open. We are very appreciative and look forward to contributing to the love that has been shared with us!"

Students at Curt's Café Evanston created the artwork exhibited on the art wall during one of their daily classes. The project, spearheaded by Kathy Pilat, one of their volunteers, was started by the vision of Ben Blount who uses art "to explore notions of race and identity in America". The artistic talent and empowering stories are showcased in their artwork.

The art wall also provides an opportunity for the community to learn more about the organization as well as ways to support Curt's Café. The exhibit is located in the bank lobby and will be open to the public during regular bank hours.

"I was drawn to being a Board Member because as an experienced probation officer I learned that there is no better deterrent to recidivism than employment," says Kevin Kreuser, Curt's Café Advisory Board. "Simply put, research proves that programs like the one at Curt's provide the best outcomes for youthful offenders. Most at-risk teens crave structure, knowledge, jobs, feeling loved, worthy and valued by society, family and friends. Curt's gives them what they need to succeed in these areas."

The Curt's Café Highland Park location is scheduled to open in mid-September 2019.

For more information about Curt's Café, visit their website or call (847) 868-8385.

Highland Park

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