



Together Safe: Moving Forward Safely During Covid-19

IN THIS ISSUE

Beginning in August of 2020, The Douglas Center slowly welcomed back program participants in close consultation and direction of DHS (Department of Health and Human Services). Covid-19 guidelines. We are pleased to report that since that time, there have been no cases of infections among staff or participants from our center.

Safety first remains our highest priority. The Douglas Center conducts weekly Covid-19 PCR testing for all our staff and our participants. All participants attending are fully vaccinated and have their temperature taken when entering the center. We remain vigilant and continue to abide by the Covid-19 guidelines as directed by DHS, IDPH, CDC and Skokie Public Health Department.

- **Facemasks** are required for all, including visitors to The Douglas Center.
- **Hand hygiene stations** and gloves are available throughout the center.
- **We continue to practice Social Distancing**
 - ✓ Maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet
 - ✓ Maintain social distancing everywhere including the waiting room
 - ✓ No more than one person at a table when dining and working



Together Safe: Moving Forward Safely During Covid-19	1
Nation's Direct Service Workforce in Crisis	1
Annual "Winter Wonderland" Art Show and Sale	2
DC Hosts Annual Picnic for Participants	2
DC is Hiring!	3
DC Pays it Forward with Zoomagreen	4
DC Adopts Lauth Park in Skokie	4
DC Promotes Healthy Lifestyles with Community Partnerships	5
DC Collaborates with NU Nat'l Student Speech-Language-Hearing Assn	5
DC Internship Program: Preparing Future Social Workers	6 & 7
DC collaborates with Lincolnwood Art Show	8

The Douglas Center Closing Schedule

- In-Service Day: October 22nd
- Thanksgiving Holiday: Nov. 25th & 26th
- Christmas Holidays: Dec. 23, 2021 to January 3, 2022

The Douglas Center has developed a preparedness and response plan in the event of an infected staff member and/or program participant. TOGETHER WE CAN keep each other safe!

A REMINDER: The Douglas Center has a limited quantity of reusable fabric masks for sale. These three-layered fabric masks with filters have been manufactured by The Douglas Center. Masks are available for purchase for \$2.00 per mask. For more information on placing an order, contact our center via email: omar@thedouglascenter.org or phone: 312-857-5266.

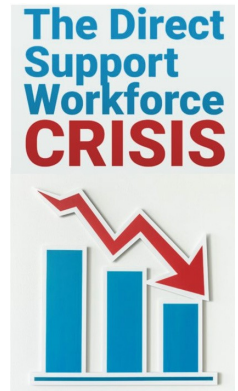
The Nation's Direct Service Workforce in Crisis

The Disability Services Provider sector of the community based service system is in crisis. A recent study by ANCOR (American Network of Community Options and Resources) indicated just how critical the situation has become. [Click Here for ANCOR study summary.](#)

Many providers are finding it necessary to either close or cut back programs and services due to insufficient staffing and/or competing for workers with higher wage discrepancies from other industries. Providers are working to find ways to deal with the current circumstances all while struggling to maintain standards.

The Douglas Center has prudently moved forward in re-opening our program over the past year, even as we are faced with the many challenges taking place in the community-based system. Our dedicated team of professionals work tirelessly to preserve our standards in our programs and services.

Your continued support of our mission is greatly appreciated as we work to ensure the quality and quantity of services to those we serve.



The Douglas Center Hosts Annual “Winter Wonderland” Art Show & Sale

The Douglas Center is hosting our annual “Winter Wonderland” Art Show & Sale featuring works of art made by our program participants.

**November 8 through 12, 2021
9 am to 4 pm**

**Location: The Douglas Center:
3445 Howard Street; Skokie, Illinois 60076**

On display will be a selection of products from our new Holiday Collection featuring beautiful ornaments, candle holders and an assortment of Holiday greeting cards. Also featured are our collection of mosaic flower pots, mosaic mirrors, coaster sets, paintings, greeting cards, candle holders and home décor accessories from the “Art From The Heart” Creations® program.

“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 their 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 public is invited to attend the “Winter Wonderland” Art Show & Sale. The beautiful pieces on display would make a wonderful gift for you or someone special. Stop by and browse our gallery for a great gift! For more information please contact The Douglas Center at 847-674-1921.

The Douglas Center Hosts Annual Picnic for Program Participants

The Douglas Center staff, program participants and volunteers gathered together for our Annual Picnic on Friday, August 20th at Bunker Hill Forest Preserve. The event was pared back a bit due to Covid guidelines. Festivities included relay races, card games, ring toss and beanbags games, nature walks and many prizes. A great time was had by all!

Our sincere thanks to OMG Grill in Morton Grove for their generosity of a discount for our participant’s picnic lunch. Our thanks to Omar Khan for finding our donor and facilitating a good lunch for our participants at the picnic.

Each year our participants look forward to this festive summer event to enjoy a bit of fun and recreation time with their peers and the staff of The Douglas Center. “We look forward to this event all year long” stated Rifath Khan, CEO. “This year was especially important to us in light of all the challenges Covid-19 has brought.”



The Douglas Center is Hiring Direct Support Professionals, Now!

The Douglas Center is looking for compassionate individuals to join our team of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). As a member of our DSP team you will work directly with people living with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities. DSPs are the true heroes of every organization. They empower and support our participants assisting them in improving their independent living skills. If you are seeking meaningful work where you can make a positive difference in someone's life, you may be our perfect candidate.

The Perfect Fit

The Douglas Center is looking for part-time Direct Support Professionals (DSP) to assist and support adults with developmental disabilities in areas of vocational skills training, developmental rehabilitation, social skills training and community integration in our community day services program. No formal training or experience is required to be considered a candidate for one of our Direct Support Professional positions. We will provide Direct Support Professional training for eligible candidates

Our DSPs provide job coaching support to adults with developmental, intellectual and physical disabilities by teaching new job assignments that include but are not limited to: light manufacturing, assembly line, sewing, heat sealing, packaging and other work projects. They track and monitor client production records, timecards, goals, and monitor client progress and behavior. The DSP will also assist individuals with daily living skills such as feeding, toileting and other personal care duties as needed.

One of the best parts of DSP work is the flexibility it offers. Our part-time schedule/work hours are Monday through Friday (25 hours per week). Schedules are typically 8:30 am – 1:30 pm or 9:30 am -2:30 pm. No weekends or holidays required.

The Douglas Center offers flexible work schedules, opportunities for advancement, a great team environment, and competitive benefits. Part-Time employee benefits include: Paid training, paid time off, paid holidays and a rewarding fun environment with exceptional team members that contribute to the success of our organization! Find out more about The Douglas Center by visiting our website: thedouglascenter.org

Are you interested in applying for a DSP position at The Douglas Center? Please complete our online application: [CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

As a Direct Support Professional, not only will you change someone else's life, you may end up changing your life as well!

The Douglas Center is also seeking qualified individuals for the following positions: Case Manager, Receptionist and Sewing Specialists. If you are interested in applying for these positions, contact Anna O'Dwyer, Office Manager at 847-647-1921 Ext. 229.



WE'RE OPEN!

THE DOUGLAS CENTER IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING NEW APPLICATIONS TO OUR PROGRAM FOR ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT DAVID BANAS AT 847-674-1921 X238.

The Douglas Center Pays It Forward with Zoomagreen

The Douglas Center was recently contacted by Zoomagreen, an organization seeking to change the image of recycling. Zoomagreen brings individuals, municipalities, and corporations together to find, develop and implement solutions to reduce, reuse and recycle waste. They work to find recipients who can use the items that have been donated to Zoomagreen. Items that may have planned to be discarded can then be put to use for a greater good.

Zoomagreen learned about mission and work of The Douglas Center and reached out with an offer of hand sanitizer that had been donated by the Point of Sale Remarketing Group. “We were thrilled to receive this donation,” stated Rifath Khan. “I was very taken with the recycling concept developed by Zoomagreen and inquired about participating in-kind with a donation of facemasks manufactured by our center. We were pleased to discover that Zoomagreen had found a recipient for our donation.” The Douglas Center donated 1,300 masks to El Rescate, a non-profit organization located in Humboldt Park that supports LGBTQ youth with transitional living.



Zoomagreen accepts mask donation from The Douglas Center CEO, Rifath Khan



El Rescate receives mask donation from The Douglas Center

The Douglas Center would like to express our sincere gratitude to Zoomagreen for their wonderful work in bringing recycling to higher level, one that serves the community and the planet.

The Douglas Center Adopts Lauth Park in Skokie

Omar Khan, Director of Health and Wellness recently enrolled The Douglas in the Skokie’s Adopt-A-Park program. Our center has assumed responsibility for Lauth Park located at 8031 Keystone Avenue in Skokie. Each week from May through October, our program participants travel to clean up Lauth Park and contribute to keeping it beautiful. Clean-up may include litter pick-up, spreading mulch, etc. All needed tools and materials are supplied by the Skokie Park District. Signage acknowledging The Douglas Center as the adopter of Lauth Park has been placed in the park.

“This is such a wonderful experience in community engagement for our participants,” commented Rifath Khan, CEO. “It provides them with an opportunity to give back as well as a sense of accomplishment.”



Giving Back to the Community



The Douglas Center Promotes Healthy Lifestyles with Community Partnerships

People with disabilities are more likely to experience higher rates of obesity, cardiovascular disease, chronic disease and overall poor health. They are more likely to slip through the cracks of the health system due to a lack of health screenings and yearly medical check-ups. The Douglas Center is engaged in developing community partnerships and collaborations that encourage our program participants to engage in healthier lifestyles. Through these programs our participants have the opportunity to increase their awareness of health and wellness and to track their individual progress.

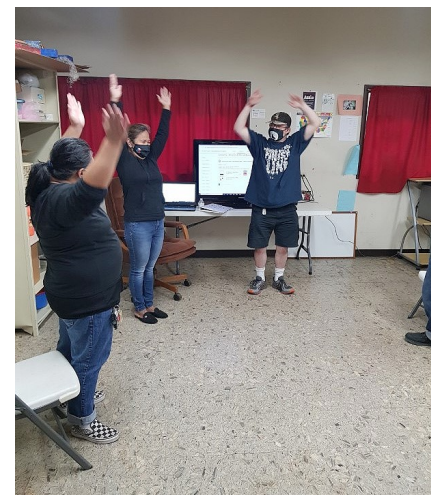
These are two of the partnerships that our participants are currently engaged in:

We Walk 4 Health

We Walk 4 Health program is a research study at UIC that will determine if physical activity improves well-being in people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The project aims to enable adults with IDD to improve physical activity and thus, health and function through the use of technology, peer support and person-centered motivational practices.

Health Matters™ Program

HealthMatters™ Program is a collaboration with UIC. It is an evidence-based health promotion program that aims to improve the health of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The program engages people with IDD and their day-program supports to have access to research, education and training, service learning, and evaluation tools to improve their health where they live, work, learn, and play.



Program participants of The Douglas Center engage in exercise classes under the Health Matters™ program.



The Douglas Center participants learn how to improve their health in the Health Matters™ Program

In this program, six participants of The Douglas Center meet for 1 hour, three times a week for 32 weeks. The program teaches core concepts related to physical activity, nutrition, health education and social engagement. Participants also engage in exercise classes. At the conclusion of each session there is a question-and-answer period for our participants to review what has been taught.

Upon completion of this program, The Douglas Center in partnership with UIC, will evaluate the effectiveness of this health program.

The Douglas Center Collaborates with Northwestern University National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association

The Douglas Center is delighted to announce our partnership with the Northwestern University's local chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA). NSSLHA founded in 1972, is a pre-professional association for graduate and undergraduate students that is dedicated to advancing the interests of students pursuing careers in audiology and speech-language pathology. NSSLHA is the only student organization recognized by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for the communication sciences and disorders. Members of Northwestern University's NSSLHA chapter have access to educational, social, and philanthropic experiences during their tenure at the university.

Members of NSSLHA will assist the DSPs (Direct Support Professional) with programming at The Douglas Center each week for two hours. "We are very appreciative of this partnership with Northwestern University's NSSLHA chapter," stated Rifath Khan, CEO. "This program aligns with our desire to assist in the development of the next generation of professionals who are seeking to work with individuals with IDD. Likewise, their dedication and expertise benefit our participants greatly." All health program collaborations have been initiated by Omar Khan, Director of Health and Wellness at The Douglas Center.



The Douglas Center Internship Program: Preparing Future Social Workers

The Douglas Center is excited to welcome our newest interns into our Social Work Internship Program. The program, now in its 2nd year, has had eight students complete their internship program with The Douglas Center. This fall we welcome Yisroel, Parker and Kristin into the program.

The Douglas Center's Internship program is currently partnered with several local universities including Loyola University, Northeastern University, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and Dominican University. We are pleased to announce that The Douglas Center is now accepting applicants from these Universities.

The Douglas Center Internship Program is honored to have received exceptionally positive feedback from our University partners. Here is some of what our Universities have shared with us:

- "We highly recommend this program to the Social Work Department at our school"
- "We are promoting your internship program to our students"
- "Our students are encouraging other students to do their internship at your center"

Many of the universities has expressed their appreciation for how well administered our internship program is under the direction of David Banas, LCSW, Director of Clinical Services, and for the exceptional experience the interns receive from this program.

Our Social Work interns are integral members of our team and are a vital part of The Douglas Center's mission to provide programs and services that assist adults living with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities in improving their independent living skills and enrichment of their quality of life. Our interns learn to apply their academic training as they practice skills and work with trained professionals. The Douglas Center is committed to developing the next generation of social workers through mentoring, close supervision and field instruction as they work directly with our program participants.

Some Intern responsibilities at The Douglas Center have included:

- Working directly with program participants
- Counseling
- Social media management
- Intake
- Outreach to group homes
- Presentations to Special Ed Schools
- Administrative duties
- "Art From The Heart" Art Show event set-up

The Douglas Center internship curriculum is under the supervision of David Banas, LCSW, Director of Clinical Services. Interns are responsible for completing assigned weekly and monthly assignments. Each intern receives weekly mentoring by David Banas. Internships are available to BSW and Master level Social Work students who are seeking hands-on experience working with adults living with intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities. The internship curriculum will expose students to key areas of practice within the social work career field. This program provides an opportunity for interns to refine and apply concepts and skills learned; to diversify their field experience and advance their career goals

For information on applying for an internship with The Douglas Center, please contact David Banas, Director of Clinical Services at dbanas@thedouglascenter.org.



The Douglas Center Internship Program: Preparing Future Social Workers (cont'd)

Meet our Newest Interns

Kristin Lolli is completing her first year as a Master's Degree student in Social Work at Loyola University of Chicago. Her focus is on mental health pursuant to working with patients and their families in hospice. Kristin has worked extensively with individuals with varying degrees of intellectual and physical limitations. She looks forward to expanding her knowledge on how to effectively work with these populations.



Kristin, Loyola University



Parker, Loyola University

Parker is a senior in the 5-year BSW/MSW program at Loyola University. He chose the Douglas Center for his first-level internship because of his passion for the special needs population. Parker is excited to learn valuable skills surrounding case management and treatment plans in this internship experience. Eventually he would like to work either with older adults, continue in the special needs field, or a combination of the two!

Yisroel is a fourth year student in the 5-year BSW/MSW program at Loyola. He chose the Douglas Center because of their important work in providing people with disabilities the opportunity to learn, work, and live the dignified lives they deserve. Yisroel hopes to learn more about how to best serve this population and improve his clinical skills in preparation for his career as a social worker. Upon graduation he hopes to work in mental health field, providing counseling services to individuals and families.



Yisroel, Loyola University



The Douglas Center

A ray of light for individuals with special needs

3445 Howard Street, Skokie, IL 60076
P: (847) 674-1921; F: (847) 679-1823
www.thedouglascenter.org



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



In collaboration with The Douglas Center

LINCOLNWOOD ART SHOW

Support local artists with special needs!

**LINCOLNWOOD VILLAGE HALL OCTOBER 1ST-31ST
9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM**

Facebook



INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE DOUGLAS CENTER? VISIT OUR FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM TO SEE ARTISTS IN ACTION!

Instagram



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 Illinois 60076
Monday—Friday: Call for Drop-Off Appointment**

Please note: We do not accept CRT monitors or televisions.