

## A Message from Chief Executive Officer, Dale Morrissey...

There are many questions surrounding the changes in leadership at the state level with Governor Rauner having just taken office as Illinois' 42<sup>nd</sup> Governor. As a result, we are getting a lot of questions about how this change will impact DSC.

One of the biggest questions facing DSC and many other agencies that receive state funding is the state income tax rate extension that expired on December 31, 2014. Temporary income tax increases that took effect in January 2011 are scheduled to be partially phased out in January 2015, leading to a dramatic reduction in State revenues. Under current law, the rates will decline from 5.0% to 3.75% for individuals and from 7.0% to 5.25% for corporations. As of now, things are still "up in the air" with no solution in sight. One thing is factual, without this extension, the state will struggle even worse to pay its bills. With the current tax rate, the state is still billions of dollars behind in paying its bills, and if this reduction takes place, billions more will be added to the already back-logged system. Until decisions are made, we have little information on how this will impact DSC.

DSC's Board of Directors, management team, and I will continue to monitor these proposed changes and others as they unfold. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [dmorrissey@dsc-illinois.org](mailto:dmorrissey@dsc-illinois.org) or by calling (217) 356-9716.

Happy New Year!  
Dale

We kicked-off **National Direct Support Professionals Week** on September 9<sup>th</sup>! This is a wonderful opportunity for DSC's Board and Management Team to join other agencies across the nation, recognizing and showing our appreciation of our staff that work directly with children and adults with disabilities. They are so incredibly caring and dedicated, and work hard every day!

The week was celebrated with trivia, a free meal, and drawings for various prizes including Illini Football tickets, \$100 Visa gift cards, \$25 Walgreen's gift card, a massage and many others! Congratulations to Cathy Luhrsen (pictured at right) who works in Case Management, for winning the Grand Prize of a \$200.00 Visa gift card and a \$50.00 Black Dog gift certificate!

**DSPs are the frontline heroes at DSC and we truly appreciate their hard work and commitment to every consumer receiving DSC services. Thank you, Direct Service Professionals!!** DSPs are the very heart of our mission, "to enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities by providing services and supports which enable them to live, work, learn and participate in their communities."



## DSC's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Tree of Hope Campaign

DSC's Tree of Hope committee, comprised of DSC staff and board members, once again gathered to discuss this year's Tree of Hope, including the goal for the campaign. The committee suggested our goal should represent the increasing need for services and supports for people with disabilities in our community, so with their encouragement and support, we increased the goal this year to \$140,000!

We kicked off our campaign on November 6<sup>th</sup> and as of January 12<sup>th</sup>, we have raised \$138,512 of that goal! We would not have accomplished this without the support and involvement of many, including our inspiring Spokes Family, The Pangburns, (pictured at right) and the generous sponsors who underwrite the cost of the campaign, enabling each donated dollar to go directly to services and supports!

The money raised during this campaign is of great importance, as it helps support over 1,100 children and adults with disabilities in our community...but it is so much more. It also provides *hope* for so many families who are currently walking, or perhaps just beginning to walk, the path of raising a child or adult with disabilities. It is our sincere hope that we have offered our community a glimpse of life inside a family who is working to discover the paths that will lead them to providing the most independent life possible for their son, Lincoln.



To read their full journey, donate to this year's campaign, or review the sponsors who make this campaign possible please go to [www.dsc-illinois.org/events\\_fundraisers/treeofhope/](http://www.dsc-illinois.org/events_fundraisers/treeofhope/). The campaign runs through January 31<sup>st</sup>, and gifts help light the Tree of Hope, located on the corner of Prospect Avenue and Marketview Drive in Champaign.



DSC's Annual Recognition Event was held in conjunction with the Tree of Hope Kick-off. This is a way for DSC to recognize and honor community partners and consumers. Congratulations to DSC's **Employer of the Year, Rockwell Automation; Special Recognition Award, Ms. Judy Ullom; Public Service Award, Mr. Eric Robeson and Mr. Achim von Bodman; and Personal Achievement Award, Mr. Anthony Strader** (pictured at left). Anthony was recognized for his hard work and dedication in his place of employment, his efforts for self-improvement, and his drive and dedication to being successful. He is described by those who know him as, "kind, generous, helpful, hardworking, and a joy to be around."

**Congratulations to all the award recipients who make a significant difference at DSC!**

**\*Please see page at right for some creative ways that people have come together to support the Tree of Hope!**

## Check out these Creative Efforts that Supported the Tree of Hope!

**AMDOCS employees** once again held their company-wide bake sale and raffle, bringing in an impressive **\$2,422!** They also invited people to sell homemade wares, and representatives from Thirty-One Bags, Mary Kay, etc., were in attendance. Each participant gave a percentage of their sales from that day that went toward the total contribution. This is always such a fun day, and if you stopped by to get a tasty treat, you wouldn't be surprised by the success of their efforts! Thank you to everyone who organized and participated!

Our friends from **WDWS, Dave Gentry and Elizabeth Hess**, hosted the **Tree of Hope radio remote** event at **Panera Bread** on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. During the radio remote donors called or stopped by Panera to donate to the campaign and collectively raised a total of **\$3,333!** Our spokes child, Lincoln, and his grandma were there to share their story with listeners and DSC's CEO, Dale Morrissey, was also interviewed to talk more about the services and supports that DSC offers to individuals and families in our community. Special thanks to Flooring Surfaces and Ruedi Wealth Management for their support of this event and matching the first \$1,000 in funds donated.

A big shout-out to our friends from **WDWS/WHMS/WKIO** for all the **in-kind support** they give to the **Tree of Hope Campaign** through public service announcements, regular interviews with Dale and Janice on multiple shows, the remote event held at Panera (mentioned above), and the promotion of the Tons O' Fun Band's Christmas show (mentioned below). This long-standing relationship has helped DSC make a huge difference in our community for many years. Be sure to "tune-in" to one of the stations so you can catch their tremendous promotional efforts!

The Virginia Theater was again the location for this year's **Tons O' Fun Band and Friends 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Show**. Many guests enjoyed listening to Christmas and holiday music! This year's spokes family attended and gave a brief history of the support they received from DSC and the success they experienced as a result of working with DSC's therapists. Tony Clements entertained the crowd as emcee, and the musical talent displayed by all artists was amazing. The show raised **\$2,000** for the campaign! We truly appreciate the collaboration we share with the band for this event, as well as the support from Flooring Surfaces and Ruedi Wealth Management for underwriting this event.



**Delta Sigma Pi Business Fraternity** supported DSC's Tree of Hope Campaign again this year by collecting donations on the quad during the evening of December 10<sup>th</sup>. Janice McAteer, Director of Development, attended and shared the mission of DSC to add to the students' understanding as to how their donations would impact children and adults living in our community. It was an inspirational evening as students shared their stories how people with disabilities had positively affected their lives. The amount raised will be shared with us in January.

## DSC Wish List

- \* ALL Ultra Free and Clear Detergent
- \* Two 8-foot white folding tables
- \* Art supplies
- \* Food Storage Containers
- \* Manual Can Opener
- \* Kleenex & paper towels
- \* Hygiene products, such as deodorant & toothpaste
- \* Snacks for Developmental PLAY Group
- \* Bird feeders and bird seed
- \* Passes & gift certificates to local vendors & restaurants for community outings
- \* Simple board games and puzzles
- \* X-Box Connect
- \* iTunes Gift Cards
- \* Office Copy Paper
- \* Balls
- \* Air mattress

If you can help with these requests, please contact **Nikki Kopmann** at [nkopmann@dsc-illinos.org](mailto:nkopmann@dsc-illinos.org) or by calling (217) 356-9176.

## Bequests

To those friends who wish to help assure the longevity of DSC by mentioning DSC in your will, the following general form is suggested: "I give, devise, bequest to Developmental Services Center, an Illinois not-for-profit organization located at 1304 W Bradley Ave., Champaign, IL, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_ (or specifically described property)."

To view or download a copy of DSC's **Planned Giving Opportunities Brochures**, please go to this link <http://ow.ly/dIC9w>.

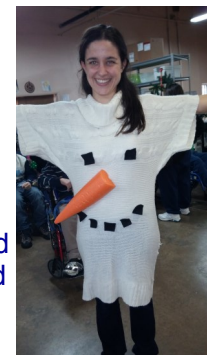
Contact your tax professional for more specific tax information. If you would like more information from DSC, please contact Janice McAteer at [jmcaateer@dsc-illinos.org](mailto:jmcaateer@dsc-illinos.org) or 217.398.7110.

### The Holiday Spirit was in the Air!

Our community continues to support our mission and consumers in a variety of ways. Many local groups & individuals stepped forward to help individuals & families who choose DSC services. Without their generosity, these families & individuals would not have had holiday gifts. **THANK YOU** to **Presence Health Auxiliary** for providing blankets, hats and scarves, and to **DSC Employees and many community supporters** for the gift cards, money, clothes, toys, movies, books, etc.! Our friends from **Farm Credit Services** (pictured at left) joined us again and did an awesome job of beautifully wrapping all of the packages! New this year, three offices at the University of Illinois (**Office of Government Costing, Grants and Contracts Office, and Office of Sponsored Programs**) joined forces and chose DSC as their "Season of Giving" organization. This group sponsored every family in our Family Development Center that was identified as "in need" this holiday season. Collectively, this group of very giving people gave each child at least four gifts, as well as gifts and gift cards to the adults! Wow!



The annual **Consumer Holiday Party** was also held in December. The fun started with festive outfits and carried on with a tasty catered lunch. Our friends at **C-U Junior Woman's Club** made nearly 60 dozen cookies, and **Butch Dalhaus** donated water and Pepsi products! After lunch, **New Twang City** (pictured at left) got the dance floor moving, playing everything from Christmas tunes to Johnny Cash. Everyone enjoyed the music, had a great time dancing and truly appreciated New Twang City for donating their time and talent. It was a great way to celebrate the holidays together!



Developmental Services Center  
1304 West Bradley Avenue  
Champaign, IL 61821

DSC is dedicated to the mission: "To enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities by providing services and supports which enable them to live, work, learn and participate in their communities."



Thrivent Choice is a charitable grant program that allows eligible members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes part of its charitable outreach grant funds each year. Developmental Services Center will be listed in the program's searchable online catalog. When eligible Thrivent Financial members direct Choice Dollars® to your organization in a particular month, Thrivent Financial reviews the recommendation and makes an electronic contribution by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the following month. Those funds will be used to carry out DSC's mission.

If you are a Thrivent Financial member, consider DSC when directing your Choice Dollars®.

### Do You Have Cardboard, Papers and Magazines Cluttering Up Your House?

Well we have just the thing for you! DSC Business Operations center recycles all kinds of cardboard and paper - including magazines, catalogs, office paper, etc. - as part of our effort to keep the environment clean and financially support DSC's programs. (We do not accept books at this time).

You can bring your recyclable paper to DSC's Business Operations at **3102 W Clark Rd in Champaign, 8am—4pm, M-F**. From Duncan, turn west onto Clark Rd (just north of Springfield). Turn right to go behind DSC's Business Operations facility to drop off your items at the back loading dock door.



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# DSC Community News

January 2015

Volume 9, Issue 1

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## What's New Around DSC . . .

### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual C-U Oktoberfest

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual C-U Oktoberfest was held on Saturday, October 11, 2014 in downtown Champaign. This fall celebration of music, beer, and food is patterned after the annual festival in Bavaria, and featured live music from bands playing festive polkas, waltzes, and traditional German music. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual C-U Oktoberfest was enjoyed by over 3,200 people who appreciated much shorter lines for food and beverages! We have received many positive comments about the entire event from community members.

Beer was served from local brewers, including The Blind Pig, JT Walker's, Destihl, and Triptych as well as traditional German beer served by Orange & Blue and Market Place Selections. An official C-U Oktoberfest beer, produced from a collaboration of local brewers, was unveiled the night of the event.

This year, White Horse Inn and Chester's BBQ were back with us and sold a variety of food during the entire event! We also had two new vendors! One new selection was warm Bavarian pretzels sold by Destihl; served by women dressed in dirndls and men in lederhosen, the pretzels were in high demand, with approximately 1,000 being sold. Also, a German dessert was sold by Cream and Flutter.

The Die Musikmeisters and The Bolzen Beer Band returned by popular demand and this year the ever-popular, party polka band....The Polkaholics from Chicago joined in the fun.

Thank you to all of our supporters who came out to enjoy the event! All the planning in the world would do nothing without your support! Thank YOU! Make plans to join us for 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual C-U Oktoberfest which is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2015! Prost!



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