



## WHAT'S NEW AROUND DSC...

### DSC Celebrates Black History Month

February was Black History Month and DSC had a great time celebrating! A group led by Ania, DSC direct support professional, visited the Bruce D. Nesbitt African-American Cultural House at the University of Illinois and later cooked a soul food lunch.

At the Cultural House, the group learned about African- American culture and how the month of February is dedicated to all black leaders. After this trip, the group made a bulletin board that highlighted some of famous African- American leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr., Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and Barack Obama.

With all of this inspiration about African- American culture, the group had a soul food lunch on February 23. They went to the grocery store and purchased all the necessities to make fried chicken, mac and cheese, fried cabbage, caramel cake, cornbread, and banana pudding! Everyone went home very full! Some of the African- American people who receive DSC services felt like kids again because they enjoyed this type of food while they were being raised. Ania shared, "I wanted to bring back memories and give people who missed eating like that the opportunity to taste it again, and give those that have never had it the chance to see what it tastes like." Ania was very successful with this goal because everyone at the lunch really enjoyed this cultural twist to Black History Month.

Tying in the Cultural House with DSC's very own soul food luncheon made everyone recognize African- American culture and appreciate the people in history who worked so hard to allow everyone share the meal together. Thank you Ania for putting this all together and organizing a very rewarding Black History Month celebration at DSC!



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

Winter is almost behind us and it is time to look forward to the joys of spring!

As we look to that renewed feeling, we are also renewing our efforts to advocate for the Community Disability Living Wage Act which will increase reimbursement rates, allowing providers across the state to address the current workforce crisis. While thousands of advocates and providers made strides to be heard specific to this crisis last year, with a new year upon us, this effort has to be reintroduced to the new legislative session. The bill is gaining support in the Senate and, if passed, will then be passed to the House for a vote before it is sent to Governor Rauner. We will continue to keep you updated on this important legislation that would positively impact people with disabilities at DSC, in our community, and state.

Onto other news...We continue to further our efforts by establishing more community-based options for people receiving services at DSC. To this end, we have projects underway that more fully integrate people with disabilities working in our community through paid-work opportunities and enhancing volunteer opportunities while still adhering to the most important aspect of individualized services. Early this spring we will be opening a new venue in a prime location which will offer new opportunities for people to create and sell various products including a joint business venture for a few who have chosen to partner with a common goal. Though we will start small, we look forward sharing more details soon. We are really excited about becoming a part of the local shops in this area!

Stay tuned for future updates as we continue to create more community based employment and volunteer opportunities.

Until next time....

  
Dale

## Congratulations on 40 years of service!



Donna Grunder celebrated her 40th anniversary with DSC on March 16th. Donna began working as a Workshop Secretary on

March 16, 1977. She had just moved from Colorado to be near her family when she found this job on her first day of job hunting. She found DSC to be a good match for her and she feels that DSC is a very rewarding place to work because of who we serve. Her current position is Executive Secretary but she has also held the position of Secretarial Services Supervisor and Workshop Secretary.

Donna has seen many changes over the years. DSC was still very new when she started and it has grown so much...all for the better. She holds many memories of DSC but her fondest memories are of the Consumer Holiday parties. She enjoys the annual holiday lunch and getting a chance to serve lunch to everyone. She loves to see the consumers happy and having a great time listening to the band and dancing. You can't help being happy when you see the people we serve enjoying themselves.

Please take a moment to congratulate Donna on her 40 years of service!

## 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](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](mailto:jmcaateer@dsc-illinois.org) or 217.398.7110.

## Recent Notoriety for Advocates!



The team of Advocates from DSC have recently renamed themselves 'AIM' – Advocates in Motion. When you see what they've been doing, you'll understand why!

They have recently developed a presentation, Expect the Best, with input

from the entire self-advocacy group, focusing on how people can, and should, participate in hiring and training their support staff. Topics also include how to resolve conflicts with staff, and further steps to take to ensure their voices are heard.

Nine people have presented "Expect the Best" at the following events:

- Speak Up Speak Out Summit
- All staff meeting for the Division of Developmental Disabilities introduced and welcomed by Director Greg Fenton
- Meeting with Dr. Bryan Dague, Consultant from the University of Vermont
- Webinar with the Alliance
- Social Work class at the U of I
- Advocates have also been on Disability Beat, a local radio station

The next presentation will be to all DSC employees at an upcoming Professional Development Day in April! They will divide and conquer as they have also been invited to the Arc Annual Convention, April 26th and 27th!!

Charlie, Darren and Alex, pictured below, presented recently for a Social Work class at the U of I. One student shared "As someone who is planning on working



with people and potentially people with different abilities, I found this presentation incredibly important...Hearing the group of wonderful advocates who brought forward their stories and thoughts on the matter opened up my view to the importance of listening to who we are serving so that we can actively make the experience better

for everyone involved. As stated in the presentation, there is no better person to critique a service provider than the person receiving the services...Thank you for everything, pass along my well-wishes to the advocates for an awesome presentation!"



Advocates also made their annual trip to Centennial High School to help **Spread The Word To End The Word** on March 1st. They talked to a lot of people, educating them about why it's not ok to use the word "retard(ed)" in every day speech. Advocates asked people to sign banners and posters pledging not to use the R word, and handed out stickers.

Overall, they had great responses and

talked to a lot of new people! To learn more about this year-round campaign, visit <http://www.r-word.org/>.

## AmazonSmile: You Shop. Amazon Gives.

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that allows customers to enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate **0.5%** of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. Developmental Services Center is a registered organization and AmazonSmile still works if you are an Amazon Prime member. It takes just a minute to login into AmazonSmile and you will be ready to shop and make a difference for DSC! Already an Amazon.com user? **Make the switch today!**

## Do You Have Cardboard, Papers and Magazines Cluttering Up Your House?

Well we have just the thing for you! DSC Business Operations center recycles all kinds of cardboard and paper - including magazines, catalogs, office paper, etc. - as part of our effort to keep the environment clean and financially support DSC's programs. (We do not accept books at this time).

You can bring your recyclable paper to DSC's Business Operations at **3102 W Clark Rd in Champaign, 8am-4pm, M-F**. From Duncan, turn west onto Clark Rd (just north of Springfield). Turn right to go behind DSC's Business Operations facility to drop off your items at the back loading dock door.

*Did you know Earth Day is April 22?* Do your part and bring your recycling to DSC!







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## Our mission:

DSC supports people to live a rich and meaningful life.

## SAVE THE DATE

DSC has been a proud partner of the **Illinois Marathon** since its inception, and we form the corral teams on **Saturday, April 22 at 6:00 a.m.** What does it mean to be part of the corral team? You “hold large signs designating different starting corrals, by finish time, for runners in the start area to ensure that the corrals are orderly and clearly defined, as we assist with the wave start process. This is an outside, rain or shine job.” Volunteers get a t-shirt and race bag! **Sign up instructions are at [www.dsc-illinois.org](http://www.dsc-illinois.org).**

Though our Oktoberfest is many months away, we remain in the festive spirit! Please join us on **Tuesday, May 2** in the Seven Saints Biergarten for the **Midweek Maifest!** Enjoy festive beer, food and polkas with Grammy-nominated performer Alex Meixner. Alex is highly-regarded for his traditional Austrian-German repertoire and well as his contemporary fusions with folk and pop music. You may also have recently seen him performing polka and singing the praises of pepperoni in national television commercials!

The festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with music starting around 6. The entry fee is only \$10 which will support the mission of the DSC. A big thanks to our sponsors Farm Credit-Illinois, Robeson Family Benefit Fund, DCF, Hacker-Pschorr, Hyatt Place and Seven Saints!

Come celebrate the arrival of spring with us at the **Midweek Maifest**. Look forward to seeing you there!

Date: Tuesday, May 2  
Time: 5:30pm – 8:30pm  
Venue: Seven Saints Biergarten, 105 N. Market Street, Champaign

DSC will be “Partying with a Purpose” with our good friends, the Eastern Illinois Parrot Head Club, on Saturday, August 5! **C-U in the Prairibean** starts at 5pm in downtown Champaign. Stay tuned to our website and Facebook for more details!

As DSC continues to shift more and more service delivery and program options to community-based choices, we felt our mission and vision should reflect of change. With this in mind, we are thrilled to share with you DSC’s new mission and vision statements.

**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.*

We appreciate all DSC supporters who help us to achieve our mission and vision and are eager to continue making a difference together!