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July 24, 2018

A Trip to the Brookfield Zoo is a “family first” at age 23!

CSS secures a state grant to provide family with handicap accessible vehicle.

Zenny looked at her daughter in the rearview mirror. At age 23, she knew it would be Brianna’s first time at the zoo. It was strange to think that something this common for most families wouldn’t happen for them until today. But finally, they had safe, reliable transportation to make the outing easy.



Brianna and her mom enjoy the zoo for the first time.

Brianna is fragile and cannot stand or walk on her own. She is diagnosed with 1P36 Deletion Syndrome, which is a form of cerebral palsy. She relies on a wheelchair. So when Zenny’s car conked out and needed costly repairs, her CSS coordinator, Stephanie, encouraged her to apply for an Illinois Vehicle Modification Grant. This would allow Zenny to buy a car specially equipped for Brianna’s wheelchair.

Stephanie helped secure the necessary quotes and completed the tedious paperwork.

Zenny knew that approval for the grant wasn’t a guarantee, and Stephanie cautioned that news can sometimes take up to a year. But with good fortune and a lot of FAITH, Zenny got positive news from the state in an unbelievable THREE WEEKS’ time; she was eligible for a sizeable grant.

Today, Zenny says she and Brianna feel like movie stars driving in their new van. Brianna can be safely scooted up the ramp and remain in her wheelchair during the ride. This provides safety, comfort, and dignity for her.

Also, Zenny no longer has to lift Brianna and strain her back. Even though Brianna is petite, her wheelchair alone weighs 80 pounds. It’s a lot for this mom, who is just 5’1”, to handle.

Now, instead of limiting their outings to frequent, and mundane, visits to the doctor, Zenny and Brianna are making plans to see the sights. It’s a whole new world for them to explore together.



Brianna, age 23, on the way to her first zoo visit.

For information on Illinois Vehicle Modification Grants, visit [here](#). Please see your CSS Coordinator with questions.

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 [here](#) or call our Intake Department CSS at (708) 354.4547 x143.



Décor for Dignity – Donations for 1 Chair Still Needed
Emmy and her roommates in the Justice Home still need contributions for one sturdy chair for their home. Thank you to everyone that already contributed to the Décor for Dignity Program. To make a contribution, visit www.cssservices.org/donate



Teacher’s Pet Program Kicks Off
The new school year will be here before we know it! Right now, more than 50 students with intellectual/developmental disabilities are in need of your help. A majority of CSS participants are low income, so buying the necessary supplies for school is difficult. You can help them start off the new school year right! To help, contact Nicole Omahen at nomahen@cssservices.org.



Brookfield Library Hosts CSS Academy Art Exhibit
CSS Academy artists are so proud of their artwork that is displayed at the Brookfield Public Library, Brookfield, IL as part of the library’s community art initiative. Take a look next time you visit!

Donate Today!

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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:

