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## Clients find satisfaction in hard work at Charleston-area department store

For many of us, being a member of our community means having a job and going to work; people with developmental disabilities are no exception.

At JC Penney's in Mattoon, six clients of CTF are an active part of the work force. Performing a variety of tasks, these clients learn every day about the skills necessary to be valuable employees. Additionally, the work provides extra income, something all six clients agree is a big plus.

Orlando Colon, a client of CTF since 1997, enjoys working at JC Penney. "I like the associates, and the challenge of the different jobs I do," said Orlando. Sweeping, mopping, and taking out trash are among the tasks he performs.

Another client, Christie Koester, does everything from dusting to cleaning the employee

*JC Penney, Cont'd on Page 3*



Orlando Colon, a client of CTF since 2000, works at JC Penney's in Mattoon. He enjoys the challenges presented by all his different tasks.

## Lincoln, South Suburbs replace CILA's with two newly-acquired homes

Before the end of 2011, CTF is opening two new homes to replace existing CILAs in Atlanta (Lincoln area) and Park Forest (South Suburbs). The new locations are part of an ongoing effort by the company to improve its residential facilities.

The new location in Lincoln, 1415 4th Street, is a renovated church that was acquired to replace the Karen Court CILA in Atlanta, Illinois. The new site is more centralized and, like two other area homes, is in Lincoln. The closer proximity will save transportation costs and provide a larger pool of resources, including staff.

"Rather than our typical 4-bedroom home, we have been able to include two single

*New Homes, Cont'd on Page 3*



The new CILA in Lincoln will open during the month of December. The site, located at 1415 4th Street, is a renovated church that was acquired to replace the Karen Court CILA in Atlanta, IL.

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#### SOUTH SUBURBAN OFFICE

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#### THE AUTISM PROGRAM

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## STAFF HOLIDAY PARTIES

### CHARLESTON

January 20, 7pm-Midnight  
Mother's Bar

### DEVONSHIRE

January 17, Time TBA  
Biaggi's, Champaign

### HOMEWOOD

January 13, Time TBA  
Location TBA

### LINCOLN

January 17, Time TBA  
Bonanza

### OLNEY

January 13, 7pm-Midnight  
Papa Mike's Sports Bar



# Employee Spotlight



For over 10 years, Sharon Taylor has been an employee of CTF, serving a variety of positions from Job Coach, Direct Service Personnel (DSP), and even a Bus Driver.

Now, as the Site Supervisor at the Whitetail CILA in Charleston, Sharon oversees the 8-person home and all those who work there.

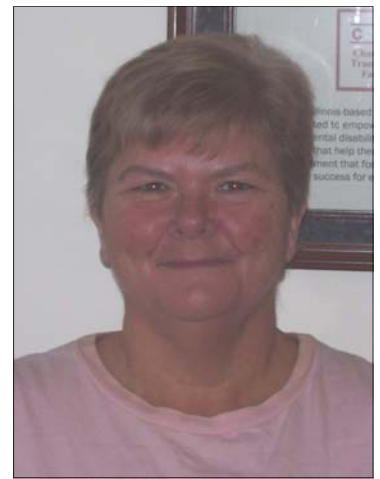
No matter her job title, Sharon creates a "fun, relaxing

atmosphere by being cheerful and willing to help in any situation," a co-worker said.

"I am very proud of the work I do for CTF," said Sharon. "I am also proud to tell people about the organization and all the wonderful work CTF does for the community."

Sharon has been married for 39 years; she has 3 kids and 2 grandchildren.

## Sharon Taylor SITE SUPERVISOR



## Stacey Hickox IT MANAGER



Computer problem? Server issues? Fax machine down? These are common workplace problems, but CTF's many locations and vast network pose a unique challenge.

Luckily, Stacey Hickox knows technology, and as CTF's IT Manager, he faces these issues each and every day.

"Stacey is available to help anyone with their computer issues," said Barb Jakubowski.

"He helps staff and clients alike with their computer needs with a smile on his face."

Stacey joined CTF in March 2008. He is adept with computers, servers, software, DSL lines, phone lines, and fax machines. With technology changing every day, his talents are crucial to CTF's success.

"I enjoy working here, and I look forward to moving CTF ahead in technology," he said.



Since February of this year, Jessica Delgado has put CTF's motto of 'Live. Work. Advocate.' to practice.

As a Case Manager in the South Suburban area, Jessica is responsible for individuals attending both residential and day programs.

"I advocate for our clients, making sure their voice is heard through on-going trainings, personal interviews,

with the individual, and working side-by-side to get to know each of their likes and dislikes," said Jessica.

"I've learned that strengthening independence in all our individuals is the key to their success and happiness," said Jessica.

Jessica graduated with a degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from Western Illinois University.

## Jessica Delgado CASE MANAGER



# A message from CTF's President/CEO

With the holiday season upon us and 2011 coming to an end, there is no better time for reflection.

Looking back on the past year, it reminds me of all that we as a company have to be thankful for - beginning with our employees.

From the Direct Service Personnel (DSPs) and Site Supervisors, to our Administrators and Office Staff, it takes a lot of hard-working individuals to provide the wide variety of quality services we offer. Everyone's contributions are crucial to CTF's success, and as we develop and grow as a company, our employees are the driving force behind everything we do.

So to every employee of CTF, I cannot thank you enough for all the great work you provide every day. Your contributions are invaluable and much appreciated.

In addition to our employees, I have to send a sincere thanks to all of our donors and stakeholders. It's no secret that the state of Illinois has fallen on hard times financially, and as a not-for-profit organization, we've been impacted by the state's economic crisis.

However, with the contributions and financial support from our donors and stakeholders, CTF has been able to continue to provide quality service for all of our clients.

At CTF, our mission is to improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. You can help us in our mission; through December 31, 2011, Community Services Foundation (CSF) will match, dollar for dollar, your donations to CTF. For example, a \$100 donation, provides \$200 towards CTF programs and services.

Checks must be made payable to Community Services Foundation and can be mailed in the envelope included with this newsletter. Credit card donations can be made by going to [csfil.org](http://csfil.org) and clicking the "Network for Good" link on the right of the page.

Thank you to all who contribute to CTF! Have a safe and happy holiday season.



Dennis Carpenter  
President/CEO

JC Penney, Cont'd from Page 1

break room. "I like the hours and the variety of jobs I can do here," said Christie.

Many individuals find work through CTF's vocational program. Individuals participating in the vocational program receive job skill education and assessment, job coaching, and pre-vocational services as needed. Through comprehensive training in job-related skills, each individual's employability is maximized.

Edie Duzan, Community Employment Manager for CTF, cites a University of Oklahoma report on the value of Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) clients joining the workforce.

"DRS Clients who receive vocational rehabilitation services are 77-percent more likely to be employed within three months after services end," said Duzan. "When DRS clients work 10 years, they repay \$2.30 in taxes for each \$1 spent on their programs, representing a 230 percent return on taxpayers' investment."

New Homes, Cont'd from Page 1

rooms and three doubles," said Mike Brown, CTF's Vice President of Operations. "Capacity will still be eight individuals. The home recently underwent a complete gut remodel."

"Overall, the home is more spacious, is one block from a park, and is near the LMRC Day Program where all of the clients attend."

In the South Suburbs, the Neola CILA in Park Forest is being replaced by 4420 185th Street, Country Club Hills. In addition to providing more amenities for the five current residents, it offers room for expansion.

"The new home in Country Club Hills has room for eight residents," said Melissa McDaniel, Executive VP of Consumer Services. "It has a large backyard, two living spaces, an open floor plan, along with a gut rehab remodel with new flooring and other improvements."

CTF is grateful to Community Services Foundation (CSF), our parent company, for their generosity in purchasing these homes.



## CLIENT HOLIDAY PARTIES

### CHARLESTON

December 21, 10-2pm  
Moose Lodge

### DEVONSHIRE

December 15, 5pm  
Holiday Inn, Urbana

### HOMEWOOD

December 22, Time TBA  
Homewood DT

### LINCOLN

December 14, 5-8pm  
Eagles Lodge

### OLNEY

December 22, 11:15-2:30pm  
Luau at Olney DT



# CTF, Illinois ASCEND partner to develop job opportunities for clients

CTF is pleased to announce its partnership with Illinois ASCEND. The goal of Illinois ASCEND is to provide job development within corporations, businesses, and hospitals whereby individuals with disabilities may acquire and sustain gainful employment.

CTF is one of only 12 agencies selected in the state to partner with Illinois ASCEND. Outcomes and goals of this project include:

- Receiving training on “Best Practices of Working with Employers”, including understanding the business case for hiring workers with disabilities, developing employer-targeted marketing materials, networking, and how to give effective presentations to employers.
- ASCEND will assist in identifying and selecting local businesses,

corporations, and hospitals to be targeted to participate in the project.

- Work with targeted employers to orient the employer’s management staff to CTF and ASCEND, gain their participation, and create plans that contain individualized strategies to meet their needs.
- Provide training to the targeted employers on “Disability Etiquette” and “How to Become a Disability Friendly Business.”
- CTF clients successfully hired, trained, supported and promoted within the workforce of the targeted employers.

Illinois ASCEND is a project of the Public Policy Impacts of Washington, D.C., and New York, LLC with invited Illinois adult employment agencies and school districts.

CTF IS PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:



Member of the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities



Funded in part by the United Way of Coles County



Certified and Funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services



## CTF is now on Facebook!

‘Like’ us online at [Facebook.com/ctfillinois](https://www.facebook.com/ctfillinois)

In the upcoming months, CTF’s Facebook page will become a primary source for the latest news, event information, and other happenings throughout the organization.

**Be an active part of our new online community!**

Visit [Facebook.com/ctfillinois](https://www.facebook.com/ctfillinois), ‘Like’ us, and stay in touch with all the exciting things happening at CTF!

CTF would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season! Below is a listing of our holiday schedule and office closings.

We’d like to thank everybody for their support throughout 2011, especially all CTF employees; without their tireless work, we wouldn’t be the company we are today.

**THANKSGIVING**  
Friday, November 25  
**OFFICES CLOSED**

**CHRISTMAS**  
Friday, December 23  
Monday, December 26  
**OFFICES CLOSED**

**NEW YEARS**  
Monday, January 2  
**OFFICES CLOSED**

