



CTF ILLINOIS NEWSLETTER

2015
VOL. 5, ISSUE 1

Empowering the lives of individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

CTF ILLINOIS is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities through services and programs that help them reach their potential in an environment that fosters respect, dignity, and success for each individual.

Providing services to a wide range of people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

The Therapy Program at CTF ILLINOIS focuses on meeting individual sensory, communication and self-care needs in a functional way. Each person has purpose. CTF ILLINOIS' Day Training sites provide care to over 174 adults with severe and profound disabilities statewide. The goal is to assist people in achieving their purpose and reaching their greatest potential.



Structured teaching in science class at Development Dr. in Charleston

Structured teaching is a known strategy that is implemented to create order within a given task. Each task is organized in

a manner that supports a clear beginning, middle and end to the task. People are given individualized instruction in order to master the task at hand. These skills are then applied to self care

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March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation declaring March as National Developmental Disabilities (DD) Awareness month. President Reagan urged "all Americans to join me in according to our fellow citizens with such disabilities both encouragement and the opportunities they need to lead productive lives and to achieve their full potential." The proclamation was a result of years of advocating on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The goal of DD Awareness month is to increase the public's awareness and understanding of people who have disabilities so they can experience and have access to community employment, education,



Katlyn Mulvihill, Kendal and Kim "Spreading the Word" at EIU.

housing and social opportunities. Since Reagan signed the proclamation, there's been a significant social change in how those with

(continued on page 3)

A message from the President



Last fall we opened our Advocacy Center in Charleston with the goal to help the individuals we serve learn how to advocate for others as well as on their behalf. This would be accomplished through the use of social media, traditional efforts (letter writing and newsletters, etc.) and electronic means (video production, photos, and podcasts).

With the guidance of the Advocacy's Coordinator, Valerie Vermilya, the individuals have embraced this goal and are pushing forward to make sure their voices are heard. Recently the individuals worked on the national campaign of SPREAD THE WORD, TO END THE WORD.



The national day of awareness to end the R-Word was Wednesday, March 4th.

Please see the enclosed article and pictures regarding the advocacy efforts the individual's participated in on Eastern Illinois University's campus.

Although there was a national day of awareness for the campaign, it will take all of us working together year round to eliminate the R-word.

For more information on how you can become involved please go to www.r-word.org.

Dennis D. Carpenter
President/CEO

9 Muses Art Gallery Open House at Christmas in the Heart

Every year, the City of Charleston has an event that gets everyone in the Christmas spirit. "Christmas in the Heart of Charleston" took place on the downtown square on Saturday, December 6th. There was a parade to start the event with most of the retail shops around the square having an open house for all to stop by. 9 Muses Art Gallery participated and opened their doors

for this event. The Artists at 9 Muses created and sold many of their paintings, cards and crafts. The money from the sales went right back to the artists. Josh Benton, 9 Muses Art Director, states, the Gallery is open Monday—Friday, 9 am—3pm during the week. We are open at those times for anyone to stop by and browse and talk with the Artists that are working there.



Josh, Cindy, Amanda, Melissa and Jamie at 9 Muses Open House.



9 Muses store front at 702 Jackson Ave. in Charleston.



9 Muses logo.



There were many first time visitors and repeat customers at the open house.

March is DD Awareness Month and “Spread the Word” ... continued

disabilities are perceived. People with disabilities began living within the general population and programs were established to provide career planning and job coaching as supportive employment began to occur. Today, many with developmental disabilities are falling in love and getting married; are working within the community; pursuing higher education; developing their faith; and making their voices heard.

CTF ILLINOIS works year round to promote and protect the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and to empower them to live and work as important and productive members of society.

In February and March, individuals from the CTF ILLINOIS Advocacy Center participated in a national campaign entitled **“Spread the Word, To End the Word.”** The campaign started 7 years ago to build awareness for society to stop and think about its use of the R-word. In February, several individuals recorded public service announcements (PSAs) at a

local radio station to help spread the word. A big thank you to Luci Englum, General Mgr. and radio hosts Bub and Renee at the Cromwell Group WMCI 101.3 in Mattoon IL for making these possible. There are photos of the making of the PSAs on our Facebook page at facebook.com/ctfillinois.

On Wednesday, March 4, the national day of awareness for the campaign, 15 individuals, along with Katlyn Mulvihill and Best Buddies set up a display table in the EIU Union and encouraged students to sign a poster and pledge not to use the R word. Over 75 students took the pledge!

At CTF ILLINOIS, we are proud of our individuals and their involvement with this campaign. We would also like to encourage everyone to raise awareness about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities year round!



Terry and Barbie recruit a student to sign the pledge!



Kim and others “Spreading the Word” at EIU.



Matt, Marilyn, Melissa and Brandy.



Shannon Pickett (Case Mgr) and Brandy.



Jessaca McElwee (Case Mgr) and Marilyn.



Ravell and Bub from 101.3 WMCI—PSA’s for Spread the Word!



Another EIU Student takes the pledge!

McDonald addresses the EIU Student Council for Exceptional Children

Ravell McDonald is a leader and an advocate for individuals with disabilities. On Thursday, December 11th on the EIU Campus in the Auditorium of Buzzard Hall, Ravell presented "Speak Up and Speak Out" to 75 members of the EIU Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC). The purpose of SCEC is to advance the education of individuals with exceptionalities and to promote related educational, scientific and charitable purposes.

Ravell's presentation to SCEC was about his life with cerebral palsy, his family support and his days in high school, making his own decisions and how he

motivates others. Ravell works at the Advocacy Center for CTF ILLINOIS. In preparation for his presentation, he collaborated with two very helpful EIU Students in the Special Education Department. Ravell stated that Jeff Lester and Annie Rediehs were awesome to work with.

Ravell stresses that all disabled individuals have skills and abilities that can benefit our community. Ravell states, "It is a privilege and a pleasure to speak out on behalf of disabled people. You can accomplish anything you want to, as long as you believe in you." Ravell



Ravell and EIU Student Annie Rediehs

is a passionate person who continually strives to communicate with members of the Charleston community and students from various universities. **A video of the presentation is available on our website at www.ctfillinois.org.**

CTF ILLINOIS Empowerment Night! A Fundraising Event!

Over 200 people attended Empowerment Night at the White Horse Inn in Champaign in November. Empowerment Night was a fundraising event for CTF ILLINOIS that was planned and hosted by 5 students from the U of I Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism. A bucket raffle was held with 1/2 priced sandwiches offered. Over \$600 was raised with this event. A special thank you to



Sam Mull at White Horse Inn and the students for their hard work! A great time was had by all who attended!



CTF ILLINOIS Photo Fun Activities and Celebrations!



Mary Jo and 9 Muses Art Director Joshua Benton.



Ernie celebrating his 95th birthday!



Greg displays his artwork from 9 Muses.



Charleston Mayor Larry Rennels receives a pencil sketch of the State of Illinois Flag from Barbie at the Advocate Center.



Debbie and David made snow ice cream!



Celebrating David's Graduation Party!



Olney DT Staff!



Heidi displays her rose project at 9 Muses.



Darryl and Rose enjoying a luncheon.

Providing services to a wide range of people... *continued*

vocational tasks that will assist the person in becoming as independent as possible.

Reagan Carey, Director of The Autism Program at CTF ILLINOIS, believes in a supportive teaching style for individuals with severe/profound needs. The style includes how you approach an individual, how you prepare them for their day and from activity to activity and to create opportunities for teaching individuals how to communicate and make choices.

"There are a number of services and structures that CTF ILLINOIS provides to a wide range of people with disabilities" states Eric Edquist, Vice President South Suburban Operations for CTF ILLINOIS in Homewood, IL. "Our day program provides schedules aimed at people with severe disabilities. Schedules developed include sensory integration, exercise, relaxation and yoga to increase their independence.

We also have a sensory room that provides total body sensory integration."

Edquist also says that partnering with other companies and organizations to provide services is key to each individual's goal. Companies such as ABA of Illinois to provide behavior therapy and write programs specifically designed for an individual's needs; Auxilium Healthcare Services to provide Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech services; and South Suburban Special Recreational Association for swim classes, art therapy, pet therapy, dance classes and sporting events.

All of these combined with additional community activities such as vacations, overnight trips, zoos, museums and beaches provide opportunities for most individuals to have fun and to reach their greatest potential.



Swim Classes at South Suburban Special Rec



Tim using a sensory room at CTF ILLINOIS' Homewood location

Gatlinburg Trip made possible with your donations

An exciting time was had by our individuals on a trip to Gatlinburg, TN. Everyone stayed in the famous BigFoot Cabins overlooking the Appalachian Mountains. The view from the porch was spectacular! While they were there, they visited Ripley's Aquarium, Wonderworks, Jurassic Jungle and ate at the New Orleans Deli and the Happy Days Diner. Thank you for making these trips possible!



Advocacy Center partnership with HOPE



The Advocacy Center Individuals have started a partnership with HOPE in Charleston, IL. Since 1970, the mission of HOPE has been to empower persons to live independent, non-violent lives through the provisions of Housing, Outreach, Prevention, and Education. On Thursday, January 29th, CTF ILLINOIS Advocacy Center Individuals presented a donation of school supplies to Camille Gordon of HOPE.

Outstanding job everyone!



Individuals from Advocacy Center donating school supplies to HOPE.

CTF ILLINOIS "Wish List"

Below is an abbreviated list of the items on CTF ILLINOIS' current "Wish List". The Wish List consists of some items that are needed to support our programs and other items that are desired to help improve our programs and services. If you would like to donate one of the items below or have an in-kind donation that is not on this list, please contact please contact Jim Paden, at 217-352-1557 or jimpaden@ctfillinois.org.

Art Supplies

Crayons, paint, pens/pencils, colored pencils, glitter, glue gun with glue sticks, construction paper, colored tissue paper, jewelry making kits, balloons

**WISH
LIST**

Technology

iPads, Disposable cameras, Flip video cameras, TV

Office Supplies

Batteries AA/AAA, electric pencil sharpeners, staplers, shredders, VCR/DVD player, plastic storage bins

Certificates and passes to vendors for community outings (Restaurants, bowling, movies, etc.)

Furnishings for Group Homes

Curtains, living room furniture set, dishware set, vacuums (new), DVD player

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please use the envelope enclosed or go to our website at www.ctfillinois.org.

CTF ILLINOIS Car and Dog Wash Fundraiser!

**A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR CTF ILLINOIS!
YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE A LIFE!**

**Saturday, April 18th
10am—2pm**



**Where's the Wash?
809 W. Pennsylvania Ave.
Urbana, IL.**

**Come out and let us give your
car or pup a spring-cleaning!**

**There will be food, drinks, and music
while we wash your car
...and you can learn about CTF ILLINOIS.**

\$7 for the wash or any donation accepted.

**For more information,
go to www.ctfillinois.org**

Fundraising Event: Announcing the date of 12th Annual Golf Outing & Golf Ball Drop— Friday, June 5, 2015!



**12th Annual
Golf Outing & Golf Ball Drop
Fundraising Events**

Friday, June 5, 2015

**REGISTER NOW!
SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!**

**THE 12TH ANNUAL
CTF ILLINOIS
GOLF OUTING & GOLF BALL DROP
FUNDRAISING EVENTS**

**LIVE. WORK. ADVOCATE.
CTF ILLINOIS**

**BENT TREE GOLF COURSE
FRIDAY, JUNE 5TH, 2015**

Empowering the lives of individuals with
developmental and intellectual disabilities

If you would like to:

- Participate in our golf outing
- Be a sponsor for the event
- Purchase a golf ball drop ticket

Please go to www.ctfillinois.org for the more information on this event and registration, sponsorships and the golf ball drop.

See you on Friday, June 5th!



#0000

Name: _____

Phone number below: _____

Ticket sold by: _____

**CTF ILLINOIS
GOLF BALL DROP**

**WIN CASH PRIZES OF:
\$500 or \$250 or \$100**

COST: \$10 PER TICKET

Purchase of ticket is tax deductible. Thank you for your donation.

Winner notified after golf ball drop at 5pm on 6/5/15 at Bent Tree Golf Course.

You do not have to be present to win! Closest ball to the hole wins! More info at WWW.CTFILLINOIS.ORG!

All proceeds for will go to the CTF ILLINOIS Individual Assistance Fund (IAF) to be used for items and activities that improve the lives of individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

**CTF ILLINOIS IS PROUD TO BE
ASSOCIATED WITH THE
FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:**



"Like" CTF ILLINOIS at Facebook.com/ctfillinois

CTF ILLINOIS' Facebook page is good source for the latest news, event information, and other happenings throughout the organization.



Member of the
ILLINOIS Association of
Rehabilitation Facilities



Would you consider a donation?

CTF ILLINOIS would not be able to provide such excellent care without your donations.
Gifts of any amount are appreciated.

Please go to the ctfillinois.org website for more information or if you have questions, please call 217-352-1557 and ask to speak to Jim Paden.



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by the United Way
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Certified and Funded by
the ILLINOIS Department
of Human Services

CTF ILLINOIS NEWSLETTER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

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CTF ILLINOIS... Empowering the lives of individuals with developmental and Intellectual disabilities.