



# COMMUNITY NEWS



## WHAT'S NEW AROUND DSC . . .

### Dear Friends,



It is hard to believe, but fall is just around the corner. Every year it seems the summer goes by just a little quicker. I'm excited to share the recent opening of a home in Mahomet. We have been planning this for a few years and are happy to share four people moved into their place this past June.

Thank you to everyone who attended Back to the Prairibbean in early August! It was a record turnout at Riggs Brewery, with perfect weather, great music, and amazing food and beverages. We are very thankful for our partnership with the Eastern Illinois Parrot Head Club and grateful to be the beneficiary of this event.

In September, we look forward to celebrating our Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) during national DSP week. DSPs are truly the lifeblood of our organization and we are excited to pause, acknowledge, and highlight our dedicated DSPs here at DSC. DSPs are the heart and soul of supports for people with disabilities. We are grateful for all they do and cannot thank them enough for their commitment to our mission.

We have two members who recently retired from our Board of Directors after many years of service. We are thankful to Pat Kovar for 36 years and Jim Smith for 25 years of volunteer service. We are grateful for their leadership and guidance through many pivotal moments in DSC's history.

Our 31st Tree of Hope campaign will be kicking off in just a few short months. We hope you will consider supporting DSC in our continued efforts, striving to assure that every person lives a full life in the community.

Sincerely,

Danielle



INSIDE

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*Garden Mum*  
**FUNDRAISER**



**\$12**  
*each*  
\*\$15 for Mumbo

**ORDER**  
By September 16th

Questions? Contact Jodie at  
jharmon@dsc-illinois.org

**PICKUP**  
September 21st  
9am - 1pm

Country Arbors Nursery

Don't miss your chance to beautify your home or office this fall with gorgeous mums from Country Arbors! Scan the QR code to order yours today. A portion of each mum sold will be donated back to DSC!

**A FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT!**

**15TH ANNUAL  
DISABILITY  
RESOURCE  
EXPO**

People with disabilities, families, friends, caregivers, all are welcome...

**SEE YOU THERE!!!**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26**  
**OPEN 11:00AM - 4:00PM**



**Market Place Mall**  
**2000 N Neil St, Champaign**

DSC is proud to once again be a part of the DisABILITY Resource Expo. Access to information and resources from a wide variety of agencies and organizations will be available. The expo promotes a better quality of life for people with disabilities in Champaign County and East Central Illinois. We hope to see you there!

## Back to the Prairibbean Fun!



## Comcast Funds Technology Expansion



We extend our gratitude to Comcast for their generous grant funding of \$10,000 for iPads and two Meeting Owls virtual conferencing systems. This new technology will allow us to expand our digital art offerings, and enhance employment services, as well as advocacy opportunities and efforts. Thank you, Comcast!

## Thank You, Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon



DSC was honored to be a benefactor of this year's Illinois Marathon Race Weekend once again. We are thankful to be a part of the Illinois Marathon on race day, and we are grateful to have been a

recipient of the proceeds since the Illinois Marathon started back in 2009. We are already looking forward to volunteering at next year's race!

## CUPHD Art Display



DSC was chosen to share an art exhibit currently displayed in the main lobby of the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District. The artwork was created by

artists in our Community First program.

Julie Pryde, Public Health Administrator, shares, "Champaign-Urbana Public Health District is pleased to display the art curated by DSC. Art is beneficial to the creator and the consumer. It hangs in our main lobby where clients, staff, volunteers, and visitors can all enjoy it."

## Milestone Anniversaries



**Jeff Williams**, in Community First celebrates 20 years! Before DSC, Jeff was the stock room lead at TJMaxx. His team, at one point, was from DSC! Then, he learned about a job opening at DSC through his sister, Stacy, who worked in the business office at DSC. Jeff shares he stayed all these years because, "It's one of the

few jobs on this planet that people are happy when they see you at work. Plus, I like to help people and make them laugh, satisfying my comedic side."



**Annette Becherer**, Director of Employment Services, celebrates 40 years! Annette was initially hired to work as a temporary employee for two weeks! She started out working in what is now Community Day Services, and has also served as a Training Specialist, Assistant Director of Residential Services, and

Director of Residential Services before transferring to her current position. Annette says she stays at DSC "because of all the fond memories and because the staff believe in and work toward the agency mission, at all levels. People's lives are touched in both large and small ways at DSC every day. It's what we do. It's our culture."



**Patty Walters**, Executive Vice President of Clinical Services, celebrates 35 years! She started her career with DSC in Employment Services. She also held the positions of Case Coordinator and Director of Program Assurance before assuming her current role in 2005. Patty shares, "I have been a part of so many great

milestones on behalf of people receiving services from DSC, and it has been amazing to observe how services have evolved from literally taking care of people to working alongside people as they pursue and achieve their dreams."

*We are so grateful for you all and for your longtime commitment to DSC and our mission to support people in living a rich and meaningful life. Thank you!*

## Mid-Year Appeal Update

During July, we celebrated Sarah, who has been a part of the DSC family for nearly 30 years! She shared her story of personal growth and accomplishments through the years. Thank you to everyone who supported the Mid-Year Appeal. We surpassed our goal of \$20,000! We greatly appreciate your commitment to our mission!

## Adopt-A-Home

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

## Autumn Wishes

With cooler weather just around the corner, we are thinking about all the fall colors we will be seeing. Our photography group would like a DSLR camera to capture those beautiful fall moments. If you are interested in helping us purchase a DSLR camera please reach out to Jodie Harmon at [jharmon@dsc-illinois.org](mailto:jharmon@dsc-illinois.org) or 217-398-7110. We would be so appreciative!

## Mahomet Home



## Sunshine and Happiness



We enjoyed the August sunshine and sunflowers at Clearview Farms. We loved walking the maze and finding different designs and emojis created throughout the sunflowers.

We look forward to and always have a lot of fun during this once-a-year adventure!

## 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, Vice President 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.