



## WHAT'S NEW AROUND DSC...

### DSC Celebrates Black History Month

In February, participants enjoyed a variety of activities to celebrate Black History Month. In order to kick off the celebration, they were invited to watch a movie every week that was related to the theme of remembering African-American cultures.

One group of participants led by Jess, a DSC direct service provider, took a trip to the Krannert Art Museum at the University of Illinois. The museum was featuring a traveling art exhibit that focused on the Swahili arts entitled, "World on the Horizon: Swahili Arts Across the Indian Ocean." The exhibit showcased a variety of cultural elements like architectural pieces, as well as jewelry and writing from the Quran and medicinal inscriptions. Those who attended the trip found the exhibit to be a wonderful experience, where they gained not only new insight into the culture, but also inspiration for their own artistic endeavors.

Other groups celebrated Black History Month by making, and eating, a soul food meal consisting of fried chicken, sweet potatoes, greens, and banana pudding. Staff members helped participants prepare the food, making it a true team effort!

Later in the month, Amanda, a librarian from the Douglas Branch of the Public Library, visited DSC to spend some time talking with everyone about books related to Black History Month, and had an hour of story time. "Trombone Shorty", about musician Troy Andrews from New Orleans, seemed to be the most popular among the attendees. She also brought Black History Month buttons for everyone.

Everyone who participated enjoyed the large variety of activities to remember Black History Month and are so thankful to all of the staff members who helped coordinate and make them possible, making it a successful month of remembrance.



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## A Message from Chief Executive Officer, Dale Morrissey...

How time flies! It seems 2018 just got underway and here we are with almost four months behind us.

The first quarter of the year brings a flurry of activities in which DSC participates and offers us different ways to be involved in our community. This year, we are involved in something every weekend in April starting with the disABILITY Expo: Reaching Out for Answers that is sponsored by many businesses in our community, as well as the Champaign County Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health Boards. It was held on April 7 at the Vineyard Church with over 100 exhibitors that shared information and answered questions about available resources for all types of disabilities.

Also in April, DSC will participate in the Boneyard Creek Arts Festival, presented by 40 North and the Ebertfest Film Festival. Each of these festivals help to break down barriers and promote inclusion through the arts. We are fortunate to be able to share in these community opportunities.

The end of April will bring the 10th running of the Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon! DSC participates in a variety of ways through volunteering on Friday and Saturday. We are thrilled to be celebrating our 10th year with the race as one of their charity partners! Since the inception of the race in 2009, DSC has received over \$150,000 from this partnership! It is an amazing weekend bringing millions of dollars into our community and as such, we all greatly benefit!

Be sure to mark your calendars as well for a bit later this year. The Eastern Illinois Parrot Head Club presents, C-U in the Prairibbean XIV, which will be held on Saturday, August 4, and the 6th Annual C-U Oktoberfest will be held on Saturday, October 6. Both events will be held in downtown Champaign at the corner of Neil and Washington streets! Plan to join us and watch for volunteer opportunities, as it takes many volunteers to ensure the success of these events!

Until next time,

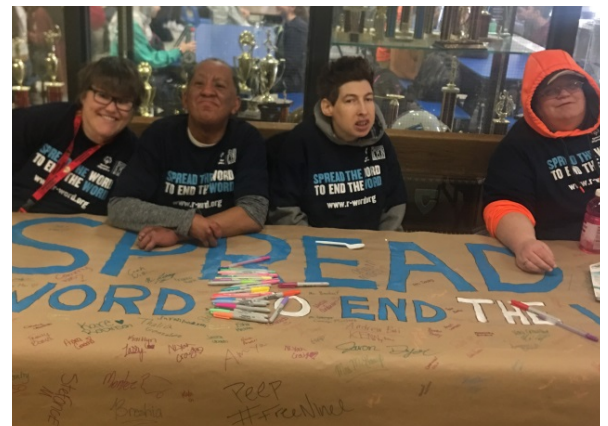
*Dale*

## Spread the Word to End the Word!

**The annual Spread the Word to End the Word campaign is held nationally every March. This ongoing effort by Special Olympics, Best Buddies and many individuals seeks to inspire respect and acceptance through raising the consciousness of society about the “R-word” and how hurtful and disrespectful words can be toward people with intellectual disabilities.**

The campaign, created by youth, is intended to engage schools, organizations and communities to rally and pledge their support at [www.r-word.org](http://www.r-word.org) and to promote the inclusion and acceptance of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Members of the advocate group at DSC, “Advocates in Motion” (AIM), were eager to be involved again. They set up a table at Centennial High School and engaged with students, educating them about the derogatory and hurtful use of the word “retard(ed)”. They brought along a banner that an art group at DSC created, and encouraged people to sign it as a pledge to stop using the “R-word”. This is a positive and necessary step towards creating more accepting attitudes and communities for all people. Thank you, AIM, for your efforts!



## 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 Developmental Services Center, Champaign, IL, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation:

“I give, devise, and bequeath to Developmental Services Center of Champaign, IL, a charitable not-for-profit organization, the sum of \_\_\_\_ dollars (\$\_\_\_\_) or \_\_\_\_ percent (\_\_\_\_%) of my estate to be used to carry out its mission.

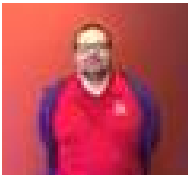
To view or download a copy of DSC’s Planned Giving Opportunities Brochures, please go to this link  
[http://www.dsc-illinois.org/get\\_involved/Leave\\_A\\_Legacy.html](http://www.dsc-illinois.org/get_involved/Leave_A_Legacy.html).

Contact your tax professional for more specific tax information. If you would like more information from DSC, please contact Janice McAteer at [jmcaateer@dsc-illinois.org](mailto:jmcaateer@dsc-illinois.org) or 217.398.7110.

## Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month: See Me for Me

In March, DSC joined the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) and many other organizations across the country in celebrating **Developmental Disability Awareness Month!** Started in 1987 with a proclamation from President Ronald Reagan, the mission remains largely the same. While there is still a goal to increase public awareness of people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, the focus has shifted to the importance of inclusion and living life side-by-side.

This year's theme was appropriately called, "See Me for Me!" We hope all of our readers can look beyond someone's disability and see them simply as a person and not a person with a disability. Following the weekly themes set by NACDD, we highlighted four people who choose our services, focusing on education, employment, community living and friendship. We thank each of the four people who shared their lives with us! Check out their stories below, and read even more about them at [http://www.dsc-illinois.org/programs\\_services/success\\_stories.html/](http://www.dsc-illinois.org/programs_services/success_stories.html/).



BJ helped us get the week started by focusing on education. He will be graduating with his associate's degree from Ultimate Medical Academy in Florida soon! He pursued the online program for "Healthcare Technology & Systems", and spoke highly of the education, staff, and online access.



When staff was asked who to highlight for the employment theme, Ben's name rose to the top due to his incredible work ethic and his achievements with the Special Olympics! Ben has worked at Carle Foundation Hospital for seven years where he is responsible for stocking the cafeteria. Ben loves his job at Carle because it allows him to stay busy, socialize with his coworkers who have become some of his great friends, and make money.



Alex helped readers get to know him during the week focusing on community living. Alex grew up in our community and moved into his own apartment last fall! He's enjoying his new sense of freedom and shared that he likes that he can do whatever he wants to do, when he wants to do it, and exactly how he wants to do it! In Alex's spare time he watches television and talks with his neighbors who also live in his apartment complex.



We wrapped things up with Jasmine, focusing on seeing people with disabilities as a friend. Jasmine is the perfect person to speak on this topic, as she is an amazing friend to many! She believes that in order to be a good friend, a person must be open-minded and supportive. She also thinks that it's important to adjust to the various needs of friends. For example, she says that she is the type a friend a person can reach out to for advice and support and is also a person her friends can call when they want to laugh and have fun.

## New CILA in Champaign!

DSC strives to provide comfortable, safe residential options for the adults that choose our services. We recently replaced one of the Community Integrated Living Arrangements (CILA), more commonly known as group homes, due to the age and layout of the home.

We are happy to announce that a new home has been purchased and the residents from the old home began moving in March! In the coming weeks, two additional adults will also call this new CILA their home. All four people have been looking forward to this new opportunity!



## AmazonSmile: You Shop. Amazon Gives.



AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that allows custom-

ers to enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate **0.5%** of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. Developmental Services Center is a registered organization and AmazonSmile still works if you are an Amazon Prime member. It takes just a minute to login into AmazonSmile and you will be ready to shop and make a difference for DSC! Already an Amazon.com user? **Make the switch today!**



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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.*

## SAVE THE DATE

The **Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon** is almost here! Since its inception, DSC has proudly partnered with them and we form the corral teams on *Friday, April 27* and *Saturday, April 28*. What does it mean to be part of the corral team? You “hold large signs designating different starting corrals, by finish time, for runners in the start area to ensure that the corrals are orderly and clearly defined, as we assist with the wave start process. This is an outside, rain or shine job.” Volunteers get a t-shirt and race bag! **Sign up instructions are at [www.dsc-illinois.org](http://www.dsc-illinois.org).** Sign up and bring a friend!



Has our “extended winter” got you missing the sun and warmer temperatures? DSC will be “Partying with a Purpose” with our good friends, the Eastern Illinois Parrot Head Club, on *Saturday, August 4!* **C-U in the Prairibbean** starts at 5pm in downtown Champaign. Stay tuned to our website and Facebook for more details!



## Do You Have Cardboard, Papers and Magazines Cluttering Up Your House?

Well we have just the thing for you! DSC Business Operations center recycles all kinds of cardboard and paper - including magazines, catalogs, office paper, etc. - as part of our effort to keep the environment clean and financially support DSC's programs. (We do not accept books at this time).

You can bring your recyclable paper to DSC's Business Operations at **3102 W Clark Rd in Champaign, 8am-4pm, M-F**. From Duncan, turn west onto Clark Rd (just north of Springfield). Turn right to go behind DSC's Business Operations facility to drop off your items at the back loading dock door.



Did you know **Earth Day is April 21?** Do your part and bring your recycling to DSC!