

CSS Summer 2020 Update

With so much changing in our world, we wanted to provide you with a brief, but important update on our services. When you support CSS, you are helping individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities become more independent and self-confident, and more connected to community life. If you have thoughts or ideas to share, please email info@CSSservices.org or call (708) 354.4547.



Covid-19 Spurred Virtual Programming

Covid didn't stop CSS from continuing to evolve and implement new programming. With assistance from Occupational Therapy summer interns from Northwestern University, CSS offered virtual online programming. We are proud that CSS received the most positive student feedback of all of the participating sites. Class options included Art Therapy, Culture Club, and Fitness Fun. More OT interns will join CSS this fall as our virtual programming continues. For more information click [here](#).

Re-opening of Day Programs (CDS)

In September we will re-open our Community Day Services (CDS) Programs in Brookfield and Cicero. In order to help ensure a safe environment for all, our plan to reopen CDS will first focus on bringing back our Residential and Independent Living participants. We hope to integrate our community members in the near future as well. Our Brookfield and Cicero CDS locations both incorporated new techniques to support social distancing, encourage mask wearing, and good hand hygiene. For example, we have spaced tables and chairs six feet apart, put up posters and signs as visual reminders, and created a safe space for anyone experiencing symptoms to isolate. Finally, we added a check-in location where staff will check the temperature of everyone entering the building and document the results.

To help ensure that we considered all aspects of safely re-starting services, staff from across the agency formed a Re-opening Committee. They have met weekly throughout the pandemic to review the ever evolving recommendations from local, state and federal public health entities to address all health and safety considerations related to our program sites. As required by IDHS, the Committee developed policies and procedures in a "Pandemic Preparedness Plan" which is available for review by stakeholders; please email info@cssservices.org if you are interested.



New Board-Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs)

This summer we welcomed two new BCBAs and they are already impacting our participants by creating behavior plans that help with coping skills. They also provide trainings on the importance to social distancing and safe hygiene to help our participants be safe and prepare to return to Community Day Services.



Kitchen Renovation is Needed

At the top of our wish list is the renovation of a 30+ year-old kitchen at our Lyons Place Group Home. This is the forever home to six men with intellectual/developmental disabilities: Ken, Jimmy, David, Chris, Ron, and Michael. We have \$17,000 more to raise to make this project a reality. If you'd like to help, click [Donate Now](#) below.

[Donate Now](#)

We're
HIRING

CSS has six open positions for Direct Support Professionals (DSP) and a House Manager. These positions are the lifeblood of our organization because they work one-on-one with our participants to ensure their safety and independence. Hiring continues to be a nationwide crisis because of the low reimbursement rate provided through government contracts. But on the bright side, when the right, caring people find these positions it often becomes a long-term relationship. If you know of anyone looking, please ask them to visit our website at www.CSSServices.org/careers.



Our CPR and First Aid Classes Are Up and Running

This mandatory training for our staff is offered to families, community members, and companies. Click [here](#) to learn more or register for this important training.



Group Home Roof & Chimney Improvements

In August, we improved our Westchester group home by providing a new roof and chimney repair. This project was funded through a Chicago area Foundation (that wishes to be anonymous). This is the forever home for five women: Ashley, Danielle, Samantha, Courtney, and Amanda. CSS regularly seeks funding for program support and capital improvements – two underfunded areas.

Covid-19 Contributions Still Make a Difference

We continue to be grateful to donors whose support was directed to our Residential & Independent Living program with much needed PPE and meal deliveries. The meal deliveries have continued to help support our staff and treat our residents.