



Communique

A Publication of Southwest Community Services, Inc.

I always tend to look for the words of others to define my work, my place in life, and my current state of mind. I use these words of inspiration to validate current decisions and to provide me with the inner strength necessary to move forward . . .

In June of 2009, I met with a group of community service agency executive directors to openly discuss the difficulties of maintaining quality programs within our current funding structures. The group was concerned by both the current economy and future funding sources. As we met, it became clear as community service providers that we shared the same concerns and we were ready to find solutions to solve our problems.

Seventeen months later, I am proud to be a member of Community Service Partners; a collaborative effort between six agencies for the purpose of saving operational expenses by sharing resources. Southwest Community Services, Charleston Transitional Facility, Park Lawn, New Hope

Sertoma Centre, and Southstar have made a commitment to our consumers, families, and staff that we will work together for the common goal of maintaining high quality programming. These efforts required a strong commitment from the agencies as well as our Board of Directors.

**Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress;
working together is success.**

— Henry Ford

Over the past seventeen months, Community Service Partners coordinated information technology services (IT) to create a combined IT department for five of the six agencies. Additionally, CSP is in the process of creating a combined

training department. Other collaborate efforts involve modifications to our transportation and payroll systems. This is possible because all the members of CSP believe, "we can do more together than alone."

I think Mr. Ford would be proud of our teamwork!

Mary Pat Ambrosino
Executive Director

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Making A Difference . . . Making A Match

Southwest Community Services is very excited to participate in the Community Services Foundation *Making A Difference* . . . *Making A Match* fundraising program again this year. **Through December 31, 2010, Community Services Foundation will match, dollar for dollar, your donations to SCS***. This program has helped us raise thousands of extra dollars from your donations. Last year we used the donations we received towards the purchase of a minivan for community outings.

We need your support! Any size donation can make a big impact because of the matching dollars. For example, a \$100 donation, once matched, provides \$200 for SCS. The donations we receive this

year will be used to update and enhance program services.

Your check must be made payable to Community Services Foundation. For your convenience, we have included an envelope in this newsletter. You may also make an online donation by visiting www.csfil.org. Click on the Network for Good logo to make your donation by credit card. Please be sure to designate SCS as the recipient of your donation.

Your donations are tax deductible because Community Services Foundation is a non-profit exempt under Sec. 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. Donations are deductible to the extent allowable by law.

**Program Rules: There is no dollar limit for individual donations. However, there is a \$500 limit per business donation. There is no limit on the number of donations an individual or business can make. Donations from non-profit organizations are not eligible for matching dollars.*



SCS is proud to be participating as a partner agency in the **United Way of Metropolitan Chicago's** 2010 Chicago Area Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). If you are a federal employee, please consider donating to the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago through your payroll deduction plan. SCS's CFC code is 97025. Thank you for your consideration!

Fundraising Events

Every Tuesday Bingo

This is an opportunity to win big while helping SCS provide great programs. Bingo is held in our building located at 6775 Prosperi Drive in Tinley Park. It is a wheel-chair accessible building with free, lighted



parking. The doors open every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. Enjoy free coffee and a full kitchen with weekly specials. Come play the Land of Lincoln progressive raffle game with four winners per game! We have Pull Tabs and Raffles: Hot Ball Progressive, Double Action Lightning Progressive, and the Bumble Bee Raffle with a chance to win \$5,000! Hands-free computers are available as well as a next ball out monitor and verifier. Early Bird raffle games begin at 6:30 p.m. and Bingo games begin at 7:00 p.m. Visit www.swcsinc.org for more information. *Please note Bingo will be closed on December 21 and 28.*

Tuesday, November 23

Super Bingo/Raffle



Join us for a super special Bingo night with up to \$10,000 in payouts! The doors will open at 4:00 p.m. with Early Bird at 6:30 and games at 7:00 p.m. Special Split-the-Pot and Turkey Games. Save \$10 by buying your computer or paper package in advance. The computer package will be \$110 at the door and includes one 240-card computer, 18 On-Bingo-cards, one Bonanza card, a free Dauber, and a free sloppy joe dinner. The paper package will be \$70 at the door and includes 18 On-Bingo cards, one Bonanza card, a free Dauber, and a free sloppy joe dinner. Contact Sandy Sorrentino-Bookhout at 708-429-1260 x1243 to purchase your package in advance and save \$10!

Saturday, December 4

Holiday Shopping/Craft Fair

Take the stress out of holiday shopping! Take care of everyone on your list while helping people with disabilities. Join us at SCS from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. for an amazing selection of unique gifts with a range of prices to fit your holiday budget. Enjoy the concessions and shopping



from traditional vendors as well as craft vendors selling designer purses, jewelry, candles, and much more. The Gold Refinery will pay top dollar for your unwanted gold and silver from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The \$2 admission fee includes a raffle ticket. Our wheel-chair accessible building with free parking is located at 6775 Prosperi Drive in Tinley Park.



Hole in One!

Our first golf outing was held at Silver Lake Country Club on May 17, 2010, and it was a tremendous success raising \$17,000! Despite the cool and rainy weather, 74 golfers turned out for a fun day while raising money for programs at SCS. We sold 333 tickets for our Ball Drop, Split-the-Pot contest and the lucky winner went home with \$1,665! We would like to thank everyone who made this event possible:



Ball Drop

Sponsors

Event Sponsor

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Hole In One Sponsor

Community Services Foundation

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Ball Drop

Tinley Park Fire Department

Hole Sponsors:

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State Senator Maggie Crotty

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Walt's Food Centers

Donations:

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Joliet Tent Company

Ms. Cressie McGlennon

My Sister's and Me Boutique – Frankfort

Plaques Plus, Inc. Orland Park

Mr. Richard Roeper

Sam's Club Tinley Park

Silver Lake Country Club

Sofia's Med Spa – Frankfort

Ms. Barbara Weiner



**We hope to gain an even bigger turnout next year.
Mark your calendar for May 26, 2011!**

Our Champions

Southwest Community Services sincerely appreciates the donations, sponsorships, and support it receives from individuals, businesses, and foundations. Grants and donations make it possible for us to improve the lives of people with disabilities. We are the proud recipients of the following grants:

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

SCS received a one-year grant in August in support of our Community Employment Services program. The grant funded the hiring of three employment training specialists. The specialists are responsible for placing 24 consumers in jobs over the next year. We also received an extension to our 2010 grant for consumers to participate in the four THISAbilities training programs: janitorial, forklift, food service, and landscape.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois

We received a grant for the Community Enterprises (CE) program. The grant funds are used to promote health and wellness in the community by offering three areas of behavioral health group services: 1) *Savings and financial planning* – consumers learn about personal budgets and saving money; 2) *Adaptation to employment and community living* – consumers practice completing job applications

and developing a resume; and 3) *Symptom management: anxiety group* – consumers learn to identify anxiety triggers, gain coping skills and learn to use community resources for support.

Community Services Foundation

SCS thanks Community Services Foundation (CSF) for its continued support. For fiscal year 2011, SCS received four grants: 1) continued support for the Director of Development office; 2) support for the TAP program; 3) the hiring of a curriculum coordinator; and, 4) a leadership challenge grant.

Illinois Voices

A grant was awarded to us for Opportunities Unlimited to set up a self-advocacy training program. Six peer leaders will be leading self-advocacy and empowerment groups with their peers. The grant provides training for the peer leaders with Illinois Voices and funds for program materials and expenses.

Suburban Service League

One grant was awarded to the CE program for the purchase of computers and software. Another grant was awarded to the TAP (talents, abilities and possibilities) program for the replenishment of supplies and materials.

Zion Lutheran Church of Tinley Park

SCS received a grant for the CE program. The grant funded the purchase of supplies and materials for the Team Green greenhouse. Team Green grew and sold an assortment of fresh vegetables this past summer.



Self-Advocacy Program

Success Story

Renonda Jacobs' smiling face beams with self-confidence. Two years ago when she first came to Community Enterprises (CE), she hardly ever smiled and didn't have confidence in herself or her abilities. Renonda came to CE to enroll in the THISAbility Enterprises food service training program. She had experience working in fast food restaurants and enjoyed working in the kitchen. Renonda hoped to learn new skills from the training program. She gained those skills and much, much more. According to her trainer, Jearlean Green, "Renonda's self-confidence really blossomed."



Renonda Jacobs

Upon completion of the food service training program, Renonda went to work for SCS Munch & Lunch. Her new found confidence also gave her the courage to apply and accept a position with a SCS vocational partner, ITW Signode Midwest Steel & Special Products. In the future, she hopes to complete the food service sanitation test so that she'll be certified by the Illinois Public Health Department. According to Renonda, her kids are her inspiration. "The best part about working is having the money to buy gifts for my kids."

First Anniversary for TAP

It has been an incredibly successful first year for the TAP (talents, abilities and possibilities) program. TAP is a day program for adults with severe and profound disabilities. It provides a nurturing environment for consumers and tailors lessons to each person's abilities. The lessons focus on daily living skills and life safety issues. The program promotes community integration and features outings that are both social and educational in nature.

According to Lynn Zona, Director of Program Services, "It has been wonderful to watch the transformation in the consumers. They've gained a great deal of self-confidence while learning important new skills." The TAP program is very successful and Lynn expects it to be SCS's fastest growing program. In the future, she foresees the need to spin off a senior citizen group from TAP and Opportunities Unlimited.

Their success has not gone unnoticed. The program was recently awarded a grant from the Suburban Service League to replenish program supplies and materials. The program was able to purchase new time-telling and money teaching kits as well as new arts and crafts supplies.

Consumers who attend the TAP program have made lots of new friends and enjoy having fun together. The group recently celebrated Katherine's 80th birthday! She is SCS's oldest consumer.



Southwest Community Services, Inc.

6775 Prosperi Drive
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Return Service Requested

Officers:

Dr. Christopher Higgins *Chairperson*
Gregg Jarman *Vice Chairperson*
Joan Nowak *Secretary/Treasurer*

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SCS Programs and Services

Bogard Opportunities Unlimited/TAP
Phoenix Center Community Enterprises
Community Employment Services

Please visit www.swcsinc.org for more information.

Communique is a publication of Southwest Community Services, Inc., a not-for-profit agency that provides services to empower individuals with diverse disabilities to maximize their development and independence.

Halloween Havoc

The Elusive Group hosted one of the best Halloween parties in the south suburbs on October 23, 2010, while raising money in support of SCS. Halloween Havoc 2010 participants enjoyed costume contests, food, drinks, karaoke, raffle prizes and auctions. The Young Professionals of SCS volunteered to make the event a success. SCS received the profits from the evening's events. Everyone had a great time and we hope to make this an annual event.

The Young Professionals of SCS is open to young people over the age of 21 to support SCS through event-based fundraising and to raise awareness of disabilities among younger generations. The group is a great way for young professionals to give back to the community while having fun and networking with other professionals.



Sarah Augustine, Jessica Sylvester, Mike Nowak, Megan McGushin (Elusive Group), Kassie Bay, Maureen Sullivan

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Meet Our Staff

Please help us welcome the newest SCS staff members.

- Cynthia Boyd** Employment Specialist for Community Employment Services
David Burgess Truck and Van Driver
Kelli Cody Administrative Assistant
Emily Harn Physical Therapist for the Phoenix Center
Fatima Harris Work Services Trainer for Opportunities Unlimited
Regina Jones Recovery Support Associate for Community Enterprises
Shannon Santiago DSP for TAP

Save the Date!

Every Tuesday Bingo

Bingo closed 12/21 & 12/28



November 23 Super Bingo/Raffle

March 6 Bowl-A-Thon

December 4 Holiday Shopping Fair

May 26 Golf Outing