

120 BLUE CROSS EMPLOYEES SPRUCE UP BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS IN HUMBOLDT PARK AND PILSEN

BY DAVIS GIANGIULIO, STAFF REPORTER
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Sean Lynch is a systems analyst at Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. But instead of heading into work Wednesday, he volunteered at the Barreto Club near his home.

“It feels like I connect really well with the Chicago area where I live,” he said of helping out at the Humboldt Park club run by the Union League Boys & Girls Club.

Lynch was among about 120 Blue Cross employees who helped spruce up and decorate the Barreto Club and Club One in Pilsen.

Blue Cross CEO Kimberly Keck said the company’s annual community impact day is about supporting people’s health and well-being.

“We know that 80% of what impacts a person’s health happens outside of a doctor’s office,” she said. “It happens in everyday life with having access to healthy food or affordable housing or transportation or a safe place to play.”

Volunteers painted over graffiti on the side of the Barreto Club building and landscaped in front of the building. Inside, the sounds of scissors and taping was constant as volunteers made Halloween decorations and put words of affirmation on bulletin boards.

Keck said the Chicago clubs were picked to help improve youth mental health. Blue Cross is a national partner with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Jeremy Murphy, Barreto Club’s senior director, said the decorations and words of affirmation will boost joy and confidence among the children who go to the club.

“It is definitely gonna hit the hearts of the kids,” he said.

Tim Cunningham, chair of the Union League Boys & Girls Club board, said these outside volunteer events expand who the club impacts. Everyone who participates, he said, can now spread the message on their own.

“They become our ambassadors as well,” he said. “They may come back and volunteer, or they may just talk to their friends and neighbors.”

Amy Lang, managing director of finance



Jeffrey Ridge (back, from left), director of technology solutions at Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, Destinée Westmoreland, federal employee program accountant, and Shivangi Solanki, managing director of strategic execution and partnerships, create a welcome sign during Blue Cross’ community impact day at Union League Boys & Girls Clubs’ Barreto Club in Humboldt Park on Wednesday. PAT NABONG/SUN-TIMES PHOTOS



LEFT: Sean Lynch (left), a systems analyst at Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, creates a poster while Jeffrey Ridge looks on. RIGHT: Blue Cross CEO Kimberly Keck (front) helps paint over graffiti.



at Blue Cross, cut out paper bats.

“I think getting out in the community and just helping out really makes me feel re-

ally good,” she said, “and [the hope] that it does have an impact on who we are trying to help.”

Judge not ready to retry former AT&T Illinois exec

BY JON SEIDEL, FEDERAL COURTS REPORTER
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The judge overseeing the case against a former AT&T Illinois executive accused of bribing ex-state House Speaker Michael J. Madigan declined this week to schedule another trial, saying he first wants to hear arguments on a motion for acquittal.

U.S. District Judge Robert Gettleman got back together with lawyers in the case of ex-AT&T Illinois President Paul La Schiazza on Tuesday, five days after a jury failed to reach a verdict in the case. The panel heard from more than a dozen witnesses over four days earlier this month.

Defense attorney Tinos Diamantatos told the judge he planned to file the motion for acquittal as soon as Friday, while prosecutors planned to ask for another trial date. But Gettleman said they’d be getting ahead of themselves by scheduling a new trial.



Paul La Schiazza

Rather, Gettleman said he planned to take a “serious look” at La Schiazza’s motion. He set oral arguments for Nov. 14.

The judge also made note of the changing state of the law in cases like La Schiazza’s. He said lower courts might wind up getting guidance from the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

“I mean, we certainly could use it,” Gettleman said.

La Schiazza is accused of trying to bribe Madigan by paying \$22,500 to a Madigan ally, former state Rep. Edward “Eddie” Acevedo, while AT&T was trying to pass significant legislation in Springfield.

Madigan, who faces a racketeering conspiracy trial Oct. 8, is charged for his alleged role in the same scheme.

However, Madigan’s trial is set to begin three months after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June that a bribery statute employed by prosecutors in the investigation does not also criminalize after-the-fact rewards known as “gratuities.”

Since then, in addition to the hung jury in La Schiazza’s case, a jury in August acquitted an Indiana businessman who had been accused of bribing Cook County assessor’s office employees.