



**SCIL** SPRINGFIELD CENTER FOR  
Independent Living

January 2014

# THE SCIL ADVOCATE

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

## “Giving Thanks” at 28th Annual Meeting

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Annual Meeting Highlights	2
Carla Cox Recognized at Annual Meeting	3
Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) System Trainings Held at SCIL	4
Jack Humphrey Remodels “Dream House”	5
Monthly Support Groups	6

The 28th Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at The Inn at 835 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. The theme for this year’s event was “Giving Thanks.” The evening included a program with awards, stories highlighting successful SCIL programs, “giving thanks” moments where individuals from the community were recognized, an Hors d’oeuvre buffet, cash bar, and raffle of hand-crafted items.

Each year, SCIL honors individuals who have made valuable contributions to SCIL and people with disabilities. The Paulette Copen Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Malioka Davis for her exemplary service as a volunteer. In addition, all volunteers were recognized for the gift of their time to SCIL. President Frank Kircher introduced the current members of the Board of Directors as well as those re-elected for an additional term.

During the evening, SCIL staff provided “Giving Thanks” moments by recognizing individuals that have assisted and supported SCIL’s programs and provided opportunities for various

collaborations within our service area. Dave Munroe thanked Nikki Tabor, SSDI Supervisor and Jack Myers, Public Affairs Specialist, both from the Springfield Social Security office for providing background information and/or researching issues being addressed on behalf of SCIL consumers. Robin Dinardo, Assistant Program Director of the Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) was recognized for providing similar support as Dave assists SCIL consumers with resolving Medicare concerns.

Social Security and health insurance are two very complex systems to navigate. Without the support of all three of these individuals, Dave would not be able to respond as effectively to the numerous benefit questions from SCIL consumers.

Karen DeLay and Susanne Cooper also provided a moment of thanks to Carla Cox, Program Coordinator for the Illinois Department of Public Health, Disability and Health Program. Ms. Cox began her partnership with SCIL in 2008 and has been instrumental in providing

*(Continued on page 4)*

# Annual Meeting Highlights—in pictures



## Congratulations Malieka Davis Paulette Coplen Volunteer of the Year

Malieka is pictured left, with Kathy Paul, Volunteer Coordinator for SCIL



Above: Board member, Julie Hubbard

Below: Board member Debbie Johnson-Small



Dave Munroe offers thanks to: Above: Niki Tabor from Social Security. Below: Dave thanks Jack Myers, Social Security and Robin Dinardo, Senior Health Insurance Program.



## Carla Cox Recognized at Annual Meeting

Since 2008 Ms. Carla Cox, Program Coordinator for the Illinois Department of Public Health, Disability and Health Partnership has helped to promote and expand the independent living philosophy by facilitating the participation of people with disabilities in various training sessions provided to health care providers. Ms. Cox has been instrumental in making sure that people with disabilities have “a place at the table,” a voice, and are active participants in health-care related activities.



*“Ms. Cox has been instrumental in making sure that people with disabilities have “a place at the table,” a voice, and are active participants in health-care related activities.”*

SCIL has participated in the Illinois Disability and Health Partnership since 2008. The following is a list of activities and collaborative opportunities afforded SCIL because of Carla’s dedication and involvement:

- In 2009, SCIL collaborated with SIU School of Medicine to present “Journey to Healthy Living,” a six week class series designed to help people with disabilities manage their own health. This class series was funded by a grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- Annually since 2009, SCIL staff and Board have participated on panels as part of training designed to teach health care professionals how to better serve people with disabilities. Training sessions are conducted for SIU School of Medicine medical students and various oral health professionals.
- SCIL received funding from the Illinois Department of Public Health to host two (2) Free H1N1 Flu Vaccine Clinics in 2010. These clinics provided an opportunity for people with disabilities, senior citizens, their families and care givers to receive free flu vaccinations at a convenient and accessible location.
- In 2012, SCIL to participated with Illinois Department of Public Health in the planning and production of webinars targeting both professional nurses and oral health care providers. These webinars were available statewide.
- In 2013, SCIL was invited to collaborate with the Illinois Department of Public Health and the American Red Cross to host a free Emergency Preparedness Workshop for people with disabilities.
- In addition, SCIL has received health-related information and articles from Ms. Cox which have been used in the SCIL newsletter and as handouts, providing people with disabilities with information to help them make informed health-related decisions and manage their health more effectively.
- SCIL is currently working with the University of Illinois at Chicago medical staff to host a focus group exploring the use of cancer screenings by women with physical disabilities.

The collaboration between SCIL and the Illinois Department of Public Health has brought health-related issues more in focus for people with disabilities in our communities. The success of this partnership is largely due to the fact Carla Cox truly understands the independent living philosophy and is keenly aware of the issues people with disabilities face on a daily basis.

many opportunities for SCIL to collaborate with other agencies and provide health information to consumers and the public. Please see page five (5) of this newsletter for a more detailed article about this successful collaboration.

The program highlight included the story of Jack Humphrey, an individual (who left a nursing home to be reintegrated into community living. Homeowner and landlord Jeff Hunt of Springfield was also honored for the extensive modifications made to the house he owns and Mr. Humphrey now calls his home. The presentation included pictures of the newly renovated home and the story of the collaboration between the consumer, the landlord, SCIL staff and the Springfield Housing Authority to make this such a successful reintegration! Please see page two (2) for pictures and more details about this story!

The evening ended with a raffle of hand-crafted

items and inspired gift baskets created by Red Troll Studios of Springfield. A hand-made afghan donated by Kathleen Lott was also donated and raffled at the end of the evening.



President Frank Kircher visits with Chuck Watson, fellow board member. For more pictures, please see page two.

## Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) System Trainings Held at SCIL

Effective January 1, 2014, the DHS Home Services Program will be using the Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) System as the only record keeping system for consumers and home service providers, including Personal Assistants and Home Makers. This system requires that home service providers, such as Personal Assistants and Home Makers, register electronically at the beginning and end of each shift worked with each consumer. The consumer must either allow the home service provider to use his or her telephone or obtain a Fixed Visit Verification (FVV) Device to record start and end time of work shift. The consumer will be responsible for reviewing and verifying timesheets, either via e-mail or on a paper copy. Home Service provider pay will be generated by this electronic system. Trainings for both consumers and PA's is required by DHS, and is available either on-line or in-person. In-person trainings were provided by DHS at various locations throughout the state, although no in-person trainings were conducted in Springfield.

Since many consumers and PA's do not have internet access and in-person training was not available in the Springfield area, SCIL hosted a series of video training sessions for both consumers

and PA's. Training sessions for consumers were conducted on December 10, 2013 from 2 pm until 4 pm and on December 11, 2013 from 10 am until noon; PA training sessions were conducted on December 12, 2013 from 2 pm until 4 pm and on December 13, 2013 from 10 am until 12 noon. The training sessions were posted by DHS on-line and consisted of narrated power point slides. Consumers and PA's viewed and discussed the training videos with SCIL staff. SCIL Reintegration Program staff and the Personal Assistant Specialist conducted the EVV training sessions and assisted consumers and Personal Assistants to understand this new electronic system and the associated procedures. Unfortunately, no DHS staff persons were available to facilitate these video trainings or respond to questions and concerns.

Seventeen (17) consumers and twenty-two (22) Personal Assistants have completed EVV training at SCIL. If you have questions about the EVV system, your hours, or your paycheck please contact the DHS EVV Hotline at: 1-888-713-5139. If you cannot reach anyone at that number, call Stacey Bolin at: 217-557-5205 or Lyle Vandeventer at: 217-558-4142.

## Jack Humphrey Remodels “Dream House”



Late last summer, Jack Humphrey, a SCIL consumer participating in the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Reintegration Program was able to attain his dream of living independently in a rental house. Jack, who is 37 years old, developed paraplegia due to an abscess on the spine that damaged the spinal column. He was treated in two hospitals and then transferred to a nursing facility. Robin Ashton-Hale and Christina Bormida, reintegration staff, met with Jack to explore his options for living outside of the nursing home. Jack expressed a preference for living in a house rather than an apartment and worked with family members to identify an accessible and affordable house. After considerable searching, a house was identified that Jack considered ideal, but the house was not accessible.

SCIL reintegration program staff worked with Jack and Springfield Housing Authority (SHA) to obtain a Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) housing voucher to provide a housing subsidy. SCIL staff, Jack and his family discussed home modifications and subsidized housing with the home owner/landlord, Jeff Hunt. Jeff was willing to allow extensive modifications to be made to his house and worked with SHA to become eligible for rent subsidy.

With funding provided by the reintegration program, major home modifications were completed to make the home completely accessible for the consumer. Home modifications included moving walls to increase accessibility in a hallway, removal of carpeting and installation of ceramic tile to facilitate wheelchair travel, removing a wall to enlarge the bathroom facilitating the installation of a roll-in shower, replacing the front door threshold and constructing a small incline from the porch to the driveway. Jeff Hunt, the landlord, provided additional improvements, including installation of new windows, landscaping and roof repairs at his own expense. The home is a good example of what an accessible home should be and is also pleasant and attractive

inside and out. Jack moved into the new home on August 21, 2013 and has expressed complete satisfaction with this community living situation.



**Pictured left is  
Jeff Hunt  
Homeowner/Landlord**



**New totally accessible bathroom!**



**New tile  
Floors  
through-out  
Home.**





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January 2014

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## Monthly Support Groups

<p><b>Heads Up Group</b>          Contact Dave Munroe at SCIL:          (217)523-2587 v/tty</p> <p><b>Stroke/Brain Injury Support Group</b>          Contact Lisa Cline at: (217)788-3461 or email:          cline.lisa@mhsil.com</p> <p><b>Personal Assistant Employers Group</b>          Contact Bradley Kinney at SCIL:          (217)523-2587 v/tty</p> <p><b>Post-Polio Group</b>          Contact Bradley Kinney at SCIL:          (217)523-2587 v/tty</p> <p><b>WREN (Women's Resource Empowerment Network)</b>          Contact Susanne Cooper at SCIL:          (217)523-2587 v/tty</p>	<p><b>BEST (Becoming Empowered and Successful Teens) and Parent Transition Support Group</b>          Contact Carolyn Thorpe at SCIL:          (217)523-2587 v/tty</p>	<p><b>Lincolnland Stroke Support Network</b>          Contact Tracy Green at: (217)793-2000 or email:          tracygreen@rocketmail.com</p>
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