



WHAT'S NEW AROUND DSC...

The 5th Annual C-U Oktoberfest



Rain, rain, wind, wind go away and come again another day! The 5th Annual C-U Oktoberfest will be remembered for the challenges of rain and wind for the organizers, but will be remembered by party-goers as another fun and memorable Oktoberfest! While the rain and wind let up about four hours into the event, those first four hours did diminish the fundraising aspect of our efforts. Due to the high winds all the children's activities were cancelled, with the exception of cookie decorating, and the attendance was certainly lower during that time.



But...you can't keep people from having fun under the big tents when there are great bands, great food, and great beer! After the rain ended, and we all enjoyed a beautiful double rainbow, the party kicked into high gear. Once again, there were too many people to count on the dance floor, a lively stein holding competition, and Conga line weaving under the big tents!

We are grateful and appreciative of the support from our sponsors, vendors, volunteers and community for helping us enjoy another great event.

Prost!

"We are ALL Champions" Speak Up Speak Out Summit



The Advocates in Motion (AIM) attended the annual "Speak Up Speak Out Summit" this fall at the Springfield Hilton. Sixteen self-advocates from DSC were able to attend the fun and opportunities at the "We Are ALL Champions" Summit.

The Summit began with keynote speaker Jeff Hobbs, whose story of perseverance has been featured in the Comcast SportsNet television series, "GUTS: The Jeff Hobbs Story", and the PBS special, "Heart of a Champion". Born with spastic quadriplegia, Jeff has always loved and sought to compete in the world of sports. After being cut from numerous teams, Jeff carved his own path!

Throughout the Summit, different sessions were offered, and people chose the ones they wanted to attend. Topics included Advocacy 101, Proud and Included, ADA in the Workplace, Using Apps to be More Independent, The Power of the Disability Vote, and Sexual Self Advocacy.

Advocates in Motion's trip to the Summit was made possible from fundraising activities that included a pancake breakfast with the Knights of Columbus in Rantoul, and selling leis at the *C-U in the Prairibbean* fundraiser.

While we'd love to share a few more stories about the trip, we will once again refer to the AIM motto – "What happens at Summit, stays at Summit!"

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

The New Year is upon us offering a time to reflect on last year and to establish and recommit to the goals we want to accomplish in 2018. Last year, DSC, along with our state association, the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (IARF), joined forces with over 50 other state organizations to advance the, "They Deserve More" Campaign. This Campaign focused on lobbying the Illinois General Assembly for a long overdue wage increase to \$15/hr. for Direct Service Professionals (DSP) who provide services and supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



While we were not successful in getting up to the \$15/hr. mark, the State budget that was passed in July was the first DSP wage increase in nine years. We can reflect back and celebrate this first step, but it is only the first

step. As Chair of the Board of Directors of IARF in 2017, and now again in 2018, we are recommitting to continue our advocacy efforts for another increase that will bring DSP wages to \$15/hr. statewide.

We invite you to be a part of the conversation by joining the They Deserve More Facebook page and DSC's Facebook page to receive updates, information, and a chance to have your voice heard on this commitment for the people who deserve more.

Until next time,

Dale

Leaders in Employing All People!

LEAP (Leaders in Employing All People), is a free employer education and training program that certifies businesses as disability aware. We are able to offer this training to employers in Champaign County because of a grant through the Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board. Congratulations to the following businesses that were certified between October and December! Please let them know you appreciate their support of this effort!



Old Navy at Marketplace Mall

Walgreens on University Ave

Parkland College

Champaign Park District (Pictured Above, Right)

Champaign Unit #4 School District (Pictured Above, Left)

Contact Employment First/LEAP Coordinator at DSC, Stephanie Davenport at sdavenport@dsc-illinois.org or 217-356-9176 for more information and free training.

Community Grant Awards!

DSC is so excited to have been recently awarded two grants! The *Community Foundation of East Central Illinois* is awarding \$4,900 to allow DSC to purchase items for our aging population, including a power lift recliner and a hoist lift. The *WGRC Cannon Grant Committee* is awarding \$14,900 to allow DSC to replace our server, firewall and software. Both of these purchases significantly impact our bottom line, and help us more safely and efficiently provide services. Thank you to both of these groups!

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 Developmental Services Center, Champaign, IL, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation:

"I give, devise, and bequeath to Developmental Services Center of Champaign, IL, a charitable not-for-profit organization, 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, please go to this link
http://www.dsc-illinois.org/get_involved/Leave_A_Legacy.html.

Contact your tax professional for more specific tax information. If you would like more information from DSC, please contact Janice McAteer at jmcaateer@dsc-illinois.org or 217.398.7110.

DSC's 24th Annual Tree of Hope Campaign



DSC is wrapping up our biggest fundraiser of the year...the annual Tree of Hope campaign! The committee for this campaign has set the goal and we are working to raise \$165,000 by January 31st!

We would not be successful without the support and involvement of many, including our inspirational Spokes Family, the Sprau

family, (pictured above) and the generous sponsors who underwrite the cost of the campaign, **enabling every donated dollar to go directly to services and supports!**

The money raised during this campaign is of great importance, as it helps support over 1,200 children and adults with disabilities in our community...but it is so much more. It also provides hope for so many families who are raising a child or adult with disabilities.

Parents Jared and Jill shared, *"It is exciting for us to think about the skills Alex and Lexi will develop as their futures unfold, but at times, it is equally overwhelming to think about the challenges they face. What we do have in excess is gratitude, faith, and hope. We recognize how lucky we are to have our families, who support us unconditionally, find comfort and peace in our faith and our church, and we are so appreciative of DSC and our community, who help in giving us hope. The services we have received have offered us a path of understanding that we are not alone in raising children with disabilities, rather, we are part of a larger community that cares and will offer us support along the way. Please help light the way for our family and many others by making your Tree of Hope donation today!"*

Go to www.dsc-illinois.org to read the Sprau family's full journey, donate to this year's campaign, or review the sponsors who make this campaign possible. Each donation helps to light the Tree of Hope, located on the corner of Prospect Avenue and Marketview Drive in Champaign.

DSC's Annual Recognition Event was held in conjunction with the Tree of Hope Kick-off. This is DSC's opportunity to recognize and honor community partners and an individual receiving DSC services who has made significant strides in his or her life. We are so proud to be part of such a strong, dedicated, and talented network of people!



Congratulations to **DSC's Employer of the Year - Dish Passionate Cuisine; Special Recognition Award - Mr. Richard Montgomery (DSC Employment Specialist); Public Service Award - Fraternal Order of Police, Illini Lodge 17; and Personal Achievement Award - Ms. Laura Lindemann** (pictured at left). Laura was

recognized for handling so many responsibilities at in her work life and being an active member of our community. Great job, Laura!

A Special Time of Giving

The generosity in our community shines even brighter during the holidays, and people that choose DSC's services were the lucky recipients again this year. **THANK YOU to Presence Health Auxiliary** for providing hats and scarves, and to **DSC Employees, Down Syndrome Network, and many community supporters** for the gift cards, clothes, and other gifts. Our friends from **Farm Credit Services** beautifully wrapped all of the packages, in addition to making many purchases from the wish list. The Family Development Center was chosen again as the charity recipient by a few offices at the **University of Illinois, the Fraternal Order of Police Illini Lodge 17 and Operation Santa** from Illini Media Group. These groups help many families and children who are in great need. **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

The annual **Consumer Holiday Party** was held in December. The fun started with a tasty catered lunch and nearly 60 dozen cookies from our friends at **C-U Junior Woman's Club. New Twang City Band** always gets the dance floor moving! Everyone enjoyed the music, had a great time dancing and truly appreciated the donation of New Twang City's time and talent.

It has been a great way to celebrate the holidays together!

DSC WISH LIST

DSC is in need of the following items. If you're able to donate, please contact Nikki at nkopmann@dsc-illinois.org or 217.356.9176

- » Gift cards to local restaurants and attractions
- » Tide pods
- » Kitchen garbage bags
- » Sandwich baggies
- » Toilet paper
- » Paper towels



1304 W. Bradley Avenue
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Mission: *DSC supports people to live a rich and meaningful life.*

Vision: *Striving to assure that every person lives a full life in the community.*

SAVE THE DATE

LEAP Family Informational Meeting *Employment from the Employee's Perspective: A Self-Advocate Panel*



Are you or your family member preparing for the transition to employment? If you answered yes, then you will want to join us. We will be hosting a panel of self-advocates to share about their experiences with transition into employment. Please join us on **February 21st at Champaign Public Library**, Robeson Pavilion Room. Meet & Greet starts at 3:45pm with presentation from 4:00 – 5:00pm. This meeting is recommended for individuals with disabilities and their families that are interested in community employment.

For more information, contact Stephanie Davenport at 217.356.9176 or sdavenport@dsc-illinois.org.

11th annual disABILITY Resource Expo: Reaching Out for Answers

On April 7th, Champaign County will host the **11th annual disABILITY Resource Expo: Reaching Out for Answers** at The Vineyard Church, 1500 North Lincoln Avenue, Urbana. Funded by area businesses and agencies, this event will be a place for individuals with disabilities and their families to ask questions, get information, share ideas and learn more about what supportive services and programs are available in our region.

Join us on April 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for this **FREE** family-friendly event offering fun activities for children, entertainment throughout the day, and opportunities to win prizes! Your family will have fun while also gaining valuable information about available resources for individuals with disabilities in East Central Illinois.

For more information: Go to www.disabilityresourceexpo.org or www.facebook.com/resourceexpo, or contact event coordinators Barb Bressner (bbressner@att.net) or Jim Mayer (jmayer@rccsec.org)

