February, 2016

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

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

Vocational Services Program at SCIL

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

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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.

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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.

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 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Appointments will be on Monday and Tuesday’s starting 2/8 and ending 4/12. Appointments will begin from 8:45 am to 12:15 pm. 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 Thursday’s starting 2/9 and ending 4/14. Appointments will begin from 9:00 am to 12:45 pm. (Some walk-in availability.)

Lincoln Library
326 South 7th Street, Springfield, IL 62701
Appointment Numbers: 217-960-2693 (Same as Union Baptist) Appointments will be on Saturdays starting 2/13 and ending 4/9.
Appointments will begin from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. (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. Appointments 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

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

Free Tax Assistance Information 2016

Income Requirements: Family income below $50,000 or single income below $25,000
WALK-IN 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 submitted 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 earnings 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.