



CYN CONNECTION

FEBRUARY 2026

INSIGHTS AND UPDATES ON
Real Stories. Real Support. Real Progress.

A Note from our Chief Executive Officer Gail Weil, LCSW, CADC



Dear Friends,

This month offered many reminders of how important it is to stay connected to the communities we serve. Our team spent time in schools, at community events, and with local partners, listening to families, talking with students, and sharing resources to help people navigate challenges.

One of the privileges of this work is seeing progress unfold over time. Through our programs and therapy services, we support individuals and families as they build skills, strengthen relationships, and move toward greater stability, even when the path forward is not always linear.

Opportunities to gather with others across Lake County, whether through school partnerships or community conversations, reinforce the importance of collaboration in supporting mental health. These connections help ensure that when someone reaches out, there is a network ready to respond.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for being part of a community that values the wellbeing of children, families, and neighbors.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Gail'.

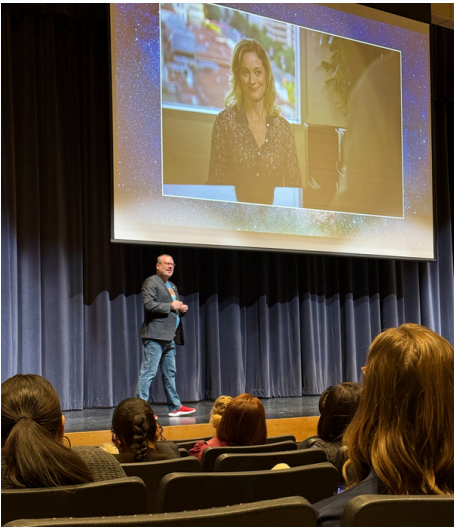
In this newsletter:

Intact Families,
community highlights,
and a Gala Save the Date
— keep reading.

Add to your calendar:

- **Lake County School Safety Conference:** Monday, Mar 02, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Warren Township HS Almond Campus
- **CYN Gala:** Saturday, September 26 at the
Deer Path Inn, Lake Forest

CYN IN THE COMMUNITY



Lake County Joy Summit

CYN was glad to be part of the Lake County Joy Summit, a community gathering focused on wellbeing and connection. Our team hosted a table, connected with fellow organizations, and spent time with attendees throughout the day. The speakers offered thoughtful perspectives on creativity, wellness, and leadership, making it a meaningful opportunity to learn and strengthen relationships across the community.



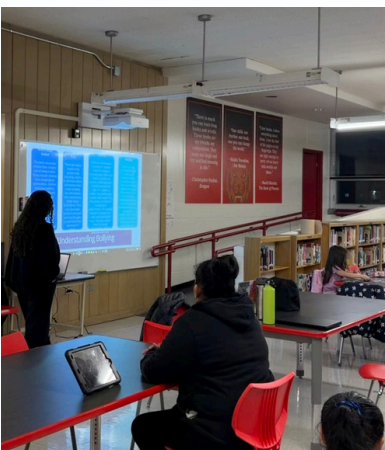
Round Lake Networking

The Round Lake Area School District Human & Public Services Networking Breakfast brought together students and professionals to connect and build relationships. It was a valuable opportunity to spend time in conversation with students interested in careers in human services and the many ways we can support our community.



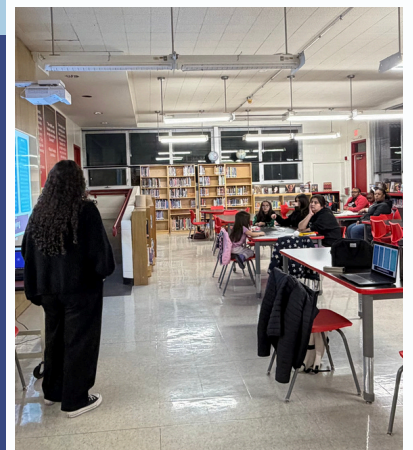
Lake County Rising

Each February, Lake County Rising brings the community together to raise awareness about gender-based violence and support survivors. Through education, outreach, and connection to resources, the initiative helps foster a more informed and supportive community response. CYN was there to connect with community members, share resources, and be part of the broader conversation around safety and support.



Edith M. Smith Middle School

Edith M. Smith Middle School hosted a Chat and Chew focused on bullying and student support, where CYN presented resources and connected with families. Our team provided interpretation, answered questions, and shared information to support students and caregivers.



Success Through Resistance

One of our Intact team members recently shared a meaningful example of how growth can take shape over time through our Intact Families program, which supports families as they work toward greater stability at home. When this mother first engaged in services, she felt overwhelmed and unsure about participating, particularly as she reflected on her parenting and the expectations placed before her. Independent by nature and used to handling challenges on her own, accepting support did not come easily.

With consistent visits, therapy, and parenting guidance, she gradually began to open up about her experiences and the stress she had been carrying. There were setbacks along the way, including restarting parenting classes and facing difficult personal challenges, but she stayed engaged and continued to move forward.

With the encouragement of her support team, she completed services, strengthened her parenting skills, and built more positive connections with her children. Today, the family communicates more openly and is navigating daily life with greater stability, reflecting the progress that is possible when support, trust, and persistence come together.

SAVE THE DATE BEHIND THE MASK



2026 GALA

SATURDAY | 26 SEPTEMBER

Deer Path Inn, 255 E Illinois Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

