



COMMUNITY NEWS



WHAT'S NEW AROUND DSC ...

30th Annual Tree of Hope Campaign



It feels like it was yesterday when we kicked off the 30th Annual Tree of Hope Campaign and introduced the Etheridge Family. We would like to thank Alex, Jessica, Rhodes, Forrester, and Avonlea for sharing their personal story of hope and how DSC has supported their family with different therapies and respite care after Avonlea was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder, cardiofaciocutaneous syndrome.

This campaign, we also announced our largest goal to date of \$230,000! We are so excited to share that we met our goal and raised over \$237,000! We would like to extend a special thank you to every donor whose gift provides hope to the people we support and to the sponsors who make it possible for all donations

from the Tree of Hope to go directly towards our programs and services, allowing DSC to continue providing supports for more than 1,200 children and adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities here in Champaign and Ford counties.

Thank you again for helping us light the Tree of Hope and continue to fulfill our mission to support people in living a rich and meaningful life!



INSIDE

Tree of Hope Sponsors
DSC Receives Grants
Art Supply Drive

Annual Recognition Awards
Team Noah
LEAP

37th Annual Recognition Awards

Every year, DSC looks forward to recognizing and thanking individuals, businesses, and organizations whose support and partnership makes a measurable difference in our community. We are excited to share 2023's award winners!



Joe Phillips – Personal Achievement Award

Joe is being recognized for his perseverance, commitment to work obligations, and consistent positive attitude. He holds multiple jobs and participates in many volunteer opportunities. Joe recently made monumental strides in greater independence when he moved into a Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA).



Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center – Employer of the Year

UCIMC is being recognized for their commitment to being an inclusive employer. They have been an exceptional partner with our Community Day Services and Community First programs for the past three years. Their desire to create an encouraging work environment and employ all people sets an example for all in our community to follow.

(Pictured: UCIMC staff, Miriam Larson and DJ BJ Clark)



Sue DiFilippo – Special Recognition Award

Sue is being recognized for her over 25 years of Speech Language Pathologist consulting services she has provided to the adults we support. She focuses on the importance of language and interaction as a communication tool, rather than just speech alone. Sue has made a meaningful impact not only on the people we support, but also our organization.



Dale Morrissey – Spirit of DSC Award

Dale is being recognized for his commitment and dedication to our mission. He was instrumental in starting the Tree of Hope Campaign and the establishment of the Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board. Dale started and built upon many programs still in existence today at DSC. The impact Dale has had on so many at DSC will carry on for years to come.

Thank you, Iroquois Federal Foundation



We were recently awarded a generous grant from the Iroquois Federal Foundation! This funding was for adaptive positioning chairs and accessories for our Family Development therapists. These chairs will enhance our in-home therapy sessions for children. Thank you, Iroquois Federal Foundation for making a meaningful difference in the lives of families we serve!

Thank you, Junior League of Champaign-Urbana



DSC was a Junior League of Champaign-Urbana's 2023 Community Assistance Fund (CAF) grant recipient! This grant funded two sewing

machines, sewing supplies, and four crank knitting machines for our Community First Hook, Loom, and Stitch group and our Community Day Services program. We are very grateful for the Junior League's long time support of DSC!

Team Noah

TEAM NOAH



Join DSC at the Christie Clinic Illinois 5K on Friday, April 26th! The Walk, Run & Roll with Team Noah is held in honor of Noah Lukach, who passed away in March of 2020. Although Noah was born multiply-impaired, he was an active participant in 5K races with his family. One of his favorite events was the Christie Clinic Illinois 5K. Team Noah's goal is for people of all ability levels to feel the same accomplishment Noah felt as they complete this event! To learn more and sign up, go to illinoismarathon.com/races/5k/team-noah/.

Thank You, Fall Clean Up Volunteers



We are extra grateful for all the hard-working volunteers from Human Kinetics, Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts – Den 119, Coldwell Banker

Commercial Devonshire Realty, The McDonald Group Powered by RealtySelect One, and Broeren Russo Builders, Inc., who donated their time this past fall during DSC Fall Clean-Up Days! They raked (a ton), pulled weeds, trimmed trees and bushes, and cleaned up around many DSC sites.

Congratulations, Vickie Tolf!



After 23 years with DSC, Vickie Tolf retired at the end of December 2023! Vickie joined DSC in May of 2000 as the Training Coordinator, then transitioned to the role of Director of the Program Assurance in 2005.

Vickie's passion for DSC's mission and the people who receive services has been evident since the day she joined DSC. She received the Special Recognition Award at the 2015 DSC Annual Recognition Ceremony. And at the 2018 Hearts of Gold Gala, hosted by the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois, Vickie received the Heart of Gold Award.

We are grateful for Vickie's dedication to DSC and wish her all the best in retirement!

Art Supply Drive



Arts supplies are always needed for many programs within DSC. To help keep our programs stocked, we are having an Art Supply Drive now through March 29th. We invite you to purchase art supplies off our Amazon Gift List or the list on our website. To find the list on Amazon, go to www.amazon.com/registries, enter DSC, and search by *Gift List*. You can also find the list on the home page of our website, www.dsc-illinois.org. We thank you for your support!



LEAP continues to grow and reach more businesses. Last fiscal year, 61 new businesses learned about the benefits of hiring qualified candidate with disabilities. A special thank you to the businesses below for their commitment to being disability-inclusive employers and attending a recent LEAP training.

- AAA Insurance Agency
- Champaign County Fairgrounds
- City of Champaign – Equity & Engagement Department
- Credit Union 1
- CRIS Healthy Aging
- Curly Girl Productions, LLC
- CVS (Savoy)
- Frerichs & Stillwell Insurance
- Illini Insurance Agency, Inc.
- ImpactLife
- Jen Watson Consulting
- Lanz, Inc.
- mLab Fitness
- Pampered Pet
- Promise Healthcare
- RegCakes
- ServPro
- UpClose Printing

Is your company registered in the Champaign County Directory of Disability-Inclusive Employers, a public means of identifying inclusive employers? This directory will benefit job candidates working with DSC and Community Choices, as well as independent jobseekers. Visit <https://leapdirectory-cu.org/directory/> to register today!

2023 Tree of Hope Sponsors

Because of these generous sponsors, every dollar we raise during the Tree of Hope Campaign directly supports the programs and services we offer! Thank you for your commitment to our mission!



CORPORATE SPONSORS (\$3,500 & Up)

Champaign Multimedia Group
 Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend
 Coldwell Banker Commercial Devonshire Realty/Allied Capital Title
 Flooring Surfaces, Inc.
 Illini Radio Group
 Midwest Tankermen, Inc.
 Serra Champaign
 Stevie Jay Broadcasting
 WCIA, News Channel 3

LEVEL I (\$1,500-\$3,499)

Ameren Illinois
 Broeren Russo Builders, Inc.
 Carle Foundation
 Champaign-Urbana Elks Lodge #2497
 Comcast
 Commerce Bancshares Foundation
 First State Bank and Trust
 Midwest Engineering & Testing, Inc.
 Sam's Club
 Shields Auto Center

LEVEL II (\$1,000-\$1,499)

American Dowell Sign Company
 Christie Foundation
 Down Syndrome Network
 First Federal Savings Bank
 Five Foot Productions
 Hendershot Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
 Kevin & Nancy Sullivan
 Premier Print Group
 Roger & Jane Webber
 Sullivan-Parkhill Automotive, Inc.
 T-Stagg Photography

LEVEL III (\$500-\$999)

ABC Heating & Air Conditioning
 BankChampaign N.A.
 Body N' Sole
 Busey Bank
 Champaign Ford City
 Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District
 CMI
 Cozad Asset Management, Inc.
 Farm Credit Illinois
 First Mid Bank & Trust
 Greater Champaign County AMBUCS
 Health Alliance
 Jackson Quality Construction
 Midwest Construction Rentals, Inc.
 Petry Kuhne Company
 Reynold's Towing Service
 TSM Ventures, Inc.

LEVEL IV (\$250-\$499)

Advance Auto Parts
 Bank of Rantoul
 Calvin Jordan & Gayle Griffin-Jordan
 Hickory Point Bank & Trust
 Hudson Drug & Hallmark Shop
 INB
 Northwestern Mutual Central Illinois
 Steve & Carol Kamradt
 The Open Room
 USI Insurance Services



1304 W. Bradley Ave
 Champaign, IL 61821
 217.356.9176
dsc-illinois.org

- @DSCChampaign
- @DSCChampaign
- @DSCChampaign

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.