



COMMUNITY NEWS



WHAT'S NEW AROUND DSC . . .

28th Annual Tree of Hope Campaign



Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that it was only a short time ago that we kicked-off the 28th Annual Tree of Hope by introducing you to the 2021 Spokesfamily, little Maddon, his brother Lawson, and his parents, Seth and Megan Herrig. We are grateful to the Herrig's for sharing how support from DSC's Family Development program has been vital to creating greater levels of independence for Maddon.

As the campaign came to a close at the end of January we were overwhelmed by the generous support of the Tree of Hope! Because of you, we exceeded our 2021 Tree of Hope Campaign goal of \$185,000 and raised more than \$243,000! Thank you for lighting the way!



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35th Annual Recognition Awards

In November, DSC was proud to honor the following annual recognition award winners:



Daniel Krein – Personal Achievement Award

Congratulations to Daniel for his personal achievements and his outstanding work ethic. Daniel successfully moved into a Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) during the pandemic and has worked at Planet Fitness for almost eight years.



Colony Square Cleaners - Employer of the Year

Thank you to Colony Square Cleaners for their commitment to employing people with disabilities. Colony Square is dedicated to developing all employees to the fullest of their potential, setting an example for all in our community to follow.

(Pictured: Terrance Jones, John Mies)



Dottie Fanning – Special Recognition Award

Thank you to Dottie for her advocacy in the developmental disability community for over 62 years. Dottie's commitment to creating independence for people with developmental disabilities laid the foundation for what later would become DSC.



Sam's Club of Champaign – Special Recognition Award

Thank you to Sam's Club for their ongoing commitment, generosity, and support of DSC's mission. Sam's Club has been a sponsor of the Tree of Hope since its inception.

Pictured: (Sam Skinner)

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 DSC, Champaign, IL, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation:

"I give, devise, and bequeath to the DSC Foundation (37-1023944) of Champaign, IL, a charitable not-for-profit foundation, the sum of _____ dollars (\$____) or _____ percent (____%) of my estate to be used to carryout 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 Jodie Harmon, Director of Development & Communications at jharmon@dsc-illinois.org or 217.398.7110.

Introducing New Family Development Director, Nicole Smith



Please welcome Nicole Smith as our new Director of Family Development! She brings her seven years of experience as an Early Intervention Speech-Language Pathologist to the position. She lives in Champaign with her

husband and four kids (nine, six, four, and two months) and spends her free time being busy with her family, reading, and doing yoga. Fun fact: she loves traveling and has been to Ghana, Australia, New Zealand, and Ireland.

The Crow at 110 Launches New Products



In December, The Crow at 110 hosted a Holiday Open House, featuring new product lines. Items including candles, ornaments, hand-crafted cards, and more were introduced. In addition to the in-person event, seasonal favorites, such as

wax melts, and soaps were sold online. Look for more seasonal products from The Crow at 110 throughout the year!

Thank You for Making Our Holiday Bright!



Throughout the Season of Giving, DSC felt the generosity of our community. Because of you, over 100-holiday wishes were granted on behalf

of those who receive DSC services through our Annual Holiday Wish List. We also received many gifts and in-kind donations for Parent Wonders families. From the bottom of our hearts, *Thank You!*

Thanks to you!



BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois

To help ease the ongoing needs of Illinoisans created by the COVID-19 pandemic, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) has

awarded DSC a \$20,000 grant as part of BCBSIL's latest round of giving aimed at helping the helpers. With the grant funds, DSC will be able to continue to expand telehealth capacity, specifically in the Residential program as well as purchase needed medical items including gloves and thermometers.



DSC's Employment Services program received grant funding for a Career Center at our Clark Road location. Thanks to a generous grant received from the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois, the new space will receive workstation furnishings and cabinetry. Additionally, a grant from Comcast will provide technology for the Career Center. These grants will allow existing programming offered through Employment Services to be expanded enhancing a variety of employment-focused training, coaching, and skills-based programming.



We received funding throughout 2021 for accessible picnic tables at DSC CILAs (Community Integrated Living Arrangements).

DSC's Residential Services program has 10 residential homes and a 24-unit apartment building. At a few DSC locations, our preference is to have two, or three tables, allowing plenty of room for social distancing for visits with family and friends, or fun group activities, such as grilling out, birthday parties, and book clubs. The picnic tables increase the capacity for outdoor seating at DSC locations. Thank you to the Oliver-Hoffmann Foundation, Orange Krush Foundation, Savory Rotary Club, and Junior League of Champaign-Urbana!

Join Us in Celebrating Our 50th Anniversary!

2022 marks DSC's 50th Anniversary as an organization. We invite you to join us throughout the year as we celebrate this significant milestone in our journey. We will share stories and honor those who have supported us along the way.

DSC's story originated with humble beginnings. In 1960, a devoted group of citizens and an enthusiastic community wanted to offer people with disabilities an opportunity to become a part of their community, rather than being isolated in an institution as recommended by doctors at that time. With this unwavering passion of a few families and the evolution of mission-driven leadership, the organization has realized tremendous growth since those early days.

Since our formal inception in 1972, DSC has provided opportunities for individuals to live the most independent life possible while becoming a part of their community. From the foundation in which it was built, our mission remains steadfast as "DSC supports people in living a rich and meaningful life."

Over the years, many improvements and milestones have been celebrated for people with disabilities. We remain humbled and encouraged knowing that together, DSC and our community, will continue to fulfill our mission to give each person the opportunity to live their best life.

We want to hear from you! If you have a memorable DSC story to share please contact Stephanie Davenport, at sdavenport@dsc-illinois.org or 217-356-9176.

Do You Have a Heart for DSC?



Show your heart for DSC by playing the Queen of Hearts! Here's an easy way to add some serious cash to your pocket and support DSC! The

Queen of Hearts is a progressive raffle game of

chance where a successful player wins a portion of the money held in the Jackpot. Tickets for the Queen of Hearts at Bunny's Tavern are on sale NOW. Purchase at the machine in Bunny's or ONLINE on our website. Tickets are \$1 each! The weekly drawing is held Monday nights at 6:00 pm. The current minimum Jackpot is over \$12,000 and growing daily!

The Queen of Hearts game (started before the pandemic) at the Esquire Lounge in Champaign will resume in February! The drawings will be held every Tuesday at 5:30 pm, beginning February 15th! Tickets are on sale NOW and can be purchased at the machine in the Esquire Lounge or ONLINE on our website. Tickets are \$1 each! The current minimum Jackpot is over \$7,400!

For more information, official rules, or to purchase tickets visit www.dsc-illinois.org. Good Luck!



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New LEAP Certified Businesses

Congratulations to the following businesses on their 2021 LEAP certificates. LEAP is a free, one-hour, disability-employment training for Champaign County businesses. Contact Gregory Schroeder at gschroeder@dsc-illinois.org

- BodyWork Associates
- The Champaign County Chamber of Commerce
- Champaign County Recorder of Deeds
- City of Champaign
- CLA (formerly Clifton Larson Allen)
- Curtis Orchard
- Champaign Center Partnership
- Hyundai Transys
- The Literary
- LM Thomas Group
- Lodgic Everyday Community
- Rogards
- Salt & Light
- University of Illinois AITS (Administrative Information Technology Services)
- Wolfram Research

Make Plans Now to Attend C-U Oktoberfest



After a virtual C-U Oktoberfest in 2020, and a canceled event in 2021, both due to the pandemic, we are excited

to announce an in-person event this year. Save-the-Date, and plan to join us for C-U Oktoberfest on September 24th!

Mission: DSC supports people in living a rich and meaningful life.

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