



COMMUNITY NEWS



WHAT'S NEW AROUND DSC...



Dear Friends,

Spring has been filled with community connection and action. In May, two groups traveled to Springfield where self-advocates and staff met with legislators to discuss the importance of continued investment in disability services.

A special thank you to everyone who volunteered with DSC at the starting corrals during Illinois Race Weekend in April. Your support was greatly appreciated.

Our March Art Supply Drive was also a tremendous success, with so many wonderful crafting materials donated. Your generosity will help provide creative opportunities and supplies throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

We are also very thankful to have recently received support from several generous grant partners. These investments are helping enhance programs and sustain the future of DSC. Inside this newsletter, you'll find more about these grants and the impact they are making.

Later this summer, mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 4th, when the Eastern Illinois Parrot Head Club once again hosts Back to the Prairibbean featuring live music by The Boat Drunks. Join us at Riggs Beer Company from 5:00–8:00 p.m. for a fun evening of music, community, and support for DSC. I hope to see you there!



Sincerely,

Danielle



INSIDE

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Grant Makes Remodel Possible

The Wheeler Foundation provided funding to support the complete renovation of five restrooms and a laundry facility. These updates will improve accessibility and functionality for the individuals we support on-site daily, along with staff and visitors. The remodel focuses on ADA-compliant upgrades, improved lighting and flooring, touch-free fixtures, and storage.

"The Wheeler Foundation is honored to partner with DSC in our shared mission of advocacy and care for adults with developmental disabilities. Living a rich and meaningful life is not possible without dignity. It's our sincere hope that an investment in new and updated bathroom and laundry facilities at DSC will underscore the importance of dignity for all the individuals we collectively serve. An immense thank you goes out to DSC and the incredibly important work you do, we hope our partnership continues long into the future," says Patrick Halloran, Wheeler Foundation Executive Director.

We are so grateful to the Wheeler Foundation for believing in DSC's mission and investing in spaces that directly impact daily life for the individuals we serve. Thank you for supporting our future!

Thank You TJX Foundation

We received a \$10,000 grant from the TJX Foundation to support Early Intervention assessments and therapies through our Family Development Center. This funding allowed us to purchase much-needed assessment, therapy, and assistive technology items for our Lending Library helping children access critical supports without waiting. We are grateful to the TJX Foundation for their generosity and commitment to helping children and families reach for goals and milestones.

Two Grants Bring Interactive Joy

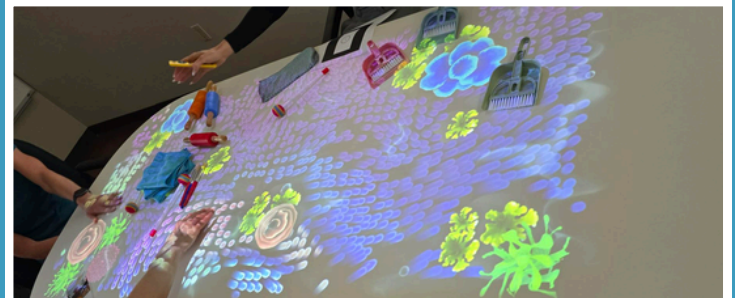
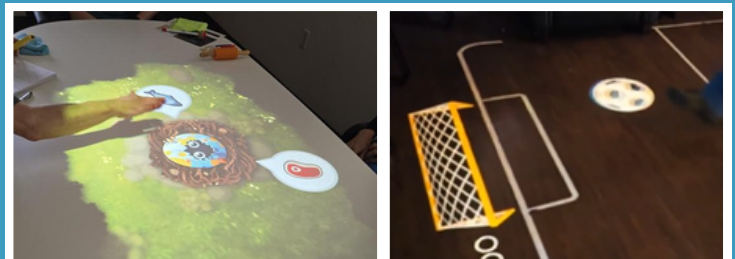
DSC is grateful to the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois and the Servbank Charitable Foundation, formerly known as, Iroquois Federal Foundation, for their generous support of our Community Day Services program through funding for a Tovertafel projection system.

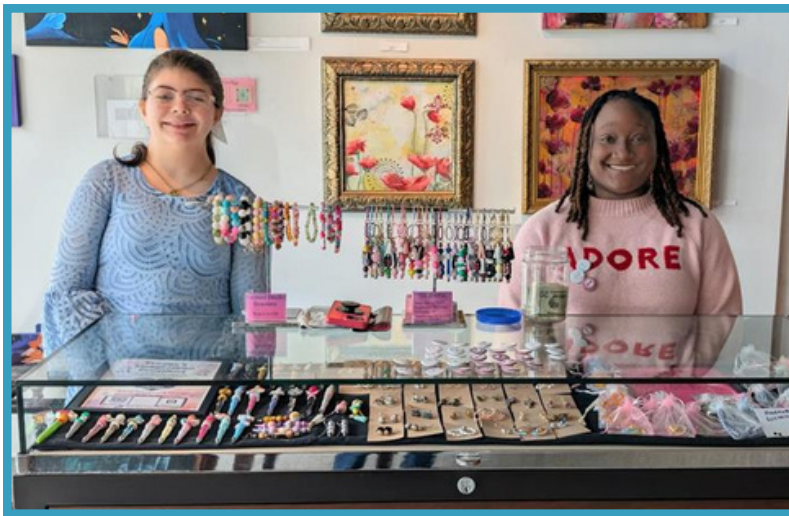
The Tovertafel is an interactive light and game projection system designed for individuals with disabilities encouraging movement, meaningful connection, and engagement through playful, accessible activities. This innovative technology will enhance daily programming while supporting peer interaction, social connection, and inclusion.

We are thankful to both foundations for their investment in enriching experiences and opportunities for the individuals supported by DSC.



Pictured from left, DSC CEO Danielle Matthews, Wheeler Foundation Executive Director Patrick Halloran, and DSC Executive VP of Clinical Services Patty Walters





Growing Together: Art, Community, and Connection

DSC was proud to host the "Growing Together" Art Show at The Crow at 110 as part of the Boneyard Arts Festival. The show brought together creativity, connection, and community through artwork from talented local artists. We had a great time welcoming visitors during the opening reception on Friday evening and throughout the day on Saturday, and we're so grateful to everyone who stopped by.

A heartfelt thank you to the artists who shared their work and to the community members who came out to support inclusive creativity. Your presence made this event truly meaningful and a beautiful celebration of art's power to bring people together.

Broeren Russo Builders Volunteers at Clark Road

We extend our sincere thanks to the volunteers from Broeren Russo Builders for their hard work and generosity. Their time and effort spent weeding and clearing leaves and pine needles at our Clark Road location made a big difference in keeping our grounds clean, safe, and welcoming. We are grateful for their willingness to roll up their sleeves and support DSC, and we truly appreciate their commitment to giving back to our community.



Celebrating 10 Years of Dedication!

In April, we honored longtime volunteer Diana for her 10 years of dedicated service to DSC. Diana has become an invaluable part of our Community Day Services team in Urbana. She has built meaningful connections with many individuals, and they look forward to seeing her each week. Loyal volunteers like Diana help create a welcoming and supportive environment while making a lasting impact on the lives of others. We are grateful for all she brings to DSC!

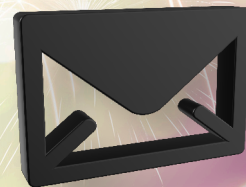
Summer Playgroups

Summer Playgroups are starting soon! Visit our website to learn about upcoming children's playgroups and parent support groups. Scan the QR code below to view offerings in our community.



Celebrating Independence

As we look ahead to summer, keep an eye on your mailbox in early July for our newly renamed mid-year appeal, *Celebrating Independence*. This year's campaign will highlight the inspiring stories of two adults we support whose journeys reflect the importance of opportunity, growth, and community support in helping them achieve greater independence. We look forward to sharing how your support continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Join our Home Sweet Home Program

Are you looking for a meaningful way to give back as a family, group, business, or organization. Join our Home Sweet Home Program and help bring joy, connection, and fun to one of our group homes.

"Adopt" a home by providing monthly or occasional social support and activities for the individuals who live there. Reach out to Jodie Harmon at 217-398-7110 or jharmon@dsc-illinois.org to learn more.



Best Buddies Walk

We were honored to sponsor and participate in the Best Buddies Friendship Walk and to host an outreach table at this year's event. The walk celebrates friendships, jobs, and leadership for people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities across our community.

Save the Date to Party with a Purpose!

We're excited to announce a concert to benefit DSC and invite you to save the date for an evening of great music, food, and fun. Join us at Riggs Brewery on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, for live music by the Boat Drunks, delicious food, beverages, raffles, and more. Enjoy food from La Paloma, Watson's Chicken, Smith Burger, and The Main Scoop. \$10 entry available at the gate or online at <https://www.eiphc.org>.



LEAP is growing, and we're thrilled to be reaching more businesses than ever! More locations have discovered the benefits of hiring talented candidates with disabilities. A heartfelt **thank you** to the businesses below for their dedication to creating inclusive workplaces and for joining us at a recent LEAP training. Your commitment to accessibility and opportunity makes a real difference!

Urbana Park District (Refresher) - Haven of Meadowbrook - Rantoul City Schools

Leave a Legacy with DSC Support the future. Empower lives.

Planned giving is a powerful way to ensure that DSC's mission continues for generations to come. By including DSC in your estate plans, you can create lasting impact for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

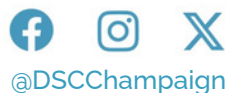
Your legacy gift helps sustain essential programs that promote independence, inclusion, and opportunity—ensuring that individuals and families receive the support they need, now and for years to come. Whether through a bequest, trust, or other planned gift your generosity becomes a lasting investment in securing the future of DSC.

To learn more about how you can leave a legacy of hope and possibility, please contact Jodie Harmon, Vice President of Development & Communications, at jharmon@dsc-illinois.org or 217-398-7110.



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Let's stay connected!



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.