



COMMUNITY NEWS



WHAT'S NEW AROUND DSC . . .

Dear Friends,



Summer is upon us. The weather is warming up for new activities and outdoor events. Family Development has been busy collaborating with other local organizations to provide many opportunities for developmental screenings and creating more playgroups and other opportunities for families to connect.

In April, The Crow at 110 was a venue for the Boneyard Arts Festival again, hosting Boneyard High. Boneyard High was a collection of works from Champaign and Urbana High School art teachers. We were fortunate to be next to three other festival venues, and had many attendees visit and enjoyed sharing how we regularly use the space. Artists from The Crow also took part in the Ebertfest Art Show.

Spring also meant state budget discussions and advocacy. One of the most significant crises facing DSC and other intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) providers in the state of Illinois is that of an inability to hire and retain qualified staff as Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) due to inadequate reimbursement rates. DSPs are overwhelmingly employed by non-profit organizations whom the state contracts with to provide community based residential, training, and support services. After intense negotiations, a \$2.50 wage increase was included in the approved state budget. We are grateful for this increase and we will continue to advocate for our DSPs. Thank you to all that contacted our lawmakers.

DSC was excited to gather volunteers once again at the Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend at the end of April. We had more than 30 volunteers join us at the starting corrals for the races on Friday night and Saturday morning. Thank you to all the volunteers!

Make sure to keep an eye on our social media, website, and newsletters for more details on upcoming events! I look forward to seeing you at one!

Kind regards,

Danielle Matthews

Danielle



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Autism Play Group This Summer



DSC's Family Development is collaborating with The Autism Program (TAP) of Illinois and Salt & Light to bring you Play Group this summer! This will be a wonderful opportunity for families with children aged 2 to 5 years old, who

have an autism diagnosis, to join together in a group setting. This playgroup is a parent-coaching therapy model that teaches parents and caregivers strategies on how to have successful and, most importantly, playful interactions with their child while incorporating communication building.

Play Group will be led by Master's-level therapists, accompanied by student interns who have a strong interest in pursuing a career that supports individuals and families within the autism community.

Play Group will be meeting at Salt & Light in Urbana on Tuesdays, starting May 30th through July 25th from 9:30am to 10:45am on Saturdays, starting June 3rd through July 29th, from 10:00am to 11:15am.

Employment Plus Group



Community Employment has a new monthly event they want you to know about. Employment Plus is a group of employed individuals that gather to support each other, learn from each other, and have fun!

They met for the first time in May at Arrowhead Lanes and had a nice time with several people who work throughout Champaign County along with DSC Employment Specialists.

Ellen Maxey, DSC Community Employment Program Manager says, "I am impressed with the commitment of the Community Employment team; they are not only supporting individuals with their jobs but also with finding creative ways to enjoy a healthy work/life balance."

Family Development April Screenings



Throughout the month of April, in collaboration with the Champaign County Home Visiting Consortium and through the Birth-to-Five grant, DSC, other providers, and every school district in Champaign County

put on Ready, Set, Connect. Ready, Set, Connect, started with a large event at Soccer Planet, where more than 50

developmental screenings were completed. To complete these screenings, DSC Developmental Screening Specialist, Bobbie Webb uses the Ages and Stages Questionnaire, which is a developmental screening tool that pinpoints developmental progress in children.

Many people at the event said, "I had no clue of this resource for my child—for my family! And I am amazed with the home visiting program. What a relief this will be!" Developmental screenings are not just to test for developmental delays but also for milestones.

There were eight other events held throughout the month at area schools, and in total, about 75 developmental screenings were completed.

Due to the success of the event and the screenings, DSC will be doing play and screening popups at Hessel Park and other areas throughout the county this summer. Keep an eye on our social media and website for more details.

A New Van!



The Wheeler Foundation generously granted funds for the purchase of a new Honda Odyssey minivan. We are so grateful for their commitment to make a significant difference in our community and enrich the lives of individuals with

developmental and/or intellectual disabilities. Providing safe and reliable transportation allows DSC to continue to fulfill our mission to support people in living a rich and meaningful life. Thank you, Wheeler Foundation!

New Water Filling Stations!



The Rotary Club of Champaign chose DSC as one of the recipients of this year's Cannon Grant. This grant allowed for us to replace four water fountains with ADA-compliant, touchless water filling stations. THANK YOU, Rotary Club of Champaign, we have already saved more than 5,500 bottles!

Continuing Our 50th Celebration!



Our 50th year is coming to an end, but we are still celebrating! Over the years, many improvements and milestones have been celebrated for people with disabilities. We remain humbled and encouraged knowing that together with our community, we will continue to fulfill our mission to support people in living a rich and meaningful life.

We want to hear from you! If you have a memorable DSC story to share, please send it to jgardiner@dsc-illinois.org.

The Eastern Illinois Parrot Head Club

Presents....



Back To The Prairibbean '23

**LIVE MUSIC BY
THE BOAT
DRUNKS**

**Tuesday, August 1st
5:00PM – 8:00PM**

**Riggs Beer Company
Urbana**

**JOIN US FOR MUSIC, FOOD, BEVERAGES,
RAFFLES AND SO MUCH FUN!**

\$10 ENTRY FEE

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!

VISIT WWW.EIPHC.ORG TO PURCHASE



All Proceeds Benefit DSC!



Mid-Year Appeal

Keep an eye on your mailbox for our Mid-Year Appeal!

C-U Oktoberfest



In just a few short months, we will be celebrating 10 years of C-U Oktoberfest! The Polkaholics will be returning, along with Die Musikmeisters! We hope you will join us on Saturday, September 30th!

DSC Adopt-A-Home

Have a group looking to volunteer? We are seeking groups to make a year-long commitment to do light yard maintenance at one of our locations. Once a month or every other month, groups can pull weeds, pick up branches, rake leaves, and sweep porches, sidewalks, and driveways. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Jacqueline Gardiner at jgardiner@dsc-illinois.org or 217-356-9176.

Wishful Thinking!

Now that the weather has warmed up, we have noticed a need for new outdoor seating. If you are interested in helping us purchase new long-lasting poly chairs and benches, please reach out to Jodie Harmon at 217-356-9176 or jharmon@dsc-illinois.org. We would be so grateful!



LEAP is continuing to grow! Thank you to the following businesses that completed LEAP training over the past few months. We are grateful for your commitment to employ all people!

- Champaign Urbana Nursing & Rehab
- Circle of Friends Adult Day Center
- CRIS Healthy Aging
- Keller Williams
- Triptych Brewing

Join the New Directory!

The LEAP program has launched the Champaign County Directory of Disability-Inclusive Employers, a public means of identifying inclusive employers, as well as a way for independent jobseekers to find them. This benefits organizations working with DSC and Community Choices, and also the jobseekers. We are inviting all employers in the county to register for the directory. Add your company's name to the directory and demonstrate your ongoing commitment to continuous improvement, learning, and growth in hiring qualified people with disabilities. Contact Maggie Baker at mbrown@dsc-illinois.org for more information.

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, scan this QR Code:



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.