

June 14, 2018

Ron Gets Support from his Loving Team in a Time of Heartbreak

Transitions after the death of a loved one can be hard. This was especially true for Ron, a CSS participant, when his father suddenly died. Ron is diagnosed with autism and severe cognitive impairment. At age 53, Ron had lived his entire life in the same home with his dad, his sole care giver. He relied on the routine of a predictable daily schedule including swinging in his back yard.

Knowing that Ron could not stay in his home without his father, his team at CSS sprang into action. This included at least ten CSS staff members, across multiple programs, and every level of the organization. They were determined that Ron would have a new place to live, with the support and safety he needed. Due to the emergency situation, they expedited paperwork for Ron, and within two weeks, he was approved for state funding. This allowed him to immediately move into one of CSS' group homes where he would have support from staff 24/7.



Ron enjoys socializing with his new roommates

Another critical step in the process was to brainstorm with his aunt and uncle, Tom and Kathy, about a smooth transition plan for Ron, in light of all he was going through. The staff stocked the fridge with food Ron would enjoy. They also welcomed him with familiar things from home like photographs and mementos. Tom and Kathy generously purchased a new swing and fence for the backyard, so he could continue to enjoy his favorite activities.



Ron peacefully swings in the backyard of his new home

This transition turned out better than any member of his CSS team, or family, could have imagined. He is now enjoying the company of his five roommates and especially enjoys being

outdoors on his new swing. Ron is making other great strides in his growth which include first experiences such as going on CSS outings, and meeting new people.

"CSS was miraculous during this tough time. They made Ronnie's transition happen so easily. We had high standards for his living situation and they made it happen. We are thankful for this magnificent team."

~Tom and Kathy, Ron's aunt and uncle

Families are encouraged to join the Illinois Prioritization of Needs List or (PUNS). Although services for people with intellectually/developmental disabilities are underfunded in Illinois, registering puts loved ones in line to qualify for services. To learn more, visit <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=32444> or call our Intake Department CSS at (708) 354.4547 x142.



Thank you to our retiring Board Members: Dr. Kiyoshi Yamaki and Sharon Flaim

The Board memberships of Dr. Kiyoshi Yamaki and Sharon Flaim will come to an end on June 30th. We want to thank them both for their loyalty and commitment to CSS. Kiyoshi, is a research professor at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) in the College of Applied Health Sciences. His research focuses on the health of persons with disability from public health and disability studies perspectives. Sharon is the owner of Catherine's Closet, a local nonprofit depository of special event fundraising items. Her expertise has helped CSS' signature fundraiser look beautiful year after year. Both Kiyoshi and Sharon served CSS between June 2011-June 2018. We hope they will come back and visit often!



The residents at the Justice group home need your help!

The ladies are in need of new furniture for the home including new chairs, a sofa, and new TV. Basic needs such as furniture are not covered by state funding. Your gift will help provide not only décor, but dignity to transform lives.

Donate Today!

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www.CSSservices.org

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CSS News



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.

Illinois' largest Respite Provider

Each year, more than 380,026 hours of service are provided by our dedicated staff. We serve 759 individuals and their families throughout 51 communities in Chicago's western suburbs.

Funding for CSS services is provided by state and private funding, and support from these townships:



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