



# COMMUNITY NEWS



## WHAT'S NEW AROUND DSC . . .

### Danielle's Message



Dear Friends,

First-quarter was busy around DSC! We were active in advocacy efforts this spring on behalf of the people who receive DSC services and support for an increase in DSP (Direct Support Professional) wages. In collaboration with our State partners, IARF (Illinois Rehabilitation Association Facilities), and They Deserve More Coalition, we advocated for the Illinois legislature to fully fund the Guidehouse study of \$246.8 million.

The Illinois General Assembly did not approve fully funding the study for FY2023, but the final budget does include Pritzker's initial \$94.8 million increase for Guidehouse-related investments. We will continue to advocate for an increase in DSP wages. We are so grateful for the work that is done by DSPs every day at DSC!

DSC was excited to gather volunteers for the Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon at the end of April! We had over 20 volunteers each Friday night and Saturday morning working at the starting corral. Special thank you to those that volunteered!

The majority of our groups also started back in full force this spring, and we have an exciting year planned full of programming, fun activities, and stories to celebrate DSC's 50th anniversary starting in June. We also look forward to seeing all of you at our traditional fundraising events this year. We will kick off this summer with Back to the Prairibbean on Tuesday, August 2nd, at Riggs Beer Company. Then, in the fall, C-U Oktoberfest returns to downtown Champaign, on Saturday, September 24th.

We also invite you to come out to Bunny's Tavern on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. for the live C-U Queen of Hearts drawing. Purchase tickets in-person at Bunny's Tavern, or online via DSC's website.

Stay tuned to our social media and website for more event details to come! We look forward to seeing you!

Kind Regards,

Danielle



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## Introducing New Director of Accounting, Jeff Martin



In January, Jeff Martin joined DSC as the new Director of Accounting. Prior to coming to DSC, he was the Manager of the NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) Accounts Receivable Department at Vesuvius. Jeff lives in Mahomet with his wife Christy, son Jeffrey, and dog Charlie. In his spare

time, he loves to read, study investing, and build Legos with his son.

## Early Intervention Play Group at the Champaign Public Library



Early Intervention welcomed the arrival of spring with Play Groups at the Champaign Public Library. Families who attend Play Groups have the opportunity to interact with other families, while kids play, enjoy snacks, and participate in planned sensory activities. If you would like more information about Family Development programming, please contact Nicole Smith at (217) 356-9176, [nsmith@dsc-illinois.org](mailto:nsmith@dsc-illinois.org).

## Community First Group at The Stephens Family YMCA



We recently had the opportunity to visit with some DSC Community First Groups, and one participant told us he has a personal goal to focus more on himself, and his own self-care.

Aligning with that

goal, is healthy eating and fitness. One of the groups he participates in, is Healthy Living. During our visit, the group met at The Stephens Family YMCA for a class with the on-site, registered dietician. The group received a lesson on cooking healthy, chicken tacos in a crockpot. On alternate weeks, DSC Employment Counselor, Mike McArtor leads the group in cooking and healthy activities at other locations, such as grilling at a local park.

## Thanks to You!



The Orange Krush Foundation granted DSC funds to purchase YMCA Memberships. Adult participants in Community Day Services (CDS) share the memberships and are able to enjoy the pool, walking track,

and other benefits offered by the YMCA throughout the year. Thank you, Orange Krush Foundation!



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**CHAMPAIGN-URBANA**

Thank you to the Champaign-Urbana Junior League (CUJL) for inviting DSC to present during your monthly meeting and selecting DSC as your Done in a

Meeting beneficiary. CUJL donated funds to purchase baby formula for DSC's Family Development program. We are excited to distribute the baby formula to the families in our programs. Thank you, CUJL!

## Champaign Rotary Club's Joseph H. Cannon Memorial Grant

As a recipient of Champaign Rotary's Cannon Grant, DSC's Residential program was able to purchase three outdoor poly dining table sets for three group homes. The residents look forward to spending time outdoors, grilling out, and visiting with their friends and family during the warmer months. We are grateful to Champaign Rotary for making this possible!

## Increasing Independence through Technology



Darrin receives support through DSC's Community Employment program and has worked at Aspen Tap House for over four years. He began his employment there when it was still Scotty's Brewhouse. He started as a greeter, and now helps with seating, and busing tables.

In the fall of 2021, when DSC received a donation of laptops from the Comcast Internet Essentials program, an initiative designed to help bridge the digital divide, Darrin was a recipient of one of the laptops. Since that time, he's been working with his job coach, Maggie Brown, an Employment Specialist at DSC. They meet regularly at the Champaign Public Library for lessons on how to use the laptop.

For Darrin, learning to use technology is empowering in a number of ways, especially related to his work at Aspen Tap House. When he and Maggie meet, they review a tipping website that Darrin can access following his shifts. Working with Maggie, and having the new access to technology, Darrin is now able to transfer his tips to his bank account from the website. They also use a website called HotSchedules, which allows Darrin to review his work schedule. He and Maggie can then prepare for the weeks ahead, and have discussions around his schedule.

Maggie created a step-by-step checklist to assist Darrin when he uses his laptop on his own. The instructions assist him not only with powering up the laptop, but also with accessing Wi-Fi, and logging on to each of the websites. "Maggie is the best job coach I've ever had. She's such a blessing to me," said Darrin.

With Darrin's increased access to technology, he will also be able to use the laptop for hobbies, and activities outside of work, such as his creative writing at The Crow at 110. Darrin also enjoys visiting a bilingual church, where the Spanish sermons are translated into English. With the laptop, he will be able to learn more Spanish.

Thank you Comcast Illinois, for your commitment to bridging the digital divide, and your generosity to DSC, and the people who receive our services.

## New LEAP Coordinator



Maggie (Brown) Baker recently accepted a new role at DSC as our LEAP coordinator. Maggie began her

career at DSC as an Employment Specialist, and she will celebrate her two-year anniversary in November. Maggie has also worked in radio, and has been a Special Education teacher, which is how she became familiar with DSC. Her diverse work history will serve as an asset in her new role as the LEAP (Leaders in Employing All People) Coordinator. Maggie will be reaching out to connect with businesses throughout Champaign County to promote all of the amazing benefits to recruiting and hiring individuals with disabilities.

LEAP is a free, one-hour, disability-employment training for businesses in Champaign County. The program is a collaboration between DSC and Community Choices, funded by the Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board. Training is also available for frontline staff with the goal to increase awareness, and educate Champaign County employers and their teams about the benefits of hiring people with disabilities.

If you would like more information on LEAP training, contact Maggie Baker at (217) 356-9176 or [mbrown@dsc-illinois.org](mailto:mbrown@dsc-illinois.org).

## It's our 50th Anniversary!



We invite you to join us, as we kick off a year long celebration of this significant milestone. We look forward to sharing stories and honoring those who have supported us along the way. We want to hear your DSC story! Please contact Stephanie Davenport at [sdavenport@dsc-illinois.org](mailto:sdavenport@dsc-illinois.org)

or 217-356-9176 if you would like to share your story.

## Come "Back to the Prairibean"



Make plans to join the Eastern Illinois Parrot Head Club, "Back to the Prairibean" on August 2nd from 5:30pm-8pm at Riggs Beer Company. Featuring live music from The Boat Drunks, food trucks, beverages, raffles and so much fun! All proceeds benefit DSC!

## C-U Oktoberfest is Back!



Save-the-Date, and plan to join us for the 9th Annual C-U Oktoberfest on September 24th from 3pm-10pm in downtown Champaign! Come and enjoy live traditional German music, beer from your favorite local brewers, and amazing German food from some of C-U's most sought-after food vendors!

## 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 carryout 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](mailto: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.