



We are all Champions!

Possibilities

Fall 2024

AN ALL STAR CELEBRATION



“Our participants want to live a meaningful life with the same opportunities for choice, growth, and independence that we all strive for. That is the mission of Community Link and the vision for our community. Thank you for making that a reality by being here today!”

-John Huelskamp, executive director of Community Link



The 18th Annual Community Link Buddy Walk was an event to remember! For the first time, our participants demonstrated talent and courage to start the day with uplifting karaoke performances. We walked the sacred walk to show our loved ones with developmental disabilities that we stand with them and value their presence and contributions in our community.

We enjoyed a beautiful day sharing stories, meals, and fun with family and friends. Finally, we wrapped up with the 3rd Annual Best Buddy Dog Show, where our furry friends brought more smiles and laughter.



METRO

You made Community Link “Hit it out of the Park” this Summer

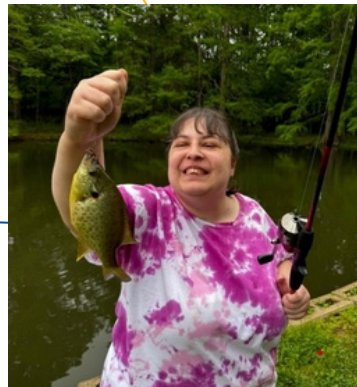
At our Fairview Heights (Metro) Day Program, our participants planted and tended our own garden at Restoration Ranch in Shiloh. Then we cooked some delicious dishes with our own fresh vegetables, learning new recipes and sharing meals together. We’ve also been out

to Wiloughby Farm to meet the animals and to the Planetarium and Art Museum to learn about our world and beyond.



BREESE WEST

The Wild West crew of our Breese West Day Program has been out and about this summer! They have gone to Grizzlies games, ranches, apple picking, the St. Louis Science Center, and on many picnics! They are looking forward to getting outside more as we get closer to the fall.



BREESE EAST

At our Breese East Day Program, our biggest event of the summer was a fun-filled day at Whispering Pines for fishing, games, and lunch. Some favorite trips have been group picnics, boating with Kathy and Kerry Steinmann, and the Highland Special Needs Day Fair. We also learned about business in our community with visits to Poettker Construction and Foppe Ace Hardware.



RED PORCH

The Red Porch Café in New Baden is not just a spot for great coffee and sandwiches, but provides training opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. The Red Porch served a delicious menu for hungry walkers at the Buddy Walk! Our cafe served a special menu with made-to-order favorites. This fall, we will also be selling delicious and nutritious Busy Bees protein bites, made by Community Link participants!

CLINTON MANOR

Many residents of Clinton Manor have been attending Community Link Day Program for many years. In 2020, when residents could not come to us, we went to them. That's when we began providing Day Services onsite at Clinton Manor. Participants enjoy going outside, painting, and making crafts, especially holiday crafts and decorations.



CILA



At each of our 8 CILA (community integrated living arrangement) homes, 4 to 8 individuals live together as a family with 24-hour support. This summer, we have been busy! Some highlights include some great music concerts, a tie dye party hosted by the Henry Family, the annual CILA barbeque, and many trips to St. Louis to enjoy the Muni, as well as many sporting events.



TEAM TORINO: BETTER TOGETHER

Longtime Community Link participants, Steve and Kenny, were the picture of a great friendship. They went everywhere together, and their families became great friends, too. In 2012 Steve's family began Team Torino then in 2014, Kenny's family joined in the fun.

Though both have passed, Steve's last walk was in 2016, and Kenny's in 2017, the families continue to walk with Team Torino year after year to honor their memories. The walk is a sacred way to remember these two best buds who were beloved by so many. Steve and Kenny's inseparable friendship left a lasting impression on their families forever.



TOP BUDDY WALK TEAMS

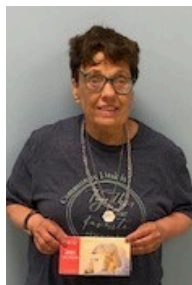
We are so grateful to all of our teams for bringing so much fun to the walk. Our teams have also been amazing fundraisers. At the time of printing, our top teams are:

Willa's Wonders * #1 ALL STAR Team
Team UNCOMN * Top Business Team
Bradford National Bank * Top Business Team
Michelle's Mashers * #1 Largest Team
CILA THRILLA * Top Home Team

Clinton Manor * Best Fundraiser
Go Peg Go * Top Legacy Team
Team Torino * Honoring Steve & Kenny
Colin's Crusaders * Best Team Spirit
Heathers Angels * Most Cheerful Team

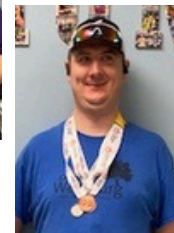
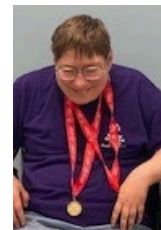
SPECIAL OLYMPIANS

During the Summer Olympics, we honored our own talented Special Olympians. Some of our champions, who have earned their medals over the years are:



Amanda S ★
Ashley M ★
Chris E ★
Diane V ★
Erik S ★
James R ★
Jennifer H ★
Jimmy A

Kimmy S
Matt A
Michelle M
Nicole F
Ryan R
Rosie M
Sandra P



★ ★ ★ **SAVE THE DATE** ★ ★ ★

19th Annual Community Link Buddy Walk

September 13, 2025 | Northside Park - Breese, IL

1665 North Fourth St, PO Box 157 | Breese, IL 62230
618-526-8800 | commlink.org