



Biography-Gary Cuneen

Gary Cuneen is the Founder and Executive Director of Seven Generations Ahead (SGA), a non-profit organization with the mission of promoting ecologically sustainable and healthy communities. Gary designs and manages SGA's programming, and consults directly with municipal, business, and community decision-makers to promote and facilitate comprehensive multi-stakeholder sustainability planning and implementation. Gary is the co-founder of Green Town: The Future of Community, a conference targeting municipal and private sector leaders to learn about sustainable best practices, planning processes, and measurement tools. Prior to founding SGA, Gary was the principal of his organizational development and leadership firm, which worked with top-level government, judicial, human rights, and university leaders from Guatemala and El Salvador and with Chicago area corporations and public sector institutions. A former high school teacher and basketball coach, Gary spent part of his career within education, founding and directing the On-Line Expeditions environmental education curriculum project, designing and facilitating teacher training for Chicago public school teachers, and consulting with area principals on strategic planning related to increasing academic achievement. Gary worked for five years as a community organizer within low-income Philadelphia, PA and Wilmington, DE neighborhoods, and directed a sweat equity housing development corporation with Wilmington United Neighborhoods. Gary is a 1983 graduate of the University of Notre Dame with a B.A. in Political Science, received graduate secondary teaching certification from Trenton State College, studied in Mexico City at La Universidad de Anahuac, and received training at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Gary is the recipient of the 1983 Kellogg Latin American Area Studies Award; the 2007 Natural Home Magazine Earth Mover Award; the 2008 William Fitzsimmons Award for Public Health, Village of Oak Park; and the 2008 Chicago Tribune Good Eating Award. Gary's interests include organic gardening and cooking, photography, coaching, woodworking, canoeing, mountain climbing, fishing, and wilderness exploration. Gary is married with three children, and resides in Oak Park, IL.