



# CTF ILLINOIS NEWSLETTER

2015  
VOL. 5, ISSUE 2

**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.***

**CORPORATE OFFICE**  
1902 Fox Drive, Suite B  
Champaign, IL 61820  
PHONE: (217) 352-1557  
FAX: (217) 352-7166

**DOWNSTATE OFFICE**  
6081 Development Drive  
Charleston, IL 61920  
PHONE: (217) 348-3869  
FAX: (217) 348-8804

**SOUTH SUBURBAN OFFICE**  
17341 Palmer Boulevard  
Homewood, IL 60430  
PHONE: (708) 922-1532  
FAX: (708) 922-1526

**THE AUTISM PROGRAM**  
6081 Development Drive  
Charleston, IL 61920  
PHONE: (217) 348-3869  
FAX: (217) 348-3873

## **Advocates attend rally at the Illinois Capitol**

**O**n March 25th, CTF ILLINOIS Disability Advocates went to the Illinois Capitol calling for the closing of nearly all state-run institutions as part of plan they say would save Illinois \$337 million a year. CTF ILLINOIS Advocates from Charleston and Homewood, IL along with hundreds of other advocates for the disabled, rallied at the Illinois Capitol on the 25th.

Recently disability advocates have been insistent upon developing smaller, more person-centered housing options. Individuals would like to have as much independence as possible and to be active in their communities. They would like to see an investment in community programs so people with all disabilities have the opportunity to live in the community just like others. The CTF ILLINOIS



***CTF ILLINOIS Advocates at the State Capitol***

Advocates' trip was a an excellent experience and they truly advocated for people with disabilities while they were there. We are proud of the efforts and want to say thank you for making the trip to Springfield.

*(continued on page 3)*

## **Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the ADA**

**O**n June 16th, individuals from our Advocacy Center in Charleston attended the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 25th Celebration with a ribbon cutting and proclamation at the Old State Capitol Plaza in Springfield, IL. The celebration was to remember the 25th anniversary of the signing of the ADA, the civil rights law protecting people with disabilities from discrimination.

The event featured the ADA Legacy Tour Bus and exhibit, a traveling display that chronicles the history of the disability rights movement in the United States.



***Advocates with the ADA Legacy Tour Bus***



# A message from the President



## A time of celebration!

On July 10th over 80 employees attended our 2nd Annual Employee Conference and Awards Luncheon in Champaign. The conference had 3 wonderful guest speakers that presented throughout the day which included Shirley Paceley,

Director of Blue Tower Training; Jennifer Knapp, Executive Director of Community Choices; and Krescene Beck, Blue Tower Training.

The speakers challenged us to take a closer look at how we impact the lives of people with disabilities, how we can explore new ways in empowering our individuals in our communities and then asking our employees, "Are we doing the best job we can, every day?"

The conference included an awards luncheon that recognized CTF ILLINOIS Staff for their extraordinary work and

commitment. Congratulations to our award winners. (Their photos are below.)

We also celebrated our 15th anniversary as an organization. We are having 3 open house events in August to celebrate. Please view the back of this newsletter for times and places.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the CTF ILLINOIS Staff for your dedication, amazing work, and continual focus on improving the lives of those we serve!

  
Dennis D. Carpenter  
President & CEO

## Award winners from the CTF ILLINOIS 2nd Annual Employee Conference and Awards Luncheon

Pictured from left to right: EVP Melissa McDaniel, VP Mike Brown, Award Winner, VPs Eric Edquist and Tracy Wavering and President and CEO Dennis Carpenter.



Administrator of the Year: Tara Misner



Site Supervisor of the Year: Melissa Crew



Case Manager of the Year: Kelvin Griffin

Not pictured: DSP Award Winner Barry Russell

## Speakers from the CTF ILLINOIS 2nd Annual Employee Conference



Above: Krescene Beck closed the conference with "Ordinary or Outstanding? A Motivational Journey for Professionals."

Left: Shirley Paceley presented "Standing at the Crossroads" and challenged us to take a close look at our individual and collective decisions that impact the lives of people with disabilities.



Above: Jennifer Knapp explored the strategies for supporting people with disabilities to develop friendships and interests in the community.



## Two new group homes opened in Mattoon, IL.

Two group homes, or CILAs, (Community Integrated Living Arrangements) were opened this Spring in Mattoon. Eight individuals living at the 23rd St. CIIA moved into the new home - 4 individuals into Tinsbury and 4 into Western Ave. Previously at 23rd St. each individual had to share a bedroom. Now they have their own room.



*Tinsbury Group Home*



*Western Ave. Group Home*

Tracy Wavering, CTF ILLINOIS' VP of Central Illinois stated, "Not only do the individuals have their own bedrooms, but both houses have expanded living spaces and outdoor patios. The houses are beautiful and wonderful for our individuals." Wavering also said that the Western Ave. home has a back yard big enough for one of the individuals to grow a garden.

## Advocates attend rally at the Illinois Capitol continued





# Individuals made some great memories on Milwaukee Trip

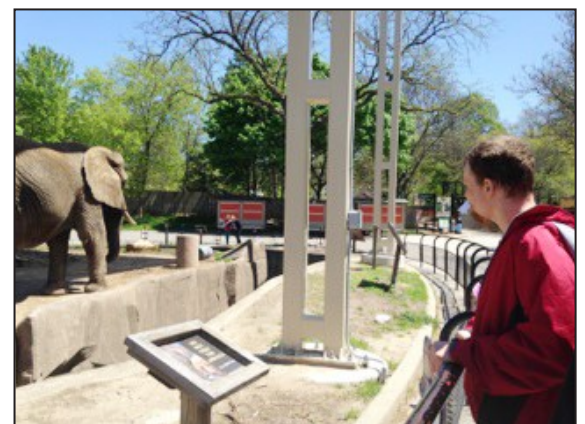
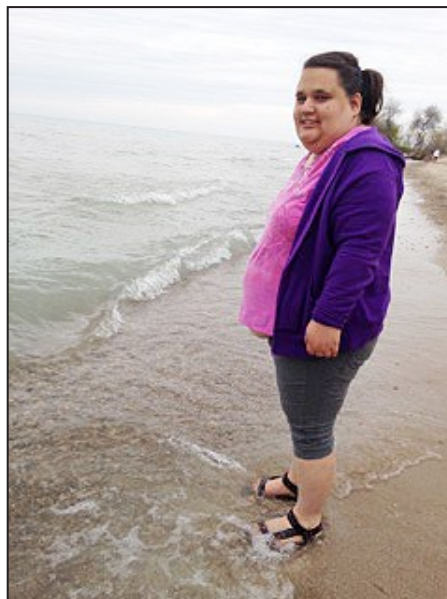
This Spring, 6 individuals made a most memorable trip to the Milwaukee area. The trip included stops at the Jelly Belly Factory in Pleasant Prairie, WI; the river walk in downtown Milwaukee; the Milwaukee Zoo; the Harley Davidson Museum and Bradford Beach on Lake Michigan just outside of Milwaukee.

Site Supervisors Melissa Crew and Hugh Bradshaw, and Administrator Taja Wheeler said, "Everyone had a wonderful and fun time on the trip.

Individuals had their own favorite parts of the trip, whether it was sitting on a Harley or watching the elephants at the zoo."

Most individuals do not get to experience these types of trips because they cannot afford them. However, with donations towards the Individuals Assistance Fund or IAF, the trips are possible.

Thank you, donors, for your support, and for making these trips possible for our individuals! Thank you!





## First MuseFest was a success!

The first MuseFest was held on Saturday, June 20, and was a huge success! It was a bright and sunny day and there were plenty of artists, vendors, and musicians for this celebration in Charleston, IL.

The celebration was planned, organized, and hosted by individuals at 9 Muses Art Gallery and their Art Instructor, Joshua Benton.

Benton was pleased at the turnout and number of vendors for the first year. Benton also stated, "We didn't know

what to expect our first year but we were very optimistic. I believe MuseFest will continue to grow year after year."

There were several bands that played throughout the day and multiple vendors selling products from tie-dye shirts to antiques to books.

Many of the vendor booths had artists with disabilities, but not all. We want to say thank you for those who came out and supported this event. We can't wait until next year!



## Athletes competed in Special Olympics Spring Games

Athletes from our Olney, Charleston and Homewood, IL regions competed in the Illinois Special Olympics Spring Games from the East Central Area 9 at Eastern Illinois University's O'Brien Stadium and from the South Cook-Will Area 7 at Thornwood HS in South Holland this past May.

Several of our athletes received medals and some even went on to the Special Olympics state competition in Bloomington, IL.

In order for athletes to be part of the Special Olympics Games, they are required to go through eight weeks of training. The athletes can participate in one or more of the 19 track and field events that are offered. Way to go CTF ILLINOIS Athletes! We are so proud of your accomplishments!





## 12th Annual Golf Outing Fundraising Event

The day was a perfect for the 12th Annual CTF ILLINOIS Golf Outing & Golf Ball Drop Fundraising Event on Friday, June 5th, at Bent Tree Golf Course in Charleston, IL. In addition to a round of golf, participants enjoyed lunch, dinner, gifts, and prizes throughout the day. This was the second year a golf ball drop fundraiser was held. Over 500 balls were purchased and then dropped from over 25 feet in the air courtesy of Charleston Electric and Terry Allen's bucket truck.

The 3 closest balls and winners of \$500, \$250 and \$100 were Robert Decker, Brian Sutherland, and Amanda Taylor. Overall, the event raised over \$25,000. Dennis Carpenter, President/CEO stated, "We appreciate and want to thank our sponsors and everyone participating today in support of our organization. It was a great day!" Funds from the outing will be used to help our individuals LIVE. WORK. ADVOCATE. with equipment and activities that allow them to reach their full potential.



*Golfers buying Par 3 Poker cards.*



*Low Score Winners: Team Bensyl! Congrats!*



*Another beautiful day for the golf outing and golf ball drop!*

## R-Word Campaign

The R-Word Campaign is an annual day of awareness to raise awareness about the hurtfulness of the R-word. It is also a day to inspire, respect, and show acceptance by taking a pledge not to use the R-word. The campaign slogan is "Spread the Word to End the Word".

The R-Word campaign was promoted by our individuals at the Advocacy Center by having a display booth on the EIU Campus and at Charleston High School. The Advocates handed out RESPECT wristbands and collected students' signatures pledging that they would not to use the R-Word. They also created a video and recorded several PSAs in partnership with Bub, Renee and Luci at WMCI 101.3.





## Activities around our communities



Scovill Zoo visiting Blumenthal DT  
In Charleston



Visiting and bringing cookies to the Charleston Fire Department



Terry and Gene viewed the American  
Veterans Traveling Tribute in Charleston

## CTF ILLINOIS “Without Walls” Program highlights ABILITIES

CTF ILLINOIS believes that people who have developmental and intellectual disabilities also have many abilities. This is where the “Without Walls” initiative starts, with an individuals’ ABILITY. Individuals learn new skills, build relationships, and develop self esteem through the concept of volunteerism within their community. The “Without Walls” community program has a person-centered approach that focuses on the interests, likes, and strengths of each individual.



Photos Left: Birdell; Middle: Henry; Right: Irene. Birdell and Irene volunteer at Irons Oaks Environmental Learning Center in Olympia Fields, IL., and Henry has volunteered for over a year now at Habitat for Humanity Restore of Coles County.

## Advocacy Center Individuals join Kiwanis Club

Individuals from the Advocacy Center in Charleston, IL., recently joined the Charleston Kiwanis Club. At the club meeting on March 12th, the Advocacy Center individuals presented about what they have been doing in the community. **We also want to thank the anonymous donor who paid the membership fee for our individuals to join.** Thank you! The Kiwanis Club meets every month at What's Cookin at noon.





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# LET'S CELEBRATE!

FIFTEEN YEARS



You're invited to celebrate our 15 years as an organization!  
We will be having 3 open house celebrations from 4 pm until 6 pm at the CTF ILLINOIS locations below. Please drop by when you can and celebrate with us! See you then!

CTF ILLINOIS Advocacy Center  
Thursday, August 13th  
701 6th Street, Charleston, IL.  
4 pm - 6 pm

CTF ILLINOIS Olney DT  
Thursday, August 20th  
511 E. Main St., Olney, IL.  
4 pm - 6 pm

CTF ILLINOIS Homewood DT  
Thursday, August 27th  
17341 Palmer Blvd., Homewood, IL.  
4 pm - 6 pm

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If you have questions, please call Jim Paden at 217-352-1557.

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



"Like" CTF ILLINOIS at [Facebook.com/ctfillinois](https://www.facebook.com/ctfillinois)

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



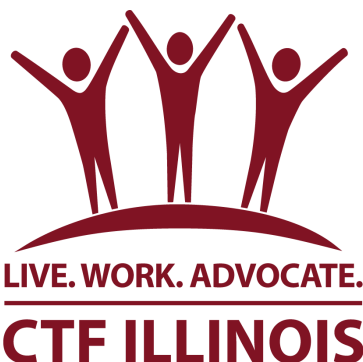
Member of the  
ILLINOIS Association of  
Rehabilitation Facilities



Funded in part  
by the United Way  
of Coles County



Certified and Funded by  
the ILLINOIS Department  
of Human Services



## 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](https://www.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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### CTF ILLINOIS NEWSLETTER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Jim Paden, VP Communications and Event Planning—(217) 419-8627 or [jimpaden@ctfillinois.org](mailto:jimpaden@ctfillinois.org)

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