

NEWSLETTER

FEB 2024

VOL 15

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**MAR 4 -
NEW SESSION
STARTS AT
CREATIVE COVE**

**FRIDAY
MAR 15 -
NEIGHBOR'S NIGHT
OUT @ 6PM AT
THE LEVEE**

**SATURDAY
MAR 16 -
EASTER
STORYTIME,
CRAFTS AND SELFIE
WITH EASTER
BUNNY @ 11AM**

**SATURDAY
MAR 30 -
EASTER EGG HUNT
AT HERMOSA PARK
@ 10AM**

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Restoring our communities

THE WORK BEHIND THE AVONDALE RJCC AND ALSO

On February 17th, we welcomed members of the **Avondale Restorative Justice Community Court (RJCC)** and the **Alliance of Local Service Organizations (ALSO)** for a discussion about the importance of restorative justice practices and community-based programs that support safer communities. The mission of the RJCC is to focus on the rehabilitation of nonviolent offenders (ages 18-26) through reconciliation with victims and the community through the Peace Circle process. Participants come from our Avondale, Logan Square, Portage Park, Hermosa and Belmont Cragin communities. Community participation is vital to "help ensure that young adults transition into independent and healthy adults, with good jobs and being productive members of the community. The RJCC gives community members as well as our participants the power to accomplish that goal" (The Talking Piece, 2022). During our meeting, we had the pleasure of hearing first-hand the difference these programs have made in the life of Jesus Vargas. Jesus was once a young teen on his way to make choices that might have affected his future. With the intervention of mentors from the RJCC and ALSO, he was able to turn his life around and is currently following his passion for community as a fellow Outreach Worker for ALSO. *For more information on ALSO services and programs, please visit also-chicago.org.*

Interested in becoming a Peace Circle volunteer with the Avondale RJCC?

Please contact Larry Barrett at larrybarrett@cookcountyil.gov



From top to bottom: Jesus Vargas from ALSO, Marcus Davis from the Avondale RJCC, Mark Dobrzycki from Avondale RJCC, Thomas Ross from ALSO, Hermosa community attendees. **Photographer: Mark Dobrzycki**



CREATIVE COVE

New session starts March 4th

REGISTER NOW!



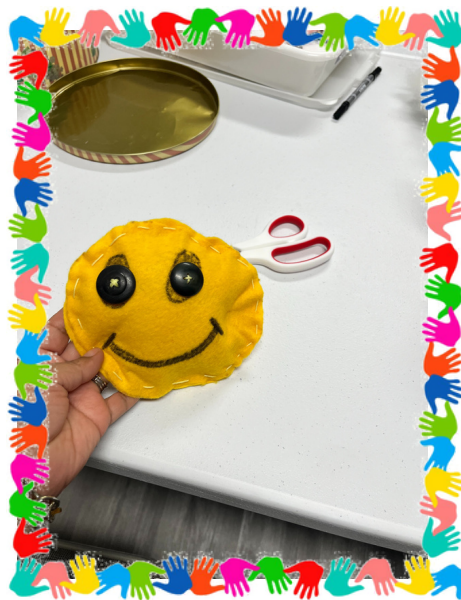
HNA'S Youth Makerspace, **Creative Cove**, is now open for registration for youth ages 12-19. Hurry, classes are filling up fast. Our first session was a great success and we're ready to welcome new and returning students to our March session. Classes meet after school one day a week for 4 weeks. Classes offered are Cricut, Sewing and 3D printing. All classes are free of charge. Come and get crafty while learning a new skill!

Volunteer instructors needed!

We're looking to add to our awesome group of volunteer instructors! Seeking relief or substitute instructors for Creative Cove and instructors for future adult makerspace classes. If you have previous experience in sewing, cricut maker, or 3D printing, please send resume to our Program Manager at marlene@ourhermosa.org. Bilingual preferred but not required.



CRICUT



SEWING



3D PRINTING

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