



OUR MISSION

To provide and promote opportunities that empower people with disabilities to achieve their potential.

Learn more about the League
by visiting our Web site:
www.the-league.org

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Fall 2009

The Voice of Opportunity

Reaching out to our neighbors

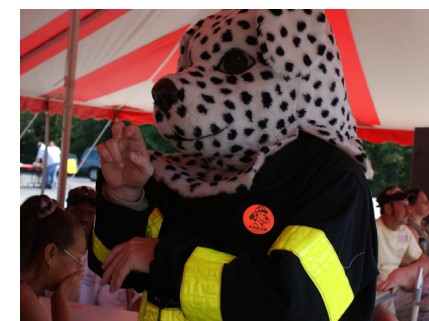
On August 15, one of the hottest days of the summer, the League hosted the Southside Block Party. Southside businesses and friends overwhelmingly responded to the event by donating over \$1,000 and hundreds of volunteer hours for the event. Over 500 people enjoyed an afternoon of food and fun. The smell of hot dogs filled the air, cotton candy and snow cones filled the mouths of young and old, and the Bingo tent offered the chance to win prizes galore.



The afternoon offered activities for everyone. A colorful parade of young and old alike led the way to the wheelchair basketball game. The Mad Ant brought smiles to many, both on and off the basketball court. Our neighbors enjoyed Bingo, a Cake Walk, hula hoops, door prizes, bouncing in the Moon Walk, clowns, balloon animals, meeting SADAR the fire dog, and a fire engine tour.

Southside businesses and neighbors teamed up to help people in need. Bags of school supplies were given to 100 children to help them start off the school year. Because of the generosity of those attending, 140 pounds of food was donated to Community Harvest Food Bank.

Thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, and donated as we came together to celebrate our community and also help neighbors in need.



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Saving lives



Smoke alarms save lives. A working smoke alarm can make the difference between life and death. But what if you couldn’t hear the alarm because you are Deaf or Hard of Hearing? The answer is simple but expensive - smoke alarm units for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing designed to activate a strobe light and vibrations in the event of a fire.

The **Fort Wayne Fire Department (FWFD)** received a grant from **Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Projects Division of the City of Fort Wayne** to provide these special smoke alarm systems. The **Delta Gamma Chapter of Psi Iota Xi** stepped forward and offered a donation to pay for the interpreter’s time to assist with the installation at the homes. The League’s DeafLink division worked with these groups and Deaf consumers to coordinate the installation of the alarms.

The cost for each of these units - \$400. Saving lives with these units - priceless. Through this grant, 16 smoke alarms were installed in homes, benefiting 23 people. There are many other homes on a waiting list as the grant was depleted. Thanks to all the partners who made this possible.

Introducing In-Home Care

The newest division of the League is In-Home Care Services, with Juanita DeLeon as director of this ever growing program. Consumers are able to remain in their homes and community with the assistance provided by this program. In-Home Care is for people of all ages with chronic disabilities, those recovering from hospitalization, and caregivers who are in need of assistance. Three types of in-home care are available:

Homemaker Service provides help with household chores such as grocery shopping, meal planning and preparation, laundry, and housekeeping tasks.

Attendant Care assists with personal care like bathing, dressing, meal preparation, medication reminder and assistance with transferring and mobility.

Respite Care provides relief and/or assistance for the caregiver in the comfort of their own home including overnight stays as needed. Services may include a combination of both Homemaker Service and Attendant Care.

Taking Time to Reflect

There is so much to be thankful for here at the League and so much to celebrate — wonderful volunteers, growth into exciting new service areas, caring and committed Board and staff members, strong community partnerships, and dedicated supporters (just to name a few). Unfortunately, we often don’t take time to reflect on these gifts and celebrate the accomplishments that have been made.

We should all probably put more of an effort into this. Here are some ways that I can suggest. Go online or obtain a copy of the agency’s annual report and read about the accomplishments. Volunteer and see the faces of those you help with your service or financial support. You are always welcome to visit the agency and see the excitement that comes from the people here who make up the front line of advocates for opportunity. Or you can join in some of the events that the League sponsors, such as the South Side Pride Block Party, annual volunteer recognition lunch, or the upcoming Holiday Celebration on December 3 (watch for more details about this upcoming event).

But whatever you do as we move into the Fall and toward the season of Thanksgiving, don’t forget to take time to reflect, to be thankful, and to celebrate. We are all working toward a better future that is being built on the accomplishments of this day and the ones that have come before.

David A. Nelson, CRC
President/CEO

Monthly Support Groups

At the League Office

Structured Support Group

First Thursday
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Consumer Education Group

Second Thursday
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Social/Recreational Group

Fourth Thursday
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

In Your Neighborhood

Couples Support Group

Second Monday
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Good Shepherd United
Methodist Church

Fort Wayne

Second Tuesday
1:30 -3:00 p.m.

Shepherd of the Hill
Kendallville

Third Tuesday
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Woodcrest Retirement Center
Decatur

First Wednesday
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Cameron Woods
Senior Living

Angola

Third Wednesday
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Miller’s Merry Manor
LaGrange

Third Thursday
1:15 – 3:00 p.m.

Heimack Center
Auburn