

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

Happy New Year!

It's a new year and we are eager to achieve more milestones in 2017. Looking ahead, we are resolute in our commitment to a number of issues we will continue to address, advocate, and lead in this new year. Our efforts in each of these areas will be enhanced by self-advocates and staff critical to fulfilling our mission, as well as DSC's board and management team that will ensure the leadership and support as we move forward. Additionally, I am humbled and eager to serve as the Chair of the board for the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (IARF) further increasing my involvement at the state level. Our collective efforts will lead the way for each issue we will be addressing.



As we look to the state of the state in 2017, we are eager to continue to impress upon our lawmakers the importance of not only passing a budget for the State of Illinois, but also for a critically needed increase in the rates for all organizations across the state, given none has occurred in nearly a decade. To this end, we will further advocate, and ask for your support, in our [statewide] effort to increase the wages for Direct Service Professionals (DSP) who are critical to the foundation of the disability service system. The average pay for a DSP in Illinois is a meager \$9.35 an hour, an amount that is less than the federal poverty level for a family of three. As we have been stating for months, the DSP shortage is at a crisis level and an increase to a living wage is paramount.

As we draw on fiscal year '16, it is amazing to collectively reflect on the great accomplishments consistent with DSC's mission that have positioned us well for further achievements in 2017. Despite the absence of a state budget for the entire fiscal year, DSC remained steadfast in its commitment to people with disabilities with a focus of increased community and employment opportunities. We are proud of strengthened collaborations in our community and a noticeable shift in service delivery within our own organization with support from local funders that includes the Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board, the Champaign County Mental Health Board and the United Way of Champaign County. We will continue to build on the successes of these exciting initiatives and will share new ones with you as they unfold.

In closing, we would like to pay tribute to the DSPs that work incredibly hard every day to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities. Whether they have been with us for years or just recently joined our team, DSC recognizes that our DSPs are deserving of great recognition and respect for helping people to live meaningful lives, achieve personal goals and dreams, and work toward greater independence. Our talented management team supports their efforts daily while keeping an eye on what lies ahead and leading a transformation that challenges us, encourages us to take risks, allows us to make mistakes, and pushes us to be our very best.

Until next time...

Dale

DSC's 23rd Annual Tree of Hope Campaign

DSC's Tree of Hope campaign is our biggest fundraiser of the year. It gives us the flexibility to cover programs and services in areas where there are funding gaps and ultimately encourages independence and providing choice for the individuals and families who seek DSC services. The committee for this annual campaign has set the goal and we are working to raise \$150,000 by January 31st!

We kicked off the campaign on November 3rd and are on pace with last year, hoping to reach our goal! We would not have come this far without the support and involvement of many, including our inspiring Spokes Family, the Barnes family, (pictured at right) 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 1,100 children and adults with disabilities in our community...but it is so much more. It also provides hope for so many families who are walking, or perhaps just beginning to walk, the path of raising a child or adult with disabilities.

Parents Joseph and Meredith shared *"Without the support that DSC has provided for our family I am not sure where we would be in our journey. I know that they have become like part of our family and have provided support to us when no one else would. They are an integral part of the team and we cannot thank them enough for being part of our 'Dream Team'. Please help light the way for our family and many others by making your Tree of Hope donation today!"*

To read the Barnes family's full journey, donate to this year's campaign, or review the sponsors who make this campaign possible please go to www.dsc-illinois.org/events_fundraisers/treeofhope/. The campaign runs through January 31st, and 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 their 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, The News-Gazette; Special Recognition Award, Mr. Essa Sarr; Public Service Award, Knights of Columbus – Rantoul Council #4450; and Personal Achievement Award, Mr. Decker Garrett** (pictured at left). Decker was recognized for his many wonderful attributes, and specifically for his efforts in making positive changes happen in his life, having the personal insight and knowledge of doing something that is important to him, and fulfilling his goal of working in the community! Great job, Decker!

Congratulations to all the award recipients who make a significant difference at DSC!

**Please see page at right for some creative ways that people have come together to support the Tree of Hope!*

Check out these Creative Efforts that Supported the Tree of Hope!

AMDOCS employees once again held their company-wide bake sale and raffle, bringing in an impressive **\$1,507!** AMDOCS employees were invited to sell homemade wares and each participant gave a percentage of their sales from that day that went toward the total contribution. This is a creative and festive way that they have come together to support the Tree of Hope for over 10 years! Thank you to everyone who organized and participated! Our Tree of Hope Spokes Family joined in the fun this year too, and got a great photo with Santa!



Our friends from **WDWS, Dave Gentry** and **Elizabeth Hess**, hosted the **Tree of Hope radio remote** event at **Panera Bread** on December 8th. During the radio remote donors called or stopped by Panera to donate to the campaign and collectively raised a total of **\$3,430!** Our Spokes Child, Makenna, and her parents were there to share their story with listeners.

Another big shout-out to our friends from **WDWS/WHMS/WKIO** for all the in-kind support they give to the Tree of Hope Campaign through public service announcements, regular interviews with Dale and Janice on multiple shows, and the remote event held at Panera (mentioned above). This long-standing relationship has helped DSC make a huge difference in our community for many years. We hope many of you tuned in to one of the stations to catch their tremendous promotional efforts....we greatly appreciated it!

Thank you to all of you for supporting the 2016 Tree of Hope Campaign!

Local Northwestern Mutual Professional Awarded \$15,000 Grant for DSC!

Northwestern Mutual believes in the transformative power of giving back. To thank its financial professionals who are changing lives and improving communities, the annual Community Service Award program provides grants to nonprofits across the country.

This past spring, DSC got some good news....DSC Board Chairman James Smith, a Wealth Management Advisor at Northwestern Mutual, was awarded a \$15,000 grant for his service in giving back to the community. Jim was pleased to work with DSC in placing those funds for the group home in Rantoul! The individuals who live at this home are very excited to have a newly updated kitchen! The work is now finished, and it looks fantastic! (See photos below).



DSC Wish List

- * Tide Pods
- * I pad charging cords
- * Mens and Womens Sweatpants, sizes L - XXL
- * Paper Products, such as paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, and facial tissues
- * Hygiene Products, such as deodorant, toothpaste, sanitary napkins, soap, shampoo and conditioner
- * Gift certificates to local vendors and restaurants for consumer outings (Subway, movies, bowling, etc.)
- * Healthy snack and pantry items, such as flavored bottled water, goldfish crackers, fruit snacks, Ramen Noodles, soups, heat and eat items, protein or fiber bars, granola bars, muffins, hot chocolate mix, hot tea.

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

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 jmcateer@dsc-illinois.org or 217.398.7110.

A Special Time of Giving!

We continue to be blessed by a gracious and generous community that supports our mission and the individuals who choose DSC's services in a variety of ways, especially during the holidays! Without their generosity, many individuals receiving DSC services would not have had holiday gifts. **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, money, clothes, and other gifts. Our friends from **Farm Credit Services** (pictured at left) joined us again and did an awesome job of beautifully wrapping all of the packages, in addition to making many purchases from the wish list. We again had a few offices at the **University of Illinois** join forces and choose DSC as their “Season of Giving” organization. This group sponsored six families in our Family Development Center! The **UI Athletics Department** bought gifts for an entire family, and the **Fraternal Order of Police Illini Lodge 17** again donated Christmas food baskets for 26 families! And **Operation Santa** from Illini Media Group again bought presents for 53 children in the Parent Wonders program! Students from the **UI School of Social Work** held a donation drive, gathering lots of consumable items that are always needed in our programs. **Lori Johnson and her friends** got in the holiday spirit by collecting items throughout the first couple weeks of December, and ended up gathering gifts cards, stocking items, and lots of consumable items for the group homes. **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR BEING SO GENEROUS!**

The annual **Consumer Holiday Party** was also held in December. The fun started with a tasty catered lunch. Our friends at **C-U Junior Woman's Club** always make plenty of cookies—nearly 60 dozen! - and our friends, **New Twang City Band** always get the dance floor moving, playing everything from Elvis and country to classic Christmas tunes. Everyone enjoyed the music, had a great time dancing and truly appreciated New Twang City Band for donating their time and talent.

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

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



Thrivent Choice is a charitable grant program that allows eligible members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes part of its charitable outreach grant funds each year. Developmental Services Center will be listed in the program's searchable online catalog. When eligible Thrivent Financial members direct Choice Dollars® to your organization in a particular month, Thrivent Financial reviews the recommendation and makes an electronic contribution by the 10th of the following month. Those funds may be used to carry out DSC's mission.

If you are a Thrivent Financial member, consider DSC when directing your Choice Dollars®.

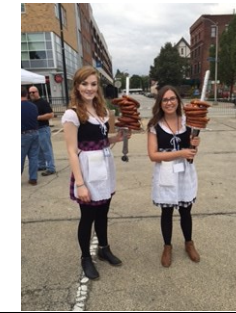
Do You Have Cardboard, Papers and Magazines Cluttering Up Your House?

Well we have just the thing for you! DSC Business Operations 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.



Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Champaign, IL
Permit No. 424



DSC Community News

January 2017

Volume 11, Issue 1

Inside:

- Wish List & Bequest Information
- Special Time of Giving
- Message from Dale
- Tree of Hope Kick-Off and Annual Recognition Event
- Creative Efforts
- Northwestern Mutual Grant Allows for Kitchen Updates!
- Thrivent Financial
- Your Recycling Needs

The 4th Annual C-U Oktoberfest

The 4th Annual C-U Oktoberfest was held on Saturday, October 1st in downtown Champaign. This fall celebration of music, beer, and food is patterned after the annual festival in Bavaria, and featured live music from bands playing festive polkas and traditional German music. Over 4,000 people enjoyed this year's C-U Oktoberfest! (See pictures above).

Thanks again to our **beer vendors** (The Blind Pig, Destihl, JT Walker's, Triptych, Riggs Brewing Company, Orange & Blue and Market Place Selections), **food vendors** (Chester's BBQ and Destihl) and our **bands** (Die Musikmeisters, The Polkaholics and The Bolzen Beer Band). And of course thank you to all of our **amazing sponsors, volunteers** and **all those that came out to enjoy the party!**

Make plans to join us for 5th Annual C-U Oktoberfest which is scheduled for **Saturday, October 7, 2017! Prost and Danke!**

Self-Advocacy Group presents at Summit!

The Self-Advocacy (SA) group recently attended the Speak Up and Speak Out Summit in Springfield. This state-wide self-advocacy conference featured keynote speaker Chad Murphy Price, along with a presentation called "Going Home in Illinois".

SPEAK UP AND SPEAK OUT summit

Throughout the Summit, people chose educational/informational sessions to attend, with topics ranging from interviewing for jobs, patient advocacy strategies, voting, living in the community, talking with lawmakers, and sexual self-advocacy. This year, the SA group did more than just attend sessions....they shared their presentation **“Expect the Best: How to Get the Most Out of Your Support Staff”!** Advocates talked about how people can be actively involved in the hiring and training of the staff with whom they work, and discussed how to address concerns with staff and make sure that their voices are being heard.

The speakers did an excellent job and have since been asked to present at the ARC Annual Convention and a meeting for the Division of Developmental Disabilities. What a great honor!

Advocates also found time for fun, with some shopping in downtown Springfield, while others went to a dance or watched the Cubs win game six of the series.

The SA group would like to thank the *Rantoul Knights of Columbus*, not only for their friendship, but also for their awesome Pancake Breakfast Fundraisers, which enable us to continue our advocacy efforts!



Developmental Services Center

Developmental Services Center
1304 W. Bradley Avenue
Champaign, IL 61821
Phone: 217.356.9176
Fax: 217.356.9851
www.dsc-illinois.org