



COMMUNITY NEWS



WHAT'S NEW AROUND DSC...

Tree of Hope Campaign

This year's Tree of Hope shined brighter than ever thanks to the incredible generosity of our community and the powerful story shared by the Anderson family. By opening their hearts and sharing their journey, the Andersons reminded us why this campaign matters—how early intervention support can make a lasting difference for individuals and families served by DSC.

Because of supporters like you, we are excited to announce that we reached our \$300,000 goal! Every dollar raised directly supports DSC's programs and services, helping over 1,200 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities thrive. Your kindness and commitment ensures opportunities, resources, and brighter futures for the people we serve. Thank you for helping keep the Tree of Hope glowing for our entire community.

Thank you!

DSC Tree of Hope 2025



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DSC Annual Recognition Awards

Each year, we are honored to recognize and celebrate individuals and businesses whose support and partnership strengthen our mission at DSC.



Wendy Webber Award for Staff Excellence – Sarah Roper
Awarded in recognition of her dedication and unwavering commitment to supporting individuals.



Employer of the Year—Meijer Urbana
Recognized for their commitment to fostering an inclusive workplace.



Personal Achievement Award
Jazzy Hague

Honoring her determination, growth, and personal accomplishments that reflect the power of opportunity.



Special Recognition Award
Dr. Martin Repetto

Recognizing his commitment to the behavioral health and well-being of the people we support.

Thank you to our 2025 Tree of Hope Sponsors!

Beacon of Hope Partners

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

Brilliant Light Sponsor

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Son of a Nutcracker Lights

Twinkling Light Sponsor

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Shields Auto Center
Triptych Brewing
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USI Insurance Services
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Shining Light Sponsor

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Chemical Maintenance, Inc.
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Harrington Law

Ivy Rehab for Kids Champaign
J Leman Team
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Kristen Dilley Homes, Inc.
Midwest Tankermen, Inc.
Petry Kuhne Company
Premier Print Group
R Rentals
Reynolds Towing Service
The Osterbur Group—Country Financial

Bright Light Sponsor

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Country Financial—Tim Bridges
FASTSIGNS of Champaign
Hickory Point Bank & Trust
INB
Midwest Construction Rentals
Northwestern Mutual Central Illinois
Steve & Carol Kamradt
TSM Ventures, Inc.
Trautman Real Estate Agency
Wallace Insurance Services, LLC.
Walmart Rantoul

Christie Foundation Grant

DSC is pleased to share that we received a grant from the Christie Foundation to replace expiring AED pads and batteries, ensuring our equipment remains up to date and ready when needed. We appreciate their continued investment in the health, safety, and well-being of the individuals we support.



Joseph H. Cannon Grant

Thanks to the generosity of The Rotary Club of Champaign, through the Joseph H. Cannon Memorial Grant, DSC's CU Independence apartment building now features an updated and more welcoming community space for the building's 24 residents. The grant funds supported new seating, tables and chairs, a buffet cabinet, and a television—enhancing comfort, connection, and daily use. We appreciate The Rotary Club of Champaign for their continued partnership and support of DSC's mission.



Wishes Granted!

This year's Holiday Wish List was a huge success — over 160 wishes fulfilled! Thank you to our generous donors for making the holidays brighter for the individuals we support. Many of them may not have received gifts without your kindness. A special thank you to Farm Credit Illinois for wrapping the gifts again this year and helping spread so much holiday cheer.

Save the Date



The Eastern Illinois Parrot Head Club will once again be hosting Back to the Prairibbean to benefit DSC! Mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 4th from 5-8pm at Riggs Brewery for music from The Boat Drunks, food, beverages, raffles, and lots of fun!

Donate Art Supplies

Our annual Art Supply Drive kicks off in March, and we're excited to invite our community to help support creativity and self-expression for the individuals we support. Keep an eye on your email and our social media channels during the first week of March—we'll be sharing our supply wish list.



In the Community

In 2025, DSC teams proudly contributed over 830 volunteer hours—about 18 hours a week at Salt & Light! We're grateful for the opportunity to give back and our partnership with Salt & Light!



Family Development Winter Groups



Register today for child playgroups and parent support groups. Group play is a great way to support your child's development while giving parents a space to connect and support one another. Scan the QR code to see what is being offered.





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!

- Maggie Baker Productions, LLC
- Urbana Park District—Aquatics Staff
- Urbana Park District—Camp Staff
- Alpha Dog Entertainment
- Rantoul Public Library
- Champaign County Forest Preserve District
- Beaumont Animal Clinic
- Bundles of Joy Learning Center
- Holy Cross School
- Cold Stone Creamery
- Suzu's Bakery
- City of Champaign Human Resources Department

Join Team Noah

Team Noah makes Race Weekend accessible for people with disabilities by covering participation costs for both the individual and a support person, creating a fun, inclusive way to be part of the excitement and community spirit. Scan the QR code for more info!



Volunteer with DSC We're looking forward to once again supporting the Illinois Race Weekend assisting with the start line corrals this spring. Volunteers from DSC will see the runners off on Friday night and Saturday morning. Scan the QR code to sign up!



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!

"GROWING TOGETHER" ART SHOW APRIL 10-11TH THE CROW AT 110 110 E UNIVERSITY AVE CHAMPAIGN [OPENING RECEPTION FRIDAY 6-8 PM]

"CELEBRATING COMMUNITY CONNECTION, GROWTH, AND RESILIENCE THROUGH ART"



Leave a Legacy with DSC Support the future. Empower lives.

Planned giving is a powerful way to ensure that DSC's mission continues for generations to come. By including DSC in your estate plans, you can create a lasting impact for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Your legacy gift helps sustain essential programs that promote independence, inclusion, and opportunity—ensuring that individuals and families receive the support they need, now and for years to come. Whether through a bequest, trust, or other planned gift your generosity becomes a lasting investment in securing the future of DSC.

To learn more about how you can leave a legacy of hope and possibility, please contact Jodie Harmon, Vice President of Development & Communications, at jharmon@dsc-illinois.org or 217-398-7110.



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Let's stay connected!



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.