



COMMUNITY NEWS



WHAT'S NEW AROUND DSC...

31st Annual Tree of Hope Campaign

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to The Gaffney Family for sharing their inspiring story of hope, resilience, and determination, as well as how DSC has supported Addelyn and their journey.

During this campaign, we set our largest fundraising goal to date—\$300,000. While we didn't quite reach that milestone, we are thrilled to share that we raised more than ever before—over \$267,000! We extend



our deepest thanks to every donor whose generosity brings hope to the people we support and to the sponsors who make it possible. Because of you, every donation from the Tree of Hope goes directly toward our programs and services, allowing DSC to continue providing essential support to more than 1,200 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Champaign and Ford counties.

Thank you for helping us light the Tree of Hope and for being part of our mission to support people in living a rich and meaningful life!

2024
Tree of Hope

Thank You!



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38th Annual Recognition Awards

Each year, DSC is honored to recognize and thank the incredible individuals, businesses, and organizations whose support and partnership create a meaningful impact in our community. We are deeply grateful for their dedication and excited to celebrate our 2024 award winners!



Personal Achievement Award - Joe Trueblood

Joe is being recognized for his exceptional work ethic, dependability, determination, and strong ability to advocate for himself. Joe's commitment to his personal and professional success exemplifies how DSC empowers individuals to reach their goals.

Employer of the Year - Advanced Medical Transport

Advanced Medical Transport (AMT) is being recognized for their commitment to fostering an inclusive workplace. Their dedication to hiring individuals from all backgrounds and cultivating a supportive and welcoming environment serves as an example for others in our community to follow.



Special Recognition Award - Salt & Light

Salt & Light is being recognized for their ongoing commitment and support of our mission. Their partnership expands across the breadth of people we serve—from offering classroom space for Family Development play groups, meeting space for Community First groups, and volunteer and Community Employment opportunities.



Wendy Webber Award for Staff Excellence* - Essa Sarr

Essa Sarr is being recognized for his exceptional performance, outstanding dedication, and excellent service to the people we support. Essa has been with DSC for 35 years in the residential program, where he has been a caring and steady presence for our residents. He is an excellent mentor to his fellow co-workers and embraces DSC's mission wholeheartedly.

*Thank you to Cathie Webber and Carl Webber for their generous endowment of a fund in honor of their daughter, Wendy. The Wendy Webber Award for Staff Excellence provides a monetary award to one or more DSC staff members who demonstrate excellence in support services, exceed the expectations of their position, and show a strong commitment to DSC's mission.



2024 IARFuture Leadership Program

Kim Hottman, DSC Community Day Services Manager, recently participated in and graduated from the IARFuture Leadership Initiative program. This is a one of a kind program hosted by the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (IARF) and is designed to develop, train, and strengthen future generations of leaders working in not-for-profit social services agencies. The program focuses on organizational culture, strategic thinking, planning, decision making, and system advocacy preparing leaders of tomorrow. Here's what Kim had to say, "I appreciated the opportunity to participate in the IARF Futures program. The program gave me an opportunity to acquire new skills and tools to expand the ones that I have. I had the chance to connect with and learn from others in the field that could relate to the same experiences within this profession. It was wonderful to meet peers that have the same motivation and compassion for those they serve as we do here at DSC."

Pictured from left: Kim Zoeller-IARF Board Chair, Kim Hottman-DSC, and Josh Evans-President/CEO, IARF



See the list of desired items on our website, or shop our Amazon Wish List and the items will be delivered to us! www.dsc-illinois.org

Help Fuel Creativity: Donate Art Supplies this March!

This March, we're hosting a Supply Drive to support makers with disabilities—and we need your help! Your donation of art supplies will provide essential tools for artists to express themselves, build skills, and share their creativity with the world. Every donation makes a difference in empowering artists of all abilities. Would you consider making creativity accessible to all? Together, we can turn supplies into masterpieces.

Donations can be dropped off at:
1304 W Bradley Ave, Champaign

Thank you for supporting inclusive art!

Back to the Prairibbean



The Eastern Illinois Parrot Head Club will once again be hosting Back to the Prairibbean benefiting DSC! Make plans to join us for live music from The Boat Drunks, food trucks, beverages, raffles and lots of fun!



Team Noah—Illinois Marathon

Join DSC at the Christie Clinic Illinois 5K on Friday, April 25th. Through Walk, Run, & Roll with Team Noah, people with disabilities will be able to complete the 5K with their caregivers and/or family and friends. They will experience the thrill of race weekend, as Noah did, and the joy of leading a healthy and active lifestyle. Eighty (80) individuals plus one caregiver/family member will receive complimentary entry into the 5K as well as special Team Noah shirts, and other goodies. To learn more and sign up go to illinoismarathon.com/races/5k/team-noah.

The Crow at 110 to Participate in the Boneyard Arts Festival



The Crow at 110 will be a venue during the Boneyard Arts Festival in April. This three-day celebration highlights the incredible creativity thriving in our community, bringing together local artists, businesses, and organizations. Don't miss this special opportunity to experience the vibrant art of Champaign County. Come be a part of the inspiration!

Sing into Spring! Help us bring the JOY of Karaoke!

DSC's Community Day Services participants are hoping to bring more music and fun into their days this spring—with a **karaoke machine!** Singing together encourages self-expression, connection, and lots of laughter.

We'd love your help! If you're interested in **donating a karaoke machine or contributing toward one**, please reach out to Jodie Harmon at jharmon@dsc-illinois.org or 217-398-7110. Let's make this magical wish come true!





LEAP is growing, and we're thrilled to be reaching more businesses than ever! More locations have discovered the benefits of hiring talented candidates with disabilities. A heartfelt **thank you** to the businesses below for their dedication to creating inclusive workplaces and for joining us at a recent LEAP training. Your commitment to accessibility and opportunity makes a real difference!

- WIRCO
- JSM Living
- Fairlawn Real Estate
- MTD
- Manpower
- OSF
- Grainger College of Engineering
- Parkland College
- UIUC Prairie Research Institute
- Illinois Human Resources
- Broeren Russo Builders, Inc.
- Spherion Staffing
- University of Illinois System
- Health Services Consultants, Inc.
- Human Kinetics, Inc.
- Eastern Illinois Foodbank
- Good Judy's Bagels
- Urbana Park District

Is your company listed in the Champaign County Directory of Disability-Inclusive Employers? This public directory helps job seekers, including those working with DSC and Community Choices, find inclusive workplaces. Join today and show your dedication to workplace inclusion!

Register now at <https://leapdirectory-cu.org/directory>

2024 Tree of Hope Sponsors

Because of these generous sponsors every dollar donated to the Tree of Hope Campaign directly supports the programs and services we provide! Thank you for your commitment to our mission!

Brilliant Light Sponsor (\$3,500 & Up)

Allied Capital Title
Champaign Multimedia Group
Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend
CN
Coldwell Banker Commercial Devonshire Realty
Flooring Surfaces, Inc.
Illini Media Group
Midwest Tankermen, Inc.
Serra Champaign
Stevie Jay Broadcasting
WCIA, News Channel 3

Beacon of Hope (\$1,500-\$3,499)

Ameren Illinois
Broeren Russo Builders, Inc.
Carle Foundation
Champaign-Urbana Elks Lodge #2497
Comcast
Commerce Bancshares Foundation
Farm Credit Illinois
First Federal Savings Bank of Champaign-Urbana
First Mid Bank & Trust
First State Bank and Trust
Midwest Engineering & Testing, Inc.
Sam's Club
Shields Auto Group
Son of a Nutcracker Lights
Sullivan-Parkhill Automotive, Inc.

Twinkling Light Sponsor (\$1,000-\$1,499)

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Shining Light Sponsor (\$500-\$999)

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Robeson Family Benefit Fund
TSM Ventures, Inc.

Bright Light Sponsor (\$250-\$499)

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Northwestern Mutual Central Illinois
Royse + Brinkmeyer Apartments
Steve & Carol Kamradt
T-Stagg Photography



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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.