

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

The change in our fiscal year meant changes also for some of our volunteer Board of Directors. After many years of dedicated service, Amy Eisenmenger and Jane Webber (pictured at right) finished their final terms. Amy started in July, 2001 and served as Secretary for seven years throughout her time with us. Jane started in July, 1997 and served as Secretary for five years, Vice-Chair for two years, Chair for two years and Immediate Past Chair for one year. We appreciate their work and wish them luck in all of their future endeavors!



In the July issue I informed you that the Community Disability Living Wage Act (HB 5931) had passed the House and Senate and was awaiting for the Governor to take action. On August 27th, the Governor vetoed the bill. This is a significant setback to the state's ability to provide critical services and supports for over 27,000 Illinoisans with intellectual/developmental disabilities. The purpose of this legislation was to address the significant staff shortage issue and to establish a living wage for direct support professionals. The coalition made up of six statewide advocacy organizations are finalizing plans to pursue an override vote in the legislature during the Fall Veto Session (November 15-17, and November 29- December 1). I will share more information as it becomes available.

On August 28th a surveyor from the Bureau of Accreditation, Licensure, and Certification (BALC), arrived (unannounced visit as is customary) and conducted a three day annual survey of DSC's Developmental Training (DT) program. The surveyor interviewed consumers and staff members, toured each of our DT sites, evaluated consumer files, reviewed policies and procedures, personnel records, emergency drills and the agency's rights statement and grievance procedure. He was impressed with the agency, staff, and services provided. ***As a result, we received a compliance score of 100%!***

Until next time...

Dale

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AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that allows customers to enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate **0.5%** of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. Developmental Services Center is a registered organization and AmazonSmile still works if you are an Amazon Prime member. It takes just a minute to login into AmazonSmile and you will be ready to shop and make a difference for DSC! Already an Amazon.com user? ***Make the switch today!***

After working at DSC for over three decades, Tom Everette to retire



Congratulations to Tom Everette, Director of Maintenance, who is retiring after just under 33 years of working at DSC! Tom joined DSC in October of 1983 when the Eisner Foods distribution warehouse closed. He started at DSC by managing a contract with Chanute Air Force Base, and then continued on in maintenance when that contract ended. He has been Director of Maintenance since 1998.

Looking back over the years, Tom stated that, "no two days were alike, yet the days are very similar". He recalls some of the more interesting days like when one of the group homes lower level got flooded during heavy rains. He also had to gamble on the Illinois weather each year when it was time to put up the tree for the Tree of Hope Campaign! Tom expressed that even on the more challenging days, it wasn't so bad because everyone had a good sense of humor.

Tom goes on to say how enjoyable his time has been working at DSC. Did you know that our annual Fish Fry was actually started with Tom and his crew as a "bunch of guys getting together and frying fish" out in the maintenance garage? Now it has become a great summer tradition among all of DSC staff!

Tom and his wife are looking forward to a long vacation in Arizona and looking forward to spending more time with family and pursuing some personal interests.

Words cannot express how thankful we are for all of Tom's hard work and dedication over the years. We will miss you Tom! Best wishes for a happy retirement!

Bellicon Trampolines Provide New Relief and Exercise Options for Consumers!

As a part of therapy and exercise plans for individuals receiving services in DSC's Developmental Training department, small trampolines are used. Due to the frequency of use, DSC had to purchase new trampolines every three months. DSC's COTA, Kati Smith, recognized this extreme use and frequency of purchase and did some research on Bellicon, a company that has a different type of trampoline. Their model has bungee cords instead of springs, giving people a more relaxed and soothing bounce, and has a lifetime guarantee.

As a result of Kati's efforts and communication with Bellicon, they generously donated two trampolines and replacement bungees! An added bonus included, representatives from Bellicon came to DSC to film a promotional video which showed exercises that can be done on the Bellicon model versus a traditional trampoline. Bellicon trampolines provide a different type of sensory experience and allows consumers to regulate their sensory systems and burn off extra energy.



Kati is developing exercise routines and teaches other direct service professionals how to properly implement them. Consumers are already enjoying them, and love jumping throughout their work day to re-focus and then be able to continue working. Adrienne, pictured at right, keeps one near her work station and uses it to regulate and calm herself, then returns back to her work station once she's ready!

National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week

In recognition of **National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week (September 12-16)** DSC wanted to honor those who are dedicated, talented, and passionate about supporting our consumers! This year, this is how we celebrated:

*Staff and consumers were invited to participate in "DSP Spirit Week" with themes like "Super Hero Day" and "Crazy Hair Day" (see photos below).

*DSPs enjoyed a breakfast or lunch within their programs, compliments of DSC.

*There were *over 20 raffle prizes* with daily drawings, including a grand prize to Chelsy Daugherty for a \$100 Visa gift card and a stay at Eastland Suites.

*Congratulations to Kim McGee, Kati Smith, Michelle Moreland, and Mete Sarabi in winning an opportunity to "Dine with Dale at Black Dog".

Congratulations to all our winners, but more importantly, thank you for your hard work every day. DSPs are the frontline heroes at DSC and we truly appreciate their hard work and commitment to every consumer receiving DSC services.

DSC's CEO Dale Morrissey shared "DSPs are the backbone of community services for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. DSC is so fortunate to have such highly skilled, knowledgeable, compassionate and dedicated DSPs. These individuals provide the critical support that leads to more independent living and better quality of life for all those served by DSC. These professionals truly deserve our thanks and recognition!"

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."

*Thank you to **Bodywork Associates and Eastland Suites** for donating gift certificates and also to an anonymous family that donated cash and multiple gift baskets to help us honor DSPs!*



DSC Wish List

- * Large Electric Skillet
- * Sweatpants (variety)
- * Food Storage Containers
- * Tide Pods
- * Kleenex, toilet paper, sandwich baggies, kitchen garbage bags & paper towels
- * Paint & Canvas
- * Hygiene products, such as deodorant & toothpaste
- * Simple board games and puzzles
- * Disposable Cutting Board Sheets
- * Food Processor with Chopping and Slicing Blades
- * Passes & gift certificates to local vendors & restaurants for community outings *(these continue to be one of our most requested items across all programs)*

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

Special Thanks To...



On Saturday, August 1, we “Partied with a Purpose” with our Eastern Illinois Parrot Head Club (EIPHC) friends and over 1,100 people for **“C-U in the Prairibbean XII”!** Pictured bottom-left are the volunteers that help make this event possible!

We had a beautiful night to listen to some of our favorite local bands, *The Tons O’ Fun Band* and *The Boat Drunks*, pictured bottom-middle. The raffle, wine tree, and silent auction were all a hit!

Congratulations to Pat Hannon, the winner of the \$5,000! She is pictured bottom-right with Nikki Kopmann, DSC Development Manager, at *El Toro Bravo*. This is one of her favorite restaurants and where she purchased her winning ticket!

DSC is looking forward to our check presentation in mid-October! We’ll post photos and the amount raised at www.dsc-illinois.org! **THANK YOU EIPHC, our fantastic sponsors and auction donors, The Tons O’ Fun Band and The Boat Drunks...and of course, everyone who came out and Partied with a Purpose!**



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-illinois.org or 217.398.7110.

Developmental Services Center
1304 West Bradley Avenue
Champaign, IL 61821

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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.”



DISABILITY RESOURCE EXPO Join us on **October 15th** for the **10th Annual disABILITY Resource Expo: Reaching Out For Answers!** More than 100 exhibitors will be showcasing services, resources, and technology for people with disabilities. There is also a wonderful Children’s Activity room and different types of entertainment will be performed throughout the day. There will be many artists displaying and selling their work in the **Artistic Expressions** room, including consumers from DSC! Join us at the **Fluid Event Center, 601 N. Country Fair Dr. in Champaign.**

- 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Informational Booths, Artistic Expressions Room, and Children’s Activity Room —Open
- 9:15 a.m. Opening Address & AMTRYKE Presentation
- 10:00 a.m. First Gig Rock & Roll Camp
- 11:00 a.m. Musical Performance by CUTC’s Penguin Project: scenes from Aladdin, Jr.
- 11:30 a.m. Borah Kang (Classical pianist—Art Room)
- 12:00 p.m. CUSR’s Bocce Ball Team: Exhibition
- 12:45 p.m. Ryan & Nucleus (Jazz & Latin Band)
- 1:30 p.m. Drawings for 50/50 & Kindle Fire

Save these other important dates!

Holiday Consumer Wish List Program— this will be released in **November**.

DSC’s **Tree of Hope Kick-Off and Annual Recognition Event** will take place at **Sullivan-Parkhill** on **Thursday, November 3rd** at **8:00am**.

WDWS Tree of Hope Live Radio Remote will be broadcasted from **Panera on Kirby** on **Thursday December 8th** from **7:00a.m.—9:00a.m.**

Go to www.dsc-illinois.org for all details.



DSC Community News

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What’s New Around DSC . . .

Exciting Things Going on at DSC!

Employment First Update

DSC and Community Choices formed a collaboration, Partners for Employment, to advance the Employment First initiative. The creation of Leaders in Employing All People (LEAP) certification is going well, and we want to thank the following businesses for joining others in our community on becoming LEAP certified!

Clark Lindsey Village, Peter Pan Too, Deep Silver Volition, County Market on Kirby (all pictured above) and Schnuck’s of Savoy.

These businesses have gone through a presentation, worked to implement the LEAP concepts (which include using person-first language, making workplace accommodations, among others), and referring other businesses, with the ultimate goal of hiring a qualified applicant with an intellectual or developmental disability.

Would you like to become LEAP certified or learn more about the process? Please contact Chike Coleman at LEAP.by.pfe@gmail.com or 217-360-0033.

Kim DuHamel Pursuing Advocacy Opportunities!

Kim DuHamel is very passionate about some issues going on with our state government and wanted to take some sort of action. Julie Porter, the manager of DSC’s Developmental Training site in Rantoul, helped her email Senator Jason Barickman and Representative Thomas Bennett (pictured with Kim at right).



As a result, Representative Bennett recently invited her to meet for coffee and discuss her concerns together in Paxton. They discussed state operated facilities, safety, funding and how some of these things impact her life. She also expressed her desire to have more opportunities in the community for jobs, activities and education. Representative Bennett was genuine and honest, also sharing some of his frustrations with what’s currently going on in our government.

Senator Barickman is working on a time to meet with her in October.

We applaud Kim’s interests, efforts and advocacy for issues that are important to her, and thank our local politicians for taking the time to hear her message!



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