

## ***ORGANIZATIONS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT***

### **ACES\$ - OUR 2023 SPONSOR**

ACES\$, Avenues to Consumer Employment Services and \$supports is a consumer directed, community based non-profit organization. ACES\$ provides fiscal intermediary services in order to maintain its mission of ensuring independence for individuals by allowing them the freedom to select their own personal care givers. Northern Illinois Office: ACES\$ 16750 S. Oak Park Ave., Tinley Park, IL 60477; Central/Southern Illinois Office: ACES\$ 830 South Spring Street, Springfield, IL 62704 Toll Free Number (877) 223-7781 Website: <https://mycil.org/>

### **Amazing Sensory Designs, LLC.**

ASD, LLC offers a variety of customized Adaptive Sensory room designs and Adaptive Sensory Products to individuals receiving Home Based Services and CILA services. We are accepting referrals at this time. We are an approved DD Medicaid Wavier provider vendor for adaptive sensory Equipment. Also, we can help the families with getting 53E Wavier funding to pay for adaptive sensory room designs and sensory products. Here is our website and videos with all the information on our sensory room designs and products.

David Mays, Design Consultant / Owner

Amazing Sensory Designs, LLC

(773) 501-6796

[amazingsensorydesigns.com](http://amazingsensorydesigns.com)

Videos

<https://youtu.be/uV4sqLY01A8>

[https://youtu.be/Dka\\_UCsaTwI](https://youtu.be/Dka_UCsaTwI)

<https://youtu.be/23PCwWogirs>

<https://youtu.be/L50tcari4uE>

funding:

[IDHS: Adaptive Equipment, Assistive Technology, Home and Vehicle Modification Request Process \(state.il.us\)](http://IDHS: Adaptive Equipment, Assistive Technology, Home and Vehicle Modification Request Process (state.il.us))

Website:

[amazingsensorydesigns.com](http://amazingsensorydesigns.com)

### **The Arc of Illinois**

The Arc of Illinois and its chapters have always been in the forefront of strong advocacy positions for people with disabilities and their families. Much of the important legislation nationally and in Illinois is a direct result of the advocacy of The Arc. It is rare when any piece of public policy does not have the fingerprints of The Arc upon it. The Arc continues to be a strong grassroots organization with a rich membership of self-advocates, parents and professionals working together to achieve common goals. Website: <http://www.thearcofil.org/>

**Arts of Life** is a 501(c)3 non-profit founded in January 2000 with a shared vision: to create a working, person-centric, artistic community while providing a work environment of equality in Chicago. Motivated by founding artist Veronica Cuculich along with two co-directors Arts of Life brought nine other individuals with developmental disabilities to create the organization we are today. Our shared vision grew from a passion for artistic expression and a need for an alternative system.

For artists at Arts of Life, a career in the visual arts is an opportunity for meaningful employment. Each artist has their own studio space and works independently from individualized project plans or receives 1:1 visual

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arts facilitation to increase their artistic skill set. Artists earn a monthly stipend for participation in the program with eligibility to receive bonuses based on personal annual art sales.

Today, we have two professional art studios and represent over 60 artists with varying levels of physical and intellectual disabilities. Each studio is 6,000 square feet and includes a community gallery that is open to the public.

**Chicago Studio**  
2010 W Carroll Ave  
Chicago, IL 60612  
(312) 829-2787

**North Shore Studio**  
1963 Johns Drive  
Glenview, IL 60025  
(847) 486-0808

<https://artsoflife.org/>

**The Answer Inc. is a 501c3** not-for-profit organization, dedicated to empowering families impacted by Autism & Developmental Disabilities. We accomplish this through support, resources, education, recreation, workforce development & advocacy. The Answer's purpose is to de-stigmatize society's opinion of the disabled community and to provide awareness and education. The Answer Inc. also offers and encourages mentoring opportunities. Through your generous contributions we provide effective, successfully tested techniques that build and nourish vital health, life, and cohabitation skills for those impacted by Autism and Developmental Disabilities. The Answer Inc. Autism Awareness & Support Agency, 708.296.5651, [www.theanswerinc.org](http://www.theanswerinc.org),

IG @theanswerinc

### **Chicagoland Autism Connection**

The Chicagoland Autism Connection (CAC) is a not-for profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to increase autism awareness and improve the quality of life for children and adults with autism. Since 1997 the CAC has touched hundreds of families by providing tools to "shine the light" on the darkness of autism. With monthly parent meetings, the "Spring Fling for Autism Awareness" Resource Fair, a summer picnic and pool party, the fall "Night of Stars" Dinner Dance, and numerous other activities, the CAC strives to support families affected by this devastating neurological disorder and the professionals who work with them. Through its two divisions - the Chicago Southside Autism Support Group (CSASG) and the "A" Team Social and Recreational Club - CAC continues to work toward the fulfillment of its mission. Website: <http://www.chicagoautism.org/>

### **Community Service Options Inc.**

A private non-profit 501©3 organization, founded in 1989, Community Service Options, Inc. (CSO) contracts with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) to provide preadmission screening, eligibility determination and service coordination for people with developmental disabilities, in Chicago. CSO is part of a national system, federally mandated to be completely independent and free-standing of local direct service provision. This "independent" function enables CSO to safeguard the rights of people with disabilities, even though it receives funding from federal and state grants, contracts and private donations. The skilled advocates at CSO assist in the development of individual, "person-centered" plans for community-based

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human services and supports. CSO works with each individual and/or their family/guardian to identify goals and strategies that address unique needs and maximize their potential. CSO plans and arranges services such as medical care options, employment, housing programs, accessible transportation, and recreational activities. Contact us: Telephone (773) 471-4700, Fax (773) 471-4770, TDD: 773-471-4772, Toll-Free: (888) 276-4467 <http://www.cso1.org/>

### **Envision Unlimited**

For over 70 years, Envision Unlimited has served people with disabilities across all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. Today, our wide array of home and community-based programs benefit over 2,000 individuals across the state of Illinois. Envision provides day programs, community living services, employment services, a foster care program, and mental health services.

At Envision, we hold ourselves to the highest possible standard. We voluntarily invite regular independent evaluation to ensure that we successfully address our clients' and families' unique needs. Across the 14 consecutive surveys offered since 1978, we received the highest possible scores from the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). We measure our success by program participants' progress, as we help children and adults realize self-identified goals and objectives. Above all, Envision is an advocate for the disability community. We believe all individuals, given the right opportunities, are capable of achieving great breakthroughs and leading lives of choice, independence, and inclusion. 8 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1700 | Chicago, IL 60603

Phone: (312) 346-6230 | Fax (312) 346-2218

<https://envisionunlimited.org/>

Email: [info@envisionunlimited.org](mailto:info@envisionunlimited.org)

### **Equip for Equality**

Equip for Equality. Abuse & Neglect: Preventing abuse, neglect and exploitation through systemic and individual advocacy; facility monitoring and oversight; and enforcement of fundamental rights. 20 N Michigan Ave Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60602 · (312) 341-0022; <https://www.equipforequality.org>

### **Family Benefit Solutions**

Family Benefits Solutions is located at 1110 W. Lake Cook Road #150 in Buffalo Grove, IL 60089. Our contact information: (847) 279-8506. Email: [benefithelp@aol.com](mailto:benefithelp@aol.com). We help families obtain and maintain government benefits: SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, etc. We also do educational seminars for families, professionals and agencies.

### **Family-to-Family Health Information Center**

The Arc of Illinois Family-to-Family Health Information Center works with families and professionals to assist with questions and concerns related to the health of children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) under the age of 22. We put our extensive parental and professional experience to work to help other families access resources, communicate with medical providers, and raise children at home in their communities.

We understand how challenging healthcare systems can be, which is why we focus on sharing the most thorough, up-to-date resources regarding health insurance options, government benefits, youth transition concerns, and much more. Together, we help your child to thrive in their community. <https://www.thearcofil.org/about-us/programs/family-to-family-health-information-center> Project Director, [Mary@thearcofil.org](mailto:Mary@thearcofil.org)

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**Family Resource Center on Disabilities** - Providing Parents of Children with Disabilities with Information, Training, and Assistance. Chicago's Metropolitan Area Parent Training and Information Center!

- Learn about your Rights and Responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Make informed decisions about your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Obtain appropriate services for your child
- Communicate more effectively with school professionals
- Come together with other parents who share your concerns and desires to make a difference
- Learn more about Early Intervention and transition services
- Effect positive change in your child's school.
- Learn about what he or she needs to lead a productive and independent adult life
- 

**Family Resource Center on Disabilities** serves the following 8 Illinois counties: Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will.

Have additional questions about FRCD? Contact us at 312-939-3513 or email [info@frcd.org](mailto:info@frcd.org).

### **Family Support Network**

The Family Support Network works to uncover the resources, funding, and services needed to help people with developmental disabilities live fulfilling lives in their own homes. By focusing on the needs of both family members and individuals, we help break down barriers to clear the way for long-term success. The mission of the Family Support Network is to unify individuals with disabilities and their families to advocate for funding, services and community resources that strengthen and support the individual and the family directly by responding to their individual needs and empowering them to live in their own homes. The Family Support Network further seeks to ensure the continuation of all individual supports throughout the life span of the individual. Website: <http://familysupportnetwork.org/>

### **Family Transition Project**

The Family Transition Project supports individuals and families who want to explore the possibilities of community life, for those currently living in large institutions.

#### **How We Help:**

Provide individualized information, resources, and connections to individuals and families interested in learning about institution to community transition from a family perspective.

Provide self-advocates' experience for one on one support

Provide advocacy and support for the entire transition process and beyond

Present to groups about the experience of moving from institutions to the community, self-advocacy, barriers met, and the positives of community inclusion

Family advocates meet one on one with self-advocates and their families by phone, email, or in person – whatever is most helpful. We are here to listen and learn their histories, their needs, and their concerns.

Contact: [Katherine@thearcofil.org](mailto:Katherine@thearcofil.org) <https://www.thearcofil.org/about-us/programs/family-transition-project/>

### **Illinois Department of Human Services**

IDHS is one of Illinois' largest agencies, with more than 13,000 employees. Illinois created IDHS in 1997, to provide our state's residents with streamlined access to integrated services, especially those who are striving to

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move from welfare to work and economic independence, and others who face multiple challenges to self-sufficiency. IDHS is proud of its diversity, efficiency, and the services that the agency and its community partners provide to Illinois citizens.

### **Vision, Mission, and Core Values**

Our vision, mission, and core values define what we stand for and believe in.

Our vision defines what we aspire towards.

Our mission statement defines what we are here to do.

Our core values are the guiding principles that shape our behavior and actions.

Our Vision

All people in Illinois achieve their full potential.

**Our Mission:** Providing equitable access to social/human services, supports, programs and resources to enhance the lives of all who we serve.

### **Our Core Values**

Human Dignity

Equity

Community Informed

Urgency

Transparency

Kindness

<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=27897>

<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=81789>

### **Illinois Life Span**

An organization committed to empowering. Illinois Life Span (ILS) is a program of The Arc of Illinois – a statewide advocacy organization committed to empowering persons with disabilities to achieve full participation in community life through informed choices. The Illinois Life Span Program has been in existence since 2001, providing information and resources on advocacy, supports and services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities of all ages, their family members, and others statewide.

The Illinois Life Span website includes contact information for disability specific resources statewide and by county. Additional information available includes Important School and Transition Resources, an Advocacy Toolbox designed to provide basic information to help navigate the Illinois disability system, and an extensive Links section. <https://www.illinoislifefspan.org/>

### **Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance (The Alliance)**

#### **Our Focus**

Our focus is to empower people to speak up and speak out about what they want/need, don't want/don't need, action plan their goals and participate in advocacy at the personal, community and statewide levels. We do this through education, trainings and individualized mentoring.

Contact: Tara Ahern

Project Director

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2020 American Association of People with Disabilities, Paul G Hearne Leadership Awardee

P: 773.787.9651

[www.selfadvocacyalliance.org](http://www.selfadvocacyalliance.org)

### **Ligas Family Advocate Program**

The Arc Ligas Family Advocate Program provides family-to-family support for individuals and their families who are selected through the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities (IDHS/DDD), PUNS as a result of the Ligas Consent Decree. Family advocates will address the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families by providing information about and options for using community-based services for people with developmental disabilities, including Home-Based Support Services (HBS) and Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) services to build full and integrated lives in their homes and communities. We work with families who receive Early Notification letters as well as those selected from PUNS. ***A primary goal of the program is to connect families with other families so they can share their unique perspective as stakeholders in the system.*** It is equally important to provide consistent information across the state early enough in the planning stage that award letter recipients and their families have a chance to consider choices that may be outside what is already familiar to them.

Website: <http://ligasfamilyadvocateprogram.org/>

### **Pace Bus**

Pace is the premier suburban transit provider, quickly moving people to work and school safely and efficiently. The backbone of Chicago's suburbs, Pace serves tens of thousands of daily riders with more fixed bus routes, vanpools and Dial-a-Ride programs. Pace covers 3,500 square miles and is the one of the largest bus services in North America. Website: <http://www.pacebus.com>

### **Parents of Extraordinary Children (P.E.C.S.)**

PECS originated as a volunteer-based organization, located within the 10th Ward area. Parents of Extraordinary Children's mission is: "To empower, support, inform and advocate for parents in South-East Side of Chicago." Our workshops are designed to educate and support the parents of children and young adults with disabilities. We promote inclusion, raise awareness and distribute information to the community as a whole. Also, PECS' workshops include vital information on self-advocacy, how to be assertive when requesting services and developing life skills. Contact: -Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/PECS10thWard/> (312) 600-5479; [pecs10thward@gmail.com](mailto:pecs10thward@gmail.com) Margaret Cortes  
[mcortes@pexc10thward.com](mailto:mcortes@pexc10thward.com)

### **Rubin Law -Special Needs Legal & Future Planning**

Legal and future planning for our fellow Illinois families of individuals with special needs, including intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, and/or mental illness, is not one thing we do, it's the only thing we do; it's not one area of our practice, it's our only area of practice.

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Brian and Benjamin Rubin are available to speak to groups and organizations. To arrange for Brian and Benjamin to speak to your group or organization or to schedule an appointment to meet with them, please contact our office by email, fax or telephone. Website: <http://www.rubinlaw.com/>

### **Supporting Illinois Brothers and Sisters (S.I.B.S)**

Supporting Illinois Brothers and Sisters (S.I.B.S) provides support to siblings of people with disabilities in Illinois by connecting them with information, networking opportunities, and resources in order to enhance the quality of life for their entire family. Please feel free to share information about our network with your colleagues and clients. More information about S.I.B.S can be found on our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).