

## PRESS RELEASE

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July 7, 2016

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### Rockford Police, United Way Announce Rescheduled Summer 2016 Dates for Strong Neighborhoods Days Block Parties

**Rockford, Ill.** - The Rockford Police Department and United Way of Rock River Valley announced rescheduled dates for three Strong Neighborhoods Days block parties that were cancelled due to inclement weather.

The block parties, which provide informal opportunities for neighbors to meet and engage with district police officers, will occur on Thursdays from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the following locations:

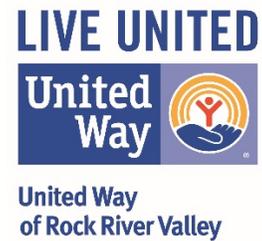
- July 14, 2016 – Revell Strong Neighborhoods House (1233 Revell Ave.)
- July 21, 2016 – 8th Avenue Strong Neighborhoods House (908 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.)
- July 28, 2016 – Creekview Road. & East Lawn Drive

“Strong Neighborhoods Days affords us the opportunity to build new and cultivate lasting relationships within our community,” said Lieutenant Carla Redd.

Block party activities include giveaways, bomb robot demonstrations, and tours of the Rockford Police mobile command center and Strong Neighborhoods Houses. United Way will provide food, catered by Zina Horton from local favorite, Zammuto’s, and will also distribute free t-shirts to attendees.

“Strong neighborhood programming is a great way for officers to positively interact with citizens in an informal and fun setting,” said Lieutenant Joel Givens.

Police officers and United Way volunteers will go door-to-door throughout the neighborhood to make introductions, distribute event information and invite residents to attend leading up to each event.



The Rockford Police Department and United Way have established Strong Neighborhoods Houses on Revell Avenue, in partnership with SwedishAmerican Health Foundation, and on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Irving Avenue with Zion Development Corporation. Strong Neighborhoods Houses build positive relationships between residents and local police officers, provide necessary human services directly to residents, and improve the overall quality of life in the neighborhood. Strong Neighborhood Houses programming includes financial literacy and mental health resources for families and summer activities for youth.

“United Way is working with community partners to build safe and healthy neighborhoods. Strong Neighborhoods Days is an excellent way for police officers and neighborhood residents to get to know each other. Recent events in other cities have illustrated how important it is that citizens trust their local police departments. That trust is the foundation of a safer community,” said Paul Logli, President and CEO of United Way of Rock River Valley.

For more information, please contact Matt Simpson, community impact manager of United Way of Rock River Valley, at 815.986.4802 or [matthews@unitedwayrrv.org](mailto:matthews@unitedwayrrv.org).

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