

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

In the last issue of this newsletter, DSC shared that it had begun the process to become certified through the Council on Quality Leadership (CQL). CQL assists communities, systems and organizations to help people discover and define their own quality of life, measure personal quality of life for individuals, organizations and systems and improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, people with mental illness and older adults — and the people, organizations and communities that support them. Its mission is 'A world of dignity, opportunity and community for all people'.

DSC submitted its 'Request for Engagement' a few months ago and we have completed a self-assessment as we prepare for the CQL visit in early May. CQL will work with DSC to "identify opportunities, resources and strengths that contribute to increased excellence in person-centered services and individual quality of life for people receiving supports".

We take pride in the services and supports offered to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities dating back to 1972. DSC is looking forward to its collaboration with CQL as we continue our journey in person-centered excellence with qualified staff that are eager to learn and grow, and strengthening relationships with consumers and families in our community.

Happy Spring!

Dale

William T. Sturtevant Professional Development Scholarship goes to DSC Employee!

On March 14, 2014 the Association of Fundraising Professionals of East Central Illinois (AFPECI) announced that Nikki Kopmann, Development Specialist at DSC is the winner of the 2014 \$1,000 William T. Sturtevant Professional Development Scholarship! The Board of Directors of the AFPECI congratulate Nikki for this well-deserved award that will pay for AFP or related professional development.



Pictured above are nominator Janice McAteer, winner Nikki Kopmann and AFPECI President Julie Melton.

Julie Melton, AFPECI President, presented the award at the March educational networking luncheon at the Champaign Country Club. She commented that "Kopmann stood out in the field of nominees for her dedication to the field of fundraising and the mission of Developmental Services Center." The scholarship is named after William T. Sturtevant, nationally recognized major gifts fundraiser, consultant and retired employee from the University of Illinois Foundation. The scholarship is generously funded by the Green Family Foundation.

Congratulations to our local United Way of Champaign County for celebrating 90 years this February! Thank you for your continued support of not only DSC, but of many other agencies and programs in our community.

Their partners include 37 human service agencies that administer 67 programs. Investment areas include Community Basics, Education, Health & Well-Being and Financial Stability.



Spread the Word to End the Word



Members of DSC's self-advocacy group and the Illini Best Buddies participated in the Spread the Word to End the Word campaign on March 5th by collecting pledges on the University of Illinois quad. They bundled up and braved the wind and cold weather to educate people about the hurtfulness of the r-word and asked students to give their signature and pledge to stop the use of the word.

The self-advocates and Best Buddies handed out 200 informational cards in only one hour! They continued to gain pledge signatures and talk with students about the campaign, handing out candy in place of the cards.

The effort to Spread the Word to End the Word is a year-long campaign. To learn more visit <http://www.r-word.org/>

Prompting Theater Participates in Mark Morris Dance Group Workshop



Members of DSC's Prompting Theatre participated in a movement workshop at the Krannert Center for Performing Arts led by a member of the Mark Morris Dance Group. The Mark Morris Dance Group was in town for their performances at the Krannert Center. They wanted to contribute to our community while they were here so they invited the Prompting Theater

to participate in a workshop and attend one of their performances.

The workshop focused on expressive movement which stimulates both the body and the mind. The exercises used motions involving every part of the body, from fingers all the way down to toes. Emotions were also incorporated into the movements which made it a very beneficial workshop for this group of actors. They practiced using their bodies and movements to express emotions of happiness, sadness, fear, and anger. See additional photos at top of cover page (left and two in center).



Dale Morrissey Celebrates His 35th Anniversary with DSC!



Dale Morrissey celebrated his 35th anniversary with DSC on March 26th. Prior to coming to DSC, he was the Assistant Executive Director of a smaller agency in Streator, Illinois. He came to DSC because he saw the opportunity to make a difference in helping more people with disabilities to live more independent and fulfilling lives. DSC has grown five-fold since he started and now serves approximately 1,100 people annually. He is proud to have played a role in that growth.

Dale states he stays at DSC because he is surrounded with staff, board members, and community members who are all united in 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." Dale shares, "Every day we have the opportunity to positively impact people's lives. Working together we truly do make a difference."

The biggest change he has seen over the years has been the move towards Person Centered Planning/Practice and Choice. Dale shares, "Thirty years ago, service models around the country were based upon custodial care, correcting deficits, and telling people what was best for them. Now, we are more focused on what people can do, not what they can't do; we are focused on what 'they' want to do, not what 'we' want them to do. We will always have room for improvement... We must always keep moving forward - striving to provide the best services in our area." He is proud to say, "we serve/support hundreds of people each year—one person at a time".

Some of Dale's fondest memories are:

- DSC was the driving force behind the establishment of the Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board (CCDDDB). As a result of this effort, hundreds of people who had been on a waiting list for years are now getting services and supports, and will for years to come.
- The dedication and professionalism of DSC staff is second to none. I have worked with many of these people for a number of years. We have watched both our personal and our DSC families grow.
- Several years ago, DSC was recognized as the Small Business of the Year by the Champaign Chamber of Commerce.
- Probably the most important memories are those of individual consumer successes (first job, moving into an apartment, becoming more independent, etc...). "I cherish playing a small role in that process", Morrissey states.

Please take a moment to congratulate Dale on his 35 years of service to DSC!

DSC Wish List

- * ALL Ultra Free and Clear Detergent
- * Plastic utensils & napkins
- * Art & craft supplies
- * DVD Player
- * Paper Shredder
- * Burnable DVD's & CD's
- * Hygiene products, such as deodorant & toothpaste
- * Snacks for Developmental PLAY Group, including Gerber Puffs and Lil' Crunchies.
- * Gas Grill
- * iPads
- * Printed Duct Tape
- * Office Copy Paper
- * iTunes Gift Cards
- * Reusable shopping bags
- * Coffee Maker
- * Passes and gift certificates to local vendors and restaurants for community outings (anything from McDonalds and Dunkin Donuts to bowling, putt-putt golf and movies).

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

Consumables Drive at U of I a Great Success!

Megan (pictured at left), along with DSC staff members, attended the kick-off event for a consumable items drive organized by the University of Illinois School of Social Work Community Learning Lab. The drive lasted the whole month of March in honor of Social Work month and all of the collected items were donated to DSC!

Undergrads, grad students, and faculty faced off to see who could collect the most consumable items! At the end of the drive a tie was declared between the grad students and the undergrads. A large stock of items was collected to be used among DSC's residential, employment, and children's programs. Examples of items collected include toilet paper, paper towels, hand sanitizer, and play groups snacks.

Megan attended the kick-off to educate students and faculty about DSC and to motivate them to collect as many items as possible! Megan participates in DSC's residential program and will directly benefit from the donations from the drive. The students and faculty really enjoyed getting to chat with Megan and learning about her life, including her hobbies and her aspirations.

Thank you to the University of Illinois School of Social Work Community Learning Lab for organizing this drive! We are incredibly grateful for your contributions to DSC's mission!



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-illinos.org or 217.398.7110.

Developmental Services Center
1304 West Bradley Avenue
Champaign, IL 61821

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."

Visit us on the web
www.dsc-illinois.org

Developmental Screenings Available for Children

Children grow, develop, and learn throughout their lives, starting at birth. A child's development can be followed by how they play, learn, speak, and behave.

Skills such as taking a first step, smiling for the first time, and waving "bye-bye" are called developmental milestones.

Children reach milestones in playing, learning, speaking, behaving, and moving (crawling, walking, etc.). A developmental screening helps parents learn about their child's development and ways to play and interact with their child to reach their full potential.

A developmental delay is when a child does not reach these milestones at the same time as other children the same age. Developmental screening is an important tool for identifying delays early and planning intervention to ameliorate these delays and prevent future learning problems.

The Family Development Center provides free developmental screenings for children from birth through three years of age. To schedule a screening for your child, call Mary at 217-359-0287.

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April is Autism
Awareness Month!

DSC Community News

April 2014
Volume 8, Issue 2

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Developmental Services Center

Developmental Services Center
1304 W. Bradley Avenue
Champaign, IL 61821
Phone: 217.356.9176
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www.dsc-illinois.org

What's New Around DSC . . .

THANK YOU TO...

Fisher Reading Club for the Illini sweatshirts for 10 consumers; **Body N' Sole** for three boxes of gently used shoes; **Slumberland Furniture** for two twin mattresses, box springs and frames; **Cardthartic** for the variety of greetings cards; **Sarah Burney** for the two bags of art supplies; **CTF** for the \$25 gift card to Chili's; **Krannert** for 25 tickets to the *Mark Morris Dance Group* performance; **Paula Vanier** for the recumbent bike; and **Virginia Theatre** for four tickets to *Hairspray Jr.*

SPECIAL THANK YOU...

The Family Development Center received a **\$5,000 grant from TJX Foundation (TJ Maxx)** to sponsor children receiving P.L.A.Y. Project® therapy. This is a community-based/regional autism training and early intervention program dedicated to empowering parents and professionals to implement intensive, developmental interventions for young children with autism. **THANK YOU to our local TJ Maxx store for their support!**

The **Community Foundation of East Central Illinois** awarded \$2,731 to purchase seven adjustable workbenches for DSC's Employment Services program. The Community Foundation's president, Joan Dixon, presented a check to DSC Board Vice Chair Steve Acord at the January board meeting (pictured at top, right). **THANK YOU to our local Community Foundation for their support!**

SAVE THE DATE!

DSC will be hosting our **24th Annual Golf Classic on Monday, May 12th at Lincolnshire Fields Country Club!** So *fore*-get work and join us! You can support the outing by **being a hole sponsor, playing in the outing, or contributing to the auction.** The Four Person Scramble starts at 12:30. Registration is available on-line at www.dsc-illinois.org.

DSC helps the **Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon** by forming the Corral Team at the start line of the race. Volunteers are still needed for **6am, Saturday April 26th.** Please contact Alison at 356.9176 if you're interested!

The **"Pirates of the Prairibbean"** are holding a benefit concert for DSC on **Saturday, August 2nd** at a **NEW LOCATION!** Join us at 6:00pm at the "triangle" parking lot, bordered by Neil and Washington, in downtown Champaign.

CU Oktoberfest 2014 will be on **Saturday, October 11th** in downtown Champaign.

DisABILITY Resource Expo will be on **Saturday, October 18th.**

All event info, including volunteer opportunities, will be updated at www.dsc-illinois.org.