

a message from OUR CEO

KIM CORNWELL
 EPIC CEO



In the world of non-profits, one needs to be an optimist - and see the glass half full as much as possible, and also be a realist when you are presented with few options. EPIC is optimistic that we will continue to be paid for services provided but we are realistically aware of the ongoing dire financial situation of the State.

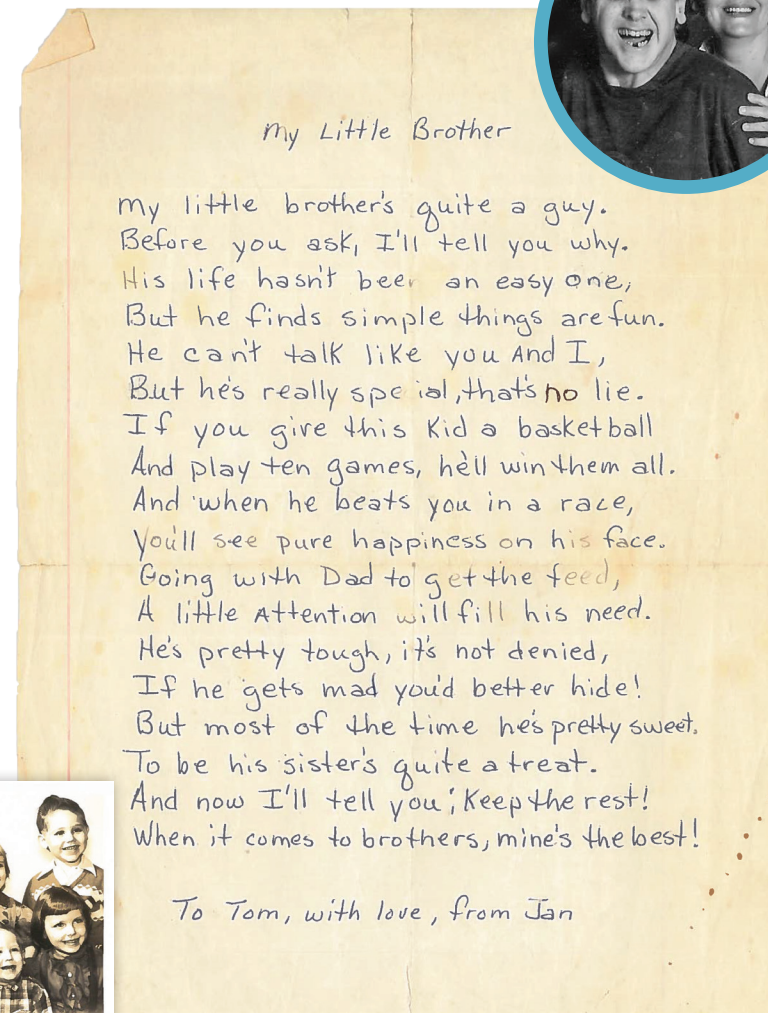
I would like to report our first round of conversations (Town Hall Meetings) with EPIC families, guardians and advocates went well, lending to our optimism! Twenty-two stakeholders attended the town hall meetings offered at the end of June. Terry Waters, Chair of EPIC's Operating Board of Directors along with Lorenz Evans, Vice Chair of the Board provided information on EPIC's current financial status, challenges and strategic initiatives. The Executive team requested those in attendance complete a survey that included educational information of interest to families and most importantly a list of volunteer options for families to pick from. Together we are all building and stabilizing the wellbeing for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities into the future.

ep!c POEM



Thomas Bridgeforth became part of the EPIC Family in 1983 where he quickly stole the hearts of everyone he worked and lived with. This was nothing new to his family, as evidenced by his sister Jan's poem, "My Little Brother." Through his tenure with EPIC Tom was able to work at several different locations around town, thanks to our Community Employment Program. This is how he met Shirley Carrol, his job coach.

Shirley remembers Tom fondly, noting that he had an incredible work ethic and would do anything for anyone. He was always smiling and looked forward to his weekend's home with his family. Despite his challenges due to CP, Tom loved playing basketball, working at Taco Bell, and helping around his home with dinner chores. And mostly, Tom loved to laugh.



My Little Brother

my little brother's quite a guy.
 Before you ask, I'll tell you why.
 His life hasn't been an easy one,
 But he finds simple things are fun.
 He can't talk like you and I,
 But he's really special, that's no lie.
 If you give this kid a basketball
 And play ten games, he'll win them all.
 And when he beats you in a race,
 You'll see pure happiness on his face.
 Going with Dad to get the feed,
 A little attention will fill his need.
 He's pretty tough, it's not denied,
 If he gets mad you'd better hide!
 But most of the time he's pretty sweet.
 To be his sister's quite a treat.
 And now I'll tell you, keep the rest!
 When it comes to brothers, mine's the best!

To Tom, with love, from Jan



One World Cafe
 Tuesdays, 4:30pm - 7:00pm
 1245 W. Main Street . Peoria

EPIC
 Fridays, 9am - 3pm
 1913 W. Townline Road . Peoria

Peoria Riverfront Market
 Saturdays, 8am - Noon
 200 Block of Water Street . Peoria



The EPIC Harvest provides opportunities for over 80 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be involved in EPIC's greenhouse, garden, and market stand. Individuals who work with EPIC Harvest learn about plant care, soil preparation, planting, garden upkeep and maintenance, harvesting, and preparing for winter.

EPIC MISSION AND VISION

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



! upcoming EVENTS

AUG. 11TH

CHIEFS NIGHT
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Dozer Park
730 SW Jefferson Avenue
Peoria, IL 61605

AUG. 16TH

EPICASSO ART SALE
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
1913 W. Townline Road
Peoria, IL 61615

SEPT. 15TH

EPIC WINEDOWN
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Location TBD

SAVE THE DATE

BON APPETIT 2018
March 23, 2018
Peoria Pere Marquette
501 Main Street
Peoria, IL 61602

! family SPOTLIGHT

MARY AND PAT

When Mary suddenly became guardian of her nephew Pat, she wasn't quite sure where to turn for answers. She knew Pat needed a home where he would receive meaningful opportunities that met his needs.



The place Pat was currently living in was closing, so Mary turned to EPIC for help. According to Mary, EPIC was truly her lifesaver. The staff talked her through all of the options and made her feel comfortable, and she felt as if she could ask any question.

Pat now resides in an EPIC Host Family home, works on the Delivery Crew, and couldn't be happier! It is a true comfort to Mary and her family, knowing Pat's needs are being taken care of, he's safe, and part of a family.

Mary volunteers with EPIC and believes being a strong community advocate are the best ways she can give back to the organization that gives Pat so much.

For more information about how you can get involved visit epicpeoria.org/get-involved or contact Jen at 309-689-3771.

! featured PROGRAMS

SENIORS PROGRAM

Beth Force has worked at EPIC for over 12 years. To say she's seen it all is an understatement!



Beth has worn many hats in her tenure. She started as a job coach, working in the community alongside our individuals. She then became a staff supervisor in two of our homes and now she utilizes her talents in the Seniors program. She has truly loved each position for different reasons, but now her heart lies within this program, working one-on-one with individuals ensuring that they have safe, fun filled days.

Our Seniors Program focuses on activities that strive to keep our individuals mentally healthy and physically active. Beth knows she is beyond lucky because she truly enjoys waking up each day to come to work and no day is completed without hugs, laughter and most of all, singing! Music is the highlight in her classroom-the oldies being the preferred set of tunes-and with music always comes dancing and smiles!

For more information about our programs visit us online at epicpeoria.org/programs or contact Jen at 309-689-3771.

! epic SUMMER EVENTS

An EPIC night at the Ballpark!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11th
7pm @ Dozer Park

You won't want to miss the 1st Pitch or seeing EPIC take part in the High-Five Tunnel!



Contact Jen at 309-689-3771 or jfunk@epicpeoria.org for more information.



! peoria area PACESETTER CAMPAIGN

Every year, a select group of businesses and organizations "set the pace" for the rest of the Peoria community by running their United Way employee campaigns ahead of the traditional fall time frame. This group brings great excitement into the annual fall Campaign Kickoff breakfast where their totals are announced to the public. Together, they set the standard for excellence, leadership, participation and enthusiasm.

EPIC is very proud and honored to be one of the Peoria Area Pacesetter Campaigns! Our kickoff week sent us on a journey through time as we went "Back to the Future" to raise funds! From the '50's to the '80's and everything in between, we enjoyed bags tournaments, raffles, a cookout and pies in the face! We met our fundraising goal for the year, and are proud to be able to give back to the United Way!



! epic ACHIEVEMENT

SHARON BOYD
EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

"Sharon is always thinking outside the box and going above and beyond the call of duty, no matter the home she is working at." These words were shared from Sharon's supervisor and are one of the many reasons we are excited to share with you that **Sharon is EPIC's Employee of the Year!**

Sharon shows exemplary leadership skills among her peers and the individuals she works with just adore her. She exudes compassion and continually strives to put her best foot forward. In her free time this past Christmas, Sharon helped one of our individuals write, illustrate and publish a short story!



WAYS TO GIVE

Annual Giving | Recurring Gifts Planned Giving | Tribute and Memorial Gifts
In-kind Gifts | Special Event Support | Amazon Smile



For more information visit us online at epicci.org or contact Jen at 309-689-3771.

! epic THANK YOU

Volunteers are an integral part of our EPIC family. Our success is directly linked to the many volunteers who generously give of their time and hearts. Whether you have a lot of time on your hands or just a few hours, the time you spend as an EPIC volunteer can and does impact and change the lives of our individuals. We welcome volunteers in all of our programs and can support all types of projects: whether they are a one-time project, ongoing hours each month, or as a day of service for an organization or business.

We want to extend a very special thank you to all of the groups and individuals who have donated their time to our EPIC Harvest program over the year. Our garden wouldn't be nearly as successful without you!

Interested in volunteering this summer or fall? Feel free to reach out to Jen at jfunk@epicpeoria.org.

