

# Possibilities

COMMUNITY LINK

October 2016 • Volume 22 / Number 1



## Buddy Walk Success!

Community Link's 10th Annual Buddy Walk was bigger and better than ever! More than 1,500 people filled North Side Park in Breese, IL on Saturday, May 7th and helped the agency raise over \$111,000.

"It's amazing what a community can do," said Community Link Executive Director John Huelskamp as he addressed the large crowd prior to the walk. "I have seen the vision of a few dedicated individuals be supported by the community to create something wonderful such as Hannah's Playground that completely aligns with Community Link's mission of inclusion. I have seen the community come together in support of Community Link's advocacy efforts at the state level to ensure our organization is sound and around not only for our current participants, but for future generations of Community Link participants to enjoy. I have seen the passion of our staff, families, and volunteers day in and day out that goes over and beyond the call of duty. To me, it just shows you that anything is possible."

The success of this event was only possible through the ownership and dedication of the entire community. The incredible energy and dedication to this year's Buddy Walk not only raises money to support Community Link's programs and services, but also sends a powerful message to our participants that our community supports and values them. The support of the Buddy Walk is only possible through the efforts of us all.

The Buddy Walk helps to raise awareness and funds for people with Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities. It consists of a one-mile fun walk that everyone can participate in, a 5K run, a Craft & Vendor fair, silent auction, and lots of games and activities for kids of all ages!

Above all else, the Buddy Walk is a celebration. It's a celebration of all the hard work, dedication, and successes from our third-party fundraising teams; it's a celebration of all the volunteer time and in-kind contributions that make this event possible; it's a celebration of the incredible efforts of Community Link's participants, staff, families, and community members in bringing this event together; it's a celebration that every one of our participants, in their own unique way, has something to teach all of us about compassion, perseverance, diversity, hope, and strength in the midst of the day in and day out struggle; and finally, it's a celebration of our Community Link community coming together in support of the vision that all people in our community are valued! ❖



Save The Date!



Saturday, May 6, 2017  
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 2016-2017

Jerry Albers

Jennifer Foushee

Dax Garrison

Wesley Gozia

Sandra Harris

Joseph Heimann

William Hibner

Ricky Johnson

Amanda Oelze

Leslie Pedtke

Srinivasan Raghunathan



#### MISSION STATEMENT

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

## Community Link Congratulates Board Members for Years of Dedicated Service



Community Link wishes to congratulate three former board members for their years of dedicated service.

Chuck Poettker was originally elected to a three year term on the Board of Directors in 2010 and was re-elected to another three year term in 2013. Due to term limits, Mr. Poettker's membership on the Board of Directors ended on June 30th, 2016. Mr. Poettker served on the Board's Planning and Development Committee and provided the Board with valuable insight from the perspective of a successful businessman in areas such as finance, marketing, fundraising, strategic planning and construction. Mr. Poettker was an active participant in many Community Link fundraisers and also represented the organization during several United Way annual site visits thus securing revenue for the organization.



Debra Baldwin recently retired from the board after three years of service. As a parent of a Community Link participant, Deb provided a valuable perspective during board discussions. Deb served on the Performance & Oversight Committee, the Metro East Marketing Committee, and helped to facilitate a Glo Bingo fundraiser earlier this year. Community Link has greatly benefitted

from the insight that she has brought to the board.

Steve Huelsmann retired from the board after four years of service. Steve helped to shape the direction of the organization by providing valuable insight from a participant's point of view and we are grateful for the time that he has given.

Thank you all for your years of dedicated service! ❖

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



Srinivasan Raghunathan joins the board through the United Way's Board Fellow program in collaboration with the MBA program at the Olin School at Washington University. He also brings experience as an operation and technology analyst. He is also serving on the Planning & Development Committee.



Jennifer Foushee, a service recipient, has a unique and important perspective that she brings to the board discussions, which will help shape the future of the organization. She is also serving on the Performance & Oversight Committee.

❖



# FY 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

## Message from the Board President



A new year is upon us here at Community Link, a year that once again has uncertainties due to the lack of a budget for our state government. Nonetheless, I am honored and privileged to have the opportunity to serve as Board President, because

we have a Board full of Directors who genuinely care about Community Link and we have hard-working, dedicated staff members who 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 2016-2017, Srinivasan Raghunathan and Jennifer Foushee. Mr. Raghunathan has experience working for Citigroup as an operation and technology analyst; currently, he has joined our Board through the United Way's Board Fellow program in collaboration with the MBA program at the Olin School at Washington University. Ms. Foushee is a participant at Community Link and loves the family atmosphere at Community Link and cares deeply about continuing the high standards that Community Link has set for this industry. Each 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 Deb Baldwin, Steve Huelsmann and Chuck Poettker for their terms on our Board. All of these individuals were great advocates for Community Link and continue to be so even after their terms on the Board have expired.

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. In addition to our problems in Illinois, there are changes coming towards our industry in the near future that will be especially challenging as some of these changes are paradigm shifts from the way our industry has provided services in the past. The stakeholders of Community Link should rest assured that we have a committed management team, in collaboration with the staff and the Board of Directors, who are taking a proactive approach to the shifts in the industry and making decisions to help keep the excellent level of service people have come to expect from Community Link not only a continuing part of our present, but also our standard for the future as well. During all of these changes, 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 2016

### OFFICERS

**President Wesley Gozia**

Attorney/Owner, Gozia Law Firm LLC

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Colonel, USAF Retired

Administrative Law Judge, Social Security Administration

**Treasurer Sandra Harris**

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

**Secretary Leslie Pedtke**

Administrator, Aviston Countryside Manor

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Maintenance Department, St. Joseph's Hospital

**Jennifer Foushee**

Service Recipient Representative

**Dax Garrison**

Vice President, First County Bank

**William Hibner**

Colonel, US Army Retired

**Ricky G. Johnson**

Contract Management, USAF Retired

**Amanda Oelze**

Owner, Vibrant Vida Boutique

### KEY STAFF FY 2016

**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...



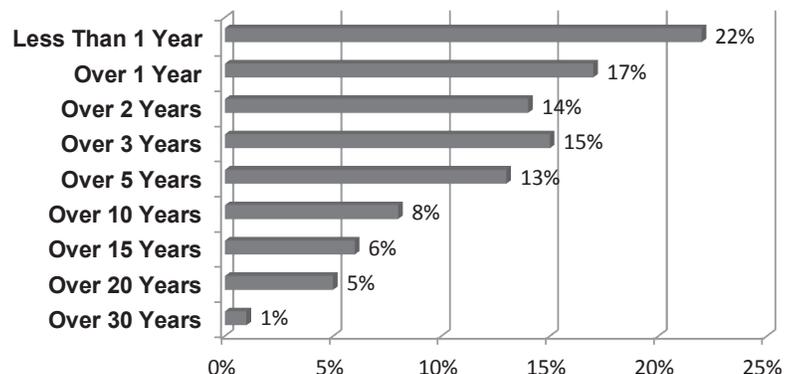
*Sharon Stofferahn receiving her certificate recognizing 20 years of service*

Community Link's Executive Director, John Huelskamp, presented service awards at the quarterly participant meeting in January for 10, 20, and 40 years of service. The participant receiving an award for 40 years of service is Karen Potts. The participants receiving certificates recognizing 20 years of service are Stephanie Scifres, Janice Webb, and Sharon Stofferahn. The participants receiving certificates recognizing 10 years of service are Diana Hughes, Tyler Smith, and Peggy Heimann.



*Janice Webb, Karen Potts, Tyler Smith, John Huelskamp, Stephanie Scifres, Diana Hughes, and Peggy Heimann*

### Staff Years of Service FY 2015-2016



**Total number of employees at end of fiscal year: 213**

**Total turnover rate for fiscal year: 21%**

**Number of employees who ended employment: 45**

# 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 2015-2016, ending this past June 30. For a copy of the completed audit, please e-mail [info@commlink.org](mailto:info@commlink.org) or call (618) 526-8800.

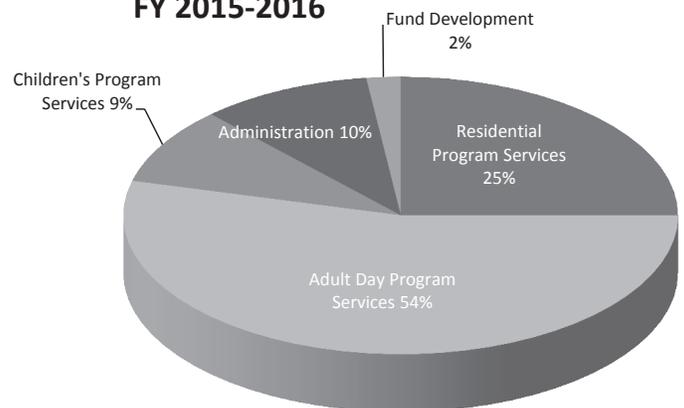
## Revenue

Contributions/Fundraisers	\$556,597	8%
Fees for Service/Gov't Grants	\$6,310,969	85%
Sales from Worksites	\$400,575	5%
Investment and Other Income	\$204,419	2%
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$7,472,560</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Operating Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	\$5,660,651
Other Operating Expenses	\$1,702,065
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,362,716</b>
<b>Net Operating Gain</b>	<b>\$109,844</b>
Depreciation Expense	\$174,129
<b>Net Loss after Depreciation Expense</b>	<b>\$64,285</b>

**Functional Expenses  
FY 2015-2016**



**Community Link's \$7.4 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. ❖

## Connecting with Parents through Social Media...

The First Step Program has begun to use a few different social media platforms to effectively stay connected with families. The program has recently implemented a private Facebook group only for waitlisted families, enrolled families, committee members, and staff only. By having a private Facebook group, families are reminded of upcoming playgroups, community events, important updates for the program and community, and more. This avenue helps build an opportunity for families to better connect and support each other.

In addition to the private Facebook group, First Step has been in the process of using Pinterest as another outlet to connect with families and the community as a whole. Staff creates a Pinterest board while planning for playgroups and parent trainings so that families can recreate the activities, games, songs, recipes, and more at home. The program has also been using Pinterest to incorporate parent suggestions in planning playgroups and some enrolled families have been using this social media platform to find new ideas and share with their Parent Educator as they plan upcoming home visits together. First Step has also been working to build a variety of additional Pinterest boards to help families find and use local resources, healthy recipes, parental educational materials, and much more. Feel free to follow First Step's Pinterest Board by going to [https://www.pinterest.com/1st\\_step/boards/](https://www.pinterest.com/1st_step/boards/) or searching for "1st Step." The First Step Program is working on trying to meet parents where they are at, not only in the community and where they may be on life's journey, but also where they are on social media. ❖



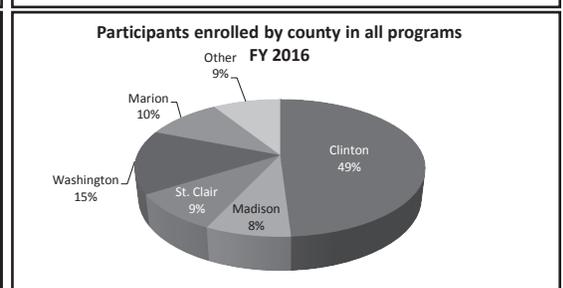
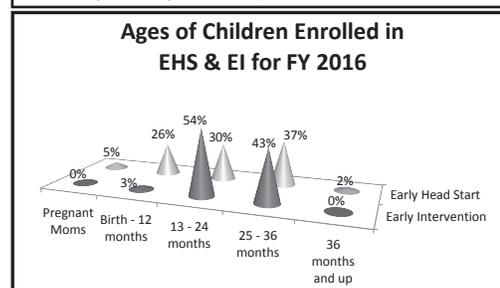
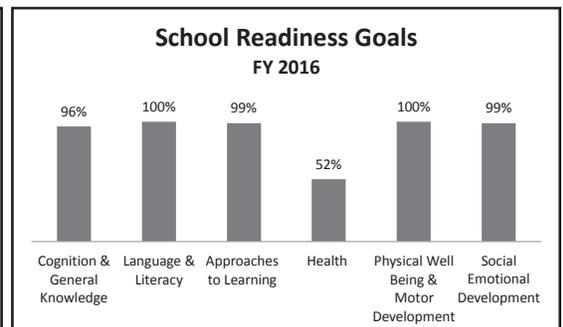
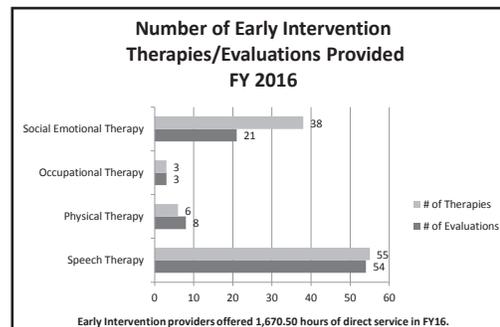
The Early Head Start Program of Community Link's First Step program offers socializations in diverse cultures throughout the year.



Partnering with other organizations, such as the Jared Burke Foundation, allow us to provide unique opportunities for the families in our programs.



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, Using technology to keep families together

In the spring of 2015 Diana Hughes received some devastating news; her daughter, Mariah, would be moving to Hawaii. Mariah's husband is active duty in the Army and his station was being moved from Oklahoma to Hawaii. When Mariah lived in Oklahoma, Diana could afford the plane ticket to see her daughter, son-in-law, and 4 grandchildren once or sometimes twice a year. The round-trip ticket to Hawaii, however, was much more expensive. With this development, Diana discussed some new desires during her annual meeting. She wanted help purchasing a tablet, connecting to the CILA's wi-fi, and help installing FaceTime. With the help of her team and CILA staff, Diana is able to FaceTime her daughter and grandchildren every night. Diana has shared how much she loves to watch her grandchildren grow with the assistance of her tablet and not being limited to just talking on the phone.

Since she purchased her tablet, she has become very savvy with it. She has her own Pinterest account where she finds recipes she wants to try. She has picked flautas, cookies, Texas sheet cake, and much more. Diana even makes sure she has the ingredients needed for each recipe.

These forms of independence and family connections would not be possible without keeping up with modern technology and Diana is grateful for the opportunities it provides. ❖



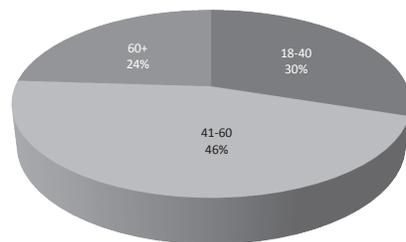
## CLP Vacation Opportunity

The participants in the Community Living Program (CLP) enjoyed a relaxing vacation at Carlyle Lake 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 enjoyed spending time together boating, cooking out, and enjoying the beautiful views! ❖



### Community Integrated Living

Ages of Participants FY 2015-2016



24 Hr & Intermittent CILA : seven (7) small group homes; 4 Intermittent Sites: Aviston, Breese (3), Carlyle, Germantown, Highland  
Number of CILA participants: 46 served

## Breakout Classes...Providing a variety of experiences



Community Link's Developmental Training Program encourages all of the participants to take part in various breakout classes. Every month participants are encouraged to sign up for different classes which give them the opportunity to engage in a variety of experiences. Some examples of the breakout classes are:

**Reading Room:** Sue Ayers, a volunteer, comes in to read books to the participants. She brings in 3-5 books for them to choose from.

**Life Skills:** This class is an opportunity to discuss and practice proper hygiene and oral care.

**Your Turn at the Table:** In this breakout class, participants get the chance to choose a game. They play UNO, Bingo, Wii Bowling, card games and board games. They learn to take their turn and have a great time socializing.

**Sensory Class:** This class explores the five senses. Activities and equipment are used to engage participants with all senses-sight, touch, taste, smell and hearing. Examples of activities include: manipulating textured objects, Sound Bingo, Follow Your Nose (a game with scented jars), Sounds of Nature, planting flowers, model clay creations and tastes of bitter, sour, salty and sweet edible items. The five senses bring information about the world around us.

**Cooking Class:** This class enhances participants' cooking skills. They learn how to read recipes, measure ingredients and practice proper sanitation. At the end of the class participants get to taste their creations.

**Exercise Class:** Participants get the opportunity to have fun while getting into shape. They enjoy basketball, Frisbee toss, obstacle course, balloon volleyball, parachute play and the airlite saucer. It's a great way to put fun into a workout.

**Music Appreciation:** In this class, a music artist or band group is selected. A brief biography about the artist or group is read by the staff and then they listen to a tape/CD of the music selected. Participants will sing along, dance and sometimes get instruments to play along with the music. Everyone enjoys music and is interested to learn about the artist or band that was chosen.

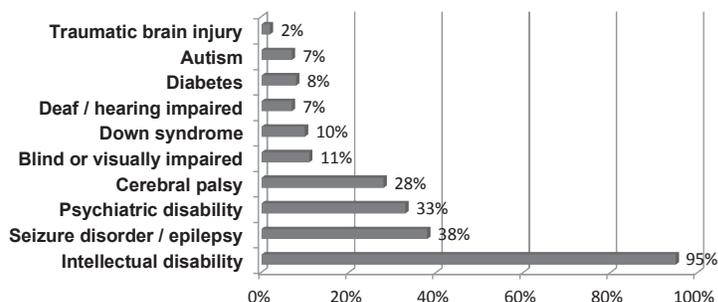
**Beauty Shop:** This class is a day of pampering, so participants feel as though they are in a salon to make them feel as relaxed as possible. Appointment cards are made and given to the participants so they can choose what services they want. Services include hair, nails, lotion on hands and foot massage.

**Music Class:** Participants gather around the piano for a lively sing-along and take turns playing piano either with assistance or on their own. They're encouraged to take a bow when done.

**Activity Class:** The class plans activities such as dances, bingos and different sports related games for all participants. ❖



**Adult participants' disabilities by condition among the 314 adults supported in FY 2015-2016**



\* Most participants have more than one diagnosis.

Total Adult Day participants, past year: 325

Total days of service provided, past year: 245

Total hours of day services provided, past year: 352,162

## Recycling Program comes to an end...

Community Link has had the privilege to serve our community over the past eight years through our recycling program. Following its 2008 inception as a drop-off site at its Breese East location, Community Link expanded its recycling program in 2010 by offering curbside pick-up to the residents of Breese. In 2011, the recycling program expanded again with the addition of Breese businesses and pick-ups at designated sites in the towns of Beckemeyer, Germantown and Damiansville. While serving a common good, Community Link's primary goals for starting and expanding the recycling program included offering opportunities for minimum wage work and community inclusion for participants as well as increased revenue for and awareness of Community Link.

As of June 30, 2016 Community Link has discontinued all components of its recycling program. Illinois' financially unstable environment, lingering budget impasse and years of underfunding from the Illinois General Assembly coupled with a deep decline in revenue received for recycling tonnage were all factors contributing to this decision.

Community Link is currently exploring some exciting alternate opportunities for minimum wage work and community inclusion for those participants who were involved in the recycling program. Community Link wishes to thank all those who have supported our recycling program over the past eight years. ❖



### 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

### *In appreciation for our current employers and we welcome new*



**Basler Electric**  
Highland



**Eaton's Cooper B-Line**  
Highland & Troy



**Jim's Formal Wear**  
Trenton



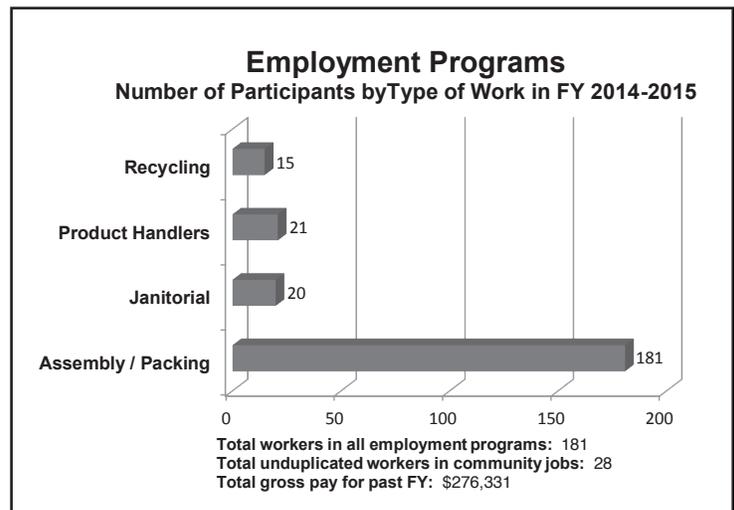
**The Republic of Tea**  
Nashville

### *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





# FY 2015-2016 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, 2016. 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, 2015 through June 30, 2016*

#### FEDERAL/STATE GRANTS

Early Head Start Continuation Grant  
Title XX Early Intervention / Regular Work

#### CONSOLIDATED CAMPAIGN FUNDING

United Way of Greater St. Louis (allocation)

#### FOUNDATION GRANTS

Highland Area Community Foundation  
Junior Service Club of St. Clair County  
Special Needs Foundation for Community Link

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS

St. Clair County 708 Mental Health Board  
(art therapy program)  
Clinton County 708 Mental Health Board

*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  
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## BUDDY WALK SPONSORS

Albers Commercial Club  
 Albers Painting Company  
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 Breese Dental Care  
 Breese Optimist Club  
 Anthony & Donna Budde  
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 Centrue Bank  
 Clinton County Electric  
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 Cook Tractor Co.  
 Country Financial-Keith Wilken  
 Crescent Home Health Agency  
 Dairy King  
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 Engelmann Construction  
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 First Bank – Breese  
 First Bank - O'Fallon  
 First National Bank in Carlyle & Aviston  
 Foppe Insurance Agency  
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 Jansen Chevrolet  
 Jim's Formal Wear  
 K & J Chevrolet, Inc.  
 Kernel Nut Club, Germantown  
 Knights of Columbus, Bartelso  
 Kohrmann Bros. Masonry  
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 Lions Club – Carlyle  
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 Monken Chrysler Nissan  
 NACO Printing & Advertising  
 Nine Seventy Furniture & Flooring  
 Peerless-Premier Appliance Co  
 Poettker Construction Co.  
 Quail Restoration Association of Illinois  
 Rolfingmeyer Remodeling  
 Scheffel Boyle CPA  
 Scott Credit Union

Southern Bus & Mobility  
 Southern OB/GYN Associates  
 The Bank of Edwardsville  
 The Republic of Tea  
 Toennies Service Co.  
 White Star Silos, Inc.  
 WSI Marketing  
 Yaekel & Associates  
 Angie Zahn

## OTHER BUSINESS

### DONATIONS

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

AAIC, Inc.  
 Albers Painting Company  
 Aviston Countryside Manor  
 Bade Roofing  
 Beckmann Construction Co.  
 Boondock's Market  
 Bradford National Bank  
 Breese Family Vision  
 Clinton Seamless Guttering  
 Crafts & Ocassions  
 Engelmann Construction, Inc.  
 Faust Automotive & Tires, Inc  
 Foppe Amoco  
 Foppe Insurance Agency  
 Foresight Services, Inc.  
 Holland Roofing of Nashville  
 Marsha D. Holzauer, LLC  
 Huelsmann Construction Co.  
 Imming Insurance Agency  
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 Koerckenmeier Excavating, Inc.  
 Koetting Insurance & Resource  
 Knotty Pine Inn & Motel  
 Lakeside Roofing Co.  
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 Mollet Law Offices, LTD  
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 Rutters Auto Service  
 Schmidt Organs & Custom  
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 Siever Bros. Inc.  
 South Side Tavern  
 TAASK Financial  
 Group, Inc.  
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Thanks to the sponsors of our 20th Annual Golf Scramble

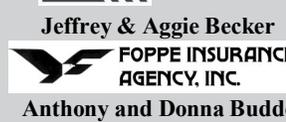
### PRESENTING SPONSOR



### GOLD SPONSORS



### SILVER SPONSORS



### PARTICIPANT TEAM SPONSOR

First National Bank in Carlyle & Aviston

### HOLE SPONSORS

ApexNetwork Physical Therapy	Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C.	Nine Seventy Furniture & Flooring
Benhoff Insurance Agency	Joe & Nancy Heimann	Providence Bank
Bestway Equipment, Inc.	Highland Recycling and Shredding	Quad-County Ready Mix Corp.
Daniel & Darlene Billhartz	Charlie Hilmes	R&B Plumbing, Heating & AC
Bradford National Bank, Highland	Jack's Place & Sublime Hair Studio	Bob Ricker
The Brady Family	Kernel Nut Club - Germantown	Rolfingmeyer Remodeling
Breese Motor Sales	Kiwanis Club of Fairview Heights	Scheffel Boyle CPA
Carl's 4WD & Performance Center	KJ Appliance Repair	Schuette's Market
CertaPro Painters	Knights of Columbus - Bartelso	Southern OB/GYN Associates
Clinton Seamless Guttering	Knotty Pine Inn & Motel	Special Needs Foundation for Community Link
Comprehensive Care Pharmacy	Krehbiel & Associates, LLC	Sudholt Sheet Metal
DCA Construction	Lee's Loans Jewelry & More, Inc.	Tin Shed by Kloss
Engelmann Construction Inc.	M&E Auto Body	Wilke Truck Service
First Bank - Breese	NACO Printing and Advertising	WSI Marketing
First Command		Yaekel & Associates
Foppe Ace Hardware		
Gateway FS		

**Gifts In Kind & Other Donors:** Anonymous, Aviston Lumber Co., Bartelso Knights of Columbus, Breese Family Vision, Breese Journal & Publishing, Copying Concepts, Dairy King, Eckerts, Inc., FCB Banks, Gateway Grizzlies, Mike & Mary Kay Gebke, Hellige's Supermarket, Hogan Trucking, Huelsmann Construction Co., Imming Insurance Agency, Kalmer Landscape Supply, Koerckenmeier Excavating, Inc., Dennis & Cindy Korte, Meyer's Greenhouse & Nursery, Mid-County Auto Supply, Oak Brook Golf Club, Kurt Schenk, Southern Bus & Mobility, Taylor Made Signs, The Bank of Edwardsville, The Hills Golf Club, The Orchards Golf Course, Alex Thompson, Watts Copy Systems

Thanks to all the golfers and team sponsors!



Nick is picking tomatoes from the plants he and his co-workers planted during their down time.



Erin McAllister, Art Therapist, worked on this canvas with several participants at the Metro building.



Bob Ricker, volunteer, comes to Community Link's East building to teach participants how to fish.

Timmermann Milk Service, Inc.  
Tin Shed by Kloss  
Turf Lounge  
WGEL Bond Broadcasting  
WSI Marketing

## EMPLOYERS MATCHING GIFTS

Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals  
Monsanto  
Mutual of America  
Shell Oil Co. Foundation  
Wells Fargo

## EMPLOYEE GIVING CAMPAIGN

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• Ronald & Leigh Ann Arentsen  
• Kristie Buller  
• Debra Dumstroff  
• James & Colleen Kuhl  
• Rob Haag  
• Mark & Becky Hitpas  
• Jeff & Renee Kehrer

Bank of America from  
• Anonymous  
• Kurt & Suzanne Muehlher  
• Jeremy & Laurie Hemker

Deloitte from  
• Brett Beer

First National Bank from  
• Richard & Carolyn Davenport

Macy's from  
• Anonymous

Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals from  
• Deveron Reising

Monsanto from  
• Herb & Carol Husteddee  
• Jane Kaiser

Mutual of America from  
• Kurt Schenk

TIAA-CREF from  
• Donna Litteken  
• Tom & Nancy Rakers

Wells Fargo from  
• Anonymous  
• Robert and Janice Albers  
• Teresa Haar  
• Helen Heimann  
• Catherine Huegen  
• Gary Kloeckner  
• Tim & Vicky Langenhorst  
• Ken Powless  
• James & Mary Kay Wiegmann

## THIRD-PARTY FUNDRAISERS

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

## ORGANIZATIONAL GIFTS

Aviston American Legion  
Breese Youth Baseball League  
Catholic Holy Family Society  
Highland Jaycees  
Highland Moose Lodge  
Highland Rotary Club  
Ignite Church  
Junior Service Club of St. Clair County  
Knights of Columbus  
• Albers Council #9768  
• Aviston Council #11110  
• Bartelso Council #4745  
• Carlyle Council #1382  
• Highland Council #1580  
• Trenton Council  
Lions Club  
• Breese  
• Carlyle  
Special Needs Foundation for Community Link

## IN MEMORY OF ...

Adam Nettles from  
Anonymous  
Joan Theising  
Alvin Hacker from  
Richard & Marcie Hacker  
Clarence Hodapp from  
Anonymous

Arthur & Sylvia Henken

Auggie Fehrmann from  
Mary Ann Jansen

Henry Ratermann from  
Anonymous  
Aviston Lumber Co.  
Breese American Legion Post 252

Breese Motor Sales, Inc.  
Kurt & Carol Gajewski  
Robert & Daralynn Gross  
Arthur & Sylvia Henken  
Don & Patricia Henrichs  
Mark Holland  
John & Nancy Huelsmann  
Derrick Husmann  
Kevin Landmann  
Linda Manley  
Kurt & Tara Peters  
Maggie Peters  
Verna Ratermann  
Virgil & Carolyn Rehkemper

Kurt & Lynn Ripperda  
Brian & Blanche Schwarz  
Dolores Sudholt  
Mark & Nancy Tebbe

James Dulle from  
Ray Scheibel  
Aloys & Carol Litteken

Jerry Jansen from  
Donald & Sherry Bade  
Don & Patricia Henrichs  
Dan & Jo Ann Hopcus  
Herbert Hustedde  
Tom & Jan Hustedde  
Dennis & Kathleen Keeven  
Daniel & Cynthia Liening  
Tony & Julie Mueth  
Steven & Marilyn Schmidt  
Cindy Timmermann  
Gilbert & Patricia Vollmer

John Sedivy from  
Fred Becker  
Howard & Bonita Boeckman  
Thomas & Ellen Crocco  
Donald & Mary Dravis  
Patricia Fehrendorf  
Chris Gebke  
Dave & Diane Grapperhaus

Arthur & Sylvia Henken  
Daniel & Emily  
Hollenkamp  
Simon Kampwerth  
Richard Kuiken  
Julia Lunnemann  
Steven & Patti Mahlandt  
Richard & Jennifer Robb  
George Sedivy  
Kristine Siegler  
Bridgett Stark  
Diane Von Bokel  
Jerome & Pat Voss  
Bernard & Rita Winkeler

**Joseph Bango** from  
Robert & Colleen  
Seiffert

**Kim Herzing Brennan**  
from  
Brian & Amy Wuebbles

**Marjorie Clements** from  
Selma Warnecke

**Paul Bruns** from  
Anthony & Donna  
Budde

**Penny Kapp** from  
Gene & Paula Redman

**Robert Range** from  
Kay Albert  
Gary & Sharon Briggs  
Robert & Kay Connolly  
Anthony Elfrink  
Brenda Elfrink  
Keith & Laurie Frank  
Dale & Faye Labrier  
Joanne Schilling

**Verna Ratermann** from  
Curtis & Leah Albers  
Anonymous  
Breese Motor Sales, Inc.  
Ralph & Marilyn Brown  
Rick & Barb Gerstner  
Arthur & Sylvia Henken  
Don & Patricia Henrichs  
Matthew & Jenny  
Horenkamp  
Diane Hughes  
Derrick Husmann  
Leo & Carol Landmann  
Linda Manley  
Kurt & Tara Peters  
Mike Rakers  
Robert & Pam Schuette

Robert & Kathleen  
Schumacher  
Brian & Blanche  
Schwarz  
Mark & Renee  
Stenmann  
Dolores Sudholt  
Marjorie Swagler  
Mark & Nancy Tebbe  
Edward & Jo Ann  
Vonder Haar  
Ralph & Karen Voss  
John & Kay Wasmuth  
James & Mary Kay  
Wiegmann  
Timothy & Angela Wilke  
Paula Williams

## FAMILY FOUNDATION & INDIVIDUAL GIFTS

**A**  
Alice Abendroth  
Bill & Linda Abendroth  
Warren & Jane Adams  
Charles & Diane Albers  
Clint & Chrissie Albers  
Connie Albers  
Dennis & Sandy Albers  
Donald & Claudia  
Albers  
Jerry & Marian Albers  
Michael & GERALYN  
Albers  
Karen Altes  
Mike Amann  
Diane Ambuehl  
Jason & Katie Anselment  
Anthony & Deb  
Antonacci  
William & Rosalie  
Aschbacher  
Connie Ash  
George Ash  
Robert Astroth  
Cynthia Auld  
Ann Austin  
Eugene & Sharlene  
Austin  
Kathy Austin

**B**  
Jane Bango  
Nicole Baquet

Kathy Barkman  
Fred & Carol  
Bartelsmeyer  
Elaine Barton  
Tom Barz  
Dale & Carol Baumgart-  
ner  
Jeffrey & Aggie Becker  
Margaret Beckmann  
Michael & Michelle Beer  
Carl & Paula Beichel  
Bruce & Cindy Benhoff  
Jeanette Benhoff  
Dan & Darlene Billhartz  
Francis & Helen  
Billhartz  
Mark & Lynn Billhartz  
Roger & Dorothy  
Boeckman  
Gerard & Patricia  
Boeckmann  
Jim & Eileen  
Boeckmann  
Barbara Boggs  
David & Amy Boggs  
Greg Bomleny  
Colleen Booth  
Bob & Susan Bowman  
Bob Brandkamp  
Paula Brandkamp  
Dan & Mardel Braun  
Karen Braundmeier  
Gary & Sharon Briggs  
Ed & Jeanette  
Broeckling  
Anthony & Donna  
Budde  
Harry & Cathie Buller  
Mike & Marilyn  
Buscher

**C**  
Richard & Dorcas Cecil  
Richard & Carolyn  
Crocker

**D**  
Deanna Dashley  
Larry & Linda Davis  
David & Jane Deiters  
Todd & Kelly Dempsey  
Eric & Christina  
Detmer  
Philip & Joyce Detmer  
Tom & Maribeth  
Detmer



Employees from Associated Bank came to the Fairview Heights Metro building for a tour to learn more about Community Link.



Having a little fun during DSP Appreciation Week. Thank you to all of the DSPs at Community Link for your dedication and hard work!



David is a resident at one of our CILAs. The residents of our CILA homes are encouraged to be involved in all aspects of daily living. David is pictured making home-made pizzas for dinner!



*The United Mine Workers of America Local 2295 are pictured presenting a donation to Community Link. Thank you for your commitment to your community and your support of Community Link!*



*Enjoying a beautiful day at Hannah's Playground in Breese!*



*Lauren, an education major at McKendree University, spending some time volunteering at the Metro location.*

Anna Belle Dixon  
Bonnie Dobrinich  
Alvina Donnewald  
Calvin & Angelika  
Doore  
Gaye Dugan

**E**  
Becky Elfrink  
Carolyn Enboden  
Dale Engelmann  
Paula Essenpreis  
Mildred Essert  
Skip & Shirley Etter  
Pat Evans

**F**  
Stephanie Fabjance  
Paraig Farrell  
Kent Fehrmann  
Willene Fehrmann  
Norb Feltrop  
Michelle Ferris  
Adam & Jamie Fields  
Gwen Fischer  
Laura Fleming  
James & Theresa Flood  
John Floyd  
Timmy & Kelly Fohne  
Edward & Joan Foppe  
Roger & Margaret  
Foppe  
Dick & Pat Frerker  
Yvonne Fricker  
Leon Fuehne  
Ron & Sue Fuehne  
Kris Fulkerson  
Portia Fullgrabe  
Gerald & Mary Ann  
Fussner

**G**  
Lori Garcia  
Dax & Lindsay  
Garrison  
Perry & Missy Gaskill  
Chris Gebke  
Harold & Christina  
Gentz  
Bob & Lisa Gerner  
Rick & Barbara  
Gerstner  
Ruth Gerstner  
Zelda Ginter  
Daniel & Dixie Glaub  
Robert & Agnes Glaub

Pauline Glenn  
William & Eileen  
Goldman  
Mattie Graham  
Elaine Grapperhaus  
Mary Grapperhaus  
Paul & Margo Gunsser

**H**  
Richard & Kathleen  
Haake  
Janice Haas  
Sharon Haas  
Richard & Marcie  
Hacker  
Ann & Barry Hampel  
Lori Harlan  
Gerald Harris  
Sandy Harris  
Terry & Mary Harris  
Jim & Ruth Haskins  
Rosemary Hatton  
Brian Hayes  
Dan & Carol  
Heggemeier  
Bernard & Marilyn  
Heimann  
Helen Heimann  
Joe & Nancy Heimann  
Johanna Heimann  
Nate Heimann  
Joseph Heinzmann  
Glen & Judy Hemker  
Joe & Carol Hemker  
Ken & Patty Hempen  
Arthur & Sylvia Henken  
Dennis & Barbara

Henken  
Norm Herzing  
Scott & Sheri Herzing  
William & Elizabeth  
Hibner  
Amy & Michael Hill  
Robert & Bobbie Hill  
Sarah Hill  
Jenalle Hilmes  
Bob & Kathy Hitpas  
Daniel Hitpas  
Patrick & Carol Hitpas  
Denver & Sharon  
Hoelscher  
Monica Hofstetter  
Marvin & Jane  
Hollenkamp  
Ron & Diane  
Hollenkamp

Diane Holtgrave  
Jean Holtgrave  
Joseph & Glenda  
Holtgrewe  
Julius & Kathy  
Holthaus  
Marsha Holzhauser  
Tracy Hood  
Marie Horstmann  
John & Diane  
Huelskamp Sr.  
Mark & Karen  
Huelskamp  
Janet Huelsmann  
Mike & Lynne  
Huelsmann  
Ronald Huelsmann  
Geraldyn Hurd  
Herb & Carol Hustedde  
Tom & Jan Hustedde

**I**  
Linda Iaun  
Gerald & Mary Innes  
Douglas & Julie Isaak

**J**  
Robert & Janet Jacob  
Joseph & Jean Jacober  
Carl & Margaret Jakel  
Jeff Janda  
Alfred Jansen  
Lawrence & Rose  
Jansen  
Mark & Donna  
Johnson  
Judy Jones

**K**  
Jacob Kaiser  
Jane Kaiser  
Bradley Kalmer  
Dewey & Carol Kalmer  
Stanley Kalmer  
Paula & Scott  
Kampwerth  
Thomas & Celia  
Kannall  
Diana Keys  
Sherri Khile  
Isaac Kim  
Fred & Fran Kinzinger  
Del & Gerry Kloeckner  
Roman Kloeckner  
Karl & Kelly  
Klostermann

Norb & Jane  
 Klostermann  
 Rod Kniepmann  
 Dave & Debora Kohnen  
 Melissa Kohnen  
 Ryan & Shelly  
 Kohrmann  
 Richard & Barbara  
 Koopmann  
 Ronald & Margie  
 Koopmann  
 Allen Korte Special  
 Needs Trust  
 Brad & Jean Korte  
 Craig & Dana Korte  
 Daniel & Elizabeth  
 Korte

Dennis & Cindy Korte  
 Edwin & Sandra Korte  
 George Korte  
 Greg & Nicole Korte  
 Larry & Ethel Korte  
 Mark Korte  
 Ralph & Donna Korte  
 Thomas & Marian Korte  
 Todd & Julie Korte  
 Wayne & Linda Korte  
 Richard Krajcovic  
 John & Barb Krebs  
 Alex Kuhl  
 Courtney Kuhl  
 Ralph & Marietta Kuhl  
 Charles & Bonnie  
 Kunkel  
 Dana Kunz  
 Al Kuper

**L**  
 Paul & Ruth Lager  
 Rachel Laier  
 Roger & Florence  
 Lakenburgese  
 Marietta Lamberson  
 Kenneth & Margie  
 Lammers  
 James & Mary Lampe  
 Karen Lampe  
 Mark Lampert  
 Kevin Landmann  
 Julie Langenhorst  
 Michele Lawrence  
 Michelle & Joshua  
 Leckrone  
 John & Carol  
 Lengermann  
 Angie Leonetti

Alison Levine  
 Allan & Carla Litteken  
 Donna Litteken  
 Michael & Diana Loehr  
 Jim & Carol Loepker  
 Rick & Amanda Loepker  
 Severin Loepker  
 Dennis & Barb Lohman  
 Wayne & Sandy  
 Lohman  
 Glenda Long  
 Marian Luebbers  
 Keith & Andrea Lueking  
 Greg & Dawn Luna  
 Chris Lyons

**M**  
 Jerry Mahlandt Trust  
 Linda Majchrzak  
 Anthony & Debra  
 Maniscalli  
 Robert Marciniak  
 Kirk & Angela Markuly  
 Linda Marti  
 Roy & Leona Marti  
 Christine Martin  
 Amy Maschhoff  
 Bob & Lynn Maue  
 Jerry & Marilyn  
 McDevitt  
 Joseph & Barb  
 McNamara  
 Charlie Meier  
 William & Deborah  
 Meier

Nicole Mendoza  
 Timothy Mensing  
 Kenneth & Susan Meyer  
 Mary Ann Meyer  
 Helen Middeke  
 Kirk & Rhonda Mills  
 Lori Mills  
 Jon & Geralyn Minton  
 Rosie Mongan  
 Karen Moss  
 Donna Moyer  
 Peter & Deb Murphy  
 Paul & Joyce  
 Musenbrock

**N**  
 Tammy Neaville  
 James & Terri Neighbors  
 Rick & Barbara Nelson  
 Robert & Melissa  
 Netemeyer

Cassie Neu  
 Edward & Pat Niemann  
 Betty Niemeyer  
 Elsie Niemeyer  
 Greg & Marie Niemeyer  
 John & Janice Niemeyer  
 Martie & Dewey Noles  
 Pat & Esther  
 Norrenberns

**O**  
 Mary O'Brien  
 Bobby & Carolyn Odum  
 Ann Olliges  
 Kevin & Elaina Osterbur  
 Don & Kay Ostrom  
 Bob & Julie Ott  
 Norbert & Dolores  
 Ottensmeier

**P**  
 Betty Pendleton  
 Park & Nancy Penwell  
 Kurt & Tara Peters  
 Maggie Peters  
 Herb & Jo Ann  
 Pingsterhaus  
 Stephanie Pitt  
 Michael & Barb Plocher  
 Rachel Poettker  
 Genevieve Powers  
 Phillip Powers  
 James & Catherine  
 Prediger

**R**  
 Dennis & Joanna Rakers  
 James & Marilyn Rakers  
 Kevin Rakers  
 Patrick Rakers  
 Pat Range  
 James Ranz  
 Rick & Rita Ratermann  
 Rodney & Katie  
 Ratermann  
 Francis & Rose Marie  
 Rehkemper  
 Margaret Resnick  
 Gayla Reynolds  
 John & Bernadine  
 Richter  
 Paul & Carol Richter  
 Steven Richter  
 Bob Ricker  
 Pat Riegel  
 Ron & Mary Ripperda



*The Community Link Enlighteners delivered cards and balloons to all of the veterans that work at Community Link.*



*Infants and toddlers learn about language and literacy through meaningful interactions with nurturing adults. In an attempt to increase interest in early literacy, the First Step program holds several literacy playgroups each year.*



*St. Anthony's Parish has once again put the participants that live in our CILA homes on their Jesse Tree, and delivered the wrapped presents for them to enjoy Christmas morning! Thanks to everyone that made sure they would all have presents to open!*



*First Step families had the opportunity to learn about science while participating in a variety of activities at their playgroup.*



*The participants that live at the Germantown CILA were able to take advantage of some great weather and spend some time at the St. Louis Zoo!*



*Community Link's Board of Directors put on a fantastic Glo Bingo fundraiser to support our organization!*

Jan & David  
Rittenhouse  
Renato Rivera  
Betty Robben  
Gene & Martha Robke  
Kevin & Nancy Robke  
Edward & Donna  
Rolfingsmeyer

## S

Shannon Sartain  
Herbert Schlarmann  
Nichole Schlarmann  
Keri Schleiner  
Don & Joyce Schmidt  
James & Lynn Schmidt  
Kristin Schmidt  
Mike Schomaker  
Steve & Deb Schomaker  
Raymond & Romy  
Schrage  
Catherine Schroeder  
Jim & Diane Schroeder  
Gerald & Carol Schulte  
Martin & Karen  
Schumacher  
Susan Schwarberg  
Carol Seidel  
Virginia Sexton  
Craig & Catharine  
Siefker  
Katie Siefker  
Kristine Siegler  
John & Linda Smith  
Mark & Cindy Smith  
Marty & Barb Smith  
Larry & Marie Smothers  
Gerald Sparlin  
Special Needs

Foundation for  
Community Link  
Leah Stanley  
Janette Steinbruegge  
Larry & Kathryn Stout  
J. Kay Strack  
Joe & Trudy Strieker  
Robert & Joyce Strieker  
Dale Strubhart  
Robert & Patricia Sugg  
Melissa Swagler

## T

William & Doris Tadlock  
James & Frances Taylor  
Dave & Connie Tebbe

Joan Theising  
Ralph Thole  
Ron & Mary Thomas  
Brian & Nina  
Timmermann  
Charles Timmermann  
Cindy Timmermann  
Craig & Peggy  
Timmermann  
Madelyn Timmermann  
Maurice & Kathryn  
Timmermann  
Patrick & Linda  
Timmermann  
Stephen Timmermann  
Timothy Timmermann  
William Timmermann  
Joan Toebe  
David & Shelley  
Toennies  
Dennis & Pat Toennies  
Jim Toennies  
Ron & Susan Toennies  
Terry & Bonnie  
Toennies  
Walt & Julie Toennies  
Wayne & Angela  
Toennies  
Donna Tomerlin  
Floyd & Denise Trame  
Wayne & Jean Trampe  
Cecelia Tschannen  
Brian Tucker

## U

Steve & Mary  
Usselman

## V

Christine Van Sickle  
Al & Geri Varel  
Ben & Carla Varel  
Mary Varel  
Marvin & Janet Venhaus  
Ronald & Kathy  
Venhaus  
Dolores Von Bokel  
Denise Vonder Haar  
Curtis & Charlotte Voss  
Jerome & Pat Voss

## W

Deborah Walker  
Robert & Hillary Watts  
Kirk & Angela Weidner  
Stephen & Edith

Weilbacher  
Linda Weiler  
Larry & Mary Wellen  
Patricia Welling  
Brian & Kristen Wheeler  
Rodd & Lisa Whelpley  
Dennis & Genie White  
Heather Wiesemeyer  
Junilla Wieter  
August & Evelina  
Wildhaber  
Darlene Wilhelm  
Hugo Wilke  
Donna M. Willett  
Kara Williams  
Paula Williams  
John Wilson  
Alphonse & Kay  
Winkeler  
Andrew Winkeler  
Bernard & Rita  
Winkeler  
Gary & Diane Winkeler  
Joe & Marge Winkeler  
Lisa Winkeler  
Marietta Winkeler  
Wayne & Janice  
Winkeler  
Laura Wintermann  
Cathy Wolfe  
Brian & Amy Wuebbels  
Sherry & Paul Wuller

## Z

Angie Zahn  
Frank & Barb Zaloga  
Ronald Zobrist  
Cindy Zurliene  
Lorraine Zurliene

## IN-KIND GIFTS OF GOODS

*(excluding Golf Scramble sponsors, recognized in ad)*

### from Businesses

Carlyle IGA  
CC Food Marts  
Dairy King  
DCA Construction  
Donnewald Distributing  
Excel Bottling Co.  
Family Video  
Hardee's Breese &  
Carlyle  
Jansen Chevrolet  
Mattress Firm

Prairie Farms Dairy  
Taylor Made Signs  
The Lubar & Bistro  
Vibrant Vida Boutique  
Wells Fargo  
Yaekel & Associates

**from Organizations/  
Gov't.**

Breese Junior Women's  
Club  
Carlyle Christian Church  
CCAR  
Clinton County  
Licensed Beverage  
Association  
Girl Scouts of Southern  
Illinois  
St. Anthony Catholic  
Church  
St. Bernard Catholic  
Church  
St. Paul Catholic Church  
The Muny  
Trenton Tumbleweeds  
Garden Club

**from Individuals**

Jerry & Marian Albers  
Kelly Barriger  
Joyce Barth  
Dennis & Debbie Becker  
Leonard & Mary Beer  
Barbara Bodner  
Linda Book  
Daniel & Mardel Braun  
Renae Donohoo  
Valerie Driscoll  
Sally Fleege  
Patrick & Linda Forhan  
Dave Gall  
Thomas & Barbara  
Grawe  
Johanna Heimann  
Helen Heimann  
Madonna Heldenbrand  
Ron & Helen Henken  
Judy Hereford  
Jean Holtgrave  
Ken & Marlene  
Holtgrave  
Mark & Karen  
Huelskamp  
Kendra Jansen  
Helen Kreitner  
Jeanne Kueper-Krueger  
Ralph & Marietta Kuhl  
Mark & Lora Kuhn

Steve & Margaret Loomis  
Senator Kyle McCarter  
Tony & Julie Mueth  
Carrie Rakers  
Howard & Marilou  
Rakers  
Ashley Reynolds  
James & Helen Rudolph  
Linda Sambor  
Marilyn Sammarco  
Melissa Schlau  
Anna Steffenson  
Peggy Thole  
Ronald & Mary Thomas  
Ronald & Diane Voss  
Kathleen Wilson  
Bernard & Rita Winkeler  
Kindra Wise  
Frank & Barb Zaloga

**IN-KIND GIFTS  
OF VOLUNTEER  
SERVICE**

**from Businesses and  
Organizations**

Althoff Catholic High  
School  
CC Parrot Head Club  
Central High School  
First Bank – Breese  
First Bank – O'Fallon  
Greenville College  
Ignite Church  
Jared Burke Foundation  
Kaskaskia College  
School of  
Cosmetology  
Mater Dei Catholic  
High School  
McKendree University  
Ralston Purina  
Employees  
Republic of Tea  
Employees  
St. Paul Catholic Church  
Trenton Tumbleweeds  
Club

**from Individuals**

Caleb Albers  
Mya Albers  
Marian Albers  
Jerry Albers  
Mandy Allen  
Shaquille Armstrong  
Chloe Ashe  
Owen Ashe

Dusty Atteberry  
Cindy Auld  
Susan Ayers  
Aggie Becker  
Amy Becker  
Brendan Beckmann  
Brody Beckmann  
Karena Beckmann  
Sheila Beckmann  
Darlene Beer  
Phyllis Berndsen  
Barbara Bodnar  
Amanda Boeckmann  
Amy Boeckmann  
Luke Boeckmann  
Stephanie Bowen  
Bob Brandkamp  
Paula Brandkamp  
Logan Braundmeier  
Cake Breed  
Cindy Brown  
Malcolm Brown  
Tyler Brown  
Beverly Burriell  
Deborah

Coultas-Simmons  
Becky Davis  
Peyton Dermody  
Alex Detmer  
Maribeth Detmer  
Kolton Diesen  
Erica Downen  
Brenda Dumstorff  
Carly Etter  
Kyle Eversgerd  
Geraldyn Fehrmann  
Adam Fields  
Tammy Finke  
Racheal Ford  
Kerry Foppe  
Rachael Fulton  
Amanda Gall  
Dave Gall  
Harry Garner  
Chuck Gebke  
Elle Gebke  
Christopher Gerdes  
Kelsey Gerdes  
Agnes Glaub  
Elizabeth Grisby  
Levi Hart  
Leah Hart  
Rich & Marcie Hacker  
Hailea Hadsell  
Katlyn Harpstrite  
Bryson Harris  
Glenn & Sandy Harris  
Joe Heimann



*Jansen Chevrolet opened a new location, and graciously donated items to Community Link. Along with the many office items, they saved a treasure for Larry!*



*A group from McKendree University's Sport Marketing class assigned to Community Link to help to develop a marketing plan for Community Link's Golf Scramble fundraiser.*



*Community Link would like to thank State Representative Charlie Meier for stopping by our Breese West building for a tour. We appreciate the opportunity to educate the public about our services!*

# Remembering Our Friends...

## 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.

## James Belba

70 of Swansea, IL, passed away on January 4, 2016. James participated in the Adult Day Training program at the Fairview Heights Metro site. He was a resident of Specialized Living Center in Swansea, IL.

## Thomas Pretto

58 of New Baden, IL, formerly of Columbia, IL, passed away on January 17, 2016. Thomas participated in the Adult Day Training program at the Breese West site. He was a resident of Clinton Manor Living Center in New Baden, IL.

## David Jacobson

63 of Swansea, IL, passed away on June 9, 2016. David participated in the Adult Day Training program at the Fairview Heights Metro site. He was a resident of Specialized Living Center in Swansea, IL.

## Army Bell Miller

61 of Swansea, IL, passed away on June 20, 2016. Army Bell participated in the Adult Day Training program at the Fairview Heights Metro site. She was a resident of Specialized Living Center in Swansea, IL.

## Wiley Smith

60 of Aviston, IL, passed away on July 13, 2016. Wiley participated in the Adult Day Training program at the Breese East site. He was a resident of Aviston Terrace in Aviston, IL.

## Stephen Timmermann

57 of Breese, IL, passed away on July 15, 2016. Steve 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.

Kathy Heimann  
Cheryl Heimann  
Jennifer Heimann  
Paula Helldoerfer  
Cateri Hellige  
Andy Hellige  
Abby Hellmann  
Lexi Hemker  
Ginger Hemann  
Chelsey Henrichs  
Erica Hitpas  
Katie Hlmchik  
Alexis Hoelscher  
Imogene Holtgrave  
Collin Holthaus  
Toots Holthaus  
Maria Hudson  
Gylliana Hudson  
Carla Huelsmann  
Emma Huelskamp  
Karen Huelskamp  
Sophie Hustedde  
Maci Ingram  
Carl Jakel  
Maggie Jakel  
Leah Janes  
Eric & Allison Johnson  
Logan Johnson  
Natasha Johnson  
Jeanette Johnson  
Ricky Johnson  
Will Kasson  
Bonnie Kauling  
Kaylon Keene  
Diane Klostermann  
Matt Kohnen  
Deb Kehrer  
Dana Knoop  
Torre Kohrmann

Courtney Kuhl  
Melissa Kuhl  
William Kuhl  
Lora Kuhn  
Margo Lampe  
Tom Larson  
Minh Le  
Ciara Lohmann  
Zach Loehr  
Carson Loepker  
Danielle Mikey  
Pat Mangdich  
Shannon Markus  
Gabriella McHenry  
Phillip McLeod  
Maggie Mensing  
Brooke Miller  
Brenda Morris  
Matt Mote  
Scott Morrison  
Alex Mueth  
Tony Mueth  
Traci Nannie  
Brian Nelson  
Rick Nelson  
Linda Netemeyer  
Maddie Nicherson  
Amanda Olze  
Kim Peek  
Madi Peppenhorst  
Bonita Phillips  
Marian Pierce  
Keplyn Pierce  
Sandra Plocher  
Mitchell Pollmann  
Drew Potthast  
Quentin Potthast  
Jenna Ratermann  
Kara Ratermann

Bailey Rhodes  
Doug Revermann  
Aften Richter  
Bob Ricker  
Rachel Rivera  
Jan Rittenhouse  
Dalton Roeckenhaus  
John Salanik  
Dennis Siegler  
Keegan Spirek  
Ed Schrage  
Barb Schroeder  
Kayla Schroeder  
Ken Schroeder  
Saurie Scott  
Cole Sellers  
David Shrum  
Clare Skaggs  
Diane Smith  
Kerry Steinmann  
Christy Sterns  
Kelsey Stewart  
Ava Stockard  
Suzanne Stockard  
Cole Strotheide  
Kris Tebbe  
Kaysie Tisdale  
Ryan Vonbokel  
Kelly Voss  
Corynn Wheelan  
Lisa Wieda  
Jen Weinker  
Nicole Williams  
Ann Winkeler  
Josh Wolford  
Barbara Zaloga

### 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
- Art supplies (paint, construction paper, contact paper, etc.)
- Hand held electric mixer

#### Aviston CILA

- 11-16kW Standby Home Generator System with 200A Service Disconnect and AC Shedding

#### Carlisle CILA

- 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

#### CILA Intermittent

- Cardinal/concert tickets
- Gift cards to restaurants

#### 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
- Hand held magnets

- Art supplies (canvas, vinyl, paint, yarn)

#### Fairview Heights Metro

- Leather/Vinyl Recliners
- Refrigerator
- Wrought iron patio set
- Outdoor bench
- iPads or other tablets
- Pots & pans
- Reception area furniture
- Sensory stimulation materials and activities
- Automatic door openers

#### 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
- Complete landscape project
- Complete sidewalk around building

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

# VOLUNTEERS MAKING A HUGE IMPACT AT COMMUNITY LINK

When Community Link began the Volunteer Program we had no idea of the impact it would make. During this past fiscal year, we achieved over 1,700 hours of volunteer time at Community Link. From the Independent Sector Report of 2015, the national average value of a volunteer per hour is \$23.56. So it could be said that more than \$40,000 was contributed to Community Link! But the impact of the volunteers at Community Link can't simply be measured in numbers. The true impact can be seen in the faces of our participants. You are helping to create experiences and fill gaps when we are limited due to budget concerns.

We are very grateful to all of our volunteers this past year and look forward to many more in the future!

We continue to get numerous calls about volunteer opportunities, but always looking for more families of participants and community members to get involved. If you are interested in being placed on our Volunteer email group to see volunteer requests, or if you have any questions or comments, please call Chris Gebke, Director of Community Outreach, at (618) 526-3929 or email [Chrisg@commmlink.org](mailto:Chrisg@commmlink.org). ❖



*An employee from the Republic of Tea entertaining the participants at the West building*



*A group of students from McKendree University that spent some time with us volunteering*



*We are grateful for our volunteers that help us with painting projects to keep Community Link looking nice!*



*Employees from the Republic of Tea spent some time teaching our participants about tea!*



*Aggie Becker comes to Community Link twice a week to lead a yoga class for our participants. They love it!*



*A group of employees from Ralston Purina helping with yard work at one of our CILA homes*

## Community Integrated Living Arrangements (CILAs) recently made renovations to three CILA homes

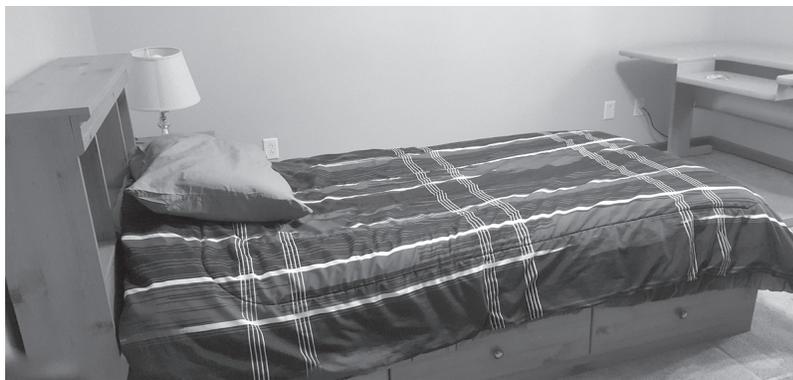


Community Link is dedicated to ensuring that our Community Integrated Living Arrangements (CILAs) are meeting the needs of the individuals that live there. We have recently made some renovations to three of our homes to meet these needs.

The Carlyle CILA was updated with new flooring throughout the house, renovation of a bathroom to make it more accessible, and changes to one of the bedrooms due to water damage. While the construction was underway, five of the participants stayed in a cabin by Carlyle Lake, and one participant stayed at another one of our CILA homes for three weeks. They enjoyed their mini “vacation”, but were happy when they were able to go back home. Some volunteers helped to clean and organize the home before they returned.



Two participants at the Aviston CILA were sharing a bedroom, but really wanted to have their own space. Using funds donated by the Special Needs Foundation for Community Link and from family members, we were able to make this happen. A bedroom was added to this home using some space from the large two-car garage, and now they each have their own personalized, private rooms to come home to! While the construction was going on, a third resident was able to get some better shelving in his room and a new color on his walls. Thanks to all who helped with this project!



Another large renovation project was completed on the Highland CILA home. The four participants that reside in this home are dependent on wheelchairs, and the two bathrooms in this home were too small to allow them to move around adequately. This renovation combined the two small bathrooms into one large accessible bathroom to allow these individuals to have greater independence in their home. This project was dependent on the generosity of the Highland community and the surrounding areas. More than 50 people responded with donations, including some large donations from the Special Needs Foundation for Community Link, the Highland Area Community Foundation, the Jacob family, and the Korte family. Thank you to everyone that helped to make this project a reality! ❖

## Adult-care workers rally for more staff to help clients

One of the greatest accomplishments of Patti Vardiman's career working with developmentally disabled adults came unexpectedly one day.

She was working with the learning series "Hooked on Phonics" when a middle-aged woman in her class caught her attention.

"I just put (in the CD) just to try it out to see if anybody would respond — and she's unable to move her hands — and she was sitting at the table moaning."

Vardiman went over to the table.

"She was actually following the CD and reading along with the CD and the book. It was time to turn the page, and she was unable to do that."

Vardiman said she was fascinated to learn more about her client, who had just turned 50. Vardiman found out that she could read the text to her and so long as the questions were in a yes-or-no format, her client could answer them.

"We do so many things," Vardiman said of her work as a direct support professional, or DSP, at Community Link, the Breese-based organization with offices across the metro-east.

"We're interpreters," she said, adding later, "We're housekeepers. We're (certified nursing assistants). I can't stress enough to people that this is not a minimum wage job, and in order to get the staff that we need, we have to make (the job) more attractive and offer them more money."

Vardiman spoke at a press conference in Belleville on Tuesday, March 22nd on behalf of many metro-east direct support professionals at 16 organizations, as well as the people they work for, to draw attention to what John Huelskamp, the executive director of Community Link, described as a "growing crisis ... that threatens the core of the entire system of support" in community-based centers.

The organizations are worried that stories like Vardiman's could disappear without attracting more workers to the field through higher wages.

The support professionals work with an estimated 27,000 people with developmental disabilities in the state, 1,500 of which are located in the metro-east, according to the groups.

There are 34,000 direct support professionals in Illinois, and their average wage per hour is \$9.35, for a total of \$19,000 a year, for very "emotionally-draining" work, Huelskamp said.

The workers haven't received a pay increase in eight years, which makes attracting people to the field of adult care difficult. Over time, that means that clients are subject to more mistakes and inferior care, the organizations said.

"It's the equivalent to ignoring repairs in the bridges and roads," Huelskamp said.

### Finding the right wage

There are two types of direct support professionals. The first work in "community facilities" and say they are paid less than those who who are unionized and work in state facilities.

About 45 percent of community-based direct support professionals, on the other hand, receive some form of public assistance, like SNAP benefits, better known as food stamps, Huelskamp said, and that paying workers more would relieve some of the burden on state aid.

He suggested raising the wage to \$15 an hour.

The pay increase wouldn't come solely on the back of Illinoisans, he pointed out. Because Medicaid reimbursements account for half

of the funding of community-based adult care centers, the federal government would also pick up half of the pay raise.

A pay increase would keep people at their jobs, which the forum attendees said they think is necessary to build and maintain relationships with their clients.

There are three levels of functionality clients possess, which require different numbers of support staff. Federal guidelines mandate one support worker for every 10 adults with high functionality, seven with medium functionality and five with low functionality. If programs don't meet those staffing levels, Huelskamp said, they could lose their funding.

That level of care on paper has strong reverberations in the real world, as Peter McManus knows.

McManus, a client who shares his home with three roommates in Quincy, said that it takes him a while to warm up to the right people.

"I'm very cautious about who I trust," he said.

McManus likes the freedom of his house and the help the support workers provide.

A pay increase would keep people at their jobs, which the forum attendees believe is necessary to build and maintain relationships with their clients.

As for Patti Vardiman, who works in Fairview Heights, she knows the world of caring for adults with developmental disabilities inside and out. Not only does she work with clients at Community Link every day, but two of her family members also attend the program.

At home, however, she said she often feels guilty because she is always thinking about her job and new ways to help her clients.

"It takes time to be able to look at them and just know what they want or what they need. It could be a gesture. It could be a noise, a grunt, or whatever, and over time we can look at them and tell what it is that they want. Somebody else could walk in the room, and they would be clueless."

Vardiman stated, "I can't stress enough to people that this is not a minimum wage job, and in order to get the staff that we need, we have to make (the job) more attractive and offer them more money"

Two bills in the Illinois legislature haven't passed, leaving Vardiman at below \$12 an hour after more than two decades in the industry.

Still, she said, she has no regrets. After becoming a direct support professional in the early 1990s when she was between jobs, now, she said, she felt she has found her calling.

-Casey Bischel, Belleville News Democrat



# “Optimism is a cure for many things.”

– Michael J. Fox

Pessimism appears all around us. We are about to elect a new President in a campaign where both major party candidates are the most unpopular in history. The State of Illinois is halfway through a second year without a budget which is also an uninspiring historical first for any state. Confidence in government, big business, the media, and organized religion are at all-time lows. We live in an age of instant media where a barrage of bad news is a finger swipe away from entering our consciousness. As my colleague Dr. John Pingo notes, our brains are wired to be more sensitive to bad news and potential threats than to good news. While this lopsided focus on bad news may have helped our ancestors navigate through a dangerous world, it could serve as a detriment to our future.

While Community Link does periodically become ensnared by the Venus flytrap-like pessimism that surrounds us, we know it isn't the right place to be. Community Link faces a choice every day in embracing either a pessimistic or optimistic outlook. When considering all the dynamic and federally mandated changes coming at break-neck speed to our sheltered workshop and CILA programs, it is a natural tendency to gravitate towards the pessimistic camp.

The pessimistic paradigm offers that organizations like Community Link will be more vulnerable and unprepared for these changes because the State of Illinois has negligently failed to invest in us over the past ten years and currently offers no clear vision or direction of how to navigate through them. Furthermore, any resolution to the two year state budget impasse will likely entail further revenue cuts to a system that's already broken due to a lack of funding. This would limit the ability to retain current staff, attract new staff as well as reduce the quantity and quality of supports offered to participants.

When embracing an optimistic paradigm, however, the outlook takes a 180 degree turn. For example, these dynamic changes, while challenging in nature, are the direct result of advocacy efforts from persons with developmental disabilities themselves. They are no longer content with simply sitting on the sidelines and are becoming more adept at identifying what is important to them and finding ways to be heard. They want the same fighting chance as everyone else when pursuing their hopes and dreams and truly embrace Community Link's motto Disability to Possibility.

Community Link is at its best when operating through an optimistic prism. One of our current strategic goals is to accomplish “All stakeholders take ownership and live the mission, purpose and values of Community Link.” By embracing optimism, Community Link has made significant inroads towards this goal. The best example is our annual Buddy Walk. This signature fund and friend raising event has grown from 200 registrants in 2011 to over 1500 registrants in 2016 and has increased donations from \$6000 in 2011 to over \$110,000 in 2016. While this may not resolve our financial dependency on the State of Illinois, it makes the future look much brighter.

Another example of an optimistic outlook is the recent uptick in community advocacy for our organization. Over the past decade, Illinois policymakers have continuously asked that persons with

disabilities be supported by direct support professionals (DSP's) working at poverty-level wages or an average of \$9.35 per hour. The result of this refusal to pay a living wage is that most community-based organizations across the state are suffering through staffing shortages and open positions which puts persons with disabilities living in the community at risk. Because of a community wide advocacy effort, both chambers in Illinois' General Assembly passed HB 5931. This legislation addresses the issue by mandating a minimum \$15.00 an hour wage to DSP's providing critical supports to some of our community's most vulnerable citizens. While the bill was vetoed last month, more advocacy efforts are underway to override it during the General Assembly's Veto Session following this fall's election.

In our Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) program, we have made progress in decreasing the amount of adult participants having to share a bedroom or reducing the amount of people living in a home. While Illinois has not figured how to fund and support CILA participants having their own bedroom or having four people or less in a home, Community Link is making inroads towards this goal on our own.

There is also a spirit of optimism surrounding our approach to changes in our sheltered workshop and day training programs. While unable to currently add necessary resources, the programs are restructuring internally to afford more participants opportunities to interact in the community. We are seeking more opportunities for minimum wage community employment for participants as opposed to the current sub-minimum wage offered through sheltered employment. Participants are getting the opportunity to become more involved in the community through volunteerism. Some examples are our Fairview Heights location's “Go Room”, which volunteers at the Belleville Food Pantry on a weekly basis and the Breese “Enlighteners” who deliver “Meals on Wheels” to senior citizens in Clinton County. We are slowly moving outside the traditional four walls without waiting on Illinois.

The support we receive from the community helps to bridge the gap between what we want to do for our participants and what we are able to do within the confines of the support of the State of Illinois. Volunteers who are able to provide education and experiences for our participants and donors that help us to complete projects to increase the quality of support we give to our participants are examples of things that help us to continue to move forward. While the path ahead for Community Link will continue to be filled with its share of potholes, we realize that by remaining optimistic, great things can still be achieved.

With Gratitude,



John Huelskamp



# Community Link Possibilities

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

- ★ 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
- ★ Tell your family and friends about us!