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February, 2016

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NEWSLETTER ARE  
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PRINT AND ON  
COMPUTER CD

## Monthly Support Groups

### Heads Up Group

Contact Dave Munroe at 217-523-2587 v/tty

### Stroke/Brain Injury Support Group

Contact Ashley Lounsberry at: 217-788-3461 or  
email: [Lounsberry.ashley@mhsil.com](mailto:Lounsberry.ashley@mhsil.com)

### Personal Assistant Employers Group

Contact Bradley Kinney at 217-523-2587 v/tty

### Post-Polio Group

Contact Bradley Kinney at 217-523-2587 v/tty

### BEST (Becoming Empowered and Successful Teens) and Parent Transition Support Group

Contact Carolyn Thorpe at 217-523-2587 v/tty

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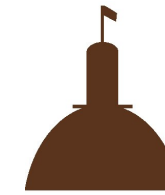


**Having trouble hearing  
on the telephone?**

Illinois has a **FREE**  
amplified phone  
program!

**Call us or stop by:**  
**SPRINGFIELD CENTER FOR  
INDEPENDENT LIVING**  
330 South Grand Avenue West  
Springfield, IL 62704  
217-523-2587  
Monday-Friday 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

[www.itactty.org](http://www.itactty.org) A FREE program required and governed by Illinois law.



**SCIL** SPRINGFIELD CENTER FOR  
Independent Living

February 2016

# THE SCIL ADVOCATE

“Increasing opportunities for  
persons with disabilities through  
advocacy, services, and  
public education.”

## Vocational Services Program at SCIL

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Ann Ford, INCIL Executive Director, pictured with Pete Roberts, SCIL Executive Director at Annual Meeting. See page 2 for event details.

The SCIL Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Employment Services Program provides consumer-driven comprehensive employment related services for VR customers who reside in the SCIL five county service area. SCIL will serve consumers referred by VR staff and will refer potential consumer to VR for eligibility determination. Services are designed to help people with disabilities who are VR consumers to prepare for and engage in activities associated with gainful employment. VR consumers served by SCIL will be assisted with the development of the knowledge and skills needed to pursue vocational goals consistent with each consumer's unique situation, strength, ability, interests and preferences.

Services are individualized and consumer driven and address both pre- and post-employment. SCIL staff work with consumers and VR counselors to provide any and all services deemed appropriate and necessary to achieve successful employment outcomes. SCIL provides computers and internet access and screen reader software, dedicated for use by VR consumers and are available to the completion of online applications, educational/training activities and video viewing.

### Job preparation/job readiness skills training and assistance:

- Job search basics-understanding terminology, paper work, pay schedules, techniques for following up on job leads
- Completing job applications-both paper and on-line versions
- Cover letter and resume development
- Interviewing techniques
- Employment testing preparation

### Independent living/life skills training and assistance to promote/support employment success:

- Problem solving and decision making
- Transportation—obtaining discounts, understanding bus schedules, planning route
- Health care management-obtaining health care-related benefits, managing health issues and medications
- Money management and budgeting
- Managing benefits when employed
- Managing household issues
- Organizational and time management techniques



# SCIL Holds Annual Meeting

The 30th Annual Meeting was held on December 3, 2015 at the Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living (INCIL). The meeting was held from 4:00—6:00 p.m. in INCIL's conference room.

A decision was made by the SCIL Board of Directors to curtail any excessive spending on the Annual Meeting due to the financial constraints experienced without a current state budget. The meeting was attended by SCIL staff and Board members and SCIL members.

Board member election results were shared and newly elected members of the SCIL Board were introduced by Board President Kathie Corrigan. Those new members are: Ryan Coke and Charlotte Poetschner. Current members of the board were also introduced and they are: Johnny Lott, Mike Reese, Linda Roberts, Deborah Johnson-Small, Bee Tyler and Chuck Watson.

Retiring Board President Debbie Gerstenberger was not able to attend the annual meeting but was honored later in the month at SCIL with a

presentation of a plaque inscribed with her name to honor her years of dedicated service. (Please see her picture below)

Ann Ford, Director of INCIL spoke to the group about the importance of advocating for centers for independent living and services needed by individuals with disabilities in Illinois. Ann encouraged everyone to continue to write letters, make phone calls and visit our elected officials to ensure independent living services continue at needed levels.



Kathie Corrigan, SCIL Board President, presenting plaque to Debbie Gerstenberger, retiring Board President.



Ann Ford, INCIL Executive Director offering some inspired words at the Annual Meeting about advocating and persistence in this challenging time in Illinois.

## Annual Meeting 2015



Chuck Watson, (standing) visiting with Kathie Corrigan (seated not facing camera), Peggy Knoepfel, Inge Lundh, and Paulette Roberts (next to Mr. Watson)

### Basic work skills training:

- Work skills assessments
- General math or reading skills
- Computer literacy including keyboarding, internet and email usage
- Understanding work place rules and expectations
- Appropriate work place hygiene and clothing
- Effective interpersonal communications
- Accessibility and accommodations assistance

for customers and employers

### Follow-up services to facilitate adjustment to and maintenance of gainful employment:

- Assistance in obtaining clothing, tools, supplies for employment
- Follow-up and support services to employers to assist with communication, training, accommodations and/or other services necessary to promote new employee job success/retention

**For info call Dave Munroe: 217-523-2587 v/tty**

### Free Tax Assistance Information 2016

#### Senior Services of Central Illinois

701 West Mason, Springfield, IL 62702

Appointment Number: 217-528-4035 ext. 151. This line will be open starting Monday, January 18th for appointments Monday-Thursday from 10:00am to 2:00pm. **Appointments** will be on Monday and Tuesdays starting 2/8 and ending 4/12. Appointments will begin from 8:45am to 12:15pm. Site closed on 2/15, 3/28, and 3/29.

#### Union Baptist Church

1405 East Monroe, Springfield, IL 62703

Appointment Number: 217-960-2693 (Same as Lincoln Library) **Appointments** will be on Tuesday and Thursdays starting 2/9 and ending 4/14. Appointments will begin from 9:00am to 12:45pm. (Some walk-in availability.)

#### Lincoln Library

326 South 7th Street, Springfield, IL 62701

Appointments Number: 217-960-2693 (Same as Union Baptist) **Appointments** will be on Saturdays starting 2/13 and ending 4/9. Appointments will begin from 10:30am to 1:30pm. (Walk-ins welcome.)

#### Chatham Library

600 E. Spruce Street, Chatham, IL 62629

Appointment Number: 217-483-4643 **Appointments** will be on Wednesdays and Saturdays starting 2/10 and ending 4/13. Appointment will begin from 9:00 a.m to 12:45 p.m.

#### Rochester Library

1 Community Drive, Rochester, IL 62563

Appointment number: 217-498-8454 **Appointment dates vary (call for more info) Appointments will begin at 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on scheduled date.**

#### Center for Economic Progress

730 East Vine, Springfield, IL 62703

*Income Requirements: Family income below \$ 50,000 or single income below \$ 25,000*

#### WALK-INS ONLY

*Open 1/23 through 4/16 on T, W evenings from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.*

#### Lincoln, IL at the Oasis

2810 Woodlawn Rd, Lincoln, IL Call: 217-732-6132

Open M—F from 8:45—4:00

#### Taylorville, IL @Christian County Senior Center

701 West Adams, Taylorville, IL Call: 217-824-4263

Open Tue and Thurs from 1:00—5:00

#### Please bring the following to your appointment:

- Proof of Identification (Photo ID), Social Security Cards—for you, spouse, dependents, or a Social Security number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration. An Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) assignment letter may be substituted for you, your spouse and your dependents if you do not have a Social Security number.
- Birthdates for you, your spouse and any dependent on the tax return.
- Wage and earning statements (Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, 1099-MISC) from all employers.
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Form 1099)
- A copy of last year's federal and state returns, if available.
- Proof of bank account routing number and account numbers for direct deposit, such as a blank check.
- Both Spouses must be present to sign the required forms on a married-filing-joint tax return.
- Proof of Insurance: If you have Medicare your Social Security Statement will include the related information. If you have insurance through an employer your W2 will include the related information. Forms 1095-A, B or C are needed if you have insurance through the Affordable Healthcare Act Marketplace.