



## WHAT'S NEW AROUND DSC...

### National Volunteer Month

April was National Volunteer Month. DSC is fortunate to be on the receiving end of a lot of volunteer efforts from our community, and we also believe in giving back!

In honor of National Volunteer Month, we made a month long effort to highlight the ways in which people who choose our services give back to the community that does so much for us! Some organizations where we volunteer include Champaign County Nursing Home, Prairie Fruit Farms, Cat Snap, Salt & Light, Orphan's Treasure Box, and many more!

At the Champaign County Nursing Home, the group entertained the residents by doing activities of the residents' choice every Monday morning, whether it is playing Bingo, cards, bowling, or a balloon toss. This volunteering is fun for the participants from DSC and they love seeing the smiles on the residents' faces.



At Prairie Fruit Farms, volunteers had an amazing opportunity this Spring... they helped care for more than 80 pregnant goats and then the babies! They helped with feeding and general care.

DSC helps take care of other animals at Cat Snap. They help make sure the cats are cared for, in addition to making sure the storefront is in clean condition.

Cleaning is a task that DSC volunteer groups excel in helping many different organizations. At Salt & Light, the

group straightens the storefront by dusting and sweeping, makes sure all hangers are in the same direction, and sort the donations the center receives. DSC's help is very much appreciated and the participants love being able to give back to an organization that is so budget-friendly to the community. One participant named Keith, who participates with DSC and Salt & Light, said that he, "loves donating time and helping the community with his friends."



Similar to Salt & Light, DSC also volunteers at Orphan's Treasure Box, which sells slightly used books to raise money for orphaned children around the globe. The group cleans the storefront and organizes the books that are donated. These are very helpful tasks and one participant, whose name is Robert, said that his favorite task is, "vacuuming the store while getting to see all of the cool books."

Like Keith and Robert, all of the volunteer groups love the volunteering they do for the community because they want to give back to the community that has given them so much. DSC appreciates all of its volunteers and is very proud of all of the groups that support the community.

Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." She was right! Happy National Volunteer Month!

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

Dear Friends,

It's summertime which means it is also the start of a new fiscal year. The start of this year feels different than many previous years. As we begin this fiscal year, we are also saying goodbye to Donna Grunder. Donna has been the Executive Secretary for many years and has worked at DSC for 40 years; she retired on July 7th. Donna and I have worked together a very long time and while it is hard to see her go, it is also exciting to know that she is going to be enjoying new opportunities and experiences in her retired life! She has worked with Sarah Perry who has filled the Executive Assistant position upon Donna's departure. We welcome Sarah and wish Donna all the best but will request visits from her every now and then! Congratulations, Donna!

Change can be hard, but it can also be very exciting. As we continue to move DSC to more community-based service delivery, we are excited for the growing community connections that are being made and the way these connections are impacting the lives of the people we serve. We are changing with the times and are partnering with the most important people...the people we serve! Our efforts in moving forward are made challenging by the continuing fiscal crisis in our state, but through hard work and the generosity of our local community, we are forging ahead!

Until next time....



## Employment First Update

This fiscal year, DSC had the pleasure of working with Dr. Bryan Dague of the Center on Disability and Community Inclusion at the University of Vermont. He has been recognized throughout the country for his work on moving programs from center-based to community focused. He most recently accepted the 2017 Innovative Policy Award for Vermont's Supported Employment Program at the United Nations Office in Vienna along with two of his colleagues – international accolades!

Dr. Dague has served as a consultant for DSC as we focus on a greater shift toward community and employment options for people with disabilities through an Employment First grant funded by the **Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board**. This grant has been instrumental in supporting DSC and Community Choices to build an infrastructure in this community to create more opportunities for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities as they pursue community employment. Dr. Dague has worked specifically with DSC to help with the transformation of our day program services. We have been very fortunate to have him join us on this journey as we try to work through the struggles that come with being a provider in Illinois. DSC is making great strides and during his most recent visit, it was reaffirming to hear him speak to the tremendous progress made in a short amount of time. That validation is powerful!

## 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.

## The Prompting Theater Competed at the National Level!



The Prompting Theater recently released a new film, *Family Time*. This film was created as a part of a film competition sponsored by the Easter Seals and was created within 55 hours total—from writing, to filming, to editing. Other criteria included: the film had to be a family comedy, use one of five

given locations, use two of seven given props, and use one of two themes the competition generated. The competition also included a promotions aspect, with the film receiving the most views/shares/comments winning the *Awareness Campaign Award*. Due to the overwhelming views and shares we had, we placed as a finalist for that award! Though we did not win, it made us very happy to see the intense support we received. The competition coordinator called us to let us know he himself thought our film was very strong, and that the film scored in all the categories. This type of encouragement is highly appreciated. We look forward to the release of our upcoming film, a remake of our original Dr. Seuss inspired film, as well as a live action version of Russian folk puppet ballet.

## Leaders in Employing All People!

LEAP, (Leaders Employing All People), is a free employer education and training program that certifies businesses as disability aware. DSC works in collaboration with Community Choices as this program is grant-funded through the Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board. Eight new businesses were certified between April and June. Please congratulate the following businesses and let them know you appreciate their support of this effort!

*Ten Thousand Villages*  
*Strawberry Fields/World Harvest Café*  
*The Vineyard Church of Central IL*  
*Dash Management/dba McDonald's*  
*Jupiter's II at the Crossing*  
*Farm Credit Illinois*  
*Mahomet Area Chamber of Commerce*  
*Mahomet-Seymour High School*

If you'd like more information or free training for your business, please contact Employment First/LEAP Coordinator at DSC, Stephanie Davenport at [sdavenport@dsc-illinois.org](mailto:sdavenport@dsc-illinois.org) or 217.356.9176.

## Michael Frerichs Launches Multi-State Investment Program for Children and Adults with a Disability

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs recently announced groundbreaking partnership that brings together 14 states to encourage individuals to invest money on behalf of people with a disability or blindness without jeopardizing their federal disability benefits through the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act.

To qualify for an ABLE account, the account owner must have developed the disability or blindness before the age of 26. With the age established, a person who qualifies for Social Security Administration benefits, or has received a waiver from the IRS, will qualify for an ABLE account. Direct-sold plans are available in Illinois at [www.illinoisable.com](http://www.illinoisable.com) and more information is available at [www.dsc-illinois.org](http://www.dsc-illinois.org).

## 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](mailto:nkopmann@dsc-illinois.org) or 217.356.9176

- » Tide pods
- » Kitchen garbage bags
- » Sandwich baggies
- » Toilet paper
- » Paper towels
- » Aluminum patio bench
- » Electric stove (new or used in good, working condition)
- » Two charcoal grills (new or used in good, working condition)
- » Snacks for playgroups (goldfish crackers, pretzels, popcorn, fruit snacks and gift cards for fresh fruit)
- » Gift cards to local restaurants and attractions





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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

Artists from DSC will be highlighting their work at the *Art Coop* inside Lincoln Square Mall in Urbana from **July 10th – August 7th**, with a **special reception on August 4th**, as part of the *Urbana First Fridays* promotions. Please join the *DSC Art Collective* and celebrate their talent and enjoy our community!

Saturday, August 5th is **C-U in the Prairibbean 13!** The Eastern Illinois Parrot Head Club is partnering with DSC for this fun annual event from 5:00pm—11:00pm in the parking lot in front of the Orpheum's Children Museum (Neil and Washington, downtown Champaign)!

Join the fun, with **live music, great food, live and silent auctions, and tropical drinks, and the chance to win \$2,500 in a raffle!** **Auction items will include** gift baskets, Illini memorabilia, rounds of golf, wine baskets, overnight stays, and more! This year's live auction features a week's stay on Martha's Vineyard and a hand-painted bench. Don't miss out!

Jake Tatar (Boat Drunks Co-Founder) and his son, Jackson, will be the opening act, followed up by the energetic **"The Tons O' Fun Band"**. Our nationally known friends, **"The Boat Drunks"** will headline the event again! If you're hungry, you can enjoy tasty food from Chester's BBQ and Dragonfire Pizza!

There will truly be something for everyone this year at C-U in the Prairibbean 13! You don't want to miss this event!

**Raffle and event tickets are available at [www.dsc-illinois.org](http://www.dsc-illinois.org) or DSC's main office, Mon-Fri from 8am—5pm.**

Join the fun: **The 5th Annual C-U Oktoberfest is Saturday, October 7th** in the parking lot in front of the Orpheum's Children Museum (Neil and Washington, downtown Champaign)! Even more wunderbar than last year! Sausages! Beer! Polka! Pretzels! All for only \$5 to enter!

3-6pm Family and Children's Activities  
4-8pm Die Musikmeisters Band  
8:30-10pm The Polkaholics®  
10:30-midnight Bolzen Beer Band

Start off your day of Oktoberfest fun by participating in the **2nd Annual Dirndl Dash** from 10am - 2pm at Crystal Lake. Sign up at [https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get\\_information.php?event\\_id=127273](https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get_information.php?event_id=127273). After the race, head downtown to get the party started!