Foundation Focus

Make A Match

A Message from the Board Chairman

Community Services Foundation (CSF) is excited to bring you the 15th Annual Make A Match Campaign, which will take place from November 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. Every year, we are able to increase our donations through the match and we expect our 2017 Campaign to be our best year yet.

I am especially proud of this Campaign as we guarantee your donation will be matched dollar for dollar, up to $1,000.00 for individuals and up to $500.00 for corporate donations, and 100% of your donation goes directly into program services. If you give $100.00, CSF matches your contributions, adding $100.00, resulting in a $200.00 donation to the organization of your choice: CTF ILLINOIS or LifeStyles Academy. This year, CTF ILLINOIS plans to use their contribution for exploration funds. Our state dollars that support our travel program no longer give the necessary funding to discover new places, such as two or three day vacations to new cities and various day trips to museums or other local points of culture. LifeStyles Academy would like to begin planning for a heated greenhouse to be able to grow plants like Poinsettias and Lilies in order to begin their own seasonal horticultural business.

We’re also excited to announce that, for the second year in a row, The Coleman Foundation has selected CTF ILLINOIS for additional matching funds if you give on November 28, 2017 (Giving Tuesday). The Coleman Foundation will graciously match either $25.00 or $100.00 per contribution, depending on your donation amount. Reminder: CTF will only receive this match if you give on Giving Tuesday!

I hope that you will consider contributing to one of these wonderful organizations this holiday season. Included, you will find an envelope for your desired contribution. You may also choose to donate online at www.csfil.org. Donations are deductible to the extent allowed by IRS codes. Please also follow our website and social media accounts for updates on Make A Match and Giving Tuesday. Thank you for your continued support of our mission and, most importantly, working with CSF to make a difference in the lives of the people CTF and LSA support. You will note that there is a special memorial this year for Richard M. Joy, cherished husband of Gen Kottemann Joy, board member of CSF, CTF, and LSA.

Wishing you a wonderful Holiday season,

Chris Higgins

Deadline for 2017 Tax Deduction is December 31, 2017
Direct Support Professionals:
The Heartbeat of Any Community-Based Provider

A Message from the Executive Director

CSF, CTF ILLINOIS, and many other community-based providers were actively involved in the “They Deserve More” Campaign. The campaign was implemented to champion for the increase to wages for all Direct Support Professionals. For the first time in a decade, the State legislatures voted to increase DSP wages by $0.75 an hour, increasing the average of their state pay to $10.10 an hour. While we are grateful for this step, we also need to realize this is still not enough. We will continue to fight until our DSPs can make a living wage for the dedicated, hard work they do on a daily basis.

Who is a DSP?

A DSP in the community-based system is an employee who must meet the following criteria to work in a home or day program: complete 40 hours of classroom training, show competency through written tests, and receive 120 hours of on-the-job training from their supervisor. Once trained, a DSP’s responsibilities include: pass out medications, have a trained eye to understand and act on medical complications, have a great understanding of nutrition and follow all dietary guidelines, and be a safe and competent driver. A DSP is a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) without the onsite support of a nurse. A DSP is a chauffeur for those that cannot drive. A DSP is a companion to someone who has no family. A DSP is the heart and soul of any agency. So, who is a DSP? Take a look at some of CTF’s very own on the right side of this page.

I, along with many other Executive Directors and CEOs, will continue to fight for the wage that DSPs deserve. I hope you can join this cause by calling your local and state legislators. Help us in our fight to increase this wage which will, in turn, improve retention and make a lasting difference in the lives of the people we support.

Sincerely,

Mary Pat Ambrosino
Executive Director

Kai Coldman. Kai is a natural at being a DSP. She provides care to the people she supports without making it look like work. She’s respectful and patient and goes above and beyond her job duties without being asked. She is always eager to join people on day trips, vacations, or camping trips to make sure everyone has a great time. Kai is a rock star!

Malerie Gray. Malerie is inspired by the people she works with and does a phenomenal job of providing individual attention to each person she supports. Malerie is always smiling and her love for the work CTF does shows with the quality of care and service she provides. The staff in Olney are thrilled to have such an amazing DSP on their team!

Pam Hayes. Pam has been a huge asset to CTF for twenty years! Pam has helped with numerous programs, developing a special bond with the people she supports: they respect and adore Pam. Pam does everything she can to ensure those we support have a better day-to-day life. Pam is a great advocate and role model and CTF is lucky to have her!

The CTF ILLINOIS Employee of the Month Program

CSF member agency CTF ILLINOIS is proud to announce the implementation of the Employee of the Month program. Employees, people supported, and family members or guardians are all eligible to nominate CTF staff members. The process for nominating someone is simple and only takes a phone call! If you notice a CTF staff member do something that is simply extraordinary, something that made you smile, or something that, in your heart, you know was awesome, call Employee Relations at (708) 580-6080 and leave a message. Simply identify yourself as the person who is nominating, the name of the employee, where they work, and their action. Your nomination will be given to the Cultural Committee for review.
Fundraising in Action

Community Services Foundation (CSF), CTF ILLINOIS (CTF), and LifeStyles Academy (LSA) are proud to host several fundraising events, all of which benefit individuals with diverse disabilities. Take a look at some of the most recent events.

Jerry Meyer Golf Classic

Community Services Foundation held the 8th Annual Jerry Meyer Golf Classic on July 21, 2017 at Midlothian Country Club. The new course was home to the 1914 U.S. Open and golfers were thrilled for the opportunity to play on such an historic course. Attendees were treated to breakfast, which included a Bloody Mary and Mimosa Bar. Lunch was provided on the course, where golfers participated in games such as the Chip-In Challenge, Longest Drive, and the Hole-In One Challenge, which gave participants a chance to win a car! After their rounds, the 19th Hole Partee was held, where golfers enjoyed passed hors d’oeuvres and an open bar and were able to purchase raffle tickets for prizes and place bids on paintings from local artists with disabilities. In total, the Golf Classic raised over $63,000.00. Jerry Meyer was a dedicated supporter of CSF. He helped secure funds to open our doors in 1989 and continued his support until his passing in 2012. We were proud to honor him through this year’s Golf Classic and are excited to continue to carry on his legacy next year on Friday, June 22, 2018.

CTF ILLINOIS Events

CTF ILLINOIS has been making the most of local partnerships by collaborating for multiple, smaller events throughout the year. On Saturday, June 3, 2017, CTF held their 3rd Annual MuseFest, located in the Charleston Square, where local artists and vendors showcased their work in booths and local musicians performed for the community. In the Tinley Park area, The Painted Turtle art studio has been busy partnering with local organizations to host various events at the studio, including: an ice cream social, two local animal shelter adoption fairs, and by showcasing their work every Saturday at the Tinley Park Farmer’s Market. CTF is proud to partner and learn more about local organizations and to become even more active in their communities.

LifeStyles Academy Events

LifeStyles Academy has been busy collaborating with local businesses in order to increase their fundraising and friend-raising efforts. Highlights include partnerships with local restaurants such as Pop’s Italian Beef, White Fence Farm, and Buffalo Wild Wings, wherein on given days, a percentage of their sales went directly to LifeStyles Academy! In addition, LifeStyles held a bake sale in order to help raise funds and held a fundraiser at the Joliet Slammers game to support the Advocacy Center and Advisory Council. Their largest and most successful fundraiser, a Candlelight Bowl, was recently held on October 14, 2017. LifeStyles Academy has done a great job in becoming highly active participants in their community and in partnering with local businesses to support their work!

For information on how you can help further our mission or get involved in future events, please contact Mandi Williams, Special Events Coordinator, at (708)429-1260 ext. 1263 or mwilliams@csfil.org.
LifeStyles Academy: Overview of Supports

LifeStyles Academy has been a member agency of Community Services Foundation since its incorporation in Spring 2013. Over the past four years, LifeStyles Academy has been working hard to improve the lives of the people they support by ensuring each participant’s vision, needs, and goals are heard. Many times, after completing their high school transition programs, young adults need a place to turn for support that gives them a personalized choice and journey. LifeStyles Academy is the place to be for adults with developmental disabilities who want a choice in what to pursue and how they want to live their life. At LifeStyles Academy, participants are offered supports including: vocational training and job placement assistance; benefits and transportation assistance; social and community-based activities and outings; and a variety of instruction in a state-of-the-art facility, including vocational, theater, art, physical fitness, horticulture, cooking, and more.

Most recently, LifeStyles Academy introduced The Advocacy Center, wherein people with developmental disabilities are learning how to advocate for themselves, their choices, and their right to “live a life like anybody else”. The Advocacy Center has had multiple presentations available for advocates and the community at large, highlighting various topics, which include: interviewing tips, obtaining and maintaining employment, learning how to advocate, the changing world of supports for people with disabilities, utilizing your voice and advocacy skills, and more.

Community Services Foundation would like to thank LifeStyles Academy for the support they provide to people with disabilities, where they are utilizing a truly person-centered approach to help individuals discover their passions, reach their goals, and attain their dreams. For more information on LifeStyles Academy or their Advocacy Center, please contact Mike Kaminsky at (708)480-2085 or mike@lifestylesacademy.org.

Welcome, Mandi

In June, Community Services Foundation welcomed Mandi Williams as our Special Events Coordinator. A graduate of Eastern Illinois University, Mandi earned her degree in Marketing, with a concentration in Communications. She began her career working for the Underground Contractors Association, a non-profit construction trade association. After UCA, she worked at Professional Convention Management Association, De La Salle Institute, and The Cancer Support Center. Mandi has planned all types of events ranging from a 25 person think tank up to a 4,500 person Convention. Mandi is excited to join us at CSF as the cause is one close to her heart. When not at work, she enjoys spending time with her husband, Jason, and son, Noah. Welcome, Mandi!

Welcome, Tim

In July, Community Services Foundation welcomed Tim McGlennon as the Director of Operations. Tim graduated from Eastern Illinois University with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and an Associate’s Degree in Business Management. Upon graduation, Tim worked as a mortgage underwriter for seven years until he moved to a project manager and estimating role for an industrial piping contractor for ten years. Tim is excited to join CSF and hopes that his experience and contributions to the team prove beneficial for the organization. Outside of work, Tim enjoys spending time with family and friends. Living close to the United Center, he likes to attend Hawks and Bulls games and also enjoys golfing, though he is admittedly not good at it. Welcome, Tim!

MISSION STATEMENT
To develop and create opportunities for individuals with disabilities that will support and inspire independence.
New Program: ADAPT

Community Services Foundation is proud to announce we have approved funding for the implementation of a new program at CTF ILLINOIS: ADAPT (Aligning Developmental and Psychological Treatment). The ADAPT Program is being implemented based on the revelation of a highly unmet need: mental health services for people with a dual diagnosis. ADAPT will support people with a primary diagnosis of a developmental disability and a secondary diagnosis of a mental health disorder.

While people with developmental disabilities are much more likely to have mental health problems, they are actually less likely to receive adequate treatment for the latter diagnosis. The ADAPT program will offer proper treatment to people with a dual diagnosis so that they may lead a higher quality of life by addressing their mental health needs.

Community Services Foundation is proud to provide the start-up costs associated with the implementation of this program. The ADAPT program at CTF ILLINOIS will not only provide much needed, community-based mental health services to both Cook and Will county communities, it will target an extremely medically underserved population, people with a dual diagnosis of a developmental disability and a mental health illness. The new program is located in South Holland. For more information, please contact (708) 825-1137.

The 2nd Annual ACT Bowl

On Sunday, March 5, 2017, Advocates Coming Together (ACT), the Young Professionals Group for CSF, hosted their 2nd Annual ACT Bowl at Orland Bowl. For the second year in a row, ACT sold out of tickets and bowlers were treated to two hours of bowling, shoes, lunch, and the chance to purchase raffle tickets and participate in a silent auction. ACT would like to thank our sponsors for the event, with special mention to our Presenting Sponsor, Integrity Trade Services. For more information on how you can get involved with ACT or to sponsor or volunteer for an upcoming event, please contact Shelley Maxwell at (708)429-1260, ext. 2202 or mmaxwell@csfil.org.

Coming to Frankfort: The Advocacy Center

CSF member agency CTF ILLINOIS is excited to announce the opening of their third Advocacy Center in the state. CTF ILLINOIS already has Advocacy Centers located in Charleston and Champaign and, soon, a third center will open in Frankfort, Illinois. CSF has purchased a building which will be leased to CTF ILLINOIS for use of Advocacy supports. At the Advocacy Center, people with disabilities will learn how to advocate for themselves, their rights, and the rights of all people with disabilities. From learning to write to local legislative offices to attending various campaigns and rallies throughout the state, CTF ILLINOIS is thrilled to bring their already successful Advocacy program to the south suburban area of Chicago and to better support residents of Will and Suburban Cook County. Stay tuned for more information!
New Home Sponsorship Program

Community Services Foundation is proud to announce the implementation of a brand new home sponsorship program. Through this program, families, friends, and businesses will have the opportunity to partner with one of CTF ILLINOIS’ thirty-two CILA (Community Integrated Living Arrangement) Homes throughout the state. CTF’s CILAs are home to between three and eight people with diverse disabilities and each of the homes are adapted and personalized to meet each resident’s style as well as physical and emotional needs.

Sponsorships are $3,000.00 for the year and will go toward collaborating with a home of your choice. By partnering with one of our CILA homes, you will not simply be supporting people with disabilities through a financial contribution: you have the chance to become actively involved in their lives. Through this program, you will have the opportunity to work directly with residents to know exactly where your donation goes, get regular monthly updates on what’s been happening at the home, and join residents for annual cookouts or other events hosted at the home you have graciously chosen to sponsor. For more information on the home sponsorship program, please contact Mandi Williams at (708)429-1260, ext. 1263 or mwilliams@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.

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.