

Foundation Focus



Spring 2023

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A Message from the Executive Director

Over the holidays, I received a greeting card from a friend. It was the typical sort of thing, with a festive image and heartfelt quote, but to my delight he also wrote a beautiful letter about everything he is grateful for. What struck me most was that his reasons were not centered around any of his own accomplishments (which are plenty) but rather, his appreciation for all the people in his life – especially those he met when he was stranded on the side of the road with a broken down car. The strangers that came to his aid for the sole reason of helping another human in need.

Around the same time, I received a text from a friend who asked me if I knew any organizations that could assist a homeless senior. He'd stopped for gas on a day that had a -4° windchill to find a woman trying to cross the street as the winds were blowing her back. Like the strangers who helped my other friend, he offered his aid and found out she was homeless. Without hesitation he bought her something to eat and funded her housing until she found the resources necessary to remain safe.

I'm a strong believer that there is no such thing as reminding someone of the good in the world too many times, which is why inside this issue you'll find even more stories of kindness, both big and small, and the impact they had on the amazing people with disabilities we serve.

And don't forget: *you* are at the center of every smile, victory, and story we have to share, because it is your kindness that allows us to do what we do.

Wishing you all a healthy, happy, and fun Spring and Summer!

Mary Pat Ambrosino

Executive Director

2022 Make A Match Campaign Success

Since 2002, Community Services Foundation's (CSF) Annual Make A Match Campaign has served as an impactful and collaborative way to support our member agency, CTF ILLINOIS (CTF). Each year from November 1st - December 31st, community supporters, families, and friends of CTF watch their contributions get doubled. Our tradition of matching contributions allows donors to see, first-hand, the impact of their gift multiplied, and thanks to the past 20 years of generosity, this campaign has helped us raise over \$500,000 to date for people with disabilities.

We are also grateful that, for the sixth year in a row, CTF was selected to participate in The Coleman Foundation's Matching Grants Program, which ran concurrently with Make A Match. Through this partnership, any donation of \$200.00 or greater received by CTF from November 1st - December 15th was partially matched by the Coleman Foundation in addition to CSF's full match. Thanks to your contributions, CSF's matching dollars, and the Coleman Foundation's grant, our 2022 campaign was our biggest success yet, with \$90,083 raised to support programs of CTF.

From all of us at CSF and CTF, we extend our deepest gratitude to every supporter who helped improve the lives of people with disabilities by donating to our 2022 campaign. We look forward to continuing this tradition with another successful campaign in 2023.

Thank you to those whose gifts were not only doubled by CSF, but also qualified for The Coleman Foundation Matching Grants Program:

Virginia Abbott	Cozad Asset Management	Marcia Kennedy	Michael Stoub
Joseph Ambrosino	Richard & Linda Czuchra	Harold Kloosterman	Garnet Stout
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BBC Fasteners, Inc.	Dennis Dixon	George & Rose Marcelin	Ed & Doris Sweeney
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Kassie Bay	Robert Emmet	Diane McDermott	Tracy & Jason Wavering
Tom & Lyn Becker	Evergreen Mechanical	Palos Electric Co.	William Wilkinson
Debra Briggs	Jack Fadden	Anne-Marie Pasquinelli	Jeffrey Withgott
Jean Bruno	Jo Anne Fortson	Edward Peterson	David K. & Mary Welch
Michael Bugajski	Friends & Family of CTF	Geoff & Lindsey Pignatiello	Anonymous Donors
Robert & Lynn Burke	Constance Hall	Rademacher Agency	
CAC Construction	Jason Helfert	Raymond & Mary Bet Roland	
Richard & Barbara Cieslak	Robert Huguelet, Jr.	David & Janice Rompala	
Kelli & Michael Cody	Janet R. Clark Charitable	Carol Short	
Chris & Michelle Condon	Fund/Schwab Charitable	Charley & Dawn Smith	
Cosgrove Construction	Danielle Kane	SteadyCare, LLC	

Thank you to those whose gifts were doubled by CSF:

Barbara Ambrosino	Robert & Mary Esposito	Donald King	Richard & Jean Ripp
Laurie Aponte	Alfred & Donna Flick	Michael & Carol Kohlstedt	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Salvador
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Gus & Irene DeGuilio	Gregg Jarman	Oleg Raygorodsky	
Karen Eisenstein	Earnestine Johnson	Terry & Danette Reznick	

2022 Honored Society Members

An extra special shoutout goes to our Honored Society Members! These sponsors have pledged \$1,000 or more to support CILA residents. This program is a great way to make a difference and open to individuals, groups, and businesses alike.

Thank you to our generous sponsors:

The Atkins Group
Cosgrove Construction
DeBlasio & Gower Attorneys
Friends of CTF Illinois
Joe & Elise Ambrosino
Judge John J. & Laura Mahoney

Old Plank Trail Community Bank
Palos Behavioral Health Professionals
Partners of CTF Illinois
Paycom
Proven IT
Sertoma, Tinley Park Chapter



Upcoming Events

Christmas in July 5K

Where: Orland Grasslands (18230 Orland Parkway)

When: 6 PM on July 25th, 2023

What: Dashing your way on July 25th, it's the first ever Christmas in July 5K hosted by Community Services Foundation! Mark your calendars to participate in a professionally timed run through our USATF certified course in Orland Park's beautiful Grassland Forest Preserve, then grab a few refreshments after to celebrate your success. All proceeds raised directly support local adults with developmental disabilities at CTF!

Not a runner? Not to worry! Our 5K is open to anyone who wants to participate - even if walking is more your speed.



13th Annual Jerry Meyer Golf Classic

Where: Midlothian Golf Club

When: September 22nd

What: On September 22nd, Community Services Foundation will host the thirteenth annual Jerry Meyer Golf Classic at the prestigious Midlothian Country Club. Our outing represents the true essence of Community Services Foundation's mission and legacy—the same one Jerry Meyer believed in as he helped us obtain the funding to open the doors to CTF in 1971, and continued supporting until his passing in 2012—to empower people with disabilities to live the life they want to live.

Attendees will enjoy a day of golfing, food, raffles, and more, with every dollar of the net proceeds going to help fund the programs and supports people with disabilities within our community both need and deserve.



Learn more, sponsor our events, or register to attend at csfil.org

What's New: CILAs and Day Programs

CTF recently made a commitment to downsize their larger eight person homes to four in order to provide residents with more opportunities for independence, such as having their own bedrooms. To further this goal, CSF purchased two new homes in Park Forest. Both properties are beautiful ranch style homes with large backyards and a close proximity to local shopping and dining. All of our residents couldn't be happier, and have had a blast letting their personalities shine through as they decorated their new rooms!

The Olney Community Day Services (CDS) program will be going through the biggest change of all with an entirely new building! We have been hard at work making the modifications

to our new property, using designs to ensure it is safe and accessible to the people we serve. A few of the features individuals can look forward to is a dedicated lunch/meeting room that can also be used for after-hours events, an art space, and two additional spaces for programming. Like our current CDS program, the new building will remain in downtown Olney so we can continue spending time within our surrounding community.



Program Spotlight: A.D.A.P.T.



Aligning Developmental And Psychological Treatment – otherwise known as ADAPT – is one of CTF's community day services, designed specifically to treat adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have a dual diagnosis of mental illness. Just like all of our programs, our approach is to provide individualized person-centered supports to address the needs of every individual.

Upon intake, we work with participants to create a treatment plan based on their needs, strengths, and interests, with the intent to foster self-sufficiency. Some of these services include learning life skills such as money management, productive ways to communicate, and problem solving. For those who demonstrate emerging pre-vocational skills, we also offer curriculum for starting a career in their own community as well as onsite therapy and counseling.

Our biggest focus, however, is to work on healthy coping methods when living with a disability and mental illness. Our highly trained professionals at ADAPT utilize therapeutic group settings so individuals can discuss their own personal feelings, identify triggers, learn how to regulate emotions, make personal goals, and improve communication skills, all with the help and support of their peers.

MISSION STATEMENT

To develop and create opportunities for individuals with disabilities that will support and inspire independence.

CTF ILLINOIS Highlights

EMPLOYEE

Mark Goryl is the Director of Employment at CTF's Crestwood Community Services center. He oversees all vocational training, as well as the secondary contract packaging facility where many of the people we serve are employed. Most recently, though, he has taken the lead on the process of shifting the RISE Vocational Program into its own non-profit driven small business to allow the individuals in our program to continue earning fair wages in a professional environment after the government's 14(c) program ends.

Responsibilities for this project entail many extra hours of research, work, collaboration, and travel, much of which Mark has been able to do thanks to the Coleman Foundation's generous contribution.



INDIVIDUAL



Steven L. is a resident at our 23rd Street CILA with an entrepreneurial spirit and a motivated mindset. After participating in CTF's vocational program, he polished up his resume and began a career in hospitality at a local Holiday Inn Express. He currently holds a stable job, where he's a valued member of his team and a favorite amongst his coworkers. His work doesn't stop when he's off the clock, though, because in his spare time, Steven is the CEO of a small business!

Thanks to his hard work ensuring guests have a great stay at Holiday Inn, he was able to save up enough money to invest in his very own riding lawnmower. Now, he spends his spare time mowing lawns for extra income. He already has a few regular clients, and a steadily growing waiting list for his services.

HONORED SOCIETY HOME

Three cents a day can go a long way, thanks to our Honored Society program! Our Circle Street CILA has a group of tightknit residents who love finding ways to make their house a home. Thanks to the generosity of their sponsor, Paycom, they've been able to invest in some new board games (perfect for spending time together during the winter months), as well as a comfortable new recliner that allows one resident to relax with her housemates outside of her wheelchair. What our Circle Street crew is most excited about, though, is the porch set they just treated themselves to (pictured right). It's the perfect spot to enjoy the sunshine, wave hello to their neighbors, and hang out as a group.



Are you interested in sponsoring a home? Learn more at csfil.org!

Circle Street is sponsored by:  paycom®

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CSF has designed our website to provide our readers with up-to-date regulatory, educational, and advocacy information. CSF will also be host to multiple events that will provide our communities with opportunities to learn, share, and contribute. Please make sure you add us to your favorite list and visit often at www.csfil.org.

Foundation Focus
is a publication of
Community Services Foundation,
a nonprofit corporation.
Its mission is to develop and
create opportunities for
individuals with disabilities that
will support and inspire
independence.

The Future of Community Services Foundation

As of January 2023, Community Services Foundation has moved to a new building in Frankfort, IL. With this move comes the intention of growth to continue carrying out our mission to develop and create opportunities for the individuals at CTF ILLINOIS that will support and inspire independence.

We also are pleased to announce we have been working closely with a team of consultants to learn innovative new ways to fundraise, engage both current and new donors, and connect with our surrounding community.

Stay tuned, because there is much more to come, including an exciting announcement in September!

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