

Rick Guzman
Assistant Chief of Staff, City of Aurora

Rick Guzman is a board member with The Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley, a collection of individual funds and resources given by local citizens to enhance and support the quality of life in the Greater Aurora Area, the TriCities and Kendall County. The foundation has a primary fund and hosts hundreds of endowment and pass-thru funds that are used to annually award up to \$3 million in scholarships and grants to non-profit organizations. Most recently, the Foundation received an award through resources from the Attorney General's National Foreclosure Settlement Housing Counseling and Community Revitalization Program to implement a subregional foreclosure response strategy.

An attorney, Rick is also the Assistant Chief of Staff for the City of Aurora working out of the Office of Mayor Tom Weisner. He serves as the City's primary liaison to Aurora's non-profit and faith-based organizations and oversees policy areas such as housing, human rights and cultural activities. Previously, Guzman worked at the State of Illinois as a Policy Advisor to the Governor for Criminal Justice—which included working on issues of human rights and the death penalty moratorium. And in 2004, he was appointed by the Governor to direct Illinois' prisoner reentry reform efforts. Guzman has served on numerous Boards and Commissions working on public policy issues in state and local government, the private sector and the non-profit world. Rick and his wife Desiree live in downtown Aurora with their two young daughters. In their "spare" time, the Guzmans are working to help dozens of families in Aurora become first-time home-owners through a non-profit they co-founded called "Emmanuel House," which leverages an array of existing and created resources to help lower-income families break the cycle of working-class poverty through a unique and dignified pathway to homeownership.