

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

Summer is finally here! It is nice to have left the cool weather behind us and look ahead to the many exciting activities that will be taking place over the next few months. Additionally, it is the time of year that many organizations, including DSC, advocate to ensure funding levels remain consistent and respond to funding cuts as they are presented. Lastly, we are pleased to announce DSC's accreditation from The Council on Quality and Leadership.

Looking ahead, we are eager to share that DSC has been invited by The Eastern Illinois Parrot Head Club (EIPHC) to be the recipient of C-U in the Prairiebeean X again this year! Last year, this single event raised \$60,012 for DSC and we couldn't be more pleased to be working with EIPHC in 2014! *This year the event will be held in downtown Champaign, in the parking lot in front of the Orpheum Children's Science Museum.* Join us for live music and dancing, a silent and live auction, a \$5,000 cash raffle, and plenty of food and drinks! Bring your lawn chair on Saturday, August 2nd. The festivities begin at 5:30 p.m.

Also, mark your calendars for the second annual C-U Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 11th. We are gearing up for a much larger event this year, held in the Orpheum Children's Science Museum parking lot once again. More information will be forthcoming, but you can always check out our website for regular updates (link below). Live music, local food and beer...dress in your best dirndl and lederhosen and join us for an evening of fun as we raise money for DSC services! http://www.dsc-illinois.org/events_fundraisers/cuoktoberfest.html.

DSC is excited to once again be actively participating in the *8th annual disABILITY Resource Expo: Reaching Out for Answers* on Saturday, October 18th. As always, staff are helping plan the event and we will have a booth during the day. This free family-friendly event is an excellent opportunity for individuals with disabilities and their families to ask questions, get information and share ideas about what supportive services are available in our region.

Moving onto funding challenges...this spring we advocated to state legislators to vote to continue the temporary tax increase to be made permanent, which will minimize the negative impact on the people we serve; however, it appears the vote will not take place until after the elections this fall.

Shifting to our local funder...the Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board (CCDDDB) and the Champaign County Mental Health Board (CCMHB) have finalized their funding decisions for FY15 and DSC received another reduction in funding this year. DSC's management team and board of directors are working to address this shortfall and will be communicating more as we develop our plan in response to this information.

DSC welcomed The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) in May and received its four year accreditation. CQL is an international not-for-profit organization that focuses on assisting agencies in improving person-centered services and supports and personal quality of life outcomes. We will continue the great work that staff are doing with an increased emphasis on person-centered planning and community integration for people wanting to spend more of their day/time enjoying their community. CQL is a really good fit for DSC as we remain committed to our mission.

DSC management is finalizing goals/strategies to help us continue to grow and stretch ourselves to become even better advocates, and more importantly, partners with the people that receive DSC services. Together we will work to align ourselves with 'What Really Matters' to those we work for every day. To learn more about the CQL process, please visit their website at www.c-q-l.org.

Until next time,

Dale

Austin Cloyd Day

On Saturday, April 12th, DSC was proud to partner again with a group of 10 volunteers from the Centennial High School Interact Club for Austin Cloyd Day. The group worked hard to clean 10 agency and group home vans (pictured at right).

The day of service is named after a young woman, Austin Cloyd, who was involved in volunteering and service organizations while she was a Centennial student. Sadly, Austin was one of the victims of the 2007 Virginia Tech shooting, so the volunteering is done on this day each year to honor her memory. About 150 volunteers participated in the day-long event serving 7 different community organizations.



THANK YOU to all who participated!

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.

DSC Business Operations is a unique concept in creating job opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities. DSC Business Operations works to help provide support to the Employment Services program through business contract acquisitions that provide employment training for individuals receiving DSC services. Over 140 individuals have real work opportunities every day with a wide variety of jobs, which assists individuals in learning and improving work skills that are important in taking the next step to community employment. DSC works with local, national and international companies who provide an array of products and services to their customers.

DSC prides itself in efficiently meeting our customers' deadlines while matching all quality standards with the most competitive pricing. Please give us a call and we will provide a free quotation for your next project...this could be the most profitable call you make!

If you want to learn more about DSC's Business Operations and what can be done for you or your business, check out http://www.dsc-illinois.org/business_operations/ or contact Brad Parks, Director of Business Operations, at (217) 356-9176 or bparks@dsc-illinois.org.

Congratulations to Annette Becherer on 30 years of service!

Annette Becherer, Director of Employment Services, recently celebrated her 30 year anniversary with DSC! She was working at an acute psychiatric unit at a local hospital when a friend suggested she apply for a position at DSC. She was initially hired to fill a short-term position that was only



supposed to last two weeks! She decided to stay with DSC all these years because “there are few places you find to work where people believe in and work toward the agency mission, at all levels.” Annette goes onto share, “People’s lives are touched in both large and small ways here every day. It’s just what we do. It’s our culture. I appreciate that we are always looking at how we can improve services. I have always maintained that I will leave when either I no longer have the passion to do this or the focus of the agency isn’t about the people. Neither of those has happened yet. I can’t imagine leaving”.

One of the biggest changes Annette has seen over the years is the expansion of services that are provided for the people we serve, along with the quality of those services. She also noted how much the main building has changed, including the layout and different offices.

Annette has a lot of fond memories from over the years, including one of a consumer who lived at the Rantoul Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA), also known as a group home. Her birthday was on Saint Patrick's Day, and she started reminding people of her upcoming birthday shortly after Christmas. One year the staff made her a cake and had balloons for her. She was paged to come to the front office. When she got there, the small crowd that had gathered sang happy birthday to her. There were more than a few moist eyes as she laughed so hard she was crying, and the only thing she kept saying was "Buddy! You remembered!"

When Annette isn't busy working, she loves being outdoors! She loves taking her dogs on trails, gardening and enjoying her pond. Congratulations, Annette and thanks for your years of service!

Remembering Shirley

This past November, our good friend Shirley Kasner, passed away after an acute illness. We miss her in many ways and think of her gifts to us often. Many consumers wanted to honor her memory, so friends and staff joined at the Hays Center, the hub of the CU Special Recreation activities in which Shirley was so involved. In fact, the table decorations were Shirley's prized trophies (pictured at left) that she won over the years! Her friends were able to take them home for a memento of her.



Shirley's expectation of a party required three elements: music, sharing and food! Happy Rockers performed her favorite songs including "Summer Nights" from *Grease* and "YMCA" by the Village People (her all-time favorite song). The menu included Domino's pizza, cookies—one of Shirley's favorite combinations. She loved winning prizes, so everyone played "Bozo Buckets" in her own candy for the prizes.



Figure 1. The effect of the number of trials on the number of correct responses. The number of correct responses was significantly higher for the 10 trials condition than for the 5 trials condition. Error bars represent the standard error of the mean.

- If you can help with these requests, please contact
Nikki Kopmann at 217.356.9176 or
nkopmann@dsc-illinois.org.**

Requests

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 jmcateer@dsc-illinois.org or 217.398.7110.

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A full field of 128 golfers, plus staff and volunteers, gathered together on May 13th for DSC's **24th Annual Golf Classic**. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful course at Lincolnshire Fields Country Club in Champaign. After the teams finished 18 holes, they made their way back to the clubhouse for delicious appetizers, door prizes and an auction. This year's event was not only fun, but also raised over \$16,000! It was truly a group effort, and we thank all of the golfers, volunteers, donors and sponsors, especially our **Eagle Sponsor: Kemper CPA Group, LLP.**



A photograph of four men standing together and holding a large, ornate trophy. From left to right: a man in a red polo shirt and khaki shorts, a man in a light blue polo shirt and dark shorts, a man in a dark blue polo shirt and dark shorts, and a man in a purple polo shirt and grey shorts. They are all smiling. The trophy is a large, silver-colored cup with a decorative base. The background shows an indoor setting with a wooden floor and a large window or doorway.

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June 2014
Volume 8, Issue 3

to fitness. Lives got busy and the ideas got replaced by unpacking and other projects. But shortly after, one of the staff helped rekindle the idea! She developed a questionnaire to figure out which activities would be the best fit for the residents. They collectively came up with the name “I ♥ **Fitness**” and identified activities that would be both fun and healthy, like yoga and walking in the park.

Every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, they have a different activity that lasts for about 30 minutes.

Club participants are enjoying “Chair Yoga”, a modified version that still gets them moving!