

Connections

A Newsletter about Disability Issues Winter 2020 Edition

Published by the Arlington Heights Commission for Citizens with Disabilities

AMERICAN AIRLINES HOSTED IT'S COOL TO FLY AMERICAN MOCK FLIGHT AT O'HARE FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM AND THEIR FAMILIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CLEARBROOK



On October 18, 2019, American Airlines hosted its ninth It's Cool to Fly American mock flight for children with autism and their families in partnership with Clearbrook, an organization dedicated to providing innovative services, opportunities, and supports to people with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Pilots, flight attendants, TSA agents, and other airline staff—many of whom do this year after year—volunteered on their day off this make this event as real as possible for the participants. The mock flight included checking in, going through security, boarding, taxiing the runway, refreshments, and even simulated takeoff and landing (the plane did not leave O'Hare Airport). Close to fifty families signed up to participate, some even travelling from Urbana, Illinois for the event. Prior to boarding, pilots and the crew mingled with the crowd, taking pictures with the kids wearing pilot hats and coats. They even stayed late to for pictures in the cock pit once the plane arrived back at the gate.

Clearbrook would like to thank American Airlines for their generosity and continued willingness to host such an incredible and much needed event, as well as the staff and crew who sacrificed a day off to volunteer. They would also like to extend their appreciation to ABC 7 Chicago for capturing the event. The segment was aired on Sunday, October 27, at 8:00 a.m.

For more information event, please contact Tracy Hellner, Autism Resource Specialist, at 847-385-2622 or thellner@clearbrook.org.



CLEARBROOK
Creating Opportunities for People with Disabilities

ABOUT CLEARBROOK

What started in 1955 as a parent's response to the unmet educational requirements of their children with special needs, Clearbrook is now a leader in the field of intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Clearbrook is committed to creating innovative opportunities, services and supports for people with disabilities. Each year, we serve over 8,000 children and adults—as well as their families— in over 160 communities throughout northern Illinois. Clearbrook provides personalized children's, adult day, employment, residential and clinical services at more than 50 locations throughout the Chicago area and is the largest provider of home-based services in the state of Illinois. Employing more than 900 people, we're proud to report that 92 percent of every dollar raised goes directly into programs and services. For more information, please visit www.clearbrook.org.

NWSRA Recognized for Snoezelen Sensory Therapy Program

In November 2019, Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA) was the proud recipient of the Illinois Recreational Therapy Association Innovation Award for its Snoezelen Sensory Therapy program! There is a growing demand for individualized programming for individuals with disabilities to include sensory integration that assists with improving the sensory and



behavioral needs of clients and their families. Through technology and innovative design, the NWSRA Snoezelen Sensory room is a controlled multi-sensory environment that helps to create a therapeutic alliance between the client and Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) as well as a safe place to develop life skills. NWSRA's vision is to have meaningful, therapeutic and productive play in this room through therapy sessions.

Sensory Therapy sessions are unique to each client's needs, addressing individualized goals. CTRS work to create a balanced sensory life through goals related to:

- Physical Improvement: fine and gross motor
- Cognitive Improvement: problem solving and decision-making
- Emotional Improvement: cooperation/collaboration and increased confidence
- Affective Improvement: regulation of feelings and emotional expression
- Social Improvement: verbal/nonverbal communication
- Linguistic Improvement: utilizing descriptive and expressive language

Snoezelen Sensory Therapy sessions are designed to deliver stimuli to various senses and are used to provide multi-sensory or single sensory focus. By allowing an individual to participate at their own free will in a safe environment, the CTRS will help maximize the individual's potential to focus, feel in control, make choices and reduce pain and anxiety both mentally and physically. The population that NWSRA serves, rarely if ever, are able to experience the world with all their senses. Limitations of behavioral issues, anxiety, pain and other issues create obstacles to their enjoyment of life. Once inside the Snoezelen Room, these obstacles and barriers are removed so the individual can begin to learn how to process sensory input. Building and utilizing this room makes a world of difference.



NWSRA Superintendent of Communications & IT Brian Selders stated "Snoezelen Therapy provides an unique approach to meeting sensory needs, and we are thrilled to offer this type of therapy to the community." Through the use of NWSRA Snoezelen Therapy, certified staff enable clients with the unique tools needed to enhance and unlock their own abilities. It also provides families with an option for therapy that goes above and beyond in customizing the experience

to meet the needs of their family member.

For more information about the Snoezelen Room, or other programs offered by NWSRA, please contact them at 847-392-2848 or nwsra.org.

SAVE THE DATE

HONORING CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

“ABILITIES CELEBRATION”

PLEASE JOIN THE
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
COMMISSION FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

SAINT VIATOR HIGH SCHOOL
1213 EAST OAKTON STREET
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL 60004

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

MUSIC - FOOD - FUN

FREE ADMITTANCE



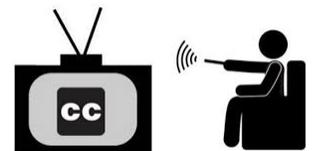
Arlington Heights Commission for Citizens with Disabilities Promotes: Community Awareness of Closed-Captioning

In an effort to address the needs of citizens who are Deaf, or hard of hearing, the Village's Commission for Citizens with Disabilities is undertaking a campaign to promote awareness of turning "on" Closed Captioning (CC) on displayed televisions.



Focusing on local businesses, such as bars, restaurants, gyms, and other public areas where display TVs are available for public viewing, the Commission hopes to build an understanding for the need to provide closed captioning so that patrons who are Deaf, or hard of hearing, can access the programming being shown.

Closed Captioning displays the audio portion of a program as text on the screen, thus allowing for people who are Deaf, or hard of hearing, to access the programming. Generally, it is a simple task to enable Closed Captioning on TVs. Many TVs come with a remote control that has a CC button on it, and this can be used to turn on CC. For TV remotes without a CC button, generally you can turn on CC through the TV's main menu or settings. In the near future, the Commission hopes to provide local businesses with a Closed Captioning window decal that they can display.



Arlington Heights Commission for Citizens with Disabilities

Presents: Revita DeChalus, Case Manager, Benefits Specialist Chaplin
Jeff Silander, Transitional Living Program Manager
Amita Health Alexian Brothers Center for Mental Health

Date: Tuesday March 10, 2020

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Arlington Heights Senior Center
1801 W. Central Road
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005



The Transitional Living Program (TLP) at Amita Health Alexian Brothers Center for Mental Health (ABCMH) is a treatment program that assists individuals with a diagnosed mental illness to integrate or reintegrate into the community with the ultimate goal of successfully living independently in the community in a situation that can be sustained over time.

This is *not* a housing program and we do not provide housing solutions to individuals simply requiring housing. It is a treatment program and the criteria considered by the treatment team takes into consideration how *treatment* in TLP might benefit a person. Housing needs are not taken into consideration.

Treatment offered is a skills based treatment. The focus of TLP treatment includes specific skill areas including:

Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) – things like cooking, cleaning, shopping, and budgeting

Coping skills – learning how to independently cope with symptoms of mental illness

Social skills / social network development – to ensure support while living independently in the community

There are a number of treatment requirements associated with participation in TLP:

12 hours of day structure per week (minimum) – primarily consisting of TLP groups

Weekly meetings with an assigned Case Manager (usually about 1 hour)

Participation in medication fill training (morning med witnessing /weekly fills with case manager)

Individuals who participate in the program reside in a TLP apartment. All apartments are 2 bedrooms and house 2 like-gendered people. All apartments are semi-furnished (beds, tables, chairs, TV, sofa, tables, basic cooking implements, etc...). Beds are assigned based on when a person enters the program, as well as program needs.

Please be aware that there is usually an extensive waiting list for individuals without both Medicaid and a source of income (typically will be a 6-month minimum wait but often the wait will be longer). The program cycles in 6-month increments with a maximum length of stay of 24 months (will usually be a shorter length of stay and is based on treatment needs). Please see amitahealth.org for more information.

REGISTRATION ONLINE AT: [HTTPS://ARLINGTONIL.SEAMLESSDOCS.COM/F/NJ85PALR8D](https://arlingtonil.seamlessdocs.com/f/NJ85PALR8D)

SHOULD YOU NEED AN AUXILIARY AID OR SERVICE OR MATERIALS IN ACCESSIBLE FORMATS, PLEASE CONTACT DAVID ROBB, DISABILITY SERVICES COORDINATOR, BY MARCH 2ND AT: DROBB@VAH.COM, 847-368-5793 VOICE, 847-368-5980 FAX.

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER: _____ MATERIALS IN ACCESSIBLE FORMAT : PLEASE SPECIFY: _____

Disability Employment Awareness Award

2020 Employer Nomination Form

The Disability Employment Awareness Award is presented to an **Arlington Heights Employer** who proactively recruits, hires, and employs persons with disabilities. Self nominations are encouraged. **For online nominations go to:**

<https://arlingtonil.seamlessdocs.com/f/paumqpfqrmkl>

All nominations must be postmarked no later than Friday August 28, 2020
Please print or type in order for all information to be legible.

Company Name: _____

Company Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

Company Contact: _____ Phone: _____

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE REASONS YOUR NOMINEE DESERVES THE DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS AWARD.

PLEASE ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NEEDED.

Submitted by: _____

Address: _____

_____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell/Mobile: _____

Relationship to Employer: _____

The Disability Employment Awareness Award is sponsored by the Arlington Heights Commission for Citizens with Disabilities. Forward submissions to: Village of Arlington Heights, c/o David Robb, 33 S. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Disability Services – Village of Arlington Heights – 847-368-5793 voice

847-368-5980 fax or email: drobb@vah.com

Arlington Heights Annual Disability Employment Awareness Awards

The Arlington Heights Commission for Citizens with Disabilities promotes National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) each October. Wishing to encourage Arlington Heights employers to hire more people with disabilities, the Commission has established the annual Disability Employment Awareness Award.

The annual award is presented to an Arlington Heights employer known for employing persons with disabilities. Nominations are sought from the community at large and self nominations are encouraged.

For more information contact David Robb, Disability Services Coordinator at the Village of Arlington Heights.

847-368-5793 or drobb@vah.com

Honorees:

- 2019 Amita Health - Alexian Brothers Center for Mental Health**
- 2018 Culver's Restaurant**
- 2017 Peggy Kinnane's Restaurant & Pub**
- 2016 Jewel Osco -Vail Street Market**
- 2015 Arlington Heights Park District**
- 2014 Goodwill Industries**
- 2013 Mariano's**
- 2012 Target**
- 2011 Dominick's**
- 2010 XSport Fitness**
- 2009 Jewel Osco at Northpoint**

NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP - APRIL 5th TO 7th

Chicago's Broadway Armory Gym

Have you ever wanted to see wheelchair basketball at its best? Well this is your chance. The top sixteen teams in the nation will compete in a three day tournament from April 5th through the 7th at the Broadway Armory Gym, located at 5917 N. Broadway, Chicago, IL 60660. Chicago is the host for this year's national tournament for the first time in 20 years. For more information please go to the National Wheelchair Basketball Association online website at:

<https://www.nwba.org/> We hope to see you there and please come cheer on the teams!!!!



ARLINGTON HEIGHTS COMMISSION FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

Commissioners:

Roxanne Calibraro, Chair	Jacqueline McCarty
Peg McMahon	Eva Mullinax
Seth Goldberg	David McCallum
Michele Ramsey	Brian Harrison
Sheryl Letwat	

MEETINGS:

2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm
Buechner Room, 1st Floor
Village of Arlington Heights
33 S. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005