



COMMUNITY NEWS



WHAT'S NEW AROUND DSC . . .

Dear Friends,



Summertime is almost here! We love when the weather warms up and allows for new activities and outdoor events. New community groups have formed and Family Development is preparing for a busy summer hosting playgroups in the community.

We held an art supply drive throughout March. We collected over 300 items! Thanks to everyone who purchased and dropped off supplies.

The Crow at 110 was a venue for the Boneyard Arts Festival, hosting The HeART of It All. The exhibition was a collection of personal works from the heart, deeply meaningful to each artist. It featured pieces by artists of all abilities and backgrounds. Artists from The Crow also took part in the Alliance for Inclusion and Respect (AIR) Art Show during Ebertfest on Saturday, April 20th.

We hosted a hybrid informational session about Illinois ABLE accounts in May. Thank you to all who attended. On May 15th, a few DSC staff members and advocates joined other organizations at the Capitol in Springfield for Advocacy Day. We had an inspiring experience advocating for increased wages for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs).

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 6th. The Eastern Illinois Parrot Head Club is hosting Back to the Prairibbean! Join us at Rigg's Beer Company from 5:00-8:00 pm for this fun social event. All proceeds will benefit DSC. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Danielle



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The Eastern Illinois Parrot Head Club
Presents....
Back To The Prairibbean '24

Tuesday, August 6th
5:00PM - 8:00PM

Riggs Beer Company
Urbana

LIVE MUSIC BY
THE BOAT
DRUNKS

JOIN US FOR MUSIC, FOOD, BEVERAGES,
RAFFLES AND SO MUCH FUN!

\$10 ENTRY FEE
TICKETS ARE ON SALE!
VISIT WWW.EIPHC.ORG TO PURCHASE

All Proceeds Benefit DSC!



Join DSC and our friends, the Eastern Illinois Parrot Head Club (EIPHC) for Back to the Prairibbean—a fun evening of music, food, beverages, and raffles! We'll be partying with a purpose!

Gates open at 5:00pm and The Boat Drunks will begin playing at 5:30pm. New this year, not just one, but TWO food trucks: La Paloma and Watson's Chicken! Admission tickets are on sale NOW and can be purchased at the gate or ahead at eiphc.org. Only \$10!

DSC is grateful to be the charitable beneficiary of EIPHC's Prairibbean, which has raised more than \$500,000 for DSC since 2010!



On April 4th, Family Development staff had the opportunity to attend a full-day conference with other home visitors and early childhood educators in the community. Connecting the Dots is an event focused on enhancing collaborative relationships with the goal of improving outcomes for children and families across early childhood sectors, including home visitors, Early Intervention specialists, DCFS, educators, and more! This year's theme was *Building Pathways to Trust*, especially between early childhood programs and the families we serve.

During the conference, DSC Family Development staff learned about the many valuable and essential components of being the best supports possible for the families that we serve, while also respecting ourselves and our own boundaries. One of the focal points of the conference was learning how to build relationships that are strong and dependable. We learned that trust begins with oneself, then one's team, and then one's community. To be the best for others means starting with a strong foundation. If we trust ourselves and our teams and know why we do what we do every day, then the benefits to the community will follow. If, as an organization, we know our "why," then our "what" becomes much more powerful and purposeful.

Overall, the conference provided valuable insights and tools for us to enhance our practices and continue to make a positive impact on the families we serve. We are grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow together as a team, and we are committed to implementing the knowledge and skills we have gained to better support our families in their journey toward growth and development.

-Written by Alison Hanlon, DSC Occupational Therapist

Celebrating 25 Years!



Brad Parks, Director of Business Operations, recently celebrated 25 years with DSC! Brad began his career at DSC in May 1999. He was instrumental in planning and running the DSC Golf Classic that ran from the 1990's through 2014. He also remembers assisting when

DSC hosted former Governor Quinn in June 2009. Brad also served on the C-U Oktoberfest planning committee, helping to make that event so successful for many years. Brad lives in Champaign with his wife, Betsy, and together they own Chemical Maintenance Inc. (CMI). They have two children and three grandchildren. Congratulations, Brad, and thank you for 25 years of service!

Thank You, Orange Krush!



We are happy to announce DSC is a 2024 Orange Krush Foundation grant recipient. This grant will help fund annual passes to the Martens Center, Leonhard Center, and the Stephen's Family YMCA, which will be utilized by

our Community Day Services and Community First programs. These programs visit these recreation centers daily, so this funding is especially helpful.

We are grateful for this opportunity through the Orange Krush!

Matching Gifts



Looking for more ways to support DSC? See if your employer offers matching gifts and **DOUBLE** your impact!

Many companies offer a matching gift program to encourage philanthropy among their employees. Some companies will even match spouses and retirees' giving!

Are you an employer interested in supporting DSC with a custom matching gift program? Contact Jodie Harmon at jharmon@dsc-illinois.org or 217-398-7110, for more information.

Spring Clean-Up Days



Volunteers from Broeren Russo Builders, Inc., First Mid Bank & Trust, Human Kinetics, and Community United Church of Christ (pictured here) visited DSC locations in April and did a

lot of cleaning and clearing for us! For their hard work and continued support, we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

The Greatest Showman Musical Performance



In May, the Community First Theater 102 group performed a musical performance of songs from The Greatest Showman. They sang their hearts out to a sold-out crowd at The Crow at 110! They spent many hours

preparing for this masterful performance. Everyone did such a great job!

Indy Comic Con



"My favorite part was ALL of it," shared Marissa shortly after a special trip to Indianapolis in March. DSC's Community First Anime & Comic Book group went to Comic Con! At the convention, the group

met many celebrities and saw lots of fans in their cosplay costumes. They connected with other people with the same interests and visited more than 50 vendors for shopping! The group is counting down to the days until Comic Con next year!

Mid-Year Appeal

Be on the lookout for our Mid-Year Appeal coming to your mailbox soon!

DSC Adopt-A-Home

Have a group looking to volunteer? We are seeking groups to make a year-long commitment to do light yard maintenance at one of our locations. Once a month or every other month, groups can pull weeds, pick up branches, rake leaves, and sweep porches, sidewalks, and driveways. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Jacqueline Gardiner at jgardiner@dsc-illinois.org or 217-356-9176.

Summer Wishes

With the warmer weather here to stay, we are planning many outdoor activities. We have noticed a need for some new outdoor seating. If you are interested in helping us purchase new long-lasting poly chairs and benches, please reach out to Jodie Harmon at jharmon@dsc-illinois.org or 217-398-7110. We would be so grateful!



Thank you to the following businesses that completed LEAP training over the past few months. We are grateful for your commitment to employ all people!

- The Activities and Recreation Center – University of Illinois
- Kohl's – Champaign

Join the Disability-Inclusive Employers Directory!

The LEAP program has launched the Champaign County Directory of Disability-Inclusive Employers, a public means of identifying inclusive employers, as well as a way for independent jobseekers to find them. This benefits organizations working with DSC and Community Choices, and also the jobseekers. We are inviting all employers in the county to register for the directory. Add your company's name to the directory and demonstrate your ongoing commitment to continuous improvement, learning, and growth in hiring qualified people with disabilities. Contact our new LEAP Coordinator, Melissa Goldman at mgoldman@dsc-illinois.org for more information.

Sponsor the Tree of Hope!



TREE OF HOPE
CAMPAIGN

We are looking for sponsorship support for our 31st Annual Tree of Hope Campaign. This signature campaign seeks to raise community awareness about intellectual and developmental disabilities and the supports and services DSC offers. Sponsorships ensure every campaign dollar we raise directly benefits the children and adults we serve providing

them every opportunity to learn, grow, and reach their fullest potential. Sponsorship information is available on our website, dsc-illinois.org under Fundraisers, or contact Jodie Harmon at jharmon@dsc-illinois.org or 217-398-7110 if you are interested. We appreciate your consideration!

Legacy Giving at DSC – Support the Future of DSC

To those friends who wish to help assure the longevity of DSC by mentioning DSC in your will, the following statement may be shared with your advisor to designate a legacy bequest for the children and adults at DSC, Champaign, IL, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation:

"I give, devise, and bequeath to the DSC Foundation (37-1023944) of Champaign, IL, a charitable not-for-profit foundation, the sum of _____ dollars (\$ _____) or _____ percent (____%) of my estate to be used to carry out its mission."

To view or download a copy of DSC's Planned Giving Opportunities Brochure, scan this QR Code:



Contact your tax professional for more specific tax information. If you would like more information from DSC, please contact Jodie Harmon, Vice President of Development & Communications, at jharmon@dsc-illinois.org or 217-398-7110.



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Mission: DSC supports people in living a rich and meaningful life.

Vision: Striving to assure that every person lives a full life in the community.