

Foundation Focus



COMMUNITY
SERVICES
FOUNDATION

Spring 2020

www.csfil.org

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A Message from the Executive Director

First and foremost, it is my sincere hope this newsletter finds you well.

Wow! Like the rest of you, I could have never imagined how our world could turn upside down overnight. I can go on and on but there is simply no need to. Like you, we certainly have many stories to share, some of them very sad stories indeed. To everyone that has been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, we offer you our greatest sympathies and condolences. We hope you find the strength to endure and to move forward.

Enclosed in this newsletter are stories shared by our member agency, CTF ILLINOIS. We're sharing these stories to let you know we are still here, we are committed to you and your family member, and we can't wait until the day we are able to see everyone again.

The CTF staff have been incredible through our journey, proving we have many HEROES of our own. We have been hard at work ensuring the safety and wellbeing of those we support, changing and growing alongside an unprecedented time. Within one day, CTF converted from a community day program and CILA provider to a 24/7 CILA provider. Thinking back to the week of March 15th, I marvel at the teamwork and energy that was used to accomplish the unimaginable. It was an experience, I hope, to never face again, yet, it stands as one of CTF's proudest moments.

Please know we are all doing the best we can each and every day – and that will never stop. Families of our residents, I ask you to please take time to call staff and express your gratitude or write a thank you letter. Families of day program participants, please know we are still here for you. If you are in need of resources or information, don't hesitate to reach out to your case manager. We are, and always have been, a community provider and we are grateful to have you as part of this community.

This Spring 2020 newsletter is dedicated to the CTF staff and to our wonderful community members that have given so generously during this difficult time. Together, we will make it through. After all, we are #CTFSTRONG.

Mary Pat Ambrosino

Executive Director

2019 Make A Match Campaign Success



Community Services Foundation's (CSF) Annual Make A Match Campaign is our most collaborative, impactful way to support our member agency, CTF ILLINOIS. Since 2002, we have been humbled by the generosity of donors who contribute to this campaign who, together, have helped us raise over \$350,000.00 for people with disabilities.

This past campaign, CTF ILLINOIS was, again, selected to participate in The Coleman Foundation's #ILGIVE Matching Grants Program, which ran concurrently with Make A Match. Through this partnership, any donation received by CTF ILLINOIS on specific dates was matched not only by CSF, but partially matched by the Coleman Foundation. Thanks to your contributions, CSF's matching dollars, and the Coleman Foundation's grant, our 2019 campaign was a huge success, with \$47,458.00 raised to support programs of CTF ILLINOIS.

The Make A Match Campaign allows community supporters, families, and friends of CTF to see a dollar for dollar match on their monetary donations received between November 1 and December 31 annually. Through this tradition of matching contributions, you get to witness the impact of your gift multiplied. From everyone at CSF and CTF ILLINOIS, we want to thank every supporter who helped improve the lives of people with disabilities by donating to our 2019 campaign. We look forward to continuing this tradition with another successful campaign for 2020!

Again, our deepest gratitude to our 2019 donors:

Ambrosino's Italian Market & Deli
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Atlas Putty Products
John and Teresa Barry
Kassie Bay
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CTF Receives Grant for Tablets

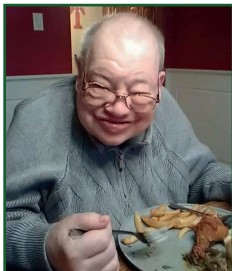
The stay-at-home order has been hard for us all. It has been especially hard for those adults that do not fully understand why their world was turned upside down, why their routine they have adapted to no longer exists, and why their friends are no longer by their side.

CTF staff saw firsthand the sadness that began to take over these lives and, again, rose up to this challenge. And, with the assistance of the ARC of Illinois, Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities, and our Honored Society Members, CTF was able to purchase tablets for each of our CILA homes. These tablets offer the technology to allow CILA residents to see and hear their friends and family members, talk to their DSPs, and engage in learning curriculum. Facetime and Zoom have been game changers and we could not have done this without the support of our friends!



#CTFSTRONG

We're all doing our best to stay positive throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Take a look at some of the uplifting stories CTF ILLINOIS has to share:



Meals and Masks Donated to Residents

We have been so grateful to community partners and to be able to help out wherever we can. In March, Community Services Foundation donated Saturday night dinners to each of the CILA homes. Residents enjoyed roasted chicken, brisket, green beans, mashed potatoes, french fries, rolls, and more. MOD Pizza also donated and delivered pizzas to all of our South Suburban CILA homes. CLD Brandy Williams' mother, Connie, put her sewing skills to use and made masks for all CTF residents and staff! Thanks to Connie, MOD Pizza, and all of our community supporters!

Pen Pal Program

Staff members Allison Boyle and Shelley Maxwell organized a Pen Pal Program, wherein members of the community are matched with individuals from CTF ILLINOIS to write to one another, decreasing isolation and encouraging new friendships. With the help of social media, over 60 people from 10 states signed up to be Pen Pals. If you are interested in your family member receiving a letter from a Pen Pal, please email Shelley at mmaxwell@csfil.org.



Hearts for Hope

The folks at Jonathan CILA home participated in Hearts for Hope. They used chalk to turn their front door into a beautiful stained-glass window to show some kind thoughts right on their front steps! It was a great way to connect with the neighborhood and share their positivity. A big shout out to DSP, Kellie Levitt for organizing the project!

Parade in Olney

Olney day program staff organized a parade for the residents in our CILAs in Olney, other agency CILAs in the area, and some community members. They decorated their cars, waved, and threw out treats for the residents. It meant so much to the residents to see everyone! What a thoughtful way to reach out to everyone while stuck in quarantine. Thank you to Jenni Beaman for organizing this!



A Journey to Health and Wellness

Brandy, a resident in one of CTF's CILA homes, has been working hard to focus on improving her health. Since the COVID-19 lockdown began, Brandy has been exercising daily and choosing to eat healthier. Brandy is so proud of herself and staff are assisting and encouraging her every day. Right now, Brandy has set a goal for herself and is working towards a special shopping trip – when we're able to go out, of course. So far, Brandy has lost 15 pounds. Way to go, Brandy! We are so proud of you!

Theme Nights at Home

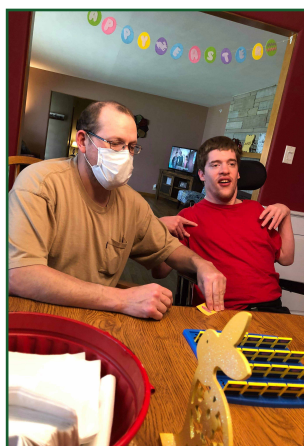
The ladies of Tiburon have been holding theme nights to beat the quarantine boredom. One of them was a luau-themed party. The ladies all dressed up for the occasion, ate delicious food, danced the hula, played games, did crafts, and watched videos to learn about Hawaiian culture and traditions. Thank you to the staff of Tiburon for helping pull off these amazing theme nights!



Thank you to all of the CTF Heroes

In the workforce, you are always taught to prepare for an emergency, but there is no way to prepare for what we have experienced through the COVID-19 Pandemic. At the end of the day, I firmly believe we will all be better and stronger because of it but that still does not make up for the difficulties we have faced together. To recount all of the events that transpired would not do justice to the hard work that each staff member has put forward. In the end, our story has revealed many CTF heroes. I am so proud of this hardworking and dedicated staff. It is time to thank them all:

- *Thank you* to our day program staff that switched gears to work in our 34 CILA homes
- *Thank you* to our CILA home staff that left their own family life to move into our CILAs
- *Thank you* to day program staff that began working the production lines to ensure customer contracts were met
- *Thank you* to our nurses that have become our COVID-19 resource and continue to guide us through unprecedented times
- *Thank you* to our administration staff that keeps CTF going by thinking outside the box and using pure brain power to create a new organization several times over in a matter of days
- *Thank you* to the managers that went to our homes to drop off a special treat, activities to do, or to simply say hi
- *Thank you* to the families that brought their family member home, which allowed us to use a newly empty home as an isolation home
- *Thank you* to the payroll staff that endured multiple payroll models
- *Thank you* to HR for keeping staff alerted to essential worker benefits
- *Thank you* to the business office that searched for PPEs - and actually found some



It Takes a Village

A well-known saying, "it takes a village..." has shown itself to be true during this time. It truly does take a village. CTF ILLINOIS (CTF) belongs to several trade associations, organizations that are our eyes, ears, and muscle. They provide networking opportunities for staff to share best practices amongst peers. They supply us with federal and state information that allows us to maintain current practices and to be informed of any new policies. Trade organizations have also offered many free educational webinars to keep staff and those we support informed throughout the pandemic. During the course of this pandemic, trade organizations were instrumental in allowing CTF to move through the maze of COVID-19 guidelines on both federal and state levels by hosting biweekly meetings that gave us firsthand knowledge from leading state experts and division heads. Thank you to the Illinois Institute, IARF, Don Moss and Associates, IABH, and the ARC of Illinois for your hard work, dedication, and support of CTF and all other community-based agencies in Illinois.

PPE Distribution

Like most other health organizations, CTF ILLINOIS (CTF) struggles with obtaining personal protective equipment, known to many as PPEs. Our Chief Program Officer, Melissa McDaniel, would scour the web for anyone that could send us supplies. These supplies started to dribble in but not enough to afford us an ample supply.

Early on in the pandemic, at a time when Illinois was in a peak panic stage, CTF came across a vendor that had plenty. Not only was CTF able to garner supplies for our agency, we were also able to share this supplier with other organizations in great need.

A big thank you to CTF staff Mark Goryl for coordinating, organizing, and distributing N95 masks and surgical masks to other community-based providers. At a time like this, we must all come together and share resources where we are able.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

New Ways to Give

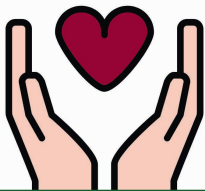
As most of you know, one of the ways Community Services Foundation supports CTF ILLINOIS (CTF) programming is through our special events. These fundraisers allow us to garner financial support for CTF and people with disabilities. Typically, our Spring newsletter is filled with the excitement of getting ready for our 5K run, coordinating the musician lineup for MuseFest, and gathering registrations for the golf outing. Unfortunately, this is an unprecedented time and the COVID-19 pandemic has forced us, like many others, to cancel the Cinco de Mile 5K, MuseFest, and the Jerry Meyer Golf Classic.

This, of course, puts a damper on our fundraising efforts for the year as money typically generated from sponsorships and registrations will not be realized. Luckily, we still have many ways to give to CTF ILLINOIS through the COVID-19 pandemic.

LAST CHANCE TO GIVE: The COVID-19 Match Donation Program —

COVID-19 Matching Donation Program

Now through Monday, June 1, 2020



On April 16th, I received a wonderful phone call from The Coleman Foundation donating \$40,000.00 to CTF ILLINOIS. This donation was to make up for a portion of our special events that were canceled. Just as it would through our special event proceeds, every dollar of this donation will go directly into CTF programs.

In addition to this donation, The Coleman Foundation has pledged to match another \$25,000.00 to CTF. Now through June 1: every dollar CTF raises through individual donations will be matched by The Coleman Foundation, up to \$25,000.00. To donate to this campaign, visit www.csfil.org and click on "Donate Now" or follow us on Facebook for updates to the COVID-19 Match Donation Program.

Jerry Meyer Golf Ball Raffle

While we are, of course, upset that we are unable to host this amazing annual Golf Outing, we are still selling Golf Ball Raffle tickets. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 6 for \$25.00. The drawing will be held on June 26, 2020, the day we would have held the Jerry Meyer Golf Classic. To purchase Golf Ball Raffle tickets, email us at info@csfil.org. The winner will be notified via phone or email. In order to ensure timely delivery of raffle tickets, please have your orders in by June 15, 2020.



Other Ways to Help



Are you a sewer with a little extra time on your hands? We could use masks! Do you miss having a little extra contact with the others? We are looking for Pen Pals (see page 3). Have another idea on how you can help through this pandemic? Please email Shelley at mmaxwell@csfil.org for more ways to help.

We know that this is a difficult time for everyone. We also know and understand that not everyone is in a position to give. Please, if you are able, take this time to give back to community-based agencies like CTF ILLINOIS. We cannot shut down. We are essential. And we need help. If you are unable to give, please consider sharing our campaigns with your friends and family. We are in this together. #CTFSTRONG

**Don't miss your chance to double your donation now through June 1st:
Visit www.csfil.org and click "Donate Now"**

Supporting New Initiatives



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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.

COVID-19 Crisis Hotline

ACCESS Behavioral Health, located in South Holland, is here to serve the community's mental health needs. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have implemented a Crisis Hotline to assist anyone with mental health concerns. With COVID-19, there has been an increase in anxiety, isolation, and depression. Your mental health should not be ignored. If you are experiencing any concerns about your mental health, please call (708) 307-7260. Our hotline is open from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM every day. Additionally, we do have staff available to assist in person, while practicing social distancing, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We have a list of resources available and can connect you to what you need. These are just a few steps we are taking during this trying time. Please know: WE CARE! We care about you and your well-being. If you or anyone you know is experiencing anxiety, depression, isolation, or any other mental health concern, please call us.

WE'RE HERE.

**Feeling anxious or isolated
during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Call us at:
(708) 307-7260

8:00 AM to 7:00 PM
The Crisis Line is open daily

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