



# COMMUNITY NEWS



## WHAT'S NEW AROUND DSC . . .



As we embark on DSC's 50th year of providing services to children, their families, and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, we have much to celebrate. DSC continues to make a significant impact in the lives of those we serve and in our community. We invite you to celebrate along with us as we celebrate 50 years of Independence!

None of this would be possible without the outstanding work and dedication of our Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). We look forward to recognizing and celebrating our DSPs during the month September.

We will celebrate Direct Support Professionals week (September 11-17, 2022) with agencies nationwide. We invite you to join us by showing gratitude to any special DSP in your life, as well.

I hope you will join us on September 24th from 3:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. for the 9th Annual C-U Oktoberfest. We are excited to host this event in person again. I hope to see you there!

Thank you,

*Danielle Matthews*

Danielle Matthews, CEO



C-U Oktoberfest is back! Join us on September 24th in downtown Champaign from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the parking lot at the corner of Neil and Washington. C-U Oktoberfest is a fall celebration of music, beer, and food. And there is a \$5,000 cash raffle this year! There will be live music from Die Musikmeisters playing festive polkas, waltzes, and traditional German music. Beer from your favorite local brewers, Blind Pig, Riggs, and Triptych, along with an assortment of authentic German beers. German-style food from some of C-U's most sought-after food trucks, Smith Burger and Watson's Shack & Rail. And let's not forget the Bavarian pretzels provided by Martinelli's Market. Bring the kids early for fun in the Kids Zone from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Admission tickets, raffle tickets, and merchandise can be purchased online! Visit [www.cuoktoberfest.org](http://www.cuoktoberfest.org) for more information. Proceeds from C-U Oktoberfest benefit DSC! See you there! Prost!

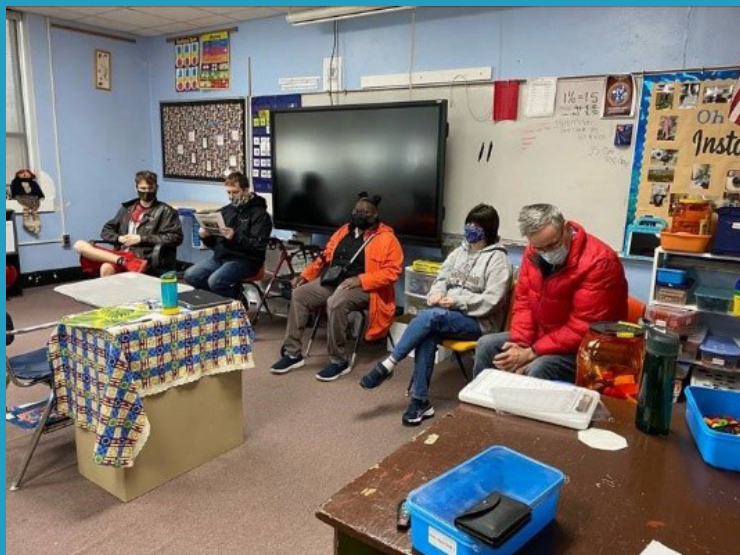


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## Around Town with the Advocacy Community Leaders Team



The Advocacy Community Leaders Team (ACLT) is a group of people who advocate on behalf of themselves and other people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The team has made several presentations to community and civic organizations this year. The presentations focus on using respectful language and how to be more inclusive to people with disabilities.

This winter, they attended the City of Champaign's Coffee with Cops. The opportunity to visit with local law enforcement is open to the public and gave the advocates a chance to voice concerns they had. ACLT team members, Danielle Washington and Darren Wolken explained to the officer their shared fear that police will not know how to respond to emergencies involving people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. They appreciated the officer's willingness to have a dialogue with them, and to take ideas to his leadership.

In April, ACLT presented at the 2022 Arc of IL State Convention, which took place over Zoom. The Arc of Illinois is a statewide organization that advocates for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The group presented in front of other disability service providers and their staff and talked about their ideas for continuous improvements, such as including advocates in the hiring and interview process.

The group was invited to speak at the Champaign Rotary District Assembly. Approximately 60 people attended the presentation at The Carle Forum in Urbana, and the advocates spoke about inclusion and advocacy.

The group also presented to the Special Education class at St. Joseph Ogden High School, where they talked about what it was like for them to transition from high school to adulthood, and what challenges they faced along the way. Students in the classroom provided meaningful feedback and expressed that the presentation gave them hope for their futures.

Wow! The ACLT group has been busy. Keep up the great work!



## Thank You to All Who Attended Back to the Prairibean!



What a great turnout for Back to the Prairibean at the beginning of August! We enjoyed warm weather, socializing, live music, food, and a celebratory cake as this marked the 15th year of the event. Thank you to all that attended and thank you to the Eastern Illinois Parrot Head Club for hosting this fun event!

## Walk As One



DSC was honored to participate in the Walk As One event which was held in collaboration with the Community Coalition Against Violence and United Way's Read. Talk. Play. Everyday! Campaign. Read. Talk. Play. Everyday! is a community-wide initiative to provide preschool-aged children (0-5) and their families with opportunities and resources for reading, talking, and playing, every day, so they can enter kindergarten ready for success. Thank you to all who volunteered in support of this event!

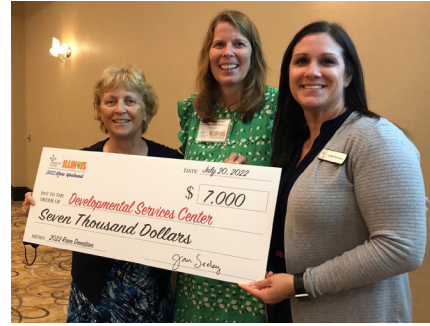
## Champaign Schools Young Adult Program Open House



Michael Greene and Lori Wachtel represented DSC at The Champaign Schools Young Adult Program Open House in May. Michael enjoyed seeing people he knew from high school and current students he has met through

his job at CUSR. Michael shared his DSC story and valuable information about the services DSC provides to prospective participants.

## Thank You, Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon!



DSC CEO, Danielle Matthews and Director of Development and Communications, Jodie Harmon were excited to be in the company of so

many wonderful organizations and celebrate the success of the 2022 Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend, and the many volunteers, and runners who make it all possible. Thank you for the generous donation of \$7,000! DSC is very grateful to continue to be a beneficiary of the Illinois Marathon. Thank you, Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon for your commitment to our mission!

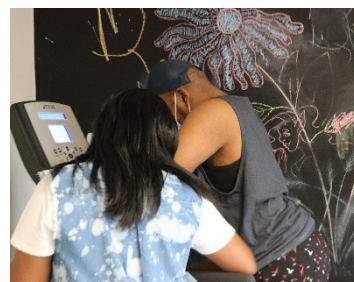
## Employment Services Career Center Funded



With generous donations from Comcast and Community Foundation of East Central Illinois, DSC's Employment Services Center

has purchased furnishings and technology equipment for The Career Center. The grant funding made it possible for DSC to expand existing Employment Services programming, including Job Club, resume preparation, as well as provide a dedicated location for the growing program. Thank you, Comcast and Community Foundation of East Central Illinois!

## Grant from Iroquois Federal Foundation Funds New Treadmill!



DSC was able to purchase a commercial grade treadmill for the Community Day Services (CDS) program thanks to a grant from the Iroquois Federal Foundation. CDS program participants

enjoy using a treadmill to meet their fitness goals. Thank you, Iroquois Federal Foundation!

## Mid-Year Appeal



In July, we kicked off our Mid-Year Appeal Campaign, featuring Jim and Patty Kincaid, a couple who began receiving services from DSC over 25 years ago. We shared their story of personal growth, accomplishments, and independence with support from

DSC. Because of your generosity, we surpassed our goal of \$25,000 and raised over \$42,000! Thank you for your commitment to our mission!

## We've Partnered with Target Circle!



We're participating in the Target Circle program! You can vote for us and help direct Target's giving

to benefit our nonprofit. For full program details and restrictions, visit Target Circle. <https://www.target.com/circle>

## DSC Adopt-A-Home

Have a group looking to volunteer? We are seeking groups to make a year long commitment to do light yard maintenance at one of our group homes. Once a month or every other month, pull weeds, pick up branches, rake leaves, and sweep porches, sidewalks and driveways. If you are interested or would like more information please contact Jodie Harmon at [jharmon@dsc-illinois.org](mailto:jharmon@dsc-illinois.org) or 217-356-9176.



**LEAP is growing!** Thanks to area employers, we have been able to reach more than 120 businesses over the last six years. We appreciate your support as you've led the way in creating more inclusive business practices throughout Champaign County.

The LEAP program is now launching the Champaign County Directory of Disability-Inclusive Employers, a public means of identifying inclusive employers. This will benefit candidates working with DSC and Community Choices as well as independent jobseekers. We are inviting all employers in the county to register for the directory. Add your company's name to the directory and demonstrate your ongoing commitment to continuous improvement, learning and growth in hiring qualified people with disabilities. Contact Maggie Baker at [mbrown@dsc-illinois.org](mailto:mbrown@dsc-illinois.org) for more information.

## 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 carry out its mission."

To view or download a copy of DSC's Planned Giving Opportunities Brochures, scan this QR Code:



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](mailto:jharmon@dsc-illinois.org) or 217-398-7110.



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**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.