

Possibilities

COMMUNITY LINK

October 2015 • Volume 21 / Number 1

Capturing memories to cherish for a lifetime...



The participants of Community Link had the opportunity to take part in a picture day, thanks to Anna Venhaus of Unforgettable Photography by Anna in Germantown, IL. Each participant was able to sit for a professional photograph and was gifted a 4x6 print by the studio.

Jamie Fields, Development Director at Community Link, commented, "When Anna came to me with her idea for a picture day at Community Link, she shared a story with me about an experience a fellow photographer had who, due to a snowstorm, came to be stranded at a retail store. To pass the time, he began to take photographs of the employees at the store. One of the employees there happened to be disabled and used a wheelchair. As he was being photographed, he commented that this was the first time he had the opportunity to have his photograph taken by a professional photographer as an adult. This story stuck with Anna, and she wanted to make this experience possible for those in her own community who may not have this opportunity."



Anna, Sarah, and Kris cleared their schedules on three separate days, so everyone involved in Community Link would have the opportunity to participate. With more than 500 children and adults supported by the services offered at Community Link, this was no easy task! They visited three of Community Link's locations-Fairview Heights Metro, Breese East, and Breese West. The children enrolled in the First Step program were invited to participate at the Breese West location as well.



The participants came dressed in their favorite outfits, and the excitement throughout the building was palpable. Anna was able to capture each beautiful smile and make a bunch of new friends along the way. Each moment of your life is special, and each participant has a photo to take home to commemorate this moment of their lives. Anna even offered to visit one of Community Link's seven CILA homes to take a participant's photograph that was home sick battling cancer. She captured his ever present smile with his bright personality shining through. This was one of the last pictures taken of him, as he sadly passed away a couple of weeks later, but his family will have this special picture to cherish along with their lovely memories for a lifetime.



Community Link truly appreciates those people in the community that take an interest in our organization, and take the time to get to know our participants. Volunteers bring so much value, and we appreciate the time and effort to brighten someone else's day. ❖

Recycling updates and reminders!

The upcoming holidays will NOT affect the curbside pickup days for recycling customers.

Please have your recycling bins out by 8:00am. Your orange bin must always be out so our drivers and participants know they are at the correct house. If you cannot fit all of your recyclables in the orange bin, please only fill one extra box with recyclables. Any additional recyclable material can be placed in the crates at the Drop-Off Center (1665 N. 4th Street in Breese), which are available at all times.

We do not accept any hard-back books, plastic bags, or foam.

The Drop-Off Center will NOT be staffed on 11/26, 11/27, 12/24, 12/25, 12/31, or 1/1.

Thank you for your commitment to the sustainability of our planet and your support of Community Link!

Save The Date!



Saturday, May 7, 2016
North Side Park, Breese, IL

Possibilities is the newsletter of Community Link, a not-for-profit community agency providing opportunities to adults and children in the Southern Illinois portion of the St. Louis metropolitan area. Headquarters are located at:

Community Link – East
P.O. Box 157 / 1665 N. 4th St.
Breese, Illinois 62230
Phone: (618) 526-8800
Fax: (618) 526-2021
News Editor: Jamie Fields

We welcome any questions or comments you may have about our newsletter.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John Huelskamp

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FY 2015-2016

**Jerry Albers
Debra Baldwin
Dax Garrison
Wesley Gozia
Sandra Harris
Joseph Heimann
William Hibner
Steve Huelsmann
Ricky Johnson
Amanda Oelze
Leslie Pedtke
Charles Poettker**



MISSION STATEMENT

To challenge, teach, and inspire both participants and community, linking them in ways that enhance their lives.

Community Link is excited to announce the appointment of three new members to their Board of Directors.



William Hibner of Belleville recently retired as a Colonel from the US Army after a 25 year career. His last assignment was at Fort Leonard Wood, MO where he led equipment and training system modernization efforts. Bill has served in leadership and staff positions in diverse locations including: South Korea, Germany, Peru, Iraq, Bosnia, Kuwait, and Venezuela. He plans to capitalize on his operational experience, cultural knowledge, and the skills he learns in the MBA program to serve as an Operations Officer or Program Manager for a multi-national corporation. Bill is married to his college

sweetheart, Elizabeth Mae, and resides in her hometown of Belleville, IL with their 2 year-old daughter, Elizabeth Rose.



Amanda Oelze comes to Community Link with experience as a small business owner. Amanda became actively involved with CL after being exposed to their organization and mission through the local business she owns and operates Vibrant Vida Boutique. Amanda is dedicated to sharing her experience in helping the agency progression for the future. Amanda resides in Damiansville with her husband, Dean and son Alden.



Mr. Garrison is the Vice President of First County Bank in Albers, and brings 9+ years' experience in the banking industry as a lender. He resides in Aviston with his wife, Lindsay, and their two children, Ellie and Jack. ❖

Community Link Congratulates Board Members for Years of Dedicated Service



Community Link wishes to congratulate John Lengerman for six years of dedicated service on the organization's board of directors and Jim Kreke for 3 years of dedicated service. Mr. Lengerman had already been a long-time supporter of Community Link before he accepted a position on the Board of Directors in 2009. Mr. Lengerman served as President of the Board for four years of his term and was very instrumental in ensuring the board remained true to the concepts of "strategy, oversight and policy" as the core components of their duties. Mr. Lengerman leaves behind a legacy of building a stronger board of directors capable of tackling the numerous challenges the organization faces in a rapidly changing environment. Mr. Kreke served on the Board of Directors for 3 years, and also served on the planning and development committee. Thank you both for your years of dedicated service!



FY 2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Message from the Board President



Once again, it is a new year here at Community Link that comes with its own new and unprecedented challenges. I am honored and privileged to have the opportunity to serve as Board President, because we have a Board of Directors that

genuinely care about Community Link and we have a hard-working, dedicated staff that work tirelessly to make sure Community Link stands above the rest in the communities we serve. I look forward to having more interaction with our dedicated staff members who are continually striving to achieve our mission on a daily basis and we as a Board cannot thank them enough for the work that they do.

I also wish to welcome and introduce our newest board members who have joined the board in fiscal year 2015-2016, William Hibner, Amanda Oelze, and Dax Garrison. Mr. Hibner is retired from the U.S. Army and has joined our Board through the United Way's Board Fellow program in collaboration with the Executive MBA program at the Olin School at Washington University. Mrs. Oelze is the owner of Vibrant Vida Boutique and has extensive knowledge in both business and community outreach. Mr. Garrison is a Vice President with First County Bank in Albers and in addition to his vast experience in banking and marketing; he also has a deep passion for the mission of Community Link. All of our new board members are highly qualified and personally invested in helping Community Link achieve success. I also wish to thank outgoing Board members Jim Kreke and a special thanks to John Lengerman; Mr. Lengerman served as Board President for multiple terms and was always a great advocate for Community Link.

The start of this new fiscal year has brought challenging

times for many organizations across the country, but even more so in Illinois with the budget crises at the state level. Many organizations that depend heavily on government funding had had to close their doors and lay people off until funding can be restored. Our committed management team, in collaboration with the staff and the Board of Directors at Community Link, has done a wonderful job to avoid any shutdowns due to the lack of a state budget so far this year; however, while our team has done well, this state budget crisis has highlighted the fact that Community Link is blessed to have such deep and meaningful support from the communities we serve and we need to continue building and expanding on our network of friends and supporters to continue the legacy of care and compassion that Community Link was built on. Executive Director John Huelskamp and our management team do a great job of keeping sight of our dynamic environment and responding appropriately and efficiently, and we thank them for that.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Community Link, thanks to all of our stakeholders for your continued support of our organization and our mission, because without your support the legacy of Community Link would not be able to continue for our future generations.

Finally, thank you to the staff at Community Link, because the things that you do on a daily basis enhance the lives of our participants, the families of our participants, and many others who you might not even realize are touched by your efforts. The Board of Directors notices and appreciates your daily efforts to effectuate the mission and touch lives. ❖

Wesley A. Gozia

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FY 2015

OFFICERS

President Wesley A. Gozia

Attorney/Owner, Gozia Law Firm LLC

Vice President Judge Joseph Heimann

Colonel, USAF Retired

Administrative Law Judge, Social Security Administration

Treasurer John L. Lengerman

Executive Director, Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce

Secretary Jerry Albers

Maintenance Department, St. Joseph Hospital Breese

DIRECTORS

Debra Baldwin

Co-Founder, Citizens United for Fairview (CUFF)

Sandy Harris

Retired, Vice President Tax Administration, Ralcorp Holdings, Inc.

Steven R. Huelsmann

Service Recipient Representative

Ricky G. Johnson

Contract Management, USAF Retired

James S. Kreke

Vice-President, First County Bank

Leslie A. Pedtke

Administrator, Aviston Countryside Manor

Charles V. Poettker

President, Poettker Construction

KEY STAFF FY 2015

John Huelskamp

Executive Director

Fran Taylor

Director of Finance and Administration

Barb Nelson

Director Adult Programs

Laurie Hemker

Director of Children's Programs

Jamie Fields

Director of Development

Chris Gebke

Director of Community Outreach

Participant Service Awards...

Community Link's Executive Director, John Huelskamp, presented service awards at the quarterly participant meeting in January for 10 and 20 years of service. The participants receiving certificates recognizing 20 years of service were Rhonda Adams, Louise Edds, and Cindy Lee. The participants receiving certificates recognizing 10 years of service were Hanna Laminack, Jason Seidel, Rebecca Davis, Donald Prather, Alex Stoyanoff, Matthew Albers, Alex Morrison, Sean Herzing, David Richards, Jordan Stumpf, Charlene Ancell, and Brenda Cederquist.



Rhonda Adams receiving her certificate recognizing 20 years of service



Cindy Lee receiving her certificate recognizing 20 years of service

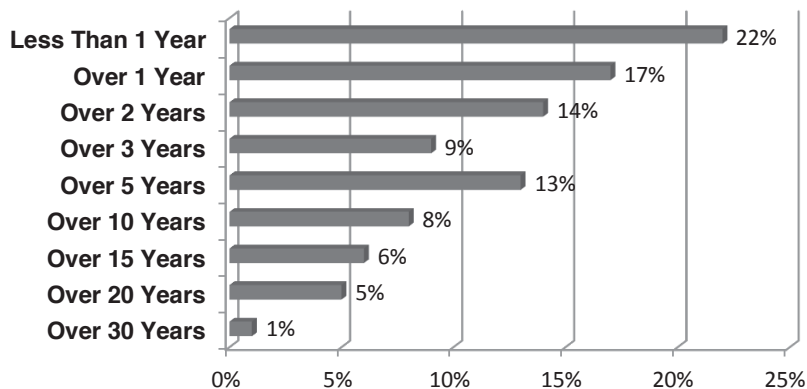


Alex Stoyanoff receiving his certificate recognizing 10 years of service



Jordan Stumpf receiving his certificate recognizing 10 years of service

Staff Years of Service FY 2014-2015



Total number of employees at end of fiscal year: 223

Total turnover rate for fiscal year: 26%

Number of employees who ended employment: 59

FINANCIAL REPORT

Community Link is pleased to present the following audited summary of revenues, expenses, and changes in net assets for the Agency's Fiscal Year 2014-2015, ending this past June 30. For a copy of the completed audit, please e-mail info@commlink.org or call (618) 526-8800.

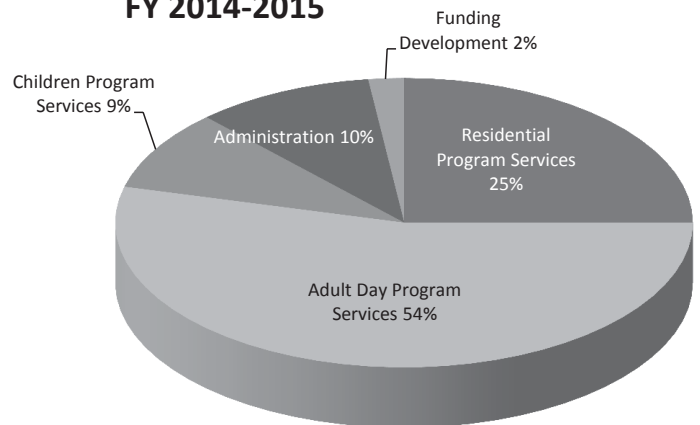
Revenue

Contributions/Fundraisers	\$528,443	7%
Fees for Service/Gov't Grants	\$6,556,700	86%
Sales from Worksites	\$457,602	6%
Investment and Other Income	\$76,005	1%
Total Operating Revenue	\$7,618,750	100%

Operating Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	\$5,791,168	
Other Operating Expenses	\$1,556,325	
Total Operating Expenses	\$7,347,493	
Net Operating Gain	\$271,257	
Depreciation Expense	\$161,571	
Net Loss after Depreciation Expense	\$109,686	

Functional Expenses FY 2014-2015



Community Link's \$7.6 million budget flows back into the surrounding communities, through salaries paid to employees and the purchases from local vendors.

First Step connects with children and their families through quality services...

Community Link's First Step Early Learning and Family Support Program consists of Early Intervention, which is a state funded program of services for children, ages 0-3, with developmental delays or disabilities; Early Head Start, which is a federally funded program of home based prenatal services and services for children, ages 0-3; Infant Mental Health Services, which identify children at risk for developmental delays and/or for social-emotional and mental health problems; Child Waiver, which assists families in keeping their loved ones in their own home rather than seeking a more restrictive environment; Community Services, which include free parenting classes on a variety of topics; and Developmental Screenings, which are conducted annually through local school districts and child care centers, as well as by parent or guardian request. ❖

A data driven focus on School Readiness...

The Office of Head Start defines school readiness as 'children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children's learning, and schools are ready for children.' In the past year, Community Link's Early Head Start program revised their agency wide school readiness goals with input from parents, Parent Educators, and Policy Council members. The newly chosen school readiness goals were influenced from the Illinois Learning Standards and then aligned with the assessment tool Teaching Strategies Gold to determine the corresponding objectives and dimensions to ensure accurate data collection. The program has collected several months' worth of data and has been able to focus professional development topics and lesson plans to help bridge the gap on the area of most need for the enrolled children. ❖

English as a Second Language class offered...

Community Link was awarded a grant from the Daughters of Charity Foundation to organize and facilitate an English as a Second Language class. The Community Link ESL program addresses the three primary barriers to the successful completion of this training for area Hispanic families: mode of transportation, fuel cost, and childcare. To promote early literacy, the participants are encouraged to read a children's book to their child during a portion of the class. Comments from the participants of the first session include "I'm very grateful for this opportunity to learn English" and "I liked that I could take the kids." ❖



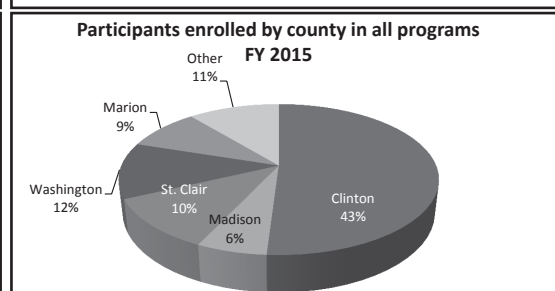
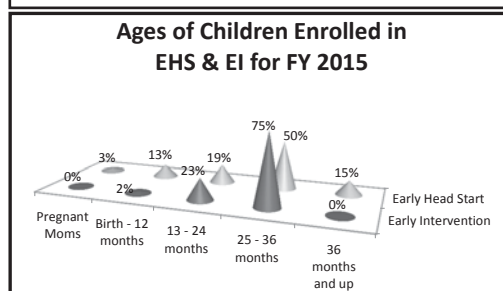
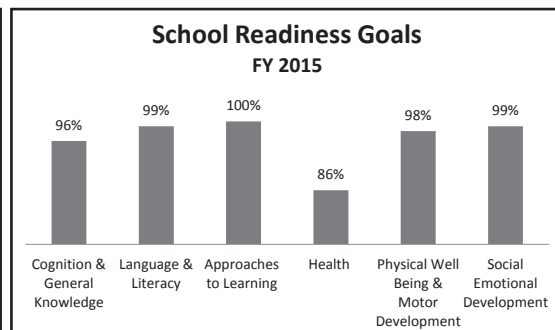
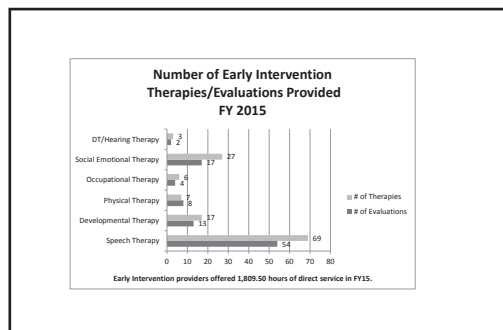
The Early Head Start Program of Community Link's First Step program offers socializations in diverse cultures throughout the year.



The First Step program is fortunate to have many volunteers throughout the year to assist with socializations, home visits, and general office duties.



Twice a year, the First Step program offers a dental clinic where a mobile dentist crew cleans and provides dental screenings for children.



Community Living Program, New Beginnings...

There is a saying that every cloud has a silver lining. For Kenny Jansen, his cloud was the loss of both parents within a span of 5 weeks. While this was a horrible family tragedy, it was even more so for Kenny as he was not able to continue to live in his home; the one he and his parents shared for his lifetime.

Here comes Kenny's silver lining; Beth Hake, Community Link Program Manager. Beth spoke with Kenny and his family regarding his immediate and future needs. She helped them set a meeting with Southern Illinois Case Coordination Services to secure emergency supports. With the help of his sisters and Community Link staff, Kenny had two choices for a new home. He could move to a home in Breese; his hometown or move to Germantown; a town nearby.

Kenny visited the home in Breese. He had dinner with the people in the home and spent some leisure time with them. While the home was nice and the people welcoming, he and his sisters did not think it was quite the best fit for Kenny.

Kenny visited the home in Germantown. Kenny knew some of the people in the home as co-workers and long-time friends. Kenny would be able to have his own room which was very important to him and his sisters. In a "New York Minute" his room was painted a Mater Dei blue, walls were decorated with pictures of family and friends, his desk was full of writing materials; he moved in and joined the Germantown CILA family.

Kenny is happy in his new home. He was happy to give a tour of his room which is totally about him - from the Mater Dei girls track picture on his wall to the wrestling belt on his dresser. He is close to family who come to visit and take him to his favorite places. While Kenny continues to grieve for the loss of his parents, he also has new opportunities on his horizon. ❖

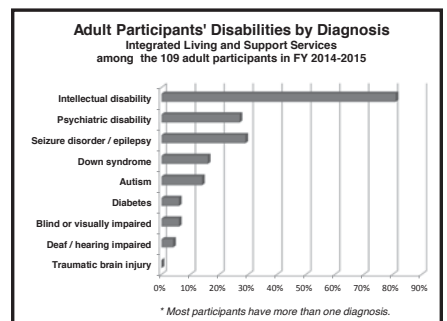
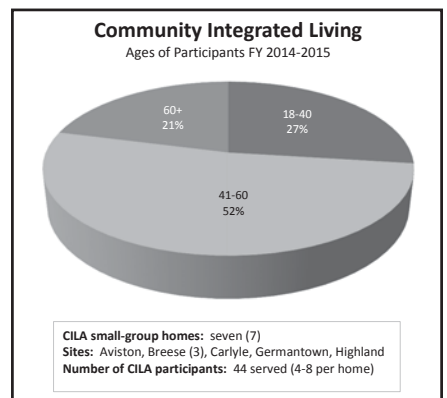
CLP Vacation Opportunity

The participants in the Community Living Program (CLP) traveled to Branson, MO this past summer for their annual vacation. Each year, they are given an opportunity to save their money and enjoy a fun-filled vacation. This year was no exception. They filled their vacation days with shows, miniature golf, go-kart racing, swimming, and they toured the Titanic Museum. ❖



Above - Kenny showing off some of his favorite things

Left - Kenny, comfortable in his new home.



Community Inclusion...

Community Link is striving for community integration, acceptance, and opportunities for independence for our participants. We are concentrating on providing participants with more choices, greater independence and chances for advocating for themselves. The Adult Day Program has created two small groups of participants that take daily trips in the community to provide more opportunities for independence, inclusion and acceptance. The group in Breese has named themselves The Enlighteners, and the group in Fairview Heights has named themselves New Directions. One project that has been great for The Enlighteners has been their volunteer work with Meals on Wheels. The group enjoys bringing meals to senior citizens in their community, and they have developed strong and meaningful friendships with these individuals. The New Directions Group has been taking the opportunity to learn more about their community and get involved with different groups. We are looking forward to seeing all of the great things that these groups will do! ❖



Living a Healthy Lifestyle...

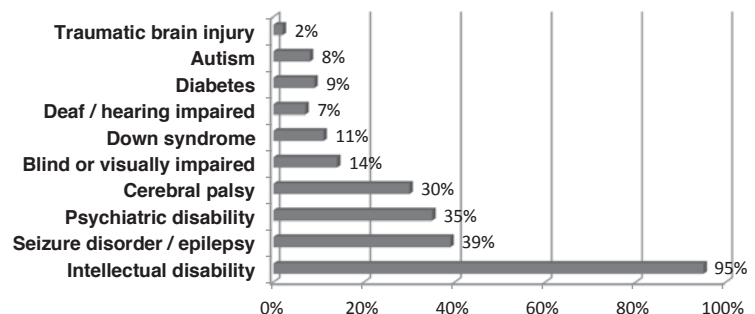


The Wellness Committee would like to recognize some of our participants for embracing a healthy lifestyle by exercising and setting goals!

Hanna walks every day for exercise using her special walker; Kathy exercises using hand weights because she wants to regain strength in her arms; Mary Jo exercises using the pulley weights.

These are examples of how adding exercise to your routine can bring you one step closer to a healthier you! ❖

Adult participants' disabilities by condition
among the 332 adults supported in FY 2014-2015



* Most participants have more than one diagnosis.

Total Adult Day participants, past year: 332

Total days of service provided, past year: 244

Total hours of day services provided, past year: 355,025

New job opportunity for participants...

Participants of Community Link have had the opportunity to work on a new contract for The Republic of Tea this past year. The Republic of Tea is based in Novato, CA and has its major production facility in Nashville, IL. They blend and market organic and exotic teas from around the world. Our participants have enjoyed this new opportunity, and look forward to a continued relationship with this great company. In addition to providing work opportunities for our participants, they have sponsored two of our fundraisers and employees from the Nashville location regularly come to volunteer at Community Link. We truly value the work experience contracts like this provides to our participants. ❖



Community Link participants enjoy a tea party to celebrate the relationship with Republic of Tea.

Recycling Fiscal Year Recap

Community Link continues to encourage Clinton County households and businesses to “Go Green.” This past year Community Link processed over 640 ton of material. Community Link offers curbside services for Breese residents and business services throughout Clinton County. A full-service drop off center is located at the main facility in Breese, and drop off centers are located in Beckemeyer, Damiansville, and Germantown for residents of those towns. ❖



In appreciation for our current employers and we welcome new



Basler Electric
Highland



Eaton's Cooper B-Line
Highland & Troy



Highland Recycling & Shredding
Highland



Jim's Formal Wear
Trenton



National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows
Belleville



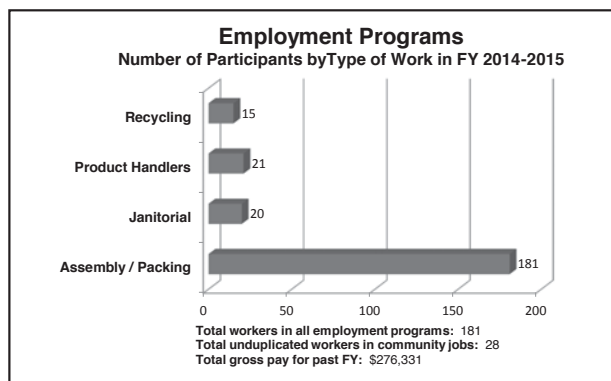
The Republic of Tea
Nashville

With gratitude to our supported employment sponsors

Casey's General Stores, Breese
Hansen Foods, Inc., dba Hardee's, Breese

We're pleased to provide janitorial services for

Community Link, East Building, West Building & First Step
Germantown Public Library
Clinton “Marc” Smith, D.C., Breese
Special Olympics Illinois, Highland
Schuette's SuperValu Market, Breese & Carlyle



The recycling program provided the following:

- 550 households with curbside services
- 51 businesses with pickup services
- 9 part-time employment opportunities for individuals with development disabilities
- 2 part-time drivers



FY 2014-2015 DONOR ROLL

With Gratitude

This Donor Roll honors the funders, businesses, organizations and individuals who have made it possible for the Agency to serve nearly 550 individuals and their families on an ongoing basis (and hundreds more with occasional services) during the 12 months ended June 30, 2015. In an era of diminished government funding, our not-for-profit charitable organization increasingly relies on community support. To each of you, we are grateful for your generous support. To those who have asked to be listed as anonymous, please know that your giving is much appreciated. To those we may have inadvertently omitted, we offer our sincerest apologies, ask your understanding, and invite you to let us know about the omission, so we may adjust our records and recognize your contribution. Thank you again for transforming disabilities into possibilities! ❖

IN APPRECIATION OF OUR DONORS

July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

FEDERAL/STATE GRANTS

Early Head Start Continuation Grant

Title XX Early Intervention / Regular Work

CONSOLIDATED CAMPAIGN FUNDING

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)

United Way of Greater St. Louis (allocation)

FOUNDATION GRANTS

AT&T Foundation

Daughters of Charity

Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis

Junior Service Club of St. Clair County

Payless Gives

Special Needs Foundation for Community Link

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS

St. Clair County 708 Mental Health Board

(art therapy program)

*Please share the information below
with family and friends ...*

**FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES
may designate a payroll-deduct or 1-time gift to**



by using

Code #83161 on the
Combined Federal Campaign Pledge Card



**STATE OF ILLINOIS
EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES
may designate a payroll-deduct or 1-time gift to**



by using

Code #195-035
on their State and University
Employees Combined Appeal Card.



BUDDY WALK

SPONSORS

100 Percent Wine
Aviston Countryside Manor
Azar Orthodontics
Robke's Auto Body
Brent Bergheger Chrysler-Dodge
Anothony and Donna Budde
Caring First
Catholic Holy Family Society
Council #7
CC Food Marts
Cecil Management Group, Inc
Clinton County Electric
Cooperative, Inc.
Comprehensive Care Pharmacy
Cook Tractor Co.
Copper Bend Pharmacy
Coventry Health Care
Dairy King
Equity Fifty-Five
FCB New Baden Bank
Prudential Financial
First Bank – Breese
First Bank - O'Fallon
First National Bank in Carlyle &
Aviston
Foppe Insurance Agency
Germantown Trust & Savings
Bank
Kelli Gilbert
Gozia Law Firm, LLC
Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C.
Henken Storage
Jansen Chevrolet
Jim's Formal Wear
Jodie's Daycare, Inc
K & J Chevrolet, Inc.
Klein's Brand Source TV &
Appliances
Wes Monken
Peerless-Premier Appliance Co
Poettker Construction Co.
Right from the Start Pediatrics
Southern OB/GYN Associates
Steamfitter's Local 439
The Republic of Tea
Well Adjusted Chiropractic
Angie Zahn

OTHER BUSINESS

DONATIONS

(excluding Golf Scramble Sponsors,
recognized in ad on the right)

Aviston Lumber Co.
Benhoff Insurance Agency
Clinton County Electric

Cooperative, Inc.
Dairy King
Faust Automotive & Tires, Inc
First Bank – Breese
First National Bank in Carlyle &
Aviston
Hardee's Breese & Carlyle
Imming Insurance Agency
K & J Chevrolet, Inc
Knotty Pine Inn & Motel
Luebbers Welding & Mfg., Inc.
M & E Auto Body
Marble Systems Store LLC
Mathis, Marifian & Richter, Ltd.
Sandy's Hair Design
Schmidt Organs & Custom
Woodworking
Southern Bus & Mobility
TAASK Financial Group, Inc.
WSI Vending

EMPLOYERS

MATCHING GIFTS

Macy's
Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals
Shell Oil Co. Foundation

EMPLOYEE GIVING CAMPAIGN

AT&T from

- Anonymous
- Ronald & Leigh Ann Arentsen
- Kristie Buller
- Debra Dumstroff
- James & Colleen Kuhl
- Rob Haag
- Mark & Becky Hitpas
- Jeff & Renee Kehrler
- Jason & Regan Lampe

Bank of America from

- Anonymous
- Kurt & Suzanne Muehlher
- Jeremy & Laurie Hemker

Bellevue Pharmacy Employees

Citigroup from

- Cindy Holtgrewe

Macy's from

- Anonymous

United Way of Greater

Kansas City from

- Wayne & Amy Kruse

United Way of

Greenville County from

- Deborah Kleiboeker



PRESENTING SPONSOR



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



Anthony and Donna Budde

PARTICIPANT TEAM SPONSOR

First National Bank • Bob Ricker

HOLE SPONSORS

A&D Electrical Supply
ApexNetwork Physical Therapy
Bestway Equipment, Inc.
Bradford National Bank, Highland
The Brady Family
Breese Dental Care
Breese Motor Sales
DCA Construction
Foppe Ace Hardware
Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C.
Highland Recycling and Shredding
Jansen Chevrolet
Krehbiel & Associates, LLC
Lillians Boutique
Moss Funeral Home
NACO Printing and Advertising
Quad-County Ready Mix Corp.
Royal Office Products
Schuette's Market
Scott Credit Union
Tech Electronics
Toennies Service Co.
Wilke Truck Service
Wilke Window and Door, Inc.

Gifts In Kind & Other Donors: Jerry and Marian Albers, All Saints Academy, Aviston Lumber Co., Breese Dental Care, Breese Journal and Publishing, Centure Bank, Clinton County Farm Bureau, Foppe Amoco, Good Ole' Plantland, Jerry's Landscaping and Nursery, Knights of Columbus Niemeyer Agency, Severin Loeper, Mioux Florist and Greenhouse, Pizza Hut– Carlyle, Pizza Market, Raging Rivers, Kurt Schenk, Sharon Shwartz, St. Joseph Hospital, Quill Office Supplies, Taylor Made Signs, The Magic House, The Orchards Golf Course, Walgreens– Highland, Wal-Mart– Highland

Thanks to all the golfers and team sponsors!

Community Link is a proud member of
United Way of Greater St. Louis





Volunteers assisted at a summer fun day for the participants at the West building.



Jennifer helped the First step staff during a playgroup. The kids loved interacting with her.



First Step received a donation of towels, sunglasses, totes, hats, swim diapers, and sunscreen from HSHS St. Joseph-Breese and Mater Dei High School.

Wells Fargo from

- Robert and Janice Albers
- Teresa Haar
- Helen Heimann
- Gary Kloeckner
- Ken Powless

THIRD-PARTY FUNDRAISERS

- Clinton County Licensed Beverage Association – Christmas For Kids
- Clinton County Parrot Head Club – Spring Phling

ORGANIZATIONAL GIFTS

- All Saints Academy
- Allen Korte Special Needs Trust
- Beichel Family Charitable Fund
- Breese Chamber of Commerce
- Carlyle Healthcare Center
- Catholic Holy Family Society Council #28
- CCAR
- Faith Baptist Church
- Junior Service Club of St. Clair County
- Knights of Columbus
 - Albers Council #9768
 - Aviston Council #11110
 - Breese Council #2869
 - Carlyle Council #1382
 - Highland Council #1580
 - Trenton Council
- Lions Club
 - Breese
- Quail Restoration Association of Illinois
- Schwab Charitable Fund
- Special Needs Foundation for Community Link
- St. Felicitas Church Altar Sodality
- St. Monica's CCW
- VFW Auxiliary Post #3523

IN MEMORY OF ...

Adam Nettles from

- Anonymous
- Hank & Melissa Hull
- Brenda Kassen
- Phil & Diane Krydynski

Jerald & Coleen Schroeder
Joan Theising

Alvin Hacker from

- Barb Von Alst
- James Broniec
- Anna Belle Dixon
- Brenda Dumstorff
- Peter & Pat Ofstedal
- Steve & Deb Schomaker
- William and Donna Simonton
- Bernard & Rita Winkeler

Anna K. Reising from

- Deveron Reising
- Village of Hamel
- Susan Gusewelle
- Denny Greenwood
- Tory Gusewelle
- Gloria Hemken
- Carla Ann Schuetz
- Richard & Michelle & Family
- Kevin & Jeannie Hemken Family
- Earl & Doris Klenke
- Martha Klenke
- Roger & Lori Klenke
- Eric Reising
- Mike, Lori & Family
- Mark Reising & Girls
- Ruth Steinmann
- Gary Thiems
- Frank & Sheryl Vazzi
- Auggie Fehrmann from Mary Ann Jansen

Benedict Manfucci from

- Anonymous
- Virginia Berry
- Bill & Janice Bogdanoff
- Lois Brasel
- Dennis & Nancy Brown
- Donald & Melinda Hustedde
- Dan & Carol Imming
- Roger & Melinda Kunkel
- Allen & Deb Lyons
- Doris Lyons
- Anthony & Sandra Manfucci
- Chris & Carol Manfucci
- Jean Martin
- Edward & Margie McQuade
- Frederick & Linda Meyer
- Susie Mitchell
- Kent & Anita Newkirk
- Rick & Jean Parson
- Kenneth & Ruth Spurlin
- Dolor & Gayla Voss

Bob Usselmann from
Sandy Harris

Christine Holtgrave from

- Vern & Terry Eversgerd
- William & Denise Poppe
- Jean Holtgrave
- Gary & Charlotte Isaak
- Mary Laurent
- Dorothy Marti
- Martie & Dewey Noles
- Jim & Judy Poettker
- Marcia Potthast
- Theresa Rehkemper
- Virgil & Carolyn Rehkemper
- James & Carol Wolters
- Frank & Barb Zaloga
- Ronald Zobrist

Dan Renschen from

- Janice Berkbuegler
- Mike & Michelle Dapkus
- Darla & Larry Deiters
- Rick & Barbara Gerstner
- John & Karen Holcomb
- Sandy Koch
- Mike & Barb Koetting
- Doug & Jane Nelson
- Sondra O'Hara
- Renschen Family
- Marilyn Taylor
- Nancy Taylo
- Diane Von Bokel

Erin Powers from

- Mark & Evonne Albert
- Walker & Tammy Barnes
- Randy & Rose Battas
- Rose Boyles
- Paula Brandkamp
- Jacqueline Buhl
- James & Julie Canning
- Delta Theta Tau Sorority
- Larry & Mary Kay Fox
- Denise Gale
- Lisa Guthrie
- Dennis & Kimberly Haas
- New Athens Retired Teachers & Staff
- Christopher & Patricia Lindauer
- Gil & Judy Litteken
- Marvin & Lillian Litteken
- Justin & Julie Majzel
- Robert & Irma McConnell
- Keith & Diana Reuss
- Jeremy & Lacey Schmersahl
- Curtis & Rose Marie Stewart

Ronald Zobrist

Frances Winkeler from
Andrew Winkeler

Greg Hemann from
Barb Von Alst

Jean Trampe from
Amy Lynn Becker
Shirley and Dennis Bellm
Daniel & Mardel Braun
Valentine and Theresa
Buchmiller
Michael and Bonita
Capelle
Mary Case
Carolyn Enboden
Willene Fehrmann
Mike and Jean Gilomen
John and Shirley
Holdener
Brian and Kelly Holtgrave
Gregory and Kristina
Jeckstadt
John & Mary Kampwerth
Roy & Leona Marti
Arnie and Jeanne Meyer
Emil and Linda Nehrt
David & Brenda
Niedzwiecki
Frank and Robin Padak
Jane Rottmann
Jerry Rottmann
James & Lynn Schmidt
Art and Darlene
Timmermann
Philip and Phyllis
Weatherspoon
Joan Willis
Butch & Pat Zobrist

Jerry Jansen from
Robert & Wanda
Fangmeyer
National Active and
Retired FE
Jim & Rosemary Hellige
Charles & Amber Mifflin
Mike & Donna
Nettemeier

Jim Dulle from
Matt and Denise Biekert
Richard and Lucy Ann
Blaes
Brian & Diana Dulle
Marilyn Dulle
Maurice and Karen Dulle

Stanley and Judith Dulle
Frank and JoAnn
Eilermann
Ralph & Mary Eilermann
Eileen Peters

John Von Alst from
Barb Von Alst
Donna Basler
Bruce & Cindy Benhoff
Janet Bone
Breese Motor Sales, Inc
Mary Kay Chawgo
Helen Essenpreis
Darlene Fields
William & Denise Foppe
Rick & Barbara Gerstner
Duane & Carol
Grapperhaus
Mike & Sandy Hemann
Carson Hempen
Herb & Carol Hustedde
Deb & Ken Keilbach
Richard & Sharon Kloos
The Lampe Family
Foundation
Severin Loepker
Steven & Patti Mahlandt
Tim & Vicki Moylan
Elsie Niemeyer
Mary Beth Ofstedal
Howard & Marilou Rakers
Kurt & Lynn Ripperda
Steve & Mary Usselmann
Jean Weber

John Wempe from
Mark & Deb Stratmann

Johnny Feigl from
Elaine Vosholler

Leona Bango from
Jim & Eileen Boeckmann

Martha Jansen from
D & C Antonacci
Donald & Sherry Bade
Robert & Mary Berndsen
Paul & Jean Buttice
Robert & Carol Clasquin
Robert & Wanda
Fangmeyer
Janice Gebke
Dan & Carol Heggemeier
Eugene & Marita Hilmes
Dan & Jo Ann Hopcus
Tom & Jan Hustedde
Jane Jansen

Jerome Jansen
Joe & Renee Kalmer
Jason & Reagan Lampe
Charles & Amber Mifflin
Monsanto Fund
Ben & Melissa Poletti
Steven & Marilyn Schmidt
William & Deborah
Schrempp
Rachel Simon
Rachel Simon General
Campaign Tribute
Gilbert & Patricia
Vollmer
Dennis & Susan Wagner
Marc Whitney

Penny Kapp from
Tom and Brenda Brede
Larry & Linda Davis
B Hundsdorfer
Tom and Lynn Koch
Ron and Cheryl Mueller
June Neier
Stanley and Eileen
Schwend
Carolyn Sitzes
David and Lesley Stock
Verna Stock
Charles and Beverly
Strackeljohn
Betty Tschannen
Carole Voudrie
Bradley and Ellen Wellen
Jan Wellen
Lois Wellen

Roger Swierjohn from
Gerald & Paula
Rehkemper

Sean Stookey from
David & Peggy Berger
Jerry & Susan Bolen
Aimee-Michelle Gower
Scott & Beth Jacob
Robert & Carrie Naylor
Guillermo & Ramona
Rodriguez

Terry Gerstener from
Anna M. Duing
William & Denise Foppe
Rick & Barbara Gerstner
Edwin and Cheryl
Haselhorst
Susan Jones
Steven and Marilyn
Lemons



Community Link, in collaboration with the Clinton County Humane Society, had their annual Easter Treat Hunt for dogs. The participants made and hid the dog treats around the East building.



Jan Rittenhouse, Jeanette Johnson, and Kathie Heimann are all long-time monthly volunteers as members of Community Link's Behavior Management Committee. This committee is very important to continue to provide quality services for our participants.



Meghan Gilbert had a birthday party and asked her friends to donate an item to the participants of Community Link instead of bringing a birthday gift for her. They donated toiletry items for the participants that live in our CILA homes and also puzzles, books, and games for the kids in our First Step Children's programs.



Rachel Poettker, Parent Educator/Health Services Assistant, and Crystal Ulmer of the U of I extension Center collaborated to host another nutritional training on how to build strong bones.



Samantha and Hanna enjoy some rare downtime in production having fun with friends.



Pumpkin Patch fun! Community Link's First Step Early Learning Family Support Program had an outing at Country Kids Pumpkin Patch in Hoyleton, IL.

Ralph & Yvonne Stone
Timmermann Milk
Service, Inc.

Virgil Hollenkamp from
Jim & Eileen Boeckmann

Walter Rakers from
Anonymous
Joe & Nancy Heimann
Johanna Heimann

TRIBUTES TO ...

Bev Brandkamp from
Schwab Charitable Fund

Thomas Burke from
Mary Sereno

Mary Jo Krebs from
Julius & Kathy Holthaus

Brad Ratermann from
Dave & Connie Tebbe

FAMILY FOUNDATION & INDIVIDUAL GIFTS

A
Warren & Jane Adams
Charles & Diane Albers
Dennis & Sandy Albers
Donald & Claudia Albers
Michael & GERALYN
Albers
Barb Von Alst
Mike Amann
Diane Ambuehl
William Anderson
Jason & Katie Anselment
Anthony & Deb
Antonacci
Robert Astroth
David & Marilyn Athmer
Ann Austin
Kathy Austin

B
Hazel Baker
Bill & Mary Baldwin
Richard & Lillian
Baldwin
Nicole Baquet
Vincent & Connie
Barciszewski

Fred & Carol
Bartelsmeyer
Brad & Krescene Beck
Jeffrey & Aggie Becker
Ryan & Karen
Beckmann
Michael & Michelle Beer
Carl & Paula Beichel
Jeanette Benhoff
Christine Bening
Francis & Helen Billhartz
Mark & Lynn Billhartz
Brian & Julie Boeckman
Roger E. & Dot
Boeckman
Gerard & Patricia
Boeckmann
Jim & Eileen Boeckmann
David & Amy Boggs
Jerry & Susan Bolen
Neil & Jeannie Boulanger
Bob Brandkamp
Paula Brandkamp
Dan & Mardel Braun
The Brennan Family
Blanche Brueggemann
Harry & Cathie Buller
Tim & Amy Buller
James & Mary Burns
Mike & Marilyn Buscher

C
Richard & Dorcas Cecil
John Cederlund
Mary Kay Chawgo
Linda Christy
Odessa Clark
James & Lisa Clatterbuck
John Comerio
Jennifer Cox

D
Richard & Carolyn
Davenport
Larry & Linda Davis
Nancy Day
Philip & Joyce Detmer
Tom & Maribeth Detmer
Robert & Martha
Diekemper
Anna Belle Dixon
Alvina Donnewald
Deborah Donovan
Jane & David Doyle
Agnes Dumstorff
Marilyn Duncan

E
Wilbur & Mary Edds
Chris Enboden
Chris Enboden
Dale Engelmann
Paula Essenpreis
Stan & Mary Essenpreis
Skip & Shirley Etter
Tommy Evans

F
Dennis Winkeler &
Elaine
Norb Feltrop
Adam & Jamie Fields
Gwen Fischer
James & Theresa Flood
Edward & Joan Foppe
Roger & Margaret Foppe
Dick & Pat Frerker
Leon Fuehne
Paul & Julie Fuehne
Ron & Sue Fuehne
Portia Fullgrave

G
Lori Garcia
Carolyn Gardner
Chris Gebke
Mark & Phyllis Gebke
Curt Gentry
Harold & Christina
Gentz
Craig & Laraine George
Bob & Lisa Gerner
Rick & Barbara Gerstner
Ruth Gerstner
Daniel & Dixie Glaub
Robert & Agnes Glaub
Pauline Glenn
William & Eileen
Goldman
Dr. Penny Gozia
Mattie Graham
Thomas & Mary
Granneman
Dave & Diane
Grapperhaus
Elaine Grapperhaus
Mary Grapperhaus
Debra Gray
Betty L. Gross
Paul & Margo Gunsser

H
Richard & Marcie Hacker
Jeff & Jennifer Haidu

Diana Hamilton
 Ann & Barry Hampel
 Gerald Harris
 Sandy Harris
 Terry & Mary Harris
 Jim Haskins
 Rosemary Hatton
 Diane Heagney
 Bernard & Marilyn
 Heimann
 Helen Heimann
 Jim & Kathie Heimann
 Joe & Nancy Heimann
 Johanna Heimann
 Glen & Judy Hemker
 Joe & Carol Hemker
 Dale Hempfen
 Arthur & Sylvia Henken
 Dennis & Barbara
 Henken
 Norm Herzing
 Amy & Michael Hill
 Jan Hincapie
 Bob & Kathy Hitpas
 Daniel Hitpas
 Patrick & Carol Hitpas
 Marvin & Jane
 Hollenkamp
 Jean Holtgrave
 Julius & Kathy Holthaus
 Vernetta & Jerry Homann
 Alan Howard
 Diane Hoyt
 Carl & Geri Huels
 John & Kim Huelskamp
 Janet Huelsmann
 Mike & Lynne
 Huelsmann
 Herb & Carol Hustedde
 Tom & Jan Hustedde

I
 Linda Iaun
 Gerald & Mary Innes
 Douglas & Julie Isaak

J
 Terry Jackson
 Robert & Janet Jacob
 Dale Jakel
 Carl & Margaret Jakel
 Alfred Jansen
 Amber Jansen
 Jason & Sara Jansen
 Jerry & Martha Jansen
 Lawrence B. Jansen
 Mark & Donna Johnson

Marty & Kristi Johnson
 Steve & Linda Johnson
 Gary & Denise Johnston

K
 Jane Kaiser
 Stanley Kalmer
 John & Mary Kampwerth
 Paula & Scott Kampwerth
 Thomas & Celia Kannall
 Ken & Kim Karbach
 James Kaulig
 Deb & Ken Keilbach
 Dan Ketterer
 Diana Keys
 Isaac Kim
 Fred & Fran Kinzinger
 Ed & Jean Kleber, Jr.
 Del & Gerry Kloeckner
 Roman Kloeckner
 Brian & Ann
 Klostermann
 Karl & Kelly Klostermann
 Linus & Susan
 Klostermann
 Norb & Jane
 Klostermann
 Ruth Koblenz
 Dave & Debora Kohnen
 Matt & Jolene Kohnen
 Melissa Kohnen
 Paul & Deb Kohnen
 Ryan & Shelly Kohrmann
 Richard & Barbara
 Koopmann
 Edwin & Sandra Korte
 Mark Korte
 Ralph & Donna Korte
 Thomas & Marian Korte
 Richard Krajcovic
 John & Barb Krebs
 Norman Kropp
 Glen & GERALYN Kruep
 James & Kim Kueper
 Wilfred & Edna Kueper
 Charles & Bonnie Kunkel

L
 Rachel Laier
 Marietta Lamberson
 Leo & Barb Lammers
 James & Mary Lampe
 Karen Lampe
 Mark Lampert
 Kevin Landmann
 Ralph & Ruth Ann
 Langhauser

Michelle & Joshua
 Leckrone
 Angie Leonetti
 Debra Linder
 Andrea Linders
 John & Mary Linders
 Allan & Carla Litteken
 Michael & Diana Loehr
 Rick & Amanda Loepker
 Severin Loepker
 Donald & Kathleen
 Lohman
 Wayne & Sandy Lohman
 Claudia Lowry
 Ron & Dana Luebbers
 Keith & Andrea Lueking

M
 Linda Majchrzak
 Anthony & Debra
 Maniscalli
 Kirk & Angela Markuly
 Linda Marti
 Roy & Leona Marti
 Tim Marti
 Bob & Lynn Maue
 Don & Theresa McCall
 Jerry & Marylin McDevitt
 Timothy Mensing
 Ken Meyer
 Mary Ann Meyer
 Patty Middleton
 Ray & Joyce Miller
 Edwin Mills
 Jon & GERALYN Minton
 Wes Monken
 Alex & Theresa Morrison
 Joe & Ann Munie
 Bertha Murphy
 Peter & Deb Murphy

N
 Harry & Darleen Nelson
 Rick & Barbara Nelson
 Eric & Deb Nettles
 Edward & Pat Niemann
 Angi Niemeyer
 Brad & Amy Niemeyer
 Elsie Niemeyer
 Pat & Esther Norrenberns

O
 Ann Olliges
 Don & Kay Ostrom
 Norbert & Dolores
 Ottensmeier



The Community Link Enlighteners visited with some local veterans at Legacy Place in Breese. They made them gifts and cards to show their appreciation for their service.



Community Link Enlighteners were treated to lunch by an anonymous donor! The group decided they wanted lunch from McDonald's and brought it back to Community Link to eat.



Participants at the Community Link Fairview Heights Metro site enjoy their opportunity to participate in art therapy.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2015 Community Link Lotto!

Mike and Dave picked the winning tickets.

Thank you to all who participated!

1st prize-\$1,000: Jenny Wienker

2nd prize-\$400: Donna Gruenenfelder

3rd prize-\$100: Brock Wilken



P

Brian & Maureen Papa
 Deb Pascal
 Tim & Leslie Pedtke
 Shelly Peipert
 Betty Pendleton
 Park & Nancy Penwell
 Kurt Peters
 Michael & Barb Plocher
 Sandra Plocher
 Kelly & Dennis Pollmann
 Regina Pollmann
 Bruce Prediger
 James & Catherine Prediger

R

Robert & Pat Range
 Gina Ratermann
 Henry & Verna Ratermann
 Rick & Rita Ratermann
 Rodney & Katie Ratermann
 Don Reeves
 Francis & Rose Marie Rehkemper
 Gerald & Paula Rehkemper
 Joanie Richter
 Terry & Connie Rickhoff
 Ron & Mary Ripperda
 Betty Robben
 Craig Robke
 Gene & Martha Robke
 Kevin & Nancy Robke
 Katharine Rogers
 Edward & Donna Rolfingsmeyer

S

Shannon Sartain
 Michele Sauerwein
 Thomas Schilling
 Don & Joyce Schmidt
 James & Lynn Schmidt
 Kristin Schmidt
 Maureen Schmitz
 Jerome & Jane Schniers
 Allan & Marilyn Schorfheide
 Dorothy Schrage
 Judy Schrage
 Raymond & Romy Schrage
 Elizabeth Schroeder

Martin & Karen Schumacher
 Schwab Charitable Fund
 Mary Jo Schwarz
 Mark & Karen Senger
 Virginia Sexton
 Cheryl Smith
 Larry & Marie Smothers
 Dale Snyder
 Special Needs Foundation for Community Link
 Chase Steinmann
 Mark & Kelsey Stewart
 Larry & Kathryn Stout
 Joe & Trudy Strieker
 Amy Strubhart
 Dale Strubhart
 Rick & Lisa Strubhart

T

William & Doris Tadlock
 Paul & Dolores Talleur
 Jeff & Raina Taylor
 Jim Taylor
 Leroy Taylor
 Dave & Connie Tebbe
 Virgil & Sue Tebbe
 Joan Theising
 Kenneth & Diane Thole
 Ralph Thole
 Patrick & Amy Tighe
 Brian & Nina Timmermann
 Charles Timmermann
 Cindy Timmermann
 Madelyn Timmermann
 Maurice & Kathryn Timmermann
 Timothy Timmermann
 William Timmermann
 Dennis & Pat Toennies
 Wayne & Angela Toennies
 Wayne & Jean Trampe
 Susan Triphahn
 Cecelia Tschannen
 Brian Tucker
 Patricia Tucker

U

Steve & Mary Usselmann

V

Christine Van Sickle
 Al & Geri Varel
 Brad & Becca Varel
 Ronald & Kathy Venhaus

Betty Von Bokel
 Diane Von Bokel
 Dolores Von Bokel
 Denise Vonder Haar
 Curtis & Charlotte Voss
 David & Judy Voss
 Jerome & Pat Voss

W

Meredith Watt
 Robert & Hillary Watts
 Curt & Diane Weh
 Kirk & Angela Weidner
 Larry & Mary Wellen
 Dorothy Wellinghoff
 Duane Welsh
 Bernard Wempe
 Brian & Kristen Wheeler
 Dennis & Genie White
 Maria Jesusa Wiegman
 Marvin & Tina Wiegman
 Connie & Ron Wiegmann
 Junilla Wieter
 Herbert & Darlene Wilhelm
 Donna M. Willett
 Paula Williams
 Julie Willmann
 John Wilson
 Alan Winkeler
 Andrew Winkeler
 Gary & Diane Winkeler
 Lisa Winkeler
 Marietta Winkeler
 Wayne & Janice Winkeler
 Brian & Amy Wuebbels

Z

Angie Zahn
 Frank & Barb Zaloga
 John & Elizabeth Zeller

INDIVIDUAL GIFTS – CURBSIDE RECYCLING

Darla & Larry Deiters
 Philip & Joyce Detmer
 Alison Dierkes
 Klein's Brand Source TV & Appliances
 Rehkemper & Son, Inc.

IN-KIND GIFTS OF GOODS

(excluding Golf Scramble
sponsors, recognized in ad)

from Businesses

Carlyle IGA
CC Food Marts
Dairy King
Excel Bottling Co.
Family Video
Hardee's Breese & Carlyle
Imming Insurance Agency
K & J Chevrolet, Inc.
Klein's Brand Source TV
& Appliances
Prairie Farms Dairy
Rehkemper & Son, Inc.
Tom's Cleaners

from Organizations/ Gov't.

Breese Junior Women's
Club
Carlyle Christian Church
CC Parrot Head Club
CCAR
Girl Scouts of Southern
Illinois
St. Anthony Catholic
Church
St. Bernard Catholic
Church
St. Paul Catholic Church
The Munny
Trenton Tumbleweeds
Garden Club

from Individuals

Donald & Claudia Albers
Sue & Karrie Brown
Mark & Theresa Davis
Renae Donohoo
Sue Frey
Dave Gall
Randy Gehrs
Carol Giger
Terry & Mary Harris
Helen Heimann
Madonna Heldenbrand
Dennis & Barbara Henken
Ron & Helen Henken
Charles & Carla Hilmes

Francis & Florence Hogg
Jean Holtgrave
Ken & Marlene Holtgrave
Robert & Janet Jacob
Kendra Jansen
Opal Jones
Ken & Kim Karbach
Roman Kloeckner
Donald Koch
John & Barb Krebs
Ralph & Marietta Kuhl
Mark & Lora Kuhn
Tim & Vicky Langenhorst
Steve & Margaret Loomis
Senator Kyle McCarter
Rick & Barbara Nelson
Anthony & Mary Rakers
Lisa & Dan Rehkemper
Terry & Joan Riffel
Deborah Rigdon
Mary Seidel
Keith & Patricia Stumpf
Jim Taylor
Tom & Deb Thole
Wayne & Jean Trampe
Cyril & Eleanor Voss

IN-KIND GIFTS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE

from Businesses

Beckmann Construction
Co.
• Cordell Beckmann
Clinton County Electric
Cooperative, Inc.
First Bank – Breese
• Elizabeth Schroeder
• Mary Varel
• Connie Wiegmann
• Geri Wobbe
Highland Recycling &
Shredding
• Luke Harris

from Organizations

Albers Legion Auxiliary
• Cheryl Heimann
• Jennifer Heimann
• Marilyn Heimann
• Shirley Huegen

• Florence Kassen
• Deb Kehrer
• Linda Netemeyer
• Barb Schroeder
Althoff Catholic High
School
• Michael Barnes
CC Parrot Head Club
• Jolene Kohnen
• Matt Kohnen
• Gina Lupachini
• Todd Peppenhorst
• Rhonda Pulver
• Chad Taylor
• Jim Taylor
• Kris Taylor
• Carl Wessling
• Jen Wienker
• Dave Wilton
• Ken Wooden
Delta Theta Tau Sorority
• Kerrie Chappell
• Sara Wright
• Faith Baptist Church
• Neil Detmer
• Jeff Jahnke
Mater Dei Catholic High
School
• Cordell Beckmann
• Conner Black
• Luke Boeckman
• Jacob Deien
• Kelsey Deien
• Morgan Dermody
• Lauren Donnewald
• Katie Faust
• Sarah Faust
• Adam Gall
• Elle Gebke
• Noah Gerdes
• Lindsey Goestenorks
• Rachelle Haake
• Will Harad
• Rachel Harper
• Abby Hellmann
• Joe Hemann
• Emily Hemker
• John Hilmes
• Erica Hitpas
• Nick Hollenkamp
• Collin Holthaus
• Zach Horner



Residents of the Aviston CILA enjoying a day at the zoo.



Staff and participants took advantage of a down time opportunity and started working on planting the garden and flowers.



Robert is a participant at Community Link's DT West Building and is working on improving his computer skills. He enjoys writing his name, playing games on the classroom tablet, and using electronics.

Remembering Our Friends...

Erin Powers

32 of New Baden, formerly of Marissa, IL, passed away on November 14, 2014. Erin participated in the Adult Day Training program at the Breese West site. She was a resident of Clinton Manor Living Center in New Baden, IL.

Joan Cressey

75 of Aviston, IL, passed away on November 22, 2014. Joan participated in the Adult Day Training program at the Breese West site. She was a resident of Aviston Terrace in Aviston, IL.

Esther Seiber

72 of Swansea, formerly of Decatur, IL, passed away on April 11, 2015. Esther participated in the Adult Day Training program at the Fairview Heights Metro site. She was a resident of Specialized Living Center in Swansea, IL.

Linda Worley

57 of Swansea, IL, passed away on April 15, 2015. Linda participated in the Adult Day Training program at the Fairview Heights Metro site. She was a resident of Specialized Living Center in Swansea, IL.

Terry Gerstner

59 of Breese, formerly of Trenton, IL, passed away on May 2, 2015. Terry participated in the Adult Day Training program at the Breese East site. He was a resident of a Community Link CILA home in Breese, IL.

Penny Kapp

67 of Breese, IL, passed away on May 21, 2015. Penny participated in the Adult Day Training program at the Breese West site. She was a resident of Breese Truman Drive Apartments in Breese, IL.

Alvin Hacker

77 of Germantown, formerly of Bartelso, IL, passed away on June 15, 2015. Alvin participated in the Adult Day Training program at the Breese East site. He was a resident of a Community Link CILA home in Germantown, IL.

Mary Downen

35 of New Baden, IL, passed away on October 4, 2015. Mary participated in the Adult Day Training program at the Breese West site. She was a resident of Clinton Manor Living Center in New Baden, IL.

- Hazel Huels
 - Zach Huelskamp
 - Laney Huelsmann
 - Will Kasson
 - Sam Krebs
 - Sophie Kuhl
 - Amber Litteken
 - Taylor Luebbbers
 - Ben Maue
 - Alexandra Norris
 - Nicole Peek
 - Nathan Peltes
 - Nick Pollmann
 - Quintin Potthast
 - Kara Ratermann
 - TJ Rensing
 - Kylee Rongey
 - Sarah Schriewer
 - Hannah Schulte
 - Matt Spears
 - Keegan Spirek
 - Otto Stark
 - Cole Strotheide
 - Cole Trost
 - Jacob Trost
 - MacKenzie Trost
 - Lukas Whitten
 - Samantha Whitten
 - Mitchell Wiegmann
- Mater Dei Catholic High School
- Track Team

from Individuals

- Larry Acord
- Jaclyn Albers
- Mike Bango
- Alyssa Bassler
- Phyllis Berndsen
- Eileen Boeckmann
- Karrie Brown "Karried Away"
- Tony Budde

- Denise Caldwell
- Stephanie Cook
- Lynne Cote
- DeLaine Crossley
- Alan Hagen
- John Feldman
- Thomas Feldman
- Adam Fields
- Jamie Fields
- Lorie Frein
- Brandy Gallagher
- Chris Gebke
- Deb Guest
- Marcie Hacker
- Jessica Hart
- Stacy Hart
- Kevin Heckenkemper
- Johanna Heimann
- Jeremy Hemker
- Laurie Hemker
- Nikki Hemker
- Dennis Henken
- Eric Henken
- Carla Hilmes
- Cierra Hilmes
- Tara Hilmes
- Marla Hilmes
- Nick Hollenkamp
- Heather Holthaus
- Emma Huelskamp
- Karen Huelskamp
- Mark Huelskamp
- Joe Huelsmann
- Steve Huelsmann
- Emma Johnson
- Kristi Johnson
- Kyler Johnson
- Brent Kalmer
- Heather Keene
- Kaylon Keene
- The Keene Family
- Gerry Kloeckner
- Alex Koopmann

- Jennifer Kozan
- Kevin Krebs
- Glen Kruep
- Geralyn Kruep
- Courtney Kuhl
- Jamie LaBelle
- Brennan Lampert
- Ken Laux
- Curtis Leonard
- Kim Lohman
- Rodney Lohman
- Maggie Mensing
- Michael Mensing
- Monica Mensing
- Theresa Morrison
- Bridget Nelson
- Barb Nelson
- Zach Owens
- Maggie Peters
- Sandy Plocher
- Lisa Rehkemper
- Barbara Reinier
- Bob Ricker
- Rachel Rivera
- Eric Robke
- James Rouse
- Sterling Schoen
- Tina Siegler
- Ben Steinmann
- Kathy Steinmann
- Kelsey Stewart
- Coleen Taylor
- Fran Taylor
- Jim Taylor
- Kayla Taylor
- Chris Toennies
- Pat Toennies
- Mike Turner
- Kathy Wempe
- Ann Winkeler
- Joe Winkeler
- Helen Wuebbles
- Angela Zurliene





Community Link is very fortunate to have had the opportunity to collaborate with Vibrant Vida Boutique (formerly Lillians of Lebanon) in Lebanon, IL. Boutique owner, Amanda Oelze, approached Community Link with an offer to donate some clothing to the participants we support. But, instead of just donating the clothing, she wanted to give these women the opportunity to enjoy the boutique experience of being professionally styled. Five lucky participants got to indulge in a shopping spree at the boutique! They were personally styled by Oelze, who then donated the outfits they chose. Along with the generous gift of the beautiful outfits, each participant left with a scarf gifted by the boutique. Oelze commented, "We all love the feeling that a new outfit brings to our day but I wanted to provide these ladies with the boutique experience as well. Dressing, accessorizing and assisting in whatever they need to ensure they feel beautiful when they leave my store." This is a wonderful example of community inclusion, and we are looking forward to continuing this experience for more of our participants.. ❖



Selections From Our Wish List

First Step

- \$10 Walmart gift cards
- \$10 gas gift cards
- New infant & toddler car seats to replace expired
- Crock Pots
- Gardening Supplies
- Educational Toys for children 0-3
- Non-Stick Pots & Pans

Carlisle CILA

- Gas Grill
- Wrought iron patio set w/ chairs
- Bench swing

Highland CILA

- Patio cover or awning
- Patio table umbrella
- New kitchen table & chair set
- 11-16kW Standby Home Generator System with 200A Service Disconnect and AC Shedding

Germantown CILA

- 11-16kW Standby Home

Generator System with 200A Service Disconnect and AC Shedding

Breese 555 CILA

- New Shed
- Patio table with chairs
- New shower installment

CILA Intermittent

- Vacation time condo/cabin use
- Gym memberships for participants
- Cardinal/concert tickets
- New lawn chairs
- Gas gift cards
- Gift cards to local establishments

Production Breese East

- Adult/Child CPR Manikins
- AED
- Fountain for Pond
- Otoscope
- Roof over receiving area
- Automatic opener for side doors in Production

- Rock for pond area

Fairview Heights Metro

- New recliners
- Wrought iron patio set
- Outdoor bench
- iPads or other tablets
- Pots & pans
- Cricut craft cutter & supplies
- Mini basketball hoop

ADP Breese West

- iPads or other tablets
- Electric Stove
- Refrigerator for Senior Room
- Leather/Vinyl Recliners
- Two sets of double steel doors
- Gift Cards for outings
- Large storage cabinet

To see our entire wish list, request a copy from Jamie at (618) 526-3938.

Michell Stockmann of TechKnow Solutions provided two very informative and entertaining classes on Internet Safety for a group of Community Link participants. Social Media is a part of our everyday lives, but can be a dangerous place, especially for a vulnerable population. Michell provided education on safety, privacy, and etiquette for social media sites, with a discussion about choosing friends, appropriate language, sharing information about others, good posts vs. bad posts, and the possible consequences of using Facebook inappropriately. We really appreciate volunteers like this who can share their expertise! ❖

VOLUNTEER...VOLUNTEER...VOLUNTEER...VOLUNTEER

Want to know how to get more involved in your community?



Republic of Tea employees doing some painting



Bob helping the crew in recycling

Community Link has a variety of volunteer opportunities that not only enhance the support our participants receive, but also allow us to keep our support services above par. We want to thank all of you that have already donated hours of service to us, and wanted to extend the invitation to volunteer to many more of you. Volunteers are extremely valuable to our organization and we truly appreciate the gift of your time.

Families, guardians, and friends, I am asking today that you consider becoming a bigger part of our Community Link family. It is a great way to give back and get much closer to our participants and staff of Community Link. With great collaboration from the staff and participants we have created many volunteer opportunities that will make you feel wonderful, while helping our organization at the same time. Some recent opportunities have been; assisting in a “fun day” at the West building, help with large mailings, assisting at the registration table for our golf tournament, providing help with daycare for the children of the adults attending an English as a Second Language class, teaching piano classes, and helping in the recycling program. We currently have 10 different locations that may be close to you. We have a total of 7 CILA (Community Integration Living Arrangements) homes in Breese, Aviston, Highland, Germantown, and Carlyle, and 3 Developmental Training sites in Breese and Fairview Heights (Metro). We would love volunteers at any locations!

Recently, I have been creating an email group that I use when volunteer opportunities occur. I would love to add each and every one of you. Providing your email does not indicate an obligation, I would just like to keep you informed as opportunities occur.

If you are at Community Link for a meeting or for whatever the reason please stop in to say hello. In addition, if you have an interest in becoming a volunteer or want to ask more questions feel free to call my direct line at 618-526-3929 or email me at ChrisG@commlink.org.

Gratefully,
Chris Gebke – *Director of Community Outreach* ❖



Current Volunteer Needs

- **Recycling help on Saturday mornings**
- **Help at First Step special events**
- **Assist with various participant activities at our DT sites in Breese and Metro**

Community Link 9th Annual Buddy Walk & 5 K



Community Link's 9th Annual Buddy Walk & 5K event was held on Saturday, May 2nd, 2015 at Breese Northside Park and was our biggest and most successful Buddy Walk ever! We had over 1,200 registered walkers and runners and were able to raise over \$70,000 for Community Link's programs and services. It was wonderful to see so many people come together to support a great cause and we are excited to see what our 10th Annual Buddy Walk & 5K has in store! The date is set for this event and it is not too early to start gathering your team together to fundraise for your Buddy Walk team!

Save the date for Saturday, May 7th, 2016 at Northside Park in Breese.

The success of the Buddy Walk depends on you taking the time and making the effort to fundraise on Community Link's behalf and helping to raise awareness for this event. We are asking for your help to recruit people to join your team and to attend the event, to solicit for donations for your team, and even to help recruit sponsorships if you know someone that may be interested in giving in this way.

Team captain packets are posted on our website at www.commlink.org/buddywalk and contain ideas to get your team started. You can hold a fundraiser (cosmic bingo, bake sale, Buddy Walk night at a local restaurant, etc.); raffle something off (Cardinal tickets, quilt, 50/50, etc.); have the employees of your business man a booth at the Buddy Walk to sell food; participate as a vendor or crafter in our Craft & Vendor Marketplace; walk in the Buddy Walk; run in the 5K!

Thank you for your participation in past years, and we look forward to the 2016 Buddy Walk! ❖



Ben's Story

It's lunchtime at the Lenzini household, and 3-year-old Ben is ready and doing his happy dance.

His mother, Contessa, sets down the plate in front of him.

"Blue square!" Ben says, pointing to the plate.

"Green," he says, pointing to his fork.

"Red," he chimes again, this time pointing to the ketchup.

Lunchtime wraps up, and Ben grabs some blocks, carefully matching each according to color.

"He does this with everything," Contessa says with a smile. "He knows all his shapes, colors, and alphabet and can count up to 14."

Had someone told Contessa her little boy would be gleefully naming everything in sight today, she would've thought it impossible. Ben has autism, and it wasn't until last year that he even started talking.

At 20 months, Ben was nonverbal, made no eye contact, and had angry and sometimes violent behaviors. Contessa was recognizing these behaviors as signs of autism, but everyone that she turned to told her "he is a typical 2-year-old."

With no family support, and feeling like everyone was against her, Contessa began to think there was no hope for her son. Unwilling to give up, she came looking for answers and help for her son at United Way supported Community Link. Just as Contessa suspected, Ben was diagnosed with autism, and with the help of Community Link's First Step Early Head Start Learning and Family Support Program, she is more determined than ever to make sure her son succeeds and lives a normal life.

Through the program, which provides early, continuous, intensive, and comprehensive child development and family support services, Ben was able to receive the therapy he needed, and at the age of 3 1/2 years, he has improved majorly in all aspects of development.



Things that were once a daily reality for the family are now becoming a distant memory. Ben used to just throw books, but now loves to read. Before, he would simply giggle when you said his name, but he is now able to identify himself. He was unsure of how to play with other children and would use violence as an action of caring, but now is lovable toward everyone and even has a few best friends.

First Step's Parent Educator/Health Services Assistant, Rachel Poettker, met Ben when he joined the program and recalls the struggles they first encountered.

Ben was a challenge when it came to patience and focusing on an activity, which meant "many activities were done at the pace Ben wanted to do them," Rachel said.

But with the help of Contessa, Rachel used a lot of creativity when planning activities. They used flashcards, music, books, role playing and even puppets.

Because of the support and guidance First Step provided, Ben knows that play is a way for him to learn and grow. While Ben still occasionally has anger issues, he is getting much better with using his words and signs. Ben can say two to three word sentences, asks for help to resolve problems and is finally saying "mommy." His vocabulary has exploded.

For a typical 3 1/2-year-old, most of these are developmentally appropriate, but for a child with autism, these are daily challenges that can only be achieved with the patient guidance of family, Early Head Start staff and therapists.

Thanks to the fierce determination of a mother fighting to find the best resources for her child, Ben has shown how intelligent he is and how a label is not going to stop anyone from succeeding in life. Today, Ben is thriving in his local Early Childhood Education Program and Head Start in Centralia, Illinois.

"He's achieved so much, and nothing is going to stop him from achieving more," Contessa said.

Without United Way support, this outcome may not have been possible. United Way funding enables the First Step program to maintain services families rely on for information, support, and guidance to ensure children, like Ben, reach their full potential.

About Community Link's First Step Early Head Start

First Step Early Head Start helps children and families succeed. First Step has an emphasis on high quality services and is dedicated to improving outcomes for children of low income families to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional and psychological needs. Community Link has been a United Way funded agency since 1999.

– Abby Downs

Communications Coordinator
United Way of Greater St. Louis

Instead of Riding the Roller-Coaster, It's Time to Plant a Tree

When I reflect upon Community Link over the past year, an image of a roller coaster is the first thing that comes to mind. At its highest peak, you have an immensely successful Buddy Walk that involved over 1200 registered walkers and fundraised over \$70,000 in support of the participants of Community Link. At its lowest valley, you have the State of Illinois budget impasse that shut off funding indefinitely. In the non-profit world, an indefinite hold on funding equals organizational death. Luckily, a Community Link partnership with Equip for Equality and the ACLU led to a favorable court ruling from a federal judge that forced Illinois to reimburse the organization for any Fiscal Year 2016 supports rendered during the budget impasse.

I understand that many elements in the field of developmental disabilities will always be a roller coaster ride. When considering all of these elements, nothing compares to the ride the State of Illinois puts organizations like Community Link through during the annual budgeting process. The current budget impasse is just the proverbial straw that breaks the camel's back. Over the past ten years, an already underfunded organization like Community Link, whose annual funding is almost 80% dependent upon the State of Illinois, has faced nothing but budget cuts or freezes. The lack of a budget is just the event that allows the public to see the cracks in a system that has been neglected for a decade.

Now that Illinois is required to fund us during the budget impasse, we wait with bated breath as the state negotiates (if that's what they call it these days) a permanent budget for FY 16 that will most likely give us more of the same, or even greater, pain that it has been giving over the past ten years. The longer the budget impasse lasts, the greater the pain will be when they do actually pass a budget. Our legislators will tell us that budget cuts should be a shared sacrifice and that everyone has to cut some meat from their bones. The field of developmental disabilities, however, has already been sacrificing for the past ten years. There is no meat on the bones to cut, only bone.

Too often in the past, we have accepted the status quo and acquiesced halfheartedly in Illinois' annual budgeting outcomes that underfund, freeze or cut our funding and programming. The traditional mentality of social service organizations like ours is, "While we accept pain, we know in the end we will be ok because of the great things we do." In fact, almost every legislator on both sides of the

aisle tells us how wonderful we are and that they support what we do. When you consider, however, that our state government was willing to let an organization like Community Link close their doors during a politically partisan game of chicken, it is time to shift the paradigm from defense to offense. This is our new reality.

The good news is that something positive did come from Illinois' current budget impasse that we hope will benefit Community Link. Leadership in the organization is fully aware of the fact we must take a more proactive role in the developments in Springfield. Over the past few months, we have become more proactive in getting messages out to Springfield. We are collaborating with other non-profit organizations in our advocacy efforts. We are learning how to formulate and execute grassroots campaigns and other ways to reach the ears of our elected officials. We are becoming more effective at using both traditional and social media to relay our messages. We are identifying internal and external stakeholders who would be willing to take on leadership roles in our grassroots efforts. In other words, Community Link is shifting from defense to offense!

There is an old Chinese proverb that states, "The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second best time is now." Community Link can no longer afford to choose being a victim to the State of Illinois' annual budgeting process – i.e. riding the roller coaster – and living each day with a victim way of thinking. It's time to plant a tree where we are louder and prouder in promoting the interests of Community Link. There are a myriad of ways to do this, including but not limited to, contacting legislators, sharing our social media messages, handing out fliers, promoting and growing our annual Buddy Walk, etc. Our tree must be strong to withstand the budgeting storm brewing in Springfield. Only with the support of all our stakeholders will we ensure that it will be planted upon firm ground.

With Gratitude,



John Huelskamp



Community Link Possibilities

P.O. Box 157
1665 North 4th
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You can make a difference, right here in your own backyard...



Visit us online to see how we are turning **Disabilities** into **Possibilities!**

small ways to make a **BIG** difference:



Visit our Website!

www.commlink.org



Like us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/commlink1972



Follow us on Twitter!

@CommLinkInc



Watch and Share our video on YouTube!

www.youtube.com/commlink1972

- ★ Make a monetary or in-kind donation to Community Link
- ★ Volunteer your time to enhance our program offerings
- ★ Consider workplace giving to benefit Community Link
- ★ Ask your employer if they participate in a matching gift program
- ★ "Go Green" with Community Link and participate in our recycling program
- ★ Tell your family and friends about us!