

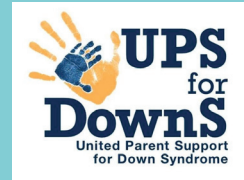


**HAPPY 5th BIRTHDAY, CTC!** Connect to Community celebrated its 5th anniversary this summer. Never did we envision back in 2013, all that we would accomplish in such a short amount of time.

We are very **PROUD** of what we have been able to achieve, so as we prepare to kick off another year of programming, we wanted to take this opportunity to share some of our success stories with you. Most importantly, we celebrate the hundreds of families who have attended our events or have been impacted by our services. Those families are the reason that we do what we do, and we hope that those numbers continue to grow.

Of course, there have been challenges as well. The truth is that an enormous amount of work is being done by a **VERY** small group of people, and because of this, some of our smaller programs like CTC Creations and social events are currently on hiatus until additional volunteers can be found.

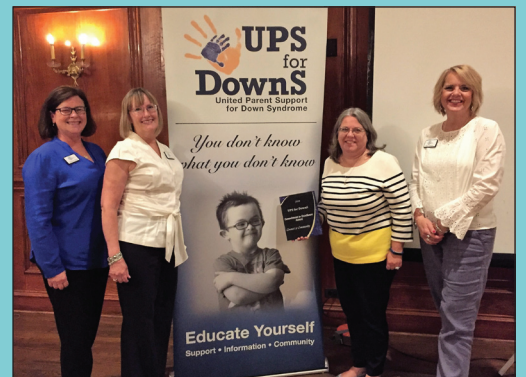
**Read on to learn about ways you can get involved in CTC.**  
**Many hands make light work, and we could **definitely** use more hands.**



## CTC ACCEPTS HONOR

Connect to Community was honored to receive the Commitment to Excellence Award from UPS for DownS at their annual Appreciation Dinner on June 13th.

Representing CTC were Co-Founders/Directors Linda Hall, Mary Hanson, and Barb Tobias, along with current Director and Treasurer Sandy Ricketts. We are thrilled to have been recognized by this amazing organization.



### OUR MISSION

Connect to Community is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to finding and facilitating purposeful employment and enjoyment for adults with developmental disabilities. Further, in an effort to help these adults live the lives they desire and deserve within the community, we will provide person-centered services across all aspects of community life.

### OUR VISION

To assist young adults with special needs as they transition out of educational entitlements and into the "real" world through a variety of individualized, community-based initiatives.

### OUR SERVICES

Through a combination of employment, creative day options, and social/recreational opportunities, we aim to provide our clients with the resources they need to create a meaningful day and a meaningful life.



# CTC Year in Review ...

## Customized Employment

### *Customized Employment Continues to be Our Core Mission*

We believe that with the right job and the right supports, everyone can work, no matter what their disability. Customized Employment (CE) is a collaborative, person-centered approach to employment services that is driven by the job seeker's specific skills, interests, talents, and support needs. CE is also aligned with the national Employment First initiative which states that employment in the community should be the first and preferred option for individuals with disabilities.

We piloted our Customized Employment initiative in 2016 with a single job seeker, and we are happy to



report that **AJ**, who lives in Hoffman Estates, has now been successfully employed by the Hoffman Estates Park District for over 18 months. Congratulations, AJ!

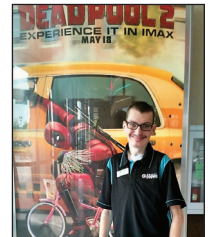
Using what we learned from our time spent with AJ and his family, we slowly expanded our efforts to include three additional job seekers, all of whom are now employed:

**CRISTINA** from Arlington Heights recently celebrated her one-year work anniversary at the Arlington Heights Memorial Library. Happy Anniversary, Cristina!



**ALI** from Palatine has not one, but two jobs—one at the Avalon Salon and Day Spa in Deer Park, and the other at The Grand at Twin Lakes. Way to go, Ali!

**ANDREW**, who lives in Buffalo Grove, also has two part-time jobs—one at the Regal Cinema in Lincolnshire, and the other teaching art classes for the Buffalo Grove Park District. Great job, Andrew!



We are **GRATEFUL** to our two Customized Employment Specialists, Beth Dowd and Dawn Goerger, who have each completed 40 hours of training and are certified in Employment Services. Beth and Dawn bring great enthusiasm and commitment to their roles as they spend at least 150 hours over the course of 8-12 months working with each job seeker in order to find the best vocational match.

We are also **THANKFUL** to the Rotary Clubs of both Palatine and Buffalo Grove for their support of this initiative through community grants.

For more information about our Customized Employment services, please email us at:

[ConnectToCommunityInc@gmail.com](mailto:ConnectToCommunityInc@gmail.com)

We look forward to beginning work with two new job seekers later this year.



## Educational Outreach

### *Our Educational Outreach Initiative Continues to Grow*

The goal of Educational Outreach is to provide area families, educators, and service providers with useful information related to the transition process and life in the community after educational entitlements end.

Educational Outreach has three components:

- Monthly **FRIDAY FORUM** seminars featuring a variety of disability-related speakers
- Monthly **INFORMATIONAL TOURS** highlighting different employment, residential, and day service models
- A day-long annual **TRANSITION SUMMIT** which allows us to address one topic in a more in-depth manner

This year's Summit focused on employment, while our 2019 Summit will address housing. In 2017-2018, 260 different individuals attended one or more Educational Outreach events for a total of over 400 interactions.

**THANK YOU** to the Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization (NSSEO) for partnering with us on Educational Outreach, and to the Hoffman Estates Commission for Disabled Citizens for co-sponsoring the Transition Summit again this year.



Big thanks also to Palatine Township for helping to fund this initiative through a community grant. We are grateful to all of you for your support!

## Creative Day Services

### *Part of Our Mission from the Beginning*

When we founded CTC in 2013, Creative Day Services became part of our mission because, at the time, the only day programs in our area were sheltered workshops. It's all about having a choice, and by working to increase the number of **QUALITY PROGRAMS** in our area, we hoped that young adults with disabilities might have the choices they deserved in day services.

Flash forward five short years and three community-based, creative day options have opened here in the

northwest suburbs with more in the works. As advocates, we have enjoyed meeting with our area service providers in order to communicate the needs of our families, and we are thrilled that so many of them have recognized those needs and taken steps to fill them.

CTC will continue to be an **ADVOCATE** for creative day options until every individual is able to access day services that are right for them.

## Community Collaborations

### *Creating Awareness and Expanding Dialogue*

In partnership with the Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA), CTC co-hosted a community event last fall featuring Greg Fenton, then Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Illinois Department of Human Services.

This event aimed to create an **AWARENESS** of existing issues within the state while expanding a dialogue between DHS and families.



We were encouraged by the topics addressed at the event and look forward to **COLLABORATING** with NWSRA again, this time on the topic of transportation.

We are currently working with NWSRA and Campfire Concepts to create a detailed survey designed to gather information regarding transportation needs and barriers. Families should watch for that survey in their email later this year.

## Service Opportunities

### *Our Collaboration with the Palatine Chamber of Commerce Continues!*

Throughout the spring and summer months, our young adult volunteers help the Chamber prepare promotional bags, first by collating all the coupons, flyers, and brochures supplied by area businesses, and then stuffing the bags (over 1000 this year!) for distribution at various community events.

Service opportunities allow our young adults to give back to their community while building vocational skills. They're also a lot of **FUN!**



## CTC IS LOOKING FOR PROGRAM COORDINATORS

## CTC Creations

### *Providing Opportunities through Microbusiness*

In 2016 we started a small microbusiness called CTC Creations which allows our young adults to develop, make, and sell products while earning a competitive wage.



For the past two years, we have been making **MASON JAR BROWNIE** and **COOKIE MIXES**, as well as beautiful **GIFT TAGS** out of donated greeting cards and calendars.

Last holiday season we made and sold over 300 brownie jars and 20 of our young adults were paid for their work—a first for some of them.

Patty Terzich and Kathy Kotel did a fantastic job running CTC Creations last year, but they have chosen to step aside, so we are again **SEEKING VOLUNTEERS** to take charge of this wonderful initiative.

If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities, please contact us at:

[ConnectToCommunityInc@gmail.com](mailto:ConnectToCommunityInc@gmail.com)

## Social Events

### *Social Opportunities for Young Adults*

Monthly meet-ups give our young adult clients and their families the opportunity to socialize together out in the community.

Past activities have included things such as:

- Karaoke at a local restaurant
- Schaumburg Boomers baseball game
- Paint Night at Pinot's Palette
- Summer concerts out in the community

Unfortunately, social events are currently on hold until volunteers can be found to help plan and facilitate them.





# How YOU Can Help ...

## Fundraisers

Attend a fundraiser! While we actively seek local grants and individual donations to support our work, we still rely heavily on our fundraisers to keep things up and running.

This year's **FALL FUNDRAISER** will be a Trivia Night on Saturday, October 13, at the Rolling Meadows Community Center. In addition to attending the event, we are always looking for donations of items we can use in our raffles (gift cards and wine are especially popular!).

*Sign up for Trivia Night using the flyer on page 7!*

## Donations

The average cost of Customized Employment services for a single job seeker usually averages over \$5,000 with the family paying less than 20%, so we rely on all of you to help us make up the difference. Whether you are a parent who benefits from our services or a community member who appreciates the work that we do, we would be **GRATEFUL** for your support.

Please check out our website for information on how to make a cash donation through PayPal or by mail:

[www.connecttocommunityinc.org/donate/](http://www.connecttocommunityinc.org/donate/)

## Amazon Smile Program

Support us through the Amazon Smile program. Simply go to [www.smile.amazon.com/ch/46-3714006](http://www.smile.amazon.com/ch/46-3714006) and select Connect to Community, Palatine, as your chosen charity. Every eligible purchase you make through smile.amazon.com will result in a 0.5% donation to CTC. It's an easy way to support us while doing your regular Amazon shopping, especially with the holidays right around the corner.

## Volunteer!

Whether you have an interest in helping with a specific event/project or joining our Board of Directors, we would welcome your involvement. The more people who volunteer their time, the faster we can expand our work and achieve our goals.

We currently have six Directors, with room for three more, so if you're interested in attending a Board Meeting to see what it's like, just let us know. In addition to board members, we could use help in the following areas:

### FUNDRAISING CO-CHAIR

Help plan and facilitate our semi-annual fundraising events.

### EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH CO-CHAIR

Help schedule speakers and tours, develop flyers, print seminar materials and/or work the check-in at our forums, tours and Summit.

### DATA MANAGEMENT

Input attendance and evaluations from our Educational Outreach events and add new contacts to our database.

### GRANT WRITER

Search for/prepare grant applications to benefit our work.

### COMMUNICATIONS LIAISON

Write and submit press releases to area publications.

### SERVICE CO-CHAIR

Help to coordinate and facilitate our volunteer opportunities at the Palatine Chamber of Commerce.

### SOCIAL EVENT CHAIRMEN

Help to plan and facilitate community-based social events for our young adults and their families.

### CTC CREATIONS CHAIRMEN

Coordinate our CTC Creations microbusiness, allowing our young adults the opportunity to develop, make and sell products while earning a competitive wage. In the past, this has been largely an October-December commitment, but new chairmen can take it in any direction they choose.

If you have a different **TALENT/INTEREST** or just want to help, there's always a place for you on the CTC team! For more information about volunteering or attending a CTC board meeting, please contact Linda Hall at:

[ConnectToCommunityInc@gmail.com](mailto:ConnectToCommunityInc@gmail.com)

## Educational Outreach • Fall 2018

Friday Forums and Informational Tours are designed to provide families, educators, and service providers with useful information related to the transition process as well as life in the community after educational entitlements end.

Events are free, but **advanced registration is required at [www.Eventbrite.com](http://www.Eventbrite.com)**; space may be limited.

### ~FRIDAY FORUMS~

**11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Palatine Library, Meeting Room 1, 700 N. North Court, Palatine.**

Registration deadline is the Wednesday before the event. CEUs/PDs are available upon request.

**September 14** ~ *Building a Life After School Ends: Opportunities and Challenges within Adult Services*

Meg Cooch, Executive Director, ARC of Illinois, and Cindi Swanson, Parent and Life Span Resource Specialist, ARC of Illinois, will discuss the structure of adult services, key points of contact, barriers and challenges, and advocacy opportunities.

<https://ctcseptember2018fridayforum.eventbrite.com>

**October 12** ~ *Post-Transition Employment Services*

Representatives from The Center for Enriched Living, Clearbrook, JVS Chicago, and Little City will each present an overview of their organization's vocational services. Connect to Community will also speak briefly on its Customized Employment initiative.

<https://ctcoctober2018fridayforum.eventbrite.com>

**November 9** ~ *Understanding Government Benefits*

Sherri Schneider, President, Family Benefit Solutions, will explain the who, what, when and where of the four major government benefit programs (SSI, SSDI, Medicaid and Medicare), how they change over a lifetime, and how to protect them.

<https://ctcnovember2018fridayforum.eventbrite.com>

### ~INFORMATIONAL TOURS~

Registration deadline is the Monday before the event. Opportunities to carpool will be available.

**September 26 (12:30-2:00)** ~ *Our House Communities (OHC), Wilmette (address provided upon tour registration)*

A family-driven nonprofit, OHC is creating cutting-edge residential options for those who want to live on their own, control their day-to-day activities, and reside in their home community. Visit [www.OurHouseCommunities.org](http://www.OurHouseCommunities.org) for more details.

<https://ctcseptember2018infotour.eventbrite.com>

**October 31 (10:00-Noon)** ~ *Lambs Farm, 14245 W. Rockland Road, Libertyville*

In addition to residential services, Lambs Farm provides a wide variety of vocational, recreational, and life-enrichment programs that are available to people who live in their homes or are supported by other services. Be advised that there will be a significant amount of walking on this tour.

<https://ctcoctober2018infotour.eventbrite.com>

**November 28 (10:00-11:30)** ~ *Independent Living at Home, Naperville (address provided upon tour registration)*

The Koupal family has created a new, innovative residential model by converting their home into a CILA for their son and three roommates while building on an addition where the parents plan to live well into their senior years. The family will discuss the challenges and successes they've encountered while making this creative home a reality.

<https://ctcnovember2018infotour.eventbrite.com>

For more information about these and other Connect to Community events, please visit our website at [www.ConnectToCommunityInc.org](http://www.ConnectToCommunityInc.org) or email us at [ConnectToCommunityInc@gmail.com](mailto:ConnectToCommunityInc@gmail.com)



Educational Outreach events are offered in partnership with the **Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization (NSSEO)** and paid for in part by a community grant from Palatine Township.

**Thank you for your support!**

# TRIVIA Night



## Eight ROUNDS OF Trivia, Games, Prizes, & More!

Saturday, October 13, 2018

Doors open at 6:30 pm  
Games begin at 7:00 pm

Rolling Meadows Community Center  
3705 Pheasant Drive, Rolling Meadows, IL

A **\$200** prize will be awarded to the team with the most correct answers!

### What you need to do...

- Arrange a group of up to **8** people—if you don't have a full table, we will gladly pair you with others who are short a full table. If you want, choose a theme and decorate your table.
- Pre-order a **pizza** to be delivered to your table, or bring your own food.
- Beer, wine, soft drinks, & water will be **on sale** at the event—  
Please note that no outside liquor will be allowed.
- Space is limited, so get your responses in **today!**

Responses must be received by **Friday, October 5, 2018**. Register **ONLINE** through PayPal (click here) or our website: [www.ConnectToCommunityInc.org](http://www.ConnectToCommunityInc.org) . Or **MAIL** a check payable to Connect to Community, Inc. with completed form to: P.O. Box 1922, Palatine, IL 60078

**YES**, I will attend # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20/person or # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$150/full table of 8

To receive the full table discount, please register the team on one form with payment in full

**NO**, I cannot attend, but please accept my donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pizza:** 18" 1-Topping @ \$20/each

# of Cheese \_\_\_\_\_

# of Sausage \_\_\_\_\_

# of Pepperoni \_\_\_\_\_

Please seat me with the following people:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Team Name \_\_\_\_\_



# Help Us Connect!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Hall  
Barb Tobias  
Mary Hanson  
Sheryl James  
Sandy Ricketts  
Dawn Wiebe



Do you know of any local businesses or organizations that would be interested in supporting our mission?

We are always on the look-out for grant opportunities, corporate sponsors, fundraising assistance and most importantly, potential employers for our job seekers.

*Help us spread the word!*

## Visit Our Website

We list lots of events on our website:

[ConnectToCommunityInc.org](http://ConnectToCommunityInc.org)

Be sure to visit us often so that you don't miss out on something that might be of interest to you.

## Like Us on Facebook

In addition to CTC news, we often post interesting disability-related articles on our Facebook page along with information about other area events.

Keep in the loop by liking us at:

[THEOFFICIALCTC](https://www.facebook.com/TheOfficialCTC)



## Follow Us on Twitter

While we are not prolific tweeters (we're working on that!), follow us on Twitter:

[@TheOfficialCTC](https://twitter.com/TheOfficialCTC)

## CONTACT US:

Connect to Community, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1922  
Palatine, IL 60078

[ConnectToCommunityInc@gmail.com](mailto:ConnectToCommunityInc@gmail.com)