



# Possibilities

Spring 2025

## FAMILY FOREVER

A huge thanks to our friends and family who made the *Unmasking the Possibilities* gala a truly heartfelt evening. We celebrated the power and joy of a community coming together for a great cause, securing the future of our Community Link family.



When an individual becomes part of Community Link, they are not simply receiving services, they, and their families, are joining our larger, extended family.

Over 20 years ago, The Special Needs Foundation for Community Link was created by families of our participants who recognized that additional funding, projects, and resources were needed to provide meaningful days and comfortable homes for their loved ones. Not just today, but years from now.

With the collaboration of over 230 attendees, donors from home, and sponsors, we raised over \$108,000 to fund the future of Community Link. Sending gratitude to all! All net proceeds from the gala contribute to our endowment, as we build a foundation for generations to come.

We appreciate the hard work, selfless dedication, and forward thinking of everyone involved with the Foundation.



# LIVING OUR MISSION

*To provide opportunities for choice, growth, and independence for adults with developmental disabilities.*

We have recently enhanced our mission statement to include “choice” at the forefront. We have always been dedicated to caring FOR our participants, ensuring all are safe and comfortable. We continue that commitment, but are listening to what is important TO our participants. They are more engaged than ever in shaping their own future.

---



## Kathy

Kathy loves that day program always has new activities to try. She recently won an event at the West Building's Winter Olympics!

## CHOICE

---



## Brad

When Brad is not at day program, he enjoys watching wrestling with his housemates. He has even taken a trip to watch wrestling live!



## Gayle

Gayle is quite the artist! Her artwork was featured on the t-shirt given to all participants last Christmas.

## Alex

Alex is a big music buff. From singing karaoke to playing his guitar, he loves it all! He is proud of the progress he has made at guitar lessons.



## GROWTH

---





## Mallory

Mallory's goal for 2025 is to do more stuff on her own, things like cleaning and cooking. She says her staff help her learn how to do this on her own.

## INDEPENDENCE

With more choices available, our participants are directing their own growth and independence. The Community Link of the future will look different, but we will continue to ensure our participants are fully supported in living their best and most meaningful lives.

With you by our side, we will fulfill our vision of a community where every person is valued for their presence and contributions. We thank you for all the ways you live that vision and create more opportunities for our participants to reach their goals.



## Sandra

Sandra is very proud of living on her own. Her goal is to get a part time job at the McDonald's by her apartment. Sandra has also been serving her peers as a Community Link board member.



## David

David loves the work he does at day program, but he is excited to try new things this year.

*Please visit our website, [commlink.org](http://commlink.org), to see our new "Family Forever" video featuring David and his Community Link family*

# Turning Inside Out

You may think of Community Link as an “outside-in” organization, meaning that we have primarily offered services at our locations. For most of our 53 years in operation, our participants come to us for employment, learning, and recreation. But now we are expanding beyond our walls, we are shifting our service model to be more “inside-out.”

We recently acquired 3 new vehicles, giving us more ways to explore our community. Two of the vehicles are minibuses, which are being utilized at our Fairview Heights (Metro) location and at a CILA home in Trenton. We also purchased a minivan with a BraunAbility lift for our Breese East location. These vehicles will allow for more opportunities, especially for our participants in wheelchairs, to choose to leave our 4 walls and have new experiences in our community.

Our friends and family who donate to Community Link and support our Buddy Walk provide the crucial funding to keep us walking (pun intended). Your registrations, donations, and sponsorships for the Walk keep our vehicles moving and give more choices to our participants to enjoy all the great opportunities in our community. Thank you!



**\* SAVE THE DATE \***

*Registration Opens June 1, 2025*

**September 13, 2025 | Northside Park - Breese, IL**



**BUDDYWALK®**  
national down syndrome society®  
EDUCATE | ADVOCATE | CELEBRATE

**We are family! Join our Community Link family as we celebrate our participants and create a groovy future. We will share the love at Northside Park in Breese beginning at 10am for the 2025 Buddy Walk. Proceeds from the Buddy Walk support Community Link and raise awareness for individuals with Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities.**

**\* PEACE\*LOVE\*WALK\***

Please contact Michelle Delfel at [MichelleD@commmlink.org](mailto:MichelleD@commmlink.org) or 618.526.3989 for more information