

# Around the Circle

A Monthly Newsletter from Community Support Services



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9021 Ogden Avenue • Brookfield, IL 60513 • 708.354.4547 • www.CSSservices.org

## Re-opening of Day Program Has CSS Participants Grinning Ear to Ear

As a first step to re-opening the Day Program, CSS welcomed back residents from our eight community group homes. During the suspension of services, which was a state-wide mandate due to the Covid Pandemic, many residents were unable to see family members, attend part time jobs, or even volunteer in the community. So, now they could not be happier.

One resident, David, said he was excited to see friends and staff again. Jimmy, who is less verbal, just grinned widely, but his “thumbs up” gesture said it all.

Day programs are a necessary part of the comprehensive services that adults in the Residential and Independent Living Program receive. They provide a stimulating environment with social activities, and opportunities for continuous learning.

**“The comradery that develops can be the most important part. Knowing you have a safe place to go where you will see a friend and do something new and interesting is important to us all.”** says Diane Farina White, President and CEO.

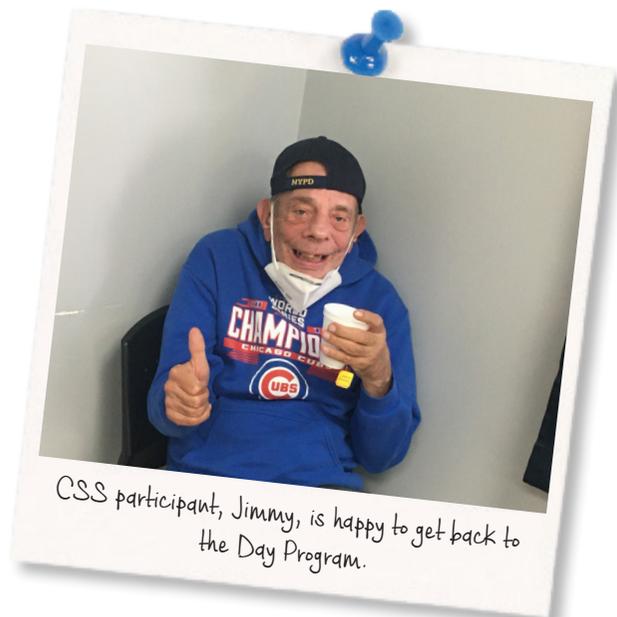
CSS’ day program is small compared to other service providers. Both sites in Brookfield and Cicero are at full capacity with just 30 participants – the size of a typical grade school classroom. This provides a high staff-to-participant ratio and offers more individualized programming.

The pandemic created a need to stay connected to participants virtually, so CSS developed programming and offered it via Zoom. Classes were taught in the areas of art, fitness, and culture. Sometimes three different sites were connected through one Zoom call. This programming was also offered to other community members with disabilities.

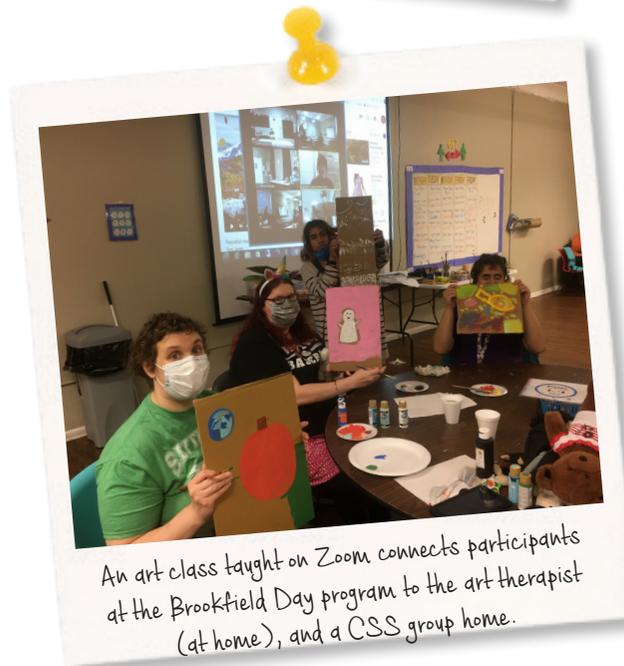
Participants and staff wear masks, wash hands, and have routine temperature checks to remain compliant with state guidelines. CSS has also formed a Re-opening Committee with staff from various departments weighing in on the development of policies and procedures. CSS is continuing to follow best practices and public health guidelines to gauge the full re-opening of Day Programming services to a larger public.

**“This is such a fragile population, our first priority is safety for all before offering services to a broader population,”** remarked Farina White.

Click [here](#) to see more photos of the day program.



CSS participant, Jimmy, is happy to get back to the Day Program.



An art class taught on Zoom connects participants at the Brookfield Day program to the art therapist (at home), and a CSS group home.

### OUR MISSION

CSS is a private nonprofit agency that initiates, provides and promotes services for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families, within their communities, in order to strengthen their independence, self-esteem and ability to participate in and contribute to community life.