



Helping out

## Naperville CARES: Group dedicated to keeping people in homes

Stress relievers provide emergency housing assistance

—Helene Van Sickle  
*March 25, 2009*

**GROUP:** [Naperville](#) CARES (Community Acting in Response to Economic Stress)

**MISSION:** To provide resources to people within the Naperville community who need assistance to avoid homelessness and to attain self-sufficiency.

**WHY THEY DO IT:** "We have 46,000 people who live below the poverty level in the area," said Executive Director Janet Derrick. "The new Naperville Housing Market and Needs Analysis housing survey recently came out, and it said about 15 percent of the population in Naperville spends more than 30 percent of their income on their housing costs. Many people are a paycheck away or an illness away from not being able to pay their rent."

**WHAT THEY DO:** Provide emergency financial assistance to pay rent (or rental security deposits), utilities, child care or other expenses that will help people stay in their homes or keep a job. The agency also has a car donation program that repairs cars and makes them roadworthy for people who need transportation. The group acts as a clearinghouse and works with the area churches to coordinate services within the community.

**ANNUAL BUDGET:** \$348,000.

**FUNDRAISERS:** Cuisine for a Cause, April 25 at [Tellabs](#) Atrium, 1415 W. Diehl Rd., Naperville. Tickets are \$85.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** Program volunteers and people to serve on a development committee needed.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:** 618 W. 5th Ave., Naperville. Call 630-369-0200 or visit [napervillecares.org](http://napervillecares.org)