



# A N N U A L R E P O R T

2 0 1 9





## COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT IS TEARRIFIC!

Last November The Republic of Tea hired Community Link participants to work at their Nashville, Illinois facility. They understand that it's important for individuals with developmental disabilities be given an opportunity to work in their community.

Community Link determined who was interested in working at The Republic of Tea and who could learn the required tasks. It was decided that James R. and James "Jim" B. would be the perfect candidates.

And, it has been a great decision all around.

Community Link provided a job coach for James and Jim. However, the job coach was only needed for a week as they quickly learned the skills required to do their jobs.

James and Jim both fit in quite well at The Republic of Tea. James socializes with all his TEAm members. Jim is more reserved but his colleagues always say hi to him and make sure that he is doing well. They both are focused and attentive to their work.

James talks (and teases) with his colleagues and proudly explains to the Community Link staff what he's working on at The Republic of Tea. He is so proud to earn a paycheck outside of Community Link. Jim is much quieter and will give answers when prompted with questions. He too is delighted to be earning additional money.

Dave Shrum, Minister of Continuous Improvement at the Republic of Tea, supervises both James and Jim. He is quite pleased with both men and is considering hiring two more from Community Link.

Thank you Republic of Tea for creating a positive work atmosphere for James and Jim. And, thank you for your commitment to good will and social responsibility.





Tea

TEA

Finest Grade Darjeeling Full-Leaf Tea



The Republic of Tea

9 cups

Finest Grade Darjeeling Full-Leaf Tea



**“Thank you Republic of Tea for creating a positive work atmosphere for James and Jim. And, thank you for your commitment to good will and social responsibility.”**





Community Link's 1<sup>st</sup> Step program offers services to meet the needs of pregnant moms, infants, toddlers and children ages three to 21 and their families in Clinton, Washington, St. Clair and the surrounding counties.

# GENEROSITY

95 children were examined by the dentist from Dental Safari.

109 vision screenings were performed by the Breese Lions Club.

Essendant Foundation donated 50 backpacks filled with supplies such as paper, folders, notebooks, pencils, crayons and rulers to children in our First Step program.



Augustin and his dad enjoyed father-son time and fresh air at a monthly play group.



Francisco created a work of art.



Dr. Baer delivered items collected by students at St. Rose Elementary to benefit families in the 1<sup>st</sup> Step programs.

## HOLIDAY HELP

- 7 schools donated items and money for our Parent Store.
- 1 school provided items for a family's Christmas wish list.
- The Clinton County Licensed Beverage Association provided a monetary donation and toys.
- Poettker Construction Company and K & J Chevrolet held toy drives.



Republic of Tea employees, Lisa, Tracy and Danni sorted 2,000 Buddy Walk t-shirts.



# VOLUNTEERS

## INSPIRATION AND DEDICATION

Community Link volunteers tell us they are inspired by the courage, joy and determination of the participants and staff at Community Link. The truth is we are the ones who are humbled by the selfless dedication of our amazing volunteers.

Community Link is beyond thrilled with the amount of wonderful people that continue to come forward to volunteer.



## MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAYS

The Republic of Tea encourages their Ministers to spend time volunteering and supporting non-profit organizations of their choice. The Republic of Tea volunteered more than 200 hours this year at Community Link!

- 132 people volunteered at the Buddy Walk
- Kohl's volunteered at three Community Link events and donated \$2,500 from Kohl's Cares
- Volunteers saved us \$53,250 by donating their time





# MAY THE 4<sup>TH</sup> BE WITH YOU!

Wet conditions could not keep our community away! On May the 4<sup>th</sup>, Breese looked like the Black Sea with 1,807 walkers / runners flooding the streets at Community Link's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Buddy Walk. Our fantastic community once again rallied behind us and we raised more than \$186,000! Thank you for continuing to support Community Link. Your generosity continues to amaze us!







Metro celebrated World Down Syndrome Day on 3/21 by wearing their Crazy Socks!







### HORSEPLAY

Hanna L. and Brian T. spoiled horses at Chakota Therapeutic Riding Center by feeding them apples!

Your dollars help support horse therapy for our participants. They love spending time with them!



### LOVE ON A LEASH

Linda P. and Mike M. give some love to Happy. Fred and Happy stop by our Metro facility once a month to spend some time with our Metro participants.

# MAKING A COMMUNITY IMPACT



### ENJOY TREATS BEFORE YOU HIT THE STREETS

Participants visited police departments and dropped off gift baskets to express their gratitude on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

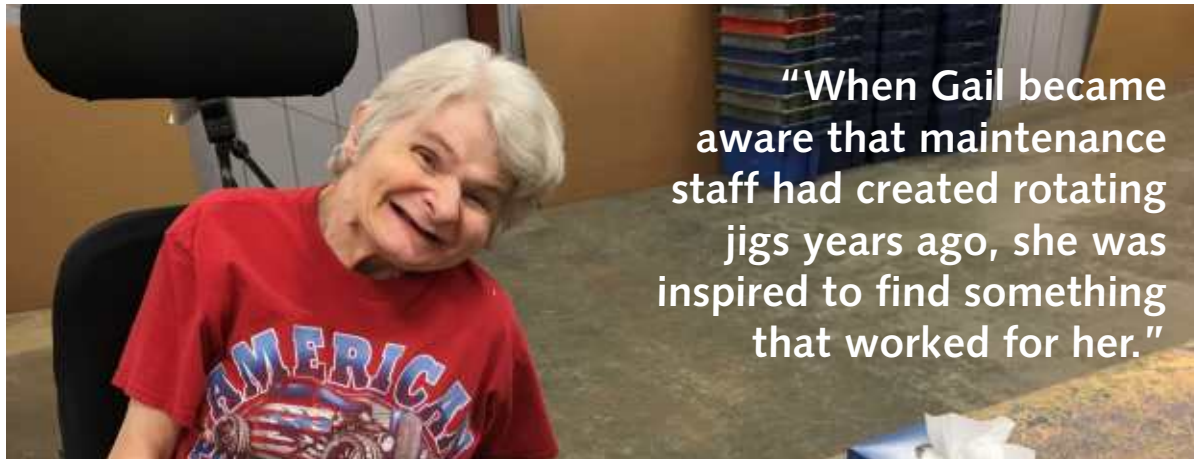
### ARTIST AT WORK

Bethany P. expresses herself through paint.





# PROBLEM SOLVING AT ITS FINEST!



“When Gail became aware that maintenance staff had created rotating jigs years ago, she was inspired to find something that worked for her.”

## REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS WHO PASSED AWAY

Thomas Burke, 56, Oct. 23, 2018

Tonie Davis, 58, Sept. 28, 2018

Amber Gibbs, 28, March 15, 2019

Kenny Jansen, 58, Dec. 8, 2018

David Kirchner, 68, April 23, 2019

Susan Noe, 61, Nov. 22, 2018

John Reed, 57, April 29, 2019

Michael Sellinger, 67, June 3, 2019

Dennis Sunderman, 55, Nov. 12, 2018

Michael Townsend, 41, Oct. 16, 2018

Eric Trampe, 44, Jan. 24, 2019

Patricia Tritley, 68, Sept. 27, 2018

Individuals that work in Community Link's production department assemble and pack small parts for a variety of companies. Some people use jigs to assist with counting parts. A jig's primary purpose is to provide repeatability and accuracy.

Gail S. has cerebral palsy, which makes it difficult for her to fully flex her hand, wrist and speak. She struggles placing parts at the end of the jig opposite to her. When Gail found out that Community Link's maintenance staff created rotating jigs years ago, she was inspired to find something that would work for her.

Gail gestured to her program manager to follow her to the production floor where she pointed to one of the jigs that a colleague was using. This jig was different from the others because it had a small rotating disc affixed to the bottom allowing it to rotate while sitting on the table. Gail pointed at the jig, then to herself, then to her program manager. She was indicating that she wanted a similar arrangement for her work area.

After she suggested the idea, her Program Manager researched items online and settled on a rotating turntable to fill this need. The items were placed on Community Link's Amazon Wish List and within one hour the entire request had been filled. When informed that the item was ordered, Gail was elated at the mere prospect of being able to turn her jig on her own.

When the item arrived and the equipment was set up, Gail was so ecstatic that she nearly leapt from her chair. After using the jig with the rotating turntable for just two weeks, Gail doubled her normal work output. But even more importantly, she is able to maneuver her own work equipment without having to ask or wait for someone else to do it. What's most impressive is that Gail came up with and initiated this plan. Now that's a self-advocate!





# FINANCIAL REPORT

Community Link presents the following audited summary of revenues, expenses and changes in net assets for the Agency's Fiscal Year 2018-2019. For a copy of the completed audit, please e-mail [info@commlink.org](mailto:info@commlink.org) or call (618) 526-8800.

## Revenue

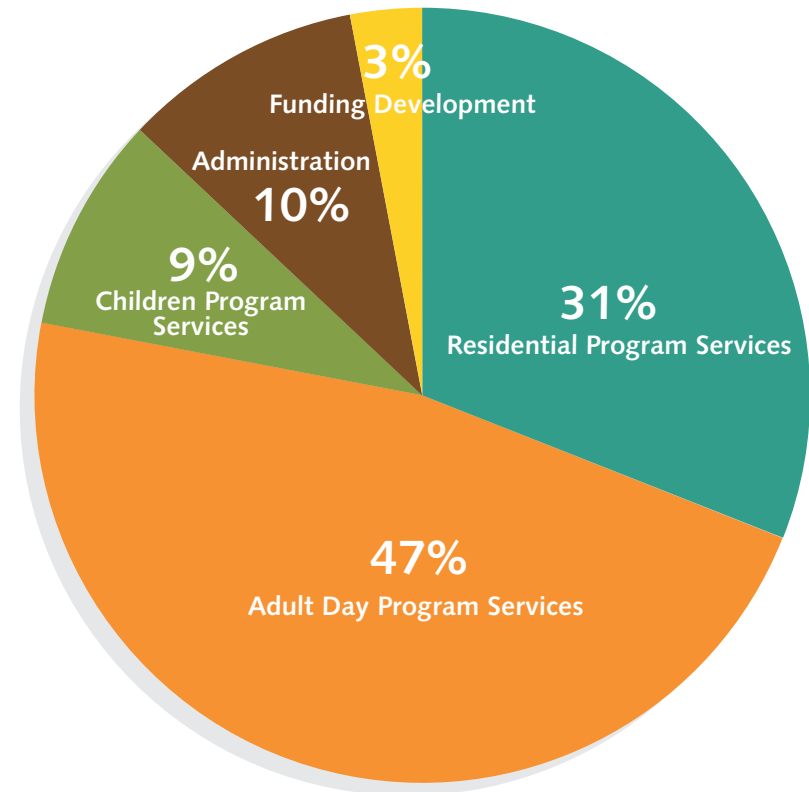
Fees for Service/Gov't Grants	\$6,546,627	84%
Contributions/Fundraisers	\$636,847	8%
Sales from Worksites	\$575,175	7%
Investment and Other Income	\$21,195	1%
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$7,779,844</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Operating Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	\$5,973,009
Other Operating Expenses	\$1,626,175
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,599,184</b>

## Net Operating Gain

Depreciation Expense	\$255,295
<b>Net Loss after Depreciation Expense</b>	<b>(\$74,635)</b>



## FUNCTIONAL EXPENSE FY 2018-2019

- Residential Program Services - 31%
- Adult Day Program Services - 47%
- Children Program Services - 9%
- Administration - 10%
- Funding Development - 3%



## Message from the Board President

The last twelve months have brought changes to Community Link. A new board has been seated with some exiting new faces from the community joining our team.

We experienced a change in leadership. After seven years, John Huelskamp accepted another position. Barb Nelson was named the interim executive director while the search committee carefully interviewed the best candidates to permanently fill the position. Lynn Huelsmann was named executive director in May and she has done a wonderful job transitioning into her new role.

The Buddy Walk continues to grow as our most pinnacle event of the year. Our event in Breese has grown to be the 11<sup>th</sup> largest Buddy Walk in the country, competing against metropolitan cities such as Indianapolis and Cincinnati. Our community can take great pride in their participation and generosity. We continue to focus our efforts in expanding the Buddy Walk as we continue to grow its size to draw the attention of the St. Louis media.

Community Link strives to play a proactive role in dealing with changes to our legislative landscape. Ultimately, our goal is to have as many of our participants working in the community as possible. They enjoy earning their paychecks and although we have some participants working outside of Community Link, we continue to provide the majority of employment opportunities through our workshop.

We ask for your help identifying jobs for our participants out in the community. As part of our plan to fulfill this vision, Community Link will open a café called The Red Porch in New Baden. The Red Porch will serve as a place for participants to learn job skills so that they can find long-term employment in the community. This venture would not have been possible without the help from our friends at Clinton Manor.

Last year we highlighted a beautiful home in Nashville as our next CILA expansion. This home, a gift from the children of Jerry and Marilyn King, is set for participants to move in very soon.

Community Link continues to enjoy excellent financial health and experience great success as we continue to target resources outside of government funding. Our endowment, managed by the Special Needs Foundation For Community Link, continues to grow because of your generosity. Recently, a successful gala was held which raised nearly \$70,000, eclipsing our first year goal of \$50,000.

Our success is based on the wonderful partnerships that have been formed with individuals, families, and businesses in the communities in which we operate. It is because of your support that Community Link is able to continue to flourish in providing so many services to individuals who need them most.

The past year has been one of many successes. We hope to build on the success of the gala and the upcoming grand openings as symbols that Community Link will not merely sit back as our surroundings change. Our leadership team continues to actively identify new ways to better serve our participants.

As the Buddy Walk approaches, I challenge you to bring a guest to help us increase our numbers and grow our event. We may not have the population base of some of the larger cities that host other Buddy Walks, but with the commitment and generosity of our area and you answering the challenge to bring another individual or family, we know that we can continue to climb the rankings. I look forward to seeing you on May 2, 2020 at the Buddy Walk.

Sincerely,

Dax Garrison



### FY 2019 Board of Directors

**Dax Garrison**, President

**William Hibner**, Vice President

**Sandra Harris**, Treasurer

**Amanda Oelze**, Secretary

**Donna Brauer**

**Paulette Evans**

**Ron Foppe**

**Jennifer Foushee**

**Jason Gourley**

**Theresa Morrison**

**Jeff Niemeyer**

**Preston Tharp**

**Tracy Welker**

Executive Director

**Lynn Huelsmann**







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Breese, IL  
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**Four Locations:**

**East Facility (Production):**  
1665 N. Fourth Street, Breese, IL 62230

**West Facility (Developmental Training):**  
8510 Old US Hwy 50, Breese, IL 62230

**First Step (Children's Program):**  
955 N. Plum Street, Breese, IL 62230

**Metro (Production & Developmental Training):**  
9815 Bunkum Road, Fairview Heights, IL 62208



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