

Dear Friends,

Many of you stepped forward this year and donated holiday gifts, personal protective equipment, and countless meals for our residents like **Ken** and their full-time staff who sheltered in place for months due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. We thank you for your kind gestures!



Your contributions also secured employment for CSS staff—and you should know that many of them volunteered to work longer shifts to minimize the number of people coming in and out of our eight group homes over the past months. These personal sacrifices kept staff like **Renelle** away from their own families, but they were proud to do it because their personal sacrifices reduced the possibility of an outbreak among this fragile population.



Also during this year, participants like **John** felt isolated and missed seeing friends through the social programming they enjoyed so much. With John, and others in mind, CSS developed virtual programming in areas like Art, Fitness, Cooking, Culture, and more. Zoom technology truly offered a silver lining and has helped to keep our participants connected and engaged during this difficult time.

We also celebrate the achievements of **Philip** and **Brandy** who have worked at their jobs for five and seven years respectively! Philip demonstrates his technical expertise at Autonomy Works while Brandy shares her culinary talents at Casey's Market in Western Springs. Participants in our Supported Employment program offer a work ethic like no other, and contribute to their employers each and every day.



While some families have opted to wait on individual Respite services, others claim Respite to be a lifeline that provided them an afternoon nature walk with a spouse, that otherwise could never have happened.



In so many ways, you have helped to create independence, develop self-esteem and strengthen the individuals we serve (as well as their families). As a supporter, you are the fabric of CSS.

It has been a busy year with many distractions, so if you have not yet had an opportunity to make your year-end gift, please know that **your generous investment today** will provide these life-affirming services to children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities throughout 2021.

DONATE TODAY!



Thank you for making a difference in the world, and Happy New Year,



Diane Farina White, President/CEO

P.S. Remember, there is a special new provision that will allow more people to easily deduct up to \$300 in donations to qualifying nonprofits this year. [Read the full article](#) for more information.