

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO**

**KIM CORNWELL**  
EPIC CEO



Eighty-two percent of EPIC revenue comes from state funding for services provided to the people we support. I must spend a significant amount of time communicating what that means to not only our staff, but to guardians, families, and the public at large. Nationally, Illinois ranks 49th in all the states in funding the necessary support of people with disabilities and the recent FY25 state budget proposed by Governor Pritzker further perpetuates that exceeding low ranking.

We saw some success with advocacy against cutting DSP hours to group homes recently, but that is only a temporary delay that did not address the policies or procedures in place that caused the proposed rate decreases in the first place.

In February, the Governor's budget team did not include any new revenue support for people with intellectual and developmental for this next fiscal year. The proposed FY25 budget instead only maintains the current FY24 funding. The Governor's office continues to ignore the ongoing shortfalls to this population despite a pending statewide minimum wage increase to \$15 in January of 2025. They are blatantly ignoring the recommended increase for the frontline workforce to be at 150% of minimum wage by January 2025 which would be an increase of \$3 an hour. Because the current rate formula continues to be inadequate and also excludes an increase related to the upcoming minimum wage increase, agencies like EPIC will continue to fall behind and lack the proper support needed to hire and keep professional staff who are critical in providing quality supports.

If you'd like to be involved in the conversation, please reach out to me directly at [kcornwell@epicci.org](mailto:kcornwell@epicci.org).

**EPIC HARVEST**

**spring flower sales**



Shop Online at [EPICci.square.site](https://epicci.square.site)

Available on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Contact **Sunny Pearson** at [spearson@epicci.org](mailto:spearson@epicci.org) or (309) 689-3607



**BON APPÉTIT 2024**



**Thank you**

Thank you for supporting our event which raised critical funding for people with disabilities.

**Presenting**

Carlehealth

**Platinum**

Advanced Medical Transport of Central Illinois  
Bob and Susie Hall

**Diamond**

Cullinan Properties  
G&D Integrated  
Oberhelman Foundation

**Emerald**

Busey  
CEFCU  
Oberlander Alarm Systems, Inc.  
OSF Healthcare

**Precision Planting**

Professional Therapy Services, Inc.  
RLI  
Sikich

**Ruby**

Architectural Design Group  
Mid America Insurance  
Muir Omni Graphics  
Standard Heating & Cooling  
Tarrytown Expocare Pharmacy  
Unland Insurance & Benefits

**Sapphire**

Bard Optical  
Bob Lindsay Acura & Honda  
Caterpillar

**Center for Health Ambulatory Surgery Center, LLC.**

CityLink  
Counselman Denis Cyr  
CLA  
Farnsworth Group  
Hilltop Wealth Management of Raymond James  
INB  
IT360  
Lariat Steakhouse  
PBA (Professional Benefit Administrators)  
Par-A-Dice Hotel & Casino  
Simantel  
Stanley Steemer  
Sun Collectors  
Technicraft  
Vonachen Group

**Pearl**

Anytime Fitness  
Campbell Real Estate Appraisals, LTD  
Cassidy & Mueller P.C.  
Davis & Campbell, LLC.  
First Mid Bank  
Pekin Insurance  
Preckshot Compounding Pharmacy  
Simply Innovative Consulting, LLC.

**In-Kind**

Bremer Jewelry  
Central States Marketing  
CityBlue

# 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

### EPIC ART & GARDEN PARTY

**MAY 4**  
EPIC 1913 W. Townline Rd.

### GOLF OUTING

**MAY 6**  
Mt. Hawley Country Club

### EPIC JOB FAIR

**MAY 15**  
EPIC 1913 W. Townline Rd.

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

## ! DISABILITIES AWARENESS

### March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and each week we are highlighting stories of EPIC people.

One of those individuals is David Redding. He's been coming to EPIC since he was a small child and this year he'll be 59 years old. We asked him to share his EPIC story so we could do a social media takeover and allow people to understand what EPIC does for him. David can't speak in the traditional sense but uses sign language, tablets, and other technology to make his voice heard. Stay tuned to our social media stories this month to catch his story.



## ! EPIC EMPLOYEES



**Brad Begolka** was named the January Employee of the Month

Brad Begolka was chosen for Employee of the Month for January. Brad was nominated because "he is a dependable employee and will always go out of his way to help anyone in need. He always ensures that the people we support are safe and happy in their current Host Homes placement. He also took on more responsibility when stepped up to help the Host Homes team in our Southern region while they are short staffed."



**Shaun Bailey** was named the February Employee of the Month

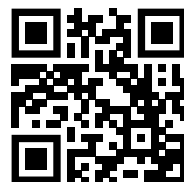
Congratulations to Shaun Bailey for being named Employee of the Month for February! Her nominator said that "She is always jumping in to fill gaps in shifts or taking extra shifts to alleviate workloads for fellow employees. Her ability to multi-task gives other staff the ability to have 1-on-1 time with the individuals we serve so that they can do the activities that they want to do. She clearly expresses her desire to be here and work for the people we serve, which makes work for other employees easier and enjoyable and this helps them be able to give the best care to those we serve. I have not seen a harder worker than Shaun, she is a great role model and inspiration."

## ! EPIC THANKS

### National Volunteer Appreciation Week is celebrated in April.

Did you know the national value of 1 volunteer hour is \$31.80. That's valued higher than the state-wide minimum wage! In 2023 we had 965 volunteers give a total of 2,549 hours of service across EPIC programs. We are committed to providing meaningful opportunities for the community to connect with the people we

If you or someone you know are interested in volunteering you can see our opportunities through the Heart of Illinois United Way or contact **Ally De Roo** to discuss your interests at [aderoo@epicci.org](mailto:aderoo@epicci.org) or **309-689-3606**.



## ! EPIC HARVEST

### We are busy prepping for the 2024 EPIC Harvest CSA season.

Don't miss out on getting direct access to high quality, fresh produce grown by EPIC participants. Season starts in July.



Purchase your share online at [EPICci.square.site](https://epicci.square.site) or call **(309) 689-3607**



## ! NIGHT TO SHINE

Every February the Tim Tebow Foundation hosts a night where differences don't matter. A Night To Shine is a global event of celebration and inclusion for those with cognitive differences. With some donated formal wear and trips to purchase new, we spent the day getting gussied up with hair, makeup, clean shaves, and cologne so we looked and felt our best. Locally it's hosted by our friends at Riverside Church. We can't thank their supporters and congregation enough for making us feel welcome and valued. Special thanks to our friends at CityLink who provide transportation to make sure our coach doesn't turn into a pumpkin at the end of the night.

