



**George Van Dusen**  
**Mayor**

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The Village of Skokie is proud of its diversity, with, at least 90 different groups represented, including 50+ languages spoken in our homes. We don't just talk – the Festival of Cultures, Flags of Nations display, the Coming Together in Skokie program, the Interfaith Community Thanksgiving eve service, and the many international nights hosted by all of our schools attest to our community's support for inclusion. These events are more than gatherings - they demonstrate support for all of our residents.

We have 15 boards and commissions in the Village which advise the Board of Trustees on issues ranging from land use to human services to health and environment. Representatives from all of the groups and faiths are represented on these advisory boards. It is – and always has been --our Village's policy that we don't ask anyone their immigration status whenever there is a police, fire, or human services intervention, whether it's a traffic stop or a request for service.

To demonstrate our bond and support for each other, the Village, schools, Park District, Library, the interfaith community, and nonprofit organizations have banded together for the Skokie Welcomes Everyone program. Last week our kickoff meeting was held at the Skokie Public Library and will be progressing in the coming days. Knowing of your interest, I'd invite you to join the effort. Our web site is [Skokiecares.org](http://Skokiecares.org).

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