



COMMUNITY NEWS



WHAT'S NEW AROUND DSC . . .

2020 Tree of Hope



It's hard to believe that it was only a short time ago that we kicked-off the 27th Annual Tree of Hope Campaign by introducing our Spokesfamily little Charlotte, her sister Reagan, and her parents, Bryan and Ciara Freres. Now, here we are wrapping up the Campaign. We are so excited to share the results. With your help, we exceeded our goal of \$175,000 and raised over \$193,000! Thank you for lighting the way!

In addition to sharing the Spokesfamily's story we also recognized and celebrated the accomplishments of our recognition award winners. Congratulations to our 34th Annual Recognition Award Winners:

- Personal Achievement Award - Thomas Mustered, who works at Walgreens
- Employer of the Year - Planet Fitness of Urbana
- Special Recognition Award - ESS Clean, Inc



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The Busick Family: Learning to Embrace Times of Transition



Cindy and Steve Busick are Jenna's parents, a young woman, and past recipient of DSC services. Their family relocated from Illinois to Midway, Kentucky in 2020 and they took the opportunity while they were home during COVID-19 to share their story with us.

After living in the Champaign-Urbana community for many years, they decided to move, so they could live closer to Jenna's brother's Lee and his wife, Sara. "It was a hard decision to make, after living in such a wonderful community all that time, but it was the right thing for us to do for this season of our lives," said Cindy.

Jenna Found a Home Away from Home at DSC

Though originally from Illinois, the Busick Family previously lived in Kentucky when Jenna was a child and later returned to Illinois when Jenna was transitioning out of high school. She had just experienced a ruptured appendix, and following a recovery period, she was accepted into DSC's Employment Services program.

"DSC has always been a safe place for Jenna," said Cindy. "The Employment Counselors there got to know her easily, and she was comfortable with them. DSC has always been like a second family for us."

DSC Helped Our Family Navigate Transitional Years

"Jenna loved attending DSC," Cindy told us. In fact, she loved it so much, that when the movement began to occur within the disability community and opportunities for people to be able to get jobs, Jenna wasn't sure she was ready. "Jenna would say, 'No, I don't want to leave. I want to stay at DSC with my friends.'" However, as DSC created volunteer groups and new opportunities for people to get involved in activities outside of DSC, Jenna became energized by it. They would go to restaurants together, or visit Gordyville," said Cindy. "All of the experiences were great bonding times for her."

"I had a boyfriend too," said Jenna. "Yes, when Jenna became interested in boyfriends, DSC helped us navigate that too because we as parents had never had a young adult with a developmental disability. DSC had experience with all of these life situations before. Annette Becherer, especially helped us through all of these things," said Cindy.

At one point during the time when Jenna received services, her family moved to Mahomet from Champaign. Cindy recalls notifying Jenna's Case Manager about the move. "We'll transport her to DSC," she told me. "From Mahomet?" Cindy remembers asking. "I couldn't believe it. For eleven years, DSC picked her up and provided transportation from Mahomet to Champaign. Some of those years, Piattran became the transportation provider. I always thought that was so amazing." "The bus drivers were so nice to me too," said Jenna. "Every day when I got on the bus, they smiled, and they were nice to me." Jenna also increased her independence while receiving support from DSC by learning to ride the MTD as a means of transportation.

At a later time, DSC was going through a re-certification process with the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL), an organization for disability service providers that holds agencies to higher industry standards. As part of the process, a number of employees, people who receive services, and family members participated in presentations and interviews. "During DSC's accreditation process, I gained a new understanding of the quality of services Jenna was receiving. I realized how progressive DSC was in the cultural shift that was happening around the country and how lucky we were. I realize it even more, now that we live in another state," said Cindy.

Looking to the Future

Right now, their family is looking forward to adopting a dog from one of the local shelters. "One of the social aspects of this area where we live now, is that everyone gets out and walks with their dog and it will be a great way for us to get out and meet our new neighbors here." Jenna would also like to adopt a guinea pig in the future. For now, she is an avid collector of PEZ candy dispensers and she's looking forward to finding a job after the pandemic.

DSC Has Been a Light to Our Family

"We are indebted to DSC and we are so grateful. We celebrated a wonderful Christmas, and as we enjoyed our tree here, and followed along with the Tree of Hope Campaign, we were reminded of how DSC was a light for our family."

Happy Retirement



After 28 years of employment with DSC, Mark Warwick retired in October. Mark said that he stumbled across a job in the field and decided that it suited him well. "Being a Direct Support Professional (DSP) seemed to just fit me," he said.

"I'll be turning 70 soon and it seems like a good time," said Mark in regards to his retirement. "Working at DSC is the best job I've ever had, and the duration I've stayed here speaks to this place." Congratulations on your retirement Mark and thank you for your years of service!

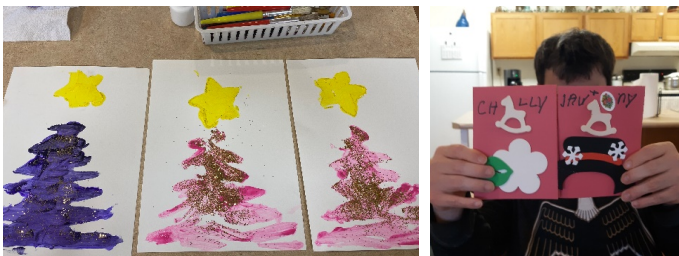
30 Years and Counting



Kyla Ray, Operations Manager, celebrated her 30th Anniversary this past November. Kyla began her career at DSC in 1990 as the Supported Employment Supervisor. Kyla has so many favorite memories at DSC but

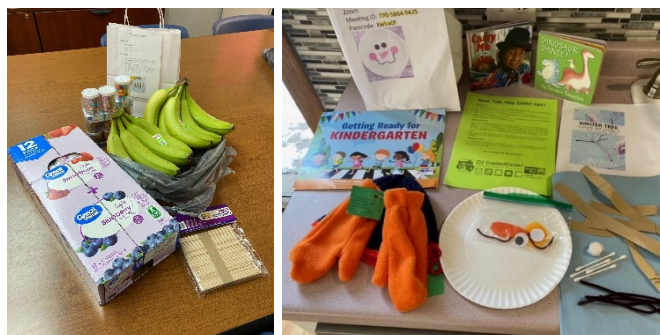
most of them center on working hard with her crew to get big jobs out of the door. Her favorite job was putting neck hangers on salad dressing, they did thousands of them! In her free time Kyla likes to collect critters and says she always seems to be cleaning up after one species or another." CONGRATULATIONS Kyla from everyone at DSC!

Community Day Programming Holiday Crafting!



From making holiday cards and crafts, to continuing the tradition of creating gifts for the Tree of Hope sponsors, DSC program participants have been keeping busy. The daily activities planned and offered by our Direct Support Professionals, improve the quality of life for people who live in DSC group homes and help decrease feelings of isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially with the onset of colder, winter weather.

THANKS TO YOU!



Champaign-Urbana Junior League & TJX Foundation

More families we serve will be receiving activity bag kits to coincide with their online programming from DSC's Family Development because of grants from the Champaign-Urbana Junior League and TJX Foundation. DSC serves over 700 children per year. These supplies are critical, as we continue to offer virtual programming during these difficult times. Thank you, CUJL and TJX Foundation for helping further our mission!



DSC is honored to be the recipient of a grant from Ameren Illinois. With funding from Ameren, DSC was able to reach more people with the Tree of Hope Spokesfamily's story. Sharing their story and the DSC mission, means DSC is offering hope to families with children and adults with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities right here in our community. Thank you, Ameren for your continued support!



DSC received a generous donation of N95 masks from the Oliver-Hoffmann Foundation. We are grateful for this contribution of PPE supplies. Thank you, Oliver-Hoffmann Foundation!

8th Annual C-U Oktoberfest Update



While the 2020 C-U Oktoberfest looked considerably different, being a virtual event, we are pleased to report that we were able to retain the majority of our sponsorships and we raised over \$26,000! Most importantly, we were able to share our mission in

new ways and we had a fun evening connecting with you. Thank you, for your support!

The Crow at 110 Launches Online Shop



The Crow at 110, a DSC Employment Services program launched their online shop featuring handcrafted soaps and candlewax melts over the holiday season. They sold over 1,000 soaps and melts! Thank you so much for your support! New scents

are available now! To order click on The Crow at 110 on the DSC homepage. Every product purchased from The Crow at 110 helps to foster creativity, connections, and community.

Thank You for Making Our Holiday Bright!



Throughout the Season of Giving, DSC felt the generosity of our community. Holiday wishes were granted on behalf of those who receive DSC services. Though this year was different, many of you reached out in unique ways to let us know DSC matters to you. From the bottom of our hearts, *Thank You!*



The LEAP team is now offering frontline staff training! This new training session is a great chance to promote an inclusive workplace and give your team an opportunity to develop professionally. Whether your organization would like to participate in our 30-minute frontline staff training or would like a LEAP refresher, both options are now available virtually! Contact Gregory Schroeder at gschroeder@dsc-illinois.org



In accordance with the State of Illinois Vaccination Plan, DSC staff and residents were eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. DSC held our first voluntary vaccine clinic in January and received our second dose in mid-February. Thanks to Walgreens for administering the vaccine!

Wishful Thinking

Our C-U Independence Apartment building is in need of new outdoor signage. The approximate cost to replace the sign is \$2,000. Please contact Stephanie Davenport, Grants & Marketing Coordinator if you would like to help out.

Bequests

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 Brochures, please go to this link
http://www.dsc-illinois.org/get_involved/Leave_A_Legacy.html.

Contact your tax professional for more specific tax information. If you would like more information from DSC, please contact Jodie Harmon, Director 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.