Expressing Deep Gratitude and Appreciation for Recent Grant Awards

The Douglas Center is honored to be the recipient of several grant awards. Grants are integral part of the growth and expansion of a non-profit organization. These funds enable organizations to expand their capability in meeting the ever increasing needs of their constituents. The Douglas Center would like to express its deep appreciation to the following organizations for their support of our mission and work.

"Your support will assist us in increasing accessibility to these programs for a greater number of individuals. Through your generosity lives are being changed every day. Thank you for joining with us in making a difference in the lives of those who live with disabilities."

– Rifath Khan

The Coleman Foundation

The Douglas Center has been awarded a $25,000 grant from the Coleman foundation in support of the creation of The Douglas Center Multi-Sensory Therapy Room program. Individuals with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities have difficulty interacting and making sense of their external surroundings. Multi-sensory therapy has been shown to be effective in increasing concentration, alertness and awareness. Additionally, it has proven beneficial in reducing problems with self-injurious behaviors, relieving agitation, promoting relaxation and calmness; and the modulation of their own emotions.

Service Club of Chicago

The Douglas Center has been awarded a grant from Service Club of Chicago for the purchase a semi-automatic shrink wrap machine for our work program. As a result, the participants of the work program will learn new job readiness skills and safer methods of handling production work and processes. The acquisition of this machine will also improve efficiency and cost effectiveness of the manufacturing division.

TCF Bank

The Douglas Center has been awarded a $1,000 grant towards general operating funds.

First Bank and Trust

The First Bank and Trust Facebook promotion in August helped get the word out to our online community. The promotion was a success with both money and awareness raised. Thanks to everyone that liked and shared our page. Be sure to check back often to see the happenings at the center.

You are invited...

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
art gallery opening and gift shop
December 9th from 1:00 – 5:00pm

Art From The Heart Creations

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CLOSING SCHEDULE

Thanksgiving: Nov. 26th & 27th
Closed for Christmas Holidays: December 24th
Reopening: January 4th, 2016

We’ve Done It Again!

The Illinois Department of Human Services just released the results of their unannounced survey of service providers. We are proud to announce we have received a 100% again this year. This would not be possible without the continual exemplary efforts of our staff. Thank you.

DHS SURVEY RESULTS

100%

You support will assist us in increasing accessibility to these programs for a greater number of individuals. Through your generosity lives are being changed every day. Thank you for joining with us in making a difference in the lives of those who live with disabilities.
Dear Friends, Supporters and Colleagues:

As we are all so well aware… the Illinois budget crisis continues to loom over our state. Most at risk are those that are most in need. Many vital human services programs have been cut or forced to close because of state budget cutbacks or lack of payment by the state.

As in times past, The Douglas Center continues to work very hard in taking a proactive stance in our efforts to manage the burden placed on us as a result of this budget crisis. This year we implemented several new programs and initiatives which will enable us to continue to meet the ever increasing needs of the population we serve.

Several Grants have been received by the community for the new initiatives we are implementing. The Coleman Foundation Grant of $25,000 will help support the creation of The Douglas Center Multi-Sensory Therapy Room and other funds were raised specifically for an aquarium for that program. A grant from Service Club of Chicago enabled the purchase a semi-automatic shrink wrap machine for the manufacturing division of our work program. TCF Bank awarded us with a $1,000 grant towards operating funds.

We are also excited about an opportunity that will be implemented early in the new year. The growing trend toward customized employment, as described by the Office of Disability Employment Policy as “a flexible process designed to personalize the employment relationship between a job seeker and an employer in a way that meets the needs of both” will help us as we embark on a new social enterprise venture. CyclePoint™ from SourceAmerica® is the nation’s new eRecycling network creating sustainable jobs for people with significant disabilities by securely recycling old and obsolete electronics. The Douglas Center will join the eRecycling network as a Tier 1 network partner. In this capacity, The Douglas Center Program participants will assume the responsibility for the sorting, packing and preparation of items designated for recycling or reuse. In a few months, we will share how you can support us in this new endeavor.

Our efforts to maintain a proactive posture in the wake of these troubling times with the state budget is and has been what has safeguarded The Douglas Center’s ability to continue to provide the vital programs and services to those we serve. We are determined to do all that we can to serve those that rely on us for these vital services. However, we cannot do this alone. Please know that we are deeply appreciative for the support that you have given to us and our mission in times past. We ask for your continued support in the days ahead.

Rifath Khan, CEO
Douglas Center

As New Department of Defense Contract Awarded

The Douglas Center has announced the award of a new sewing product contract by SourceAmerica for the Department of Defense (DOD). The center will begin producing food service uniforms for the United States Navy.

This is the fourth DOD contract that has been awarded to The Douglas Center. The center has been awarded and maintained these high-quality standard sewing contracts with the DOD for over ten years producing medical smocks, gun barrel covers and duffel bags. “The U.S. Department of Defense requires a high level of quality for all products produced for them,” stated Rifath Khan, Chief Executive Officer. “We are proud of the outstanding quality of work that our program participants produce here at The Douglas Center. We are honored and appreciative of the trust and confidence that they have in our participants work.”

Consider The Douglas Center as a resource for your upcoming manufacturing or production projects. Please contact Mir Khan at mir@thedouglascenter.com or 847-674-1921.

The festivities for the Program Participants were held Friday, August 21st at Foster Beach in Chicago

A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!
Celebrating Direct Support Professionals Week

“We would like to express our sincere appreciation to our DSPs for their vital contribution to our organization and our program participants. You are an integral part of our program! Thank you for your dedication to this important work.”

– Rifath Khan

In recognition of the dedication and accomplishments of its outstanding Direct Support Professionals (DSP) The Douglas Center held a week-long celebration to honor our DSPs. The celebration included daily prize drawings held exclusively for our DSPs. Each morning our DSPs were treated to donuts and at the conclusion of the week the entire staff came together for a celebratory breakfast.

A direct support professional is a person who assists an individual with a disability to lead a self-directed life and contribute to the community, assists with activities of daily living if needed, and encourages attitudes and behaviors that enhance community inclusion. The Douglas Center employs 18 Direct Support Professionals.

Welcome New Staff Members

Lamyka McGuire
Direct Support Professional

Neil Martin
Direct Support Professional

Keith Walcott, Custodian
Abdulsalam Olaoye, Custodian

Congratulations & Thank You for Your Years of Service!

Falguni Chauhan
11 YEARS

Linda Gallero

Our sincere appreciation to our employees and contractors who have been with us for over five years.

Maria Bernardo: 10 years
Toluwalope Feyisitan: 5 years
John Gibson: 5 years
Christina Himmler: 8 years
Mir Khan: 8 years
Rifath Khan: 16 years
Eric Ledin: 5 years
Modinat Truitt: 14 years

OUR CONTRACTORS:
Linda Cordero: 7 years
Dean Giuntoli: 13 years
Debbie Goldman: 16 years
Brian Kriner: 7 years

Skokie Public Library Highlights Client Artwork

The Douglas Center announced the debut of their exhibit at the Skokie Public Library. The exhibit running through Tuesday, October 27, 2015, demonstrates and celebrates many beautiful works of art products created by the program participants in the center’s “Art From The Heart Creation Program. The exhibit is a part of the Skokie Library celebration commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

“The Douglas Center is grateful to the Skokie Public Library for the opportunity to raise public awareness on the many accomplishments, talents and contributions that are and can be made by individuals living with disabilities.”

– Rifath Khan

The display consisted of a sampling of the creations that are currently being sold in numerous retail partners throughout the Chicago metro area. These include home décor and accessories, mosaic mirrors and flower pots, jewelry, greeting cards, etc. The Douglas Center Art From The Heart Creations program is a participant-based business launched in 2011. This program provides participants with disabilities hands-on experience in the creation, production and selling of their own art products. Please note that a portion of the proceeds of these art creations goes directly to the participant that created it.
The Douglas Center Joins with the Skokie Library to Deliver Books to Homebound

Program Participants of The Douglas Center have teamed up with the Skokie Homebound Library program to deliver books and DVDs to individuals who are homebound residents of Skokie. This program is available to Skokie Public Library cardholders who are unable to visit the library due to age, illness or temporary and permanent disability...the Skokie Library brings the library to them!

The Douglas Center program participants have participated in the personal pick-up and drop off of these items to homebound residents. The joy and appreciation witnessed by both the residents and our participants is heartwarming. Each resident make request up to five items for approximately three weeks upon which they are picked up from their homes and/or drop off their new requests.

“Our The Douglas Center is appreciative to work with Skokie Public Library on this wonderful program. Our participants receive so much enjoyment in being able to give of themselves,” stated Rifath Khan.

For more information on this program please contact the Skokie Library at 847-324-3166 or email: lleibik@skokielibrary.info to register for this free homebound delivery service.

New Aquarium Debut for the Multi-Sensory Program

“...We are so excited to add this element to our program. Our participants enjoy engaging and interacting with it.”

– Rifath Khan

Our new aquarium is in! Thanks to the Morris Foundation and crowd funding efforts. The Douglas Center debuted its newly acquired aquarium to program participants.

The aquarium is one of the components of the center’s Multi-Sensory program. Individuals with disabilities have difficulty interacting with their external surroundings. They struggle with eliminating distractions when focusing on a particular activity. They often feel overwhelmed by their environment due to their inability to appropriately process sensory information. Multi-Sensory Therapy Rooms provide a controlled and responsive sensory-focused environment for individuals with disabilities. This controlled environment assists the participants in the improvement of their skills by eliminating distractions and providing an environment that enables them to interact with specific objects and people.

Program participant, Michael Joyce, kindly donated animated ornaments for the aquarium.