



1304 W. Bradley Avenue
Champaign, IL 61821
p (217) 356-9176
f (217) 356-9851

www.dsc-illinois.org

March 30, 2021

Dear Friends and Families,

What a year we have all endured, not together, yet together in spirit.

In March 2020 we sent out our first notice to our families and supporters about our COVID-19 response. The Governor issued a shelter-in-place order for all of Illinois and life as we knew it changed drastically.

In that first communication, we announced the closure of all day program sites, and the suspension of all community activities for the individuals we serve until further notice. We never imagined that “until further notice” would mean that a year later, we are still in an abbreviated state of being at 12 months and counting.

The DSC family has been extremely fortunate that we have suffered no losses of individuals or employees to COVID-19. While we have had a small number of positive cases over the past year, we have also seen all recover and we were able to successfully limit exposure.

As we mark the one-year anniversary of this pandemic, we recognize the past 12 months has been incredibly difficult, but it has not been without some special moments of resiliency, inspiration, hope and even joy. The incredible dedication of our staff and the generosity of our families and supporters has kept us going even in our lowest moments. We appreciate the patience and understanding of individuals and families as they have endured long periods of time apart.

In this moment, one year later, we want to share that 97% of the individuals we serve in the residential program and 69% of our staff are vaccinated at this time. The development and distribution of an effective vaccine has always been the light at the end of the tunnel that we, as an agency, a community, and a nation, were waiting for, and progress is being made daily with more and more people choosing to be vaccinated. And though we are not quite there yet, each dose of a vaccine that gets administered brings us closer to the day when we can all be together again.

Please know that we are keeping up to date on all Center for Disease Control, Champaign Urbana Public Health, and Illinois Department of Human Services communications in an effort to plan for a safe and healthy return to full access of services. Thank you for continuing to partner with us.