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**“We celebrate in honor of our dedicated staff, consultants, board members, volunteers and friends whose support and hard work enables us to serve the needs of our program participants.”**

*– Rifath Khan*

## 20th Anniversary Luncheon Celebration

The Douglas Center hosted their 20th Year Anniversary Luncheon Celebration on Friday, March 8, 2019 at the Holiday Inn North Shore in Skokie, Illinois. This milestone commemorated two decades of providing programs and services for individuals with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities. “This celebration is in honor of our dedicated staff, consultants, board members, volunteers and friends whose support and hard work enables us to serve the needs of our program participants,” stated Rifath Khan, CEO of The Douglas Center.

The celebration kicked off with a video presentation from day one, March 8, 1999 to the present day. The historical video detailed the expansion of space and the growth of many programs and services provided by The Douglas Center. The celebration highlighted the initial vision that CEO, Rifath Khan had at the start. Her vision to provide choices and opportunities tailored to the individual needs of adults with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities is still strong today.

The celebration continued with guest speaker, Mark A. Collins, a Niles, Township Government Trustee, who illustrated how the staff of The Douglas Center are the real “superheroes” in the work that they do every day. Mark Collins expressed that it is his honor to be a part of the celebration and affirmed his commitment to support the work of The Douglas Center in every way possible.

Mayor George Van Dusen presented Awards for Years of Service to the staff, consultants, board members and volunteers of The Douglas Center.

*Pictured upper left: Staff, volunteers, consultants and board members at the celebration.*



*Pictured right: Mark Collins with Rifath Khan*



**The Douglas Center**

*A ray of light for individuals with special needs*

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Rifath honored Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen with a "Making a Difference" award

The longest staff member award was given to Modinat for 17½ years of service. Mayor Van Dusen was also presented an award by Rifath inscribed with "Making a Difference".

Following the award ceremony, Mayor

George Van Dusen recognized The Douglas Center attendees for their extraordinary dedication and work in serving those with special needs. "It is our wish that The Douglas Center continues their work for many years to come and right here in Skokie," commented Mayor Van Dusen.

Everyone gathered to celebrate Rifath's vision and dedication to start a program...

- > where individuals with special needs could take personal responsibility for their own growth, not predetermined cookie cutter programming
- > where participants would be proud to be a part of
- > where they would learn various work and life skills of THEIR own choosing
- > that provides employment opportunities

and a place where they...

- > felt free to voice their concerns and feel heard
- > could make friends and feel connected
- > are not discriminated against or looked down upon
- > feel safe and even call home

**“I am so humbled to have had the privilege of doing this work for the past 20 years. It has been my honor to lead the center in its mission and growth.” – Rifath Khan**

With commitment to Rifath's vision, The Douglas Center today serves over 140 individuals day to day. Her dedication to expanding opportunities is evident in the programming additions she has made, such as the *Art From The Heart Creations*® program, Multi-Sensory Therapy, *High Fives* – Adapted Outdoor Sports and Recreation Area, and electronic recycling, to name a few.

A very special award was presented to Rifath, it reads:

Presented to Rifath Khan,  
Founder and CEO of The Douglas Center

In recognition of 20 years of service, dedication and guidance of  
The Douglas Center and her commitment to transforming a vision into reality

Memorable moments of the Anniversary Celebration were captured by Joe Pizzo of Joseph Studios in Evanston, Illinois. Chris Lavidas of Breaking Grounds in Music entertained guests with a wonderful session of interactive drumming. Guests quickly took to the dance floor for an afternoon finale of fun!

The Douglas Center would like to offer its sincere gratitude to Schlegel's Bakery in Lincolnwood and Jameson's Charhouse in Skokie for their generous raffle donation.

## The Douglas Center Surpasses #GivingTuesday Campaign Goal

The Douglas Center once again participated in the global day of giving, #GivingTuesday, This movement which encompasses thousands of organization is now in its 7th year. Each Tuesday following Thanksgiving Day, charities, individuals, businesses, community centers and students from around the world come together to celebrate generosity and to give back.

The Douglas Center was also grateful to participate in a matching donation program sponsored by The Coleman Foundation. From November 1st through November 27th The Coleman Foundation gave a \$175 for donations of \$175 and up.

We would like to offer a very special thanks to Kathleen Kane, a supporter of The Douglas Center, who raised \$373 for our center through her personal Facebook Fundraiser in honor of her birthday.

The Douglas Center is thrilled to announce that we met our #GivingTuesday fundraising goal for this year. Our goal was to raise \$5,000 and thanks to you, we surpassed that goal! We couldn't have done this without your continued support for the work that we do and the individuals that we are honored to serve.

Thank you to all of our supporters who took the time to share our information with your family and friends. Thank you for being a "Ray of Light" for people with special needs.

**“On behalf of The Douglas Center, we offer our sincere gratitude to everyone who made a donation.”**

– Rifath Khan

## Program Participants Express Their Gratitude at the 20th Anniversary

The Douglas Center Anniversary Celebration started with program participants on March 6, 2019. “This celebration is in honor of our program participants whose hard work inspires us every day!” stated Rifath Khan, CEO.

The festivities began with the arrival of Rifath and Mir Khan taking their specially decorated seats. Rifath was crowned with a tiara as the guest of honor. Elizabeth Kristiansen, Director of Programs and Services opened with welcoming remarks and was followed by Debra Goldman, Dance and Music Therapist. The Douglas Center program participant choir performed several musical numbers. One of the highlights of the day was a presentation by each participant expressing “What The Douglas Center means to me.” Program Participants, in their own words, also spoke directly to Rifath Khan, relaying how beloved she is to them. The choir



concluded with a musical performance of “We are Family”, which got everyone in the audience to start dancing.

Rifath addressed the participants with a moving and uplifting message. She expressed her gratitude for the privilege of doing this work and for the growth of each individual in the program past and present. Rifath communicated her pride of the participants for their hard work in overcoming challenges and being such an inspiration. Awards for years of attendance at The Douglas Center were presented to each participant. The program participants also received a gift of a lunch bag tote customized with The Douglas Center logo.



The fun continued with a trivia game about The Douglas Center. The festivities concluded with a lunch buffet enjoyed by The Douglas Center participants and staff. The Douglas Center Program Participant Anniversary Celebration was truly a joy to witness!

## Thank You to the Patrons at Our Annual Art Show & Sale

The Douglas Center hosted our annual *Winter Wonderland Art Show & Sale* on Tuesday, November 28, 2019. Featured on display were works of art made by program participants of the *Art From The Heart Creations*® program. Products for sale included an assortment gifts and home décor, mosaic flower pots, mosaic mirrors, coaster sets, paintings, inspirational plaques, greeting cards, holiday ornaments, candle holders and so much more!

The Winter Wonderland Art Show and Sale was attended by supporters, families, friends and a special holiday shopping visit from Skokie’s Mayor



George Van Husen who along with his assistant, Vicky Varga purchased several gift items.

The Douglas Center would like to offer our gratitude to those who attended and supported our art show. For

those unable to make it, stay tuned for announcements of our upcoming shows!

*Art From The Heart Creations* is program participant-based business launched by The Douglas Center. This program provides participants living with disabilities hands-on experience in the creation, production and selling of their own art products. This venture enables the participants to earn income from the sale of their artwork, attain a sense of accomplishment, self-esteem and assistance in achieving greater independence in life. A portion of the proceeds of these art creations goes directly to the individual that created it.





**The Douglas Center**

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ENGAGE & stay connected



## Celebrating National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

March is National Developmental Disability Awareness Month as proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan in 1987. This year marks the 32nd anniversary of the signing of the Presidential Proclamation, in which the Reagan urged, "...all Americans to join me in according to our fellow citizens with such disabilities both encouragement and the opportunities they need to lead productive lives and to achieve their full potential."

Developmental disabilities occur among all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups. According to the CDC (Center for Disease Control) approximately one in six, or about 15% of children aged 3 through 17 years have one or more developmental disabilities which include ADHD, autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, hearing loss, intellectual disability, learning disability, vision impairment and other developmental delays.

"The Douglas Center is committed to raising public awareness of the many contributions, skills and potential of people with special needs," stated Rifath Khan, CEO of The Douglas Center. In celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, The Douglas Center is featured in an exhibit at the Skokie Public Library. The exhibit running through



*The display case at the Skokie Public Library*

the month of March demonstrates and celebrates the many beautiful works of art and products created by program participants of the center's "Art From The Heart" Creations® program. This program provides participants with special needs hands-on experience in the creation, production and selling of their own art products. Please note that a portion of the sale goes directly to the artist that created it.

The Douglas Center received a proclamation by Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen in honor of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month citing that The Douglas Center "provides community day services for individuals with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities assisting them in improving their independent living skills and enrichment of their quality of life."

"We are honored and grateful to have received this proclamation and acknowledgment of our work and our mission," said Rifath Khan expressing her appreciation. "We are dedicated to expanding the choices and opportunities for individuals living with developmental disabilities."



*Rifath Khan presented with the proclamation by Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen*

The Douglas Center serves to assist adults living with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities in improving their independent living skills and enrichment of their quality of life.

OUR MISSION

## Do you have old electronics?

**Bring your electronic waste to The Douglas Center and we will dispose of it safely and responsibly.**

Drop off your electronic items at our location  
3445 Howard Street, Skokie  
Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 3:00pm

We accept the following:

- > Cell Phones
- > Flat Screen Desktop Computers
- > CPUs (Central Processing Unit)
- > Servers and Networking Equipment
- > Laptops and tablets
- > Docking Stations
- > Copiers
- > Universal Power Supply
- > Hard Drives
- > Lithium Ion Batteries
- > Cell Phone Batteries
- > Computer Accessories
- > Computer Cords & Wires
- > Lithium Ion Power Tool Batteries
- > Lithium Ion Modem Batteries
- > Printers/Fax Machines
- > LCD Monitors
- > Flat Screen Televisions

*Please note : We do not accept CRT Monitors or Televisions*