

## ! A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

**KIM CORNWELL**  
EPIC CEO

We see a bit of national attention in September thanks to DSP Week. This is a week of recognition celebrating and honoring the remarkable work of Direct Support Professionals who contribute tirelessly to enrich the lives of people with disabilities. DSPs make up 50% of EP!C's workforce.

For several years, even prior to the pandemic, the nation was facing a caregiver crisis. Not only does this cause the inability to have adequate, consistent support, but additional workload and stress on current staff. With the ability to increase our DSP hourly wages thanks in part to the anticipated Illinois budget, we are starting to see a turn in hiring. We have a strategic goal of offering \$5.00 above minimum wage to ensure DSP positions earn a professional wage.

**We hope you will join us in celebrating our dedicated, knowledgeable employees.**



## ! EPIC HARVEST MUMS

# HARVEST MUMS

14 COLORS TO CHOOSE FROM



Scan the QR code to shop online.

Contact **Rachel Grysd-Doan** at [rgrysdogan@epicci.org](mailto:rgrysdogan@epicci.org) or 309-689-3607



## ! EPIC 2022 IMPACT REPORT

As we wrap up our Fiscal Year 2023, let's reflect on our accomplishments during

# FY 2022

(July 21 - June 22)



Scan the QR code to view the 2022 Impact Report.





# EPIC MISSION AND VISION

At EPIC we enrich the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We envision a world where people with disabilities are respected, engaged in their communities, and have every opportunity to achieve their personal best.



## ! upcoming **EVENTS**

### FAMILY FUN NIGHT

SEPT 14  
4-7 PM

1913 W Townline Rd

### DIWALI GALA

OCT 14  
5-9 PM

Five Points Washington

### TRUNK OR TREAT WITH SPEAK OUT IL

OCT 31  
5:30-8 PM

Washington Plaza

### STATE WIDE TRANSITIONS CONFERENCE

NOV 2-3

[illinoistransitionconference.org](http://illinoistransitionconference.org)  
Bloomington, IL

### EPIC JOB FAIR

NOV 15  
4-7 PM

1913 W Townline Rd

### TINSEL THE TOWN SO CHIC EVENTS HOLIDAY SHOPPING

NOV 16  
5-9 PM

[tinselthetown.com](http://tinselthetown.com)  
Par-A-Dice

! Event Note: Be sure to follow us on social media or check our website to stay up-to-date on new and changing events.

## ! EPIC **THANKS**

### Turning compassion into impact: Enhancing lives with a remarkable donation.

Recently we were the beneficiaries of a very large donation from Carle Health and Trillium Place Young Minds Center. What used to be Heddington Oaks nursing home is being transformed into a new mental health center and while the furniture was in great condition, couldn't be used by the hospital system. Items such as hospital beds, mattresses, crash carts, nightstands, bookshelves, chairs and more will be put to good use increasing the quality of life for people we support. These living expenses, which are quite costly, are not covered in the day-to-day funding received for services so these gifts are truly impactful to people in our community. The transporting of all the donations over three days wouldn't have been possible without the team at Mordue Moving who did a lot of the heaving lifting.



## ! LEAVING AN EPIC **LEGACY**

### National Estate Awareness Week is October 17 – 23, 2023!

This is the perfect time to start thinking about your plans. Through proper planning, the legacy of love and care that you leave for your family and friends can be encouraging and even inspiring.

- An estate plan should give you peace of mind, knowing that important decisions have been made to care for you and your loved ones.
- An estate plan provides for your future medical decisions and protects your family. A good plan may increase your lifetime security and also achieve your goals for family and charity.

If you would like to receive a free estate planning guide, please contact Colleen Halberg at 309-689-3771 or [chalberg@epicci.org](mailto:chalberg@epicci.org). If you have already made provisions for EPIC in your estate plan, we would like to hear from you and recognize you as a member of our Legacy Circle!



## ! EPIC **5K**

### Thank you to all of the sponsors and participants who joined for our first 5k in 10 years!

The EPIC 5k was hosted on August 19 and was comprised of runners, walkers and even some four legged friends. Be on the lookout as the team plans the next race! Check out our Facebook page for more photos!

### Congratulations to the finishers who placed in the top of their groups.

#### Men's

- Joey O'Brien  
- Ryan Schreck  
- Marshall Davidson

#### Women's

- Marysue Ciccirelli  
- Kathleen Hannah  
- Angie Frailey

#### Para-Athlete

- Matthew Barrett  
- Kaci Smith  
- Chris Corrigan



## ! EPIC **EMPLOYEES**



**Andrew Bundy** was selected as our July Employee of the Month.

Andy was nominated for Employee of the Month because he is AMAZING at personalizing the experience that each individual gets from him. Families, guardians, and providers have praised him time and time again and they really trust him. He consistently goes above and beyond by picking up extra shifts and attending Host Homes vacations. He's often creating or attending multiple activities in one day just to make sure everyone has a good time.



**Stephanie Turner** was selected as our August Employee of the Month.

Our most recent Employee of the Month was Stephanie Turner. Her nominator said "She is determined! Stephanie recently helped to coordinate a very large donation to 13 group homes and our headquarters. During this three-day event working with multiple parties, tempers were short, confusion was high, and they managed everything like a Champ working to keep everyone on the same page!"

## ! HIRE **DISABILITIES**

### October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Tune into our social media platforms every Monday in October as we celebrate how employment partners play an important role in fostering a more inclusive workforce, by trusting EPIC to help them diversify their teams.

EPIC is helping to diversify our workforce and find people careers they love.

Despite record unemployment, EPIC has continued to support people and business partners.

provided  
**10,117 hours**  
of support to people in  
community jobs

#### Inclusive Industry Breakdown

8%	Architecture/Engineering/Packaging	5%	Education
11%	Arts/Culture/Entertainment	16%	Maintenance
18%	Business/Management/Administration	7%	Health/Medicine
10%	Community/Social Services	25%	Hospitality/Industrial worker

**37**

participants that have college degree or professional training

**29**

participants actively seeking employment

**75**

new job seekers placed in 2022 with a 99% placement rate

**73%**

of participants earned more than minimum wage or increased their hours worked.

**12**

participants on waiting list to be supported

