

CSS Is Proud of Two Hot Makeovers

CSS and our participants love our CILA houses—but like anything well-loved—sometimes they need a little polishing. Our latest makeovers include our Justice and Lyons Rose Houses. These are two of six [Community Integrated Living Arrangements \(CILA\)](#) homes that are owned and operated by CSS.

No, these are not [supermodel homes](#), but nestled on tree-lined streets, in friendly neighborhoods, these two would surely win Miss Congeniality. They are home to ten individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities who receive 24/7 support by CSS staff members.



Before



After

The homes' bathroom remodeling and updating have vastly improved the living situation for our participants. Before, they had the fixtures and plumbing from the home's original construction, dating back 50 to 60 years ago. Now they are completely updated with new bathtubs, sinks, flooring, drywall, lighting and ventilation.

What These HOT Makeovers Will Accomplish

"The only thing truly "HOT" about these makeovers is that now the hot water is more consistent for bathing," smiles Chuck Nilles, Director of Adult Living. "Our goal is to provide our residents with safe, reliable, and private bathroom access to allow them greater independence with their hygienic and personal care."

Many individuals in these homes have physical / ambulatory limitations including blindness. Others require the use of walkers. A safe physical environment is of the utmost importance.



Before



After

9021 Ogden Avenue
Brookfield, IL 60513
708.354.4547
www.CSSservices.org

**Download PDF
Of This Issue**



CSS News

Save the Date Beat the Odds Event!



State Budget Could Impact Funding

CSS is actively working to preserve funding for CSS families. [Read Chicago Tribune article.](#)

Connect With Us



More Makeovers to Be Done

The work was able to be completed due to two grants received by Fred J. Brunner and a second, anonymous donor. We are very grateful for their support! However, four other residences are also in need of updates. In total, the residences are home to 31 other individuals with I/DD. If you are interested in making a [contribution](#) to improve the lives of these participants, please contact Michelle Jimenez at mjimenez@CSSservices.org, or mark your contribution as "Bathroom makeovers."

CSSservices.org



ChicagoCanineClub.com



CSS On Facebook



CSS On Twitter



Join Our Family
of Supporters

Donate Now



OUR MISSION

CSS is a private nonprofit social or human services agency that initiates, provides and promotes services for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families, within their communities, in order to strengthen their independence, self-esteem and ability to participate in and contribute to community life.

Illinois' largest respite provider

Each year, more than 383,381 hours of service are provided by our dedicated staff. We serve 791 individuals and their families throughout 57 communities in Chicago's western suburbs.

*Copyright © 2015 Community Support Services, All rights reserved.
You subscribed to our email list via our website.*

Our mailing address is:

Community Support Services
9021 Ogden Avenue
Brookfield, IL 60173

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)

Powered  **LINKS**

by

March 2014

State Budget Could Impact Funding

Your Help is Needed

The FY16 budget that Governor Rauner proposed on February 18th eliminates ALL RESPITE grants. This would mean \$8.9 million dollars of services for thousands of individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities living in our communities would be absolutely eliminated, without a safety net and without a transition plan.



For CSS, families who receive Respite services supported by state funding, would no longer be eligible for services beginning July 1, 2015.

It is hopeful that Respite funding will be restored but advocacy must start now.

Please [join CSS in our letter writing campaign to restore Respite services](#) to families in Illinois.

Legislators have said that if they receive as few as

9021 Ogden Avenue
Brookfield, IL 60513
708.354.4547
www.CSSservices.org

**Download PDF
Of This Issue**



CSS News



[Springfield Leadership
Addresses](#)

[Local Legislator
Addresses](#)

[Sample Advocacy Letters](#)

[Sample Family Letters](#)

[Watch the WGN TV Story
and Learn How Rauner's
Budget Will Affect CSS
Families](#)

Connect With Us

FIVE letters from their constituents, they pay attention to the issue. Show our legislators that Respite is a vital service that allows individuals to thrive in their own community; and keeps our families out of crisis.

We have provided the names and addresses for [key legislators](#) who should each receive a letter. If you are a CSS family who receives Respite services, we have prepared a [sample family letter](#) for you to use.

To find out what Rauner's budget cuts could mean for families who depend on Respite Care like the Bedards, see [the WGN story](#) that aired on March 11.

Please deliver all letters to the CSS office by March 23. CSS will hand deliver to Springfield for greater impact. However, ALL letters are vital, and can be mailed directly as well.

*Warmest Regards,
Diane Farina White*

Diane Farina White

P.S. To learn more about the benefits of Respite Services, [click here](#) or visit www.CSSservices.org/respite-services



Join Our Family
of Supporters

Donate Now



OUR MISSION

CSS is a private nonprofit agency that initiates, provides and promotes services for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families, within their communities, in order to strengthen their independence, self-esteem and ability to participate in and contribute to community life.

Illinois' largest respite provider

Each year, more than 383,381 hours of service are provided by our dedicated staff. We serve 791 individuals and their families throughout 57 communities in Chicago's

western suburbs.

Copyright © 2015 Community Support Services, All rights reserved.
You were signed up

Our mailing address is:
Community Support Services
9021 Ogden Avenue
Schaumburg, IL 60173

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#)

April 7, 2015

Friends, today we are asking for your help on a significant issue.

On Friday, April 3rd, CSS received dire news from Springfield. Our state grant for the Family Support Center in Cicero, supporting outreach and Respite, is suspended immediately

While we already knew we have to fight to restore the Governor's proposed complete cut of Respite Services for the next fiscal year (2016), we have a **serious situation– TODAY.**

The grant (funded by the Department of Human Services, office of Developmental Disabilities) specifically provided for the following:

1. Bi-Lingual and Bi-cultural support for DD services for Latino Families in the region and any families needing this type of support.
2. There are 150 families receiving support at this location.
3. There is no other organization that provides this type of bi-lingual and bi-cultural DD services for families. This population is severely underserved.

9021 Ogden Avenue
Brookfield, IL 60513
708.354.4547
www.CSSservices.org

**Download PDF
Of This Issue**



CSS News



**Springfield
Leadership
Phone Numbers**

Connect With Us





To get attention from our legislators, you need to make noise. Please call your legislator and ask for the restoration of this grant TODAY!

Many of us do not reach out to the Governor or legislators because we are intimidated or think that one person cannot make a difference. **One person CAN make a difference** when we join together to share a common message and demand to be heard.

On the side of this story, click to find a list of legislators. **Please call TODAY – YES TODAY!**
Your message can simply be:

I would like to register my support to: (Governor, Director, Legislator, etc.)

We need YOU (Governor, Legislator) to RESTORE the CSS grant for the Family Support Center in Cicero for the remaining months of CSS’ fiscal (that is now, through June 30, 2015) so our families can continue to get critical bi-lingual and bi-cultural support for our children with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

This grant is important to our family and to our child. We need to have this community based service – right here in the Cicero community. This grant was suspended on Friday, April 3rd – with no warning and it stopped services

immediately!

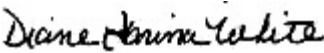
Thank you.

(provide your name & contact information if you wish)

Please help us get this funding returned – to Community Support Services and to our families. With the loss of this funding, the families receiving support will have it stopped today and the 100 families on the waiting list will have NO HOPE of ever getting any support!

These are the ONLY services families receive and the only way to keep their children at home and families stable.

With gratitude,



Diane Farina White
Presidenta/CEO



OUR MISSION

CSS is a private nonprofit agency that initiates, provides and promotes services for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families, within their communities, in order to strengthen their independence, self-esteem and ability to participate in and contribute to community life.

Illinois' largest respite provider

Each year, more than 383,381 hours of service are provided by our dedicated staff. We serve 791 individuals and their families throughout 57 communities in Chicago's western suburbs.

Copyright © 2015 Community Support Services, All rights reserved.
You were added

Our mailing address is:
Community Support Services
9021 Ogden Avenue
Schaumburg, IL 60173

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#)



Abril 7, 2015

**Amigos, hoy les pedimos ayuda
con un problema de suma
importancia.**

El viernes, 3 de abril, CSS recibió malas noticias de Springfield. Nuestros fondos para el Family Support Center (Centro de Apoyo Familiar) en Cicero, que apoya extensión comunitaria y servicios de Respite, fueron suspendidos inmediatamente.

Nosotros ya sabíamos que teníamos que pelear para restaurar la propuesta eliminación de servicios Respite para el próximo año fiscal (2016) del Gobernador, pero tenemos una **situación muy grave—AHORA.**

La subvención (fundada por el Departamento de Servicios Humanos, oficina de Discapacidades de Desarrollo) específicamente proporcionaba lo siguiente:

1. Apoyo bilingüe y bicultural para servicios de DD para familias Latinas en el área y cualquier familia que necesita este tipo de apoyo.
2. Hay 150 familias recibiendo apoyo de este centro en Cicero.

No hay ninguna otra organización que proporciona este tipo de servicio bilingüe y bicultural para familias de alguien con DD (discapacidad de desarrollo). Esta población es gravemente desatendida.

9021 Ogden Avenue
Brookfield, IL 60513
708.354.4547
www.CSSservices.org

**Download PDF
Of This Issue**



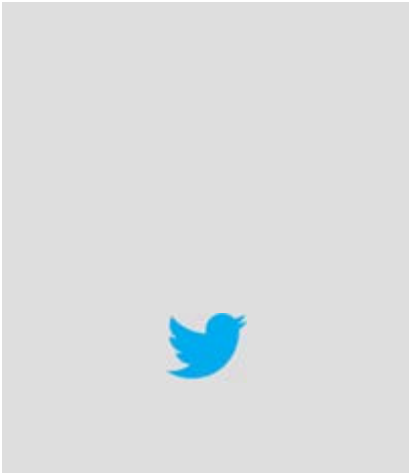
CSS News



**Springfield
Leadership
Phone Numbers**

Connect With Us





Para recibir atención de nuestros legisladores necesitas hacer ruido. ¡Por favor hablele a su legislador y pida que restauren esta subvención HOY!

La mayoría de nosotros no tratamos de hablarle al Gobernador o a nuestros legisladores porque estamos intimidados o pensamos que una persona no puede hacer una diferencia. Sin embargo, **una persona sí PUEDE hacer una diferencia** cuando nos unimos para compartir un mensaje similar y demandamos ser escuchados.

Al lado de esta historia, haga clic en la caja anaranjada que dice “Springfield Leadership Phone Numbers” para obtener una lista de legisladores. **Por favor hable HOY—¡Sí HOY!** Su mensaje simplemente puede ser:

Me gustaría declarar mi apoyo por: (Gobernador, Director, Legislador, etc.)

Necesitamos que Usted (Gobernador, Legislador) restaure la subvención/fondos de CSS para el Family Support Center (Centro de Apoyo Familiar) en Cicero para el resto del año fiscal (desde ahora hasta el 30 de junio de 2015) para que nuestras familias sigan recibiendo servicios bilingües y biculturales críticos para apoyar a nuestros hijos con discapacidades intelectuales

y de desarrollo.

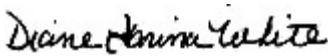
Esta subvención es importante para nuestra familia y para nuestro hijo. Necesitamos tener este servicio basado en la comunidad—aquí en la comunidad de Cicero. Estos fondos fueron suspendidos el viernes, 3 de abril sin aviso previo y nos paró los servicios inmediatamente. Gracias.

(dé su nombre e información de contacto si gusta)

Por favor ayude a que nos regresen estos fondos—para Community Support Services y para nuestras familias. Con la eliminación de estos fondos, las familias que reciben servicios los van a perder hoy y las 100 personas en nuestra lista de espera ¡NO TENDRAN ESPERANZA de recibir apoyo en el futuro!

Estos son los UNICOS servicios que reciben las familias y la única manera de mantener a sus hijos en la casa y a sus familias estables.

Con gratitud,



Diane Farina White
Presidenta/CEO



OUR MISSION

CSS is a private nonprofit agency that initiates, provides and promotes services for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families, within their communities, in order to strengthen their independence, self-esteem and ability to participate in and contribute to community life.

Illinois' largest respite provider

Each year, more than 383,381 hours of service are provided by our dedicated staff. We serve 791 individuals and their families throughout 57 communities in Chicago's

western suburbs.

Copyright © 2015 Community Support Services, All rights reserved.
You were added

Our mailing address is:
Community Support Services
9021 Ogden Avenue
Schaumburg, IL 60173

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#)

Around the Circle

A Monthly Newsletter from Community Support Services



May 2015



The recent **Beat the Odds event** was an evening of transformation for families caring for individuals with intellectual / developmental disabilities.

Your opinion is important to us. So, if you attended, we would love to hear from you. Our survey will take no longer than 60 seconds (we promise!) to [share your thoughts and opinions about the event.](#)



Zenny & her daughter Brianna

Our event attendees helped generate \$55,000 in net

9021 Ogden Avenue
Brookfield, IL 60513
708.354.4547
www.CSSservices.org

**Download PDF
Of This Issue**



CSS News



Thank you!

With your help CSS delivered over 1,500 letters to state representatives! This was the starting point to get the attention of legislators in Springfield. There is still more Advocacy needed.

[Find your legislators](#) and call them to ask them to restore Respite funding for fiscal year 2016 for families like Zenny's and more than 3,200 other Illinois families in need.

Connect With Us

revenue which is helping to change the lives of individuals like Zenny and her daughter, Brianna, who were featured in the evening's video. Zenny uses Respite Services and has developed a strong, family-like relationship with her Direct Support Professional, Carol Hough who cares for Brianna every Friday night while Zenny takes some time for herself.



To see the video and photos from the evening, [just click here](#). Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our wonderful families! We hope you enjoyed our new venue, and we look forward to seeing you next year!



Join Our Family
of Supporters

Donate Now



OUR MISSION

CSS is a private nonprofit agency that initiates, provides and promotes services for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families, within their communities, in order to strengthen their independence, self-esteem and ability to participate in and contribute to community life.

Illinois' largest respite provider

Each year, more than 383,381 hours of service are provided by our dedicated staff.

We serve 791 individuals and their families throughout 57 communities in Chicago's western suburbs.

Copyright © 2015 Community Support Services. All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you either opted in at our website or at one of our events or facilities. We send occasional new and event information to our subscribers.

Our mailing address is:

Community Support Services
9021 Ogden Avenue
Brookfield, IL 60173

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#)

July, 9th 2015

Accreditation Assures Best Services for CSS Families

Once in a while we get a feather in our cap that we just have to brag a little about, and today is one of those days.

CSS has received three-year CARF Accreditation – the highest level of accolades that this reviewing body provides.



This means CSS families benefit from the many strengths that CARF identified including staff members that are motivated, responsive, enthusiastic and passionate in serving our participants and their families.

It also ensures that individuals who reside in group homes and apartment settings enjoy a culture of inclusion and actively participate in community life, such as developing friendships, using public transportation, attending church, community events and

9021 Ogden Avenue
Brookfield, IL 60513
708.354.4547
www.CSSservices.org

**Download PDF
Of This Issue**



CSS News



Artwork created by CSS Academy participants can now be viewed and purchased at www.etsy.com. Just search by CSSAcademy (no spaces) or click [here](#).



Thank you to all who advocated to restore Respite services in Illinois! However, without a signed state budget CSS needed to suspend some services. Advocacy needs to continue

fun recreational activities.

CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) is an international, independent, nonprofit organization focused on advancing the quality of services families use to meet their needs for the best possible outcomes. CSS has worked hard to ensure CARF accreditation consistently since 1997. We continue to strive for the best possible services for the families we serve. [Click here](#) for a copy of the Survey Summary for more details.

[View Survey Summary \(PDF\)](#)

because without an Illinois budget, payments have stopped to human service agencies.

Connect With Us



Join Our Family
of Supporters

Donate Now



OUR MISSION

CSS is a private nonprofit agency that initiates, provides and promotes services for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families, within their communities, in order to strengthen their independence, self-esteem and ability to participate in and contribute to community life.

Illinois' largest respite provider

Each year, more than 383,381 hours of service are provided by our dedicated staff. We serve 791 individuals and their families throughout 57 communities in Chicago's western suburbs.

Copyright © 2015 Community Support Services, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#)

August, 13th 2015

August Newsletter

Lazy summers aren't so lazy around CSS. Our participants like to stay busy on exciting adventures. One of our goals is to give our participants a chance to experience the community. We offer many engaging, learning experiences throughout the summer.



In June, 20 participants explored all that Shedd Aquarium had to offer. Their favorite experience was the Stingray Touch exhibit. Even the most shy and reserved participant enjoyed learning about and meeting these "swimming angels."



Participants had some fun in the sun at Navy Pier. Nothing says Chicago quite like walking the pier, taking in the sights and getting some fresh air while learning about the history of one of the city's biggest attractions.



One of CSS' most popular summer events is the annual camping trip. Every August participants spend three days at Norman B Barr Camp where they fish, swim, go on hay rides, and complete arts and crafts while relaxing away from the hustle and bustle of the city.



OUR MISSION

CSS is a private nonprofit agency that initiates, provides and promotes services for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families, within their communities, in order to strengthen their independence, self-esteem and ability to participate in and contribute to community life.

Illinois' largest respite provider

Each year, more than 383,381 hours of service are provided by our dedicated staff. We serve 791 individuals and their families throughout 57 communities in Chicago's western suburbs.

9021 Ogden Avenue
Brookfield, IL 60513
708.354.4547
www.CSSservices.org

**Download PDF
Of This Issue**

CSS News

Respite Programs Are Still At Risk!!!

The Illinois State budget impasse continues. To ensure that Human Services remains a priority call your legislator and the Governor's office. Urge them to pass a budget that supports people with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Help CSS advocate for a responsible budget.

- Call your representative today to protect funding for our families. Click [here](#) for a list of contact information.
- Encourage your friends and family to support Respite funding
- Click [here](#) to donate to CSS. Your gifts are more important than ever.



Tamale Hut Café Art Gallery Benefits CSS

CSS has been chosen by the Tamale Hut Café, 8300 West Cermak Road, Riverside, to benefit from their September 12, 2015 fundraiser. [See the incredible art of Tony Mujica](#). An original piece by the artist will be raffled and the proceeds will go to CSS. All are welcome. See you there at 7:00 p.m. or email mjimenez@CSSservices.org with questions.



Thank you so much to all our Teacher's Pets. We received school supplies for over 50 children. Many of our families will struggle to buy supplies for their children—but our Teacher's Pets made sure they will start the year off right!

Connect With Us



**Join Our Family
of Supporters**

Donate Now



September 10, 2015

Back to School with CSS

As students go back to school, we are reminded that for those with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD,) the inability to return to high school can pose one of life's biggest challenges such as.... ***"What Do I Do Now?"***

Individuals with I/DD (such as Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy and other diagnoses) can remain in high school until the age of 21. After that, they are considered "aged out" and must then find learning and the feeling of connectedness in other ways. CSS Academy Programs, offered by CSS, provide a unique solution for individuals who wish to maintain an active and involved lifestyle—a chance for continued learning, while also making and developing friendships.



Cindy is a Proud CSS Artist

9021 Ogden Avenue
Brookfield, IL 60513
708.354.4547

www.CSSservices.org

**Download PDF
Of This Issue**



CSS News



**95% of families are
satisfied!**

For a summary of our family satisfaction survey results [click here](#). For the complete results please email kmasters@CSSservices.org



**Calling all artists for
November Art Show!**

If you, or someone you

Classes and workshops are offered in the areas of life skills, the arts and technology. These programs are the newest learning initiative of CSS, already one of the largest nonprofit Respite providers in the state of Illinois. Students can choose from a robust catalog of classes from locations in Brookfield, Cicero and Oak Park. Classes are designed for people with I/DD, their families and caregivers; as well as those in the community who just want to learn something new. This inclusive approach fosters learning and education for all.

Favorite classes include Zumba, Art, Cooking, Money Management, Technology, Music and more. There are classes, for people of all abilities, providing a fun and progressive community learning environment. Everyone who wants to learn a new skill or become more involved in their community is welcome.

New classes begin this month. For a CSS Academy Brochure or Course Catalog, visit:

<https://www.cssservices.org/css-academy>

know, is interested in exhibiting unique arts at our 2nd annual Novelties in November Art Show on November 5, contact Necole Mills at nmills@CSSservices.org or 708-354-4547 x267.

Connect With Us



Join Our Family
of Supporters

Donate Now



OUR MISSION

CSS is a private nonprofit agency that initiates, provides and promotes services for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families, within their communities, in order to strengthen their independence, self-esteem and ability to participate in and contribute to community life.

Illinois' largest respite provider

Each year, more than 383,381 hours of service are provided by our dedicated staff. We serve 791 individuals and their families throughout 57 communities in Chicago's western suburbs.

October 8, 2015

Paul Finds Comfort with Adrienne

Comfort means different things to different people. For Paul, a CSS participant of 35 years, comfort was found in his house manager, Adrienne Wolfe. Every day, Paul attended music class but didn't feel comfortable. He refused to sit down with the rest of the students and fully participate.



Adrienne and Paul

Something struck a chord with Adrienne and she began to accompany Paul to class. She recognized that the large class size was intimidating to Paul's sensitive

9021 Ogden Avenue
Brookfield, IL 60513
708.354.4547
www.CSSservices.org

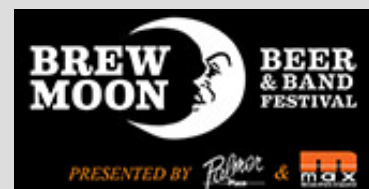
**Download PDF
Of This Issue**



CSS News



Join us for our 2nd annual Novelties in November art event on November 5th from 5:00-9:00 p.m. Click [here](#) to buy tickets or sign up to be an art or artisan vendor.



CSS is a charity of choice for this year's Brew Moon Beer and Band Festival on

nature. He did not have the personal space he was used to in his home. Realizing the root of Paul's discomfort, Adrienne patiently sat with him, at a safe distance from others, assuring him everything was fine. Gradually Paul became more comfortable and today he is sitting with the class. Paul gets more enjoyment from his fellow students and is joining in with the movements and queues that accompany the songs.

Sitting with the class may sound like a small detail, but Adrienne Wolfe knows that it can be the difference between simply attending a class and finding joy in the class. Adrienne is known for her commitment to her clients and staff. Her calm and comforting demeanor is felt by those around her. The participants she works with respect her as much as her staff does. One of the keys to helping our participants find joy and independence is having dedicated staff members like Adrienne. In fact, more than 41% of CSS employees have been with us for more than 5 years. If you know a person like Paul who could benefit from our services, please contact us today at [\(708\) 354-4547](tel:7083544547) or by email at info@cssservices.org



Paul Enjoying Music Class

October 17th which features over 100 craft beers and live music. Click [here](#) to buy tickets and use the code "COMMUNITY" at checkout help to CSS receive a bonus donation. Volunteers are still needed.

Connect With Us





Join Our Family
of Supporters

Donate Now



OUR MISSION

CSS is a private nonprofit agency that initiates, provides and promotes services for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families, within their communities, in order to strengthen their independence, self-esteem and ability to participate in and contribute to community life.

Illinois' largest respite provider

Each year, more than 383,381 hours of service are provided by our dedicated staff. We serve 791 individuals and their families throughout 57 communities in Chicago's western suburbs.

Copyright © 2015 Community Support Services, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#)

November 23, 2015

CSS Participants are Thankful for You

Please allow us to share their gratitude.

As we embark on this season of giving, we find that participants at CSS are grateful for a variety of things. Read on to learn what they have to say.



“Since becoming involved with CSS, Asia has developed into a mature young woman. Her social and independence skills are improving every day. Asia and I are grateful to the staff and services at CSS. We are especially appreciative of her Respite coordinator, Karina, and her interview training through the Customized Employment program.”

9021 Ogden Avenue
Brookfield, IL 60513
708.354.4547
www.CSSservices.org

**Download PDF
Of This Issue**



CSS News



Giving Tuesday Dec. 1st
After Black Friday and Cyber Monday comes Giving Tuesday, a global day of philanthropy. Give locally and support CSS this Giving Tuesday on December 1st.



Calling all Santas!

Interested in making the holidays joyful for a CSS participant? Contact Brandy Isaacs at bisaacs@CSSservices.org or 708-354-4547 to be a part

—Symantha



Christopher at Navy Pier

“CSS means a lot to our entire family. Christopher now has a safe place to develop life skills and friendships where he is accepted for who he is. My husband and I couldn’t ask for more than that.”

—Pamela, Christopher’s mom



Olivia ‘Oli’ enjoying art

of the Santa Anonymous program.



Novelties in

November Event

Thank you so much to our guests, donors, volunteers, and of course our amazingly talented artists and artisans for making the night a great success!

Connect With Us



"I am thankful that people are really nice and for the people who help me have fun at our outings. They take us where we would like to go. Angie helps me a lot with reading and music."

—Oli

"Angie is Olivia's DSP. She has been with Olivia for several years and has been such a big help to Olivia and all of us. There are so many dedicated people within CSS; we are so lucky to have their support! "

—Mary, Oli's mom



Join Our Family
of Supporters

Donate Now



OUR MISSION

CSS is a private nonprofit agency that initiates, provides and promotes services for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families, within their communities, in order to strengthen their independence, self-esteem and ability to participate in and contribute to community life.

Illinois' largest respite provider

Each year, more than 383,381 hours of service are provided by our dedicated staff. We serve 791 individuals and their families throughout 57 communities in Chicago's western suburbs.

Copyright © 2015 Community Support Services, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#)

THIS SEASON,

put a smile ON CHLOE'S FACE.

Chloe is one smart cookie! Just ask her DSP, Carole, who thinks the world of her.

Diagnosed with autism and mild epilepsy, Chloe is nonverbal but she is always working to improve her communication skills. At school she has an iPad that helps her communicate, but at home she uses sign language. Chloe knows about 100 signs—including the signs for mommy, daddy and sister! This is a special accomplishment as she has never been able to speak those words to her family.

Carole has been Chloe's Direct Support Professional (DSP) since she was 14 months old and has enjoyed watching her develop into a fun-loving, creative and caring little girl. Chloe's love for animals has helped her learning too. She has three dogs, Merla, Spike and Sage and she recently learned to throw a ball to them. Another favorite activity is playing in her Pet Shop dollhouse with Carole. Chloe and Carole often spend hours playing together, doing puzzles, getting ice cream, and drawing (especially dogs!)



The Respite care that Chloe receives each week gives her parents time to work, run errands, and spend time with Chloe's sister, Lauren. Lauren loves art and is currently designing and making a furred outfit. Knowing that Chloe is in good hands gives parents, Ray and Janelle, a chance to take Lauren shopping for art supplies and spend one on one time that would otherwise not be possible.

In Janelle's own words, **"CSS is a life saver. INVALUABLE!!!
Chloe is a happier kid because of CSS. She loves "Miss Carole."**

ACT NOW AND YOUR GIFT WILL BE MATCHED to help others like Chloe!

This Holiday Season, when you donate, **your gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to \$6,000**, through funds provided by generous members of our Board of Directors.

Make your gift go twice as far.
Save time and **donate online today.**



Seasons Greetings from All of Us at



*Warmest Regards,
Diane Farina White*

Diane Farina White
President/CEO



YOUR GIFT HELPED RUDY

open his eyes TO GREAT POSSIBILITIES

Linda would have gone to the ends of the earth for Rudy, but she only had to drive seven minutes!

When Linda Gonzalez learned about CSS Academy classes, she was intrigued—but skeptical. Her son has good balance, but might need more instruction. The idea of community members taking classes alongside him did not sound feasible.

But after being persuaded by Necole Mills, the Academy Director, and thinking about it (for two whole years) Linda finally gave it a try. She was blown away.

Her son, Rudy, was greeted by warm smiles from not only the receptionist and Necole, but also from Hilda, the Zumba instructor who was a bundle of energy. Even the community members welcomed them.

Rudy got a personal tour of the building which opened his eyes to the possibilities and made him feel comfortable enough to try out the class. Now, they look forward to coming to Zumba together every Monday and Wednesday when they see other students with autism, as well as others in the community.



Above: Rudy with Hilda and Tina from CSS. Below: Rudy participates at Zumba.

"CSS Academy gives our participants the support they need to be successful, and integrate into our community. We all live here together, so why not have fun together too?" remarks Necole.

Linda recognizes that Rudy does best when he is engaged in something he enjoys. He loves the Academy and makes sure he does not miss a class.

It had been difficult for Linda to find high quality programming she was looking for. "I would have gone to the end of the earth for Rudy, but from our home on the southwest side of Chicago, the Academy was only seven minutes away!"

ACT NOW AND YOUR GIFT WILL BE MATCHED to help others like Rudy!

This Holiday Season, when you donate, **your gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to \$6,000**, through funds provided by generous members of our Board of Directors.

Make your gift go twice as far.
Save time and **donate online today.**



Seasons Greetings from All of Us at



*Warmest Regards,
Diane Farina White*

Diane Farina White
President/CEO

THIS SEASON, PUT A GLIMMER OF
happiness
IN LOUIS' EYES AND
A SONG IN HIS HEART

Louis has found a home with CSS. As an orphan, Louis grew up in an institutional facility that stifled individuality and choice. When the facility closed, Louis was on the streets without guidance or the support to know how to survive. Facing homelessness, he was referred to CSS. Louis' case worker found him his first ever apartment in Brookfield and checked in with Louis several times each week to make sure he was properly caring for himself.

With guidance from CSS, Louis got a bicycle and became confident enough to explore his new neighborhood. Louis' outgoing personality and genuine nature emerged, and helped him make friends in the community.

Today, Louis has a part time job with CSS, and is a recognizable Brookfield resident. With friends in the community and support from CSS, Louis has found his family.

**ACT NOW AND YOUR GIFT
WILL BE MATCHED to help
others like Louis!**

This Holiday Season, when you donate,
**your gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar,
up to \$6,000,** through funds provided by
generous members of our Board of Directors.

Make your gift go twice as far.
Save time and **donate online today.**



Seasons Greetings from All of Us at



*Warmest Regards,
Diane Farina White*

Diane Farina White
President/CEO



*"When I see a friend,
I always shake their hand."*

LOUIS

*"Louis' smile is
infectious. You can
see his gentleness
when you talk
with him."*

—Kathy Golden,
Louis' friend



YOUR GIFT CREATES

happy memories

FOR CSS PARTICIPANTS

When Chris reflects on 2015, he remembers a fun year of exploring new places and making friends that he did not have just a short time ago.

Chris has YOU to thank. Generous contributions to CSS provide services to support individuals like Chris that deeply enrich their lives.

Before learning about CSS, Chris was at home, bored for long periods of time, with only the company of the TV and computer. Chris did not leave the house very much and when his mom, Pam, came home from work, he begged her daily for excursions to the mall and other places. As a devoted mother, she often did this, but remembers how taxing it was on her, because she is also responsible for caring for her mother. Pam knew he deserved more from life.

YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT HELPS CHRIS AND OTHERS!

Today Chris' life looks very different. This summer Chris went to the Shedd Aquarium and the Brookfield Zoo. These trips were followed by a visit to an apple orchard and Bengtson's Pumpkin Farm. But those occasional outings were not enough to satisfy Chris' outgoing nature. He now also enjoys Group Respite activities nearly every day with classes at CSS Academy and TeamUp. He loves art classes, health & wellness classes, and meals out with CSS friends. He is also developing new passions such as bowling.

Now, when he is not at CSS, you can find him caring for his elderly grandmother and cooking a grilled cheese sandwich for her, a new favorite meal he learned in cooking class.

Pam remarks that CSS is a Godsend for her family. "CSS is a place that really cares about helping our son achieve the most out of life! I wish I had found CSS sooner."

ACT NOW! MAKE YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT TODAY!

The CSS Board of Directors **guarantees \$6,000 in matching funds.**

DONATE ONLINE TODAY!



Seasons Greetings from All of Us at



*Warmest Regards,
Diane Farina White*

Diane Farina White
President/CEO



Above: Chris at a pumpkin farm. Below: Posing with Sue at The Field Museum.

