

(September 28, 2006) HONORING THE SOUTHWEST YOUTH SERVICES COLLABORATIVE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2006

- Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Southwest Youth Services Collaborative, an outstanding organization for teenagers and young adults, that serves several Chicago communities troubled with gang violence, high drop-out rates, and high unemployment. For more than a decade, the Collaborative's after-school programs have given students a vision and focus they need to become responsible leaders of their communities--leaders that are agents of change.

- Area churches, social service centers, recreational centers, and neighborhood organizations are responsible for the good work of the Southwest Youth Services Collaborative. They bring hope to participants through the recreational centers, a soccer league, and even a Hip-Hop Academy. Additionally, the organization offers mentoring and support programs that provide wisdom, understanding, and a second chance for many young adults.

- Recently, the WGN Radio Neediest Kids Fund awarded the Southwest Youth Services Collaborative a \$25,000 grant in recognition of their after-school programming. The grant will help support these essential after-school life skills programs that make a difference in the lives of so many young people.

- It is my honor to recognize the Southwest Youth Services Collaborative for their role in providing opportunities for young people and making our community a better place to live. I also commend the staff, facilitators, and volunteers who truly make this organization possible. Their work positively influences the lives and outlook of many who face the pressures of life in disadvantaged areas.