

## ! a message from **OUR CEO**

Summer is here and even though it is disappointing we are still without a state budget, EP!C is thankful for everyone that donated, volunteered and encouraged EP!C staff for staying true to our mission to "enrich the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities". This spring, we are excited to connect with family, guardians and advocates during one of six town hall meetings. Terry Waters, Board Chair, and Lorenz Evans, Vice Chair, will lead an update on EP!C's current status and discuss the many ways stakeholders can partner with us to make a difference this next year and into the future. The dates are listed on the backside.



We look forward to connecting with you in June!

## ! family **SPOTLIGHT**

### **HOW KIRK BROWN INSPIRED THE BEGINNING OF EP!C**

Diann (Brown) Johnson just adores her younger brother Kirk now 74 years old and has since the day he was born. She will also tell you it has not always been an easy road for her family. Diann's parents felt life was going along as expected until Kirk contracted measles at the age of 2. After his illness, life was not the same. Her parents set to work immediately to see **what resources were in the area** to help ensure Kirk was able to receive the best care. Diann admitted that, "while it was hard sometimes because she became the babysitter, we were family, and that is **just what family does**. The Browns like other families with children who had challenges found there were few resources to help them and their child. This was the catalyst that started PARC now EP!C. Kirk's parents, thanks to Barbara Smiley met other families and together started **making a future for their children with disabilities**. Kirk has been with EP!C since it was founded and was one of the first residents to move into the Smiley Living Center (a 56 bed state of the art facility the families of PARC built in the 1970s). Currently Kirk resides in an eight bed home called Marlene. He has made some **wonderful lifelong friends** in his tenure with EP!C, enjoyed participating in a fashion show, bowling in the special Olympics and currently loves showing off his artistic ability in the EP!Casso program. Diann affectionately remembers while growing up her mother saying that **Kirk was an angel**, their angel. Her fondest memories were when there was a thunderstorms; she would climb into bed with Kirk because she knew she would be safe with "the family's angel". Diann knows that her parents are resting easy because EP!C is still caring for their angel today.



## ! employee **SPOTLIGHT**

### **CINDY DICKERSON**

Please help us congratulate Cindy Dickerson as EP!C's Employee of the Month of May!



Cindy is responsible for ensuring that our individuals arrive safely to EP!C and back home again. Even bad weather does not deter Cindy. She always has a smile on her face and truly goes above and beyond for the individuals we serve.

Thank you Cindy!!

## ! we are **GRATEFUL**

We are so grateful for our EP!C families, guardians and advocates. Without them, we wouldn't be able to make nearly the same impact. We've been supported throughout the years in various ways, some include:

- Taking their family member and all housemates out for a boys night out at favorite establishments
- Financial contributions for home improvements
- Offering time and talent in assisting with home improvements
- Volunteer time, and equipment for lawn maintenance projects at the homes
- Assist in securing sponsorships for funding for EP!C events
- Assisting in decorating during the holidays and parties
- Volunteer to cook a meal for residents and staff

And these are just a few examples of all the ways our families, advocates, and guardians have touched the lives of everyone here at EP!C. Please consider partnering with EP!C by sharing your time and talent.

# EP!C'S 13TH ANNUAL Bake Sale & Raffle

DELICIOUS  
BAKED  
GOODS

AMAZING  
PRIZES

GLUTEN  
FREE  
GOODIES

## ENTER TO WIN IN THE EP!C CAFETERIA

Winners will be drawn at 12PM on Friday. You don't need to be present to win!

THURSDAY, JUNE 22ND | 4PM - 7PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 23RD | 7:30AM-12PM



For More Information, Please Contact Mike Cheesman at 309-689-3663 or [mcheesman@epicpeoria.org](mailto:mcheesman@epicpeoria.org).

**EP!C** empowering  
people.  
inspiring  
capabilities.

1913 W. TOWNLINE ROAD  
PEORIA, IL 61615

## ! upcoming EVENTS

**JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup>**

**EP!CASSO ART SALE**

2:00pm - 6:00pm

1913 W. Townline Road, Peoria, IL 61615

**JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup>**

**HOST FAMILY BAKE SALE AND RAFFLE**

4:00pm - 7:00pm

1913 W. Townline Road, Peoria, IL 61615

**JULY 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**EP!CASSO ART SALE**

2:00pm - 6:00pm

1913 W. Townline Road, Peoria, IL 61615

**AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**EP!C WINEDOWN**

5:00pm - 9:00pm

Grand Prairie Hy-Vee, 7610 N Orange Prairie Rd  
Peoria, IL 61615

## ! family MEETINGS

EP!C Board Members and the Executive staff are hosting 6 town hall meetings for family members, guardians and advocates the last two weeks of June. We will review the current status of EP!C and discuss how stakeholders can help EP!C.



**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup>** 2:00pm

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup>** 5:30pm

**FRIDAY, JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup>** 8:00am

**SATURDAY, JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup>** 8:00am

**MONDAY, JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup>** Noon

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup>** 5:30pm

For more information contact Kim Cornwell  
at [kcornwell@epicpeoria.org](mailto:kcornwell@epicpeoria.org) or 309-689-3624.

We look forward to connecting with you in June!

for more info visit **EP!Cci.org**.