



# Eisenhower Cooperative's **Community Resource Fair**

**Tuesday, February 6th 2024**

**6:00pm - 7:30pm**

**At Eisenhower Cooperative**

**5318 135th St, Crestwood IL  
Behind Nathan Hale Middle School**

**Do you care for someone with a disability? Do you know what resources are available in your community? Join us for Eisenhower Cooperative's first Community Resource Fair to learn about what is available in our community for caregivers and the ones they care for.**

**Participants Include:**

Illinois Respite Coalition  
Southwest Special Recreation  
Association  
Arab American Family Services

Equip for Equality  
Suburban Access  
Illinois ABLE Accounts  
Gigi's Playhouse  
Swim Learn Play

ASL, Spanish, and Arabic interpreters will be available onsite.

**Questions? Email Megan Truscott at [mtruscott@eisencoop.org](mailto:mtruscott@eisencoop.org)**

## **List of Attending Organizations**

### **Eisenhower Cooperative Resource Fair 2024**

#### **Good Shepherd Center**

Good Shepherd Center, a community advocate for children and adults, with and without disabilities, provides support, services, and education that empower individuals and families to lead exceptional lives. Their services include in-home respite programs, children and adult waiver programs, and community partner programs, among others.

#### **Illinois Respite Coalition**

The Illinois Respite Coalition (IRC) is a not-for-profit organization of caregivers and respite providers dedicated to advocating support for families by ensuring access to quality respite services for the residents of Illinois. The IRC is dedicated to spreading the awareness of lifespan respite for caregivers of individuals with special needs. The IRC is able to assist caregivers by connecting them to resources in their area, provide training on respite topics, and providing funding available through our various programs including: in-home respite, voucher respite, emergency respite, and the lending library program.

#### **Clearbrook**

For more than 6 decades, Clearbrook has been providing top-quality programming and services to children and adults across a variety of disabilities.

They offer personalized children's, adult day, employment, residential and clinical services at more than 80 locations throughout Chicagoland. In addition, Clearbrook is the largest provider of home-based services in the state of Illinois.

#### **Swim Learn Play**

Swim Learn Play is an aquatic speech therapy company that takes therapy outside of the clinic. Our children get direct, 1 on 1 speech therapy services and basic water safety skills in an aquatic setting. When children's sensory needs are met, their communication skills tend to thrive; being in the water can help accomplish just that. Along with our background in water activities/sports, our passion for working with the neurodiverse pediatric population on communication skills allowed us to combine our expertise in a way that would provide maximal benefits to our clients by addressing two major areas for growth at once.

#### **SWSRA**

South West Special Recreation Association (SWSRA) was formed in 1981 to provide year-round quality therapeutic recreation programs and services for individuals with intellectual and/or physical disabilities. SWSRA programs offer a wide variety of programs for individuals in early childhood through adulthood. These programs are designed to increase independence and enhance the quality of life for each individual. SWSRA works to provide an inclusive environment in which allows the participants to thrive in recreational settings with their peers. This includes but is not limited to individuals who have varying degrees of physical or mental disabilities, learning disabilities, behavior disorders, and hearing or visual impairments.

SWSRA is comprised of member districts that include: Alsip Park District, Blue Island Park District, Hickory Hills Park District, Village of Merrionette Park, Midlothian Park District, Palos Heights Parks & Recreation Department, Posen Park District, and Worth Park District.

### **KEEN Chicago**

KEEN's vision is to create communities in which individuals with disabilities have equal opportunities for recreation, fitness, and friendship; provide families with respite and a supportive network; foster a lifelong commitment to positive change for volunteers through their engagement with KEEN athletes; develop partnerships to actively promote disability awareness.

### **Sertoma Star**

Sertoma Star Service's mission is to empower individuals with disabilities, their families, and those living with mental illness to achieve personal success by providing choices and opportunities. They envision a future where all people with disabilities and those living with mental illness live, work, and fully participate as productive and valued citizens in society. Services include Community Mental Health and Counseling, Community Education, and Life Skills Enrichment programs, among others.

### **Solid Ground Behavioral Services**

Welcome to Solid Ground Behavioral Services Inc., where we have FUN empowering children, families and educators to overcome behavioral health challenges and related stigma. The Yoruba proverb "He who does not know, can know from learning" encompasses our service spirit. Our service approach is rooted in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). Services are available in both English or Spanish.

### **Equip for Equality**

Equip for Equality supports the rights of people to make their own decisions and seeks to remove barriers that prevent them from being productive, independent and successful in all aspects of their lives: school, college, employment, recreation, sports, independent living and civic involvement.

We want to break down barriers that hold back people with disabilities, preventing them from making their own decisions and leading their own lives. We tackle common problems that affect large numbers of people with disabilities in order to find solutions to help others avoid the same problems in the future. Equip for Equality provides disability rights trainings to assist individuals and families to advocate for themselves or others.

### **Starnet**

Illinois STAR NET envisions a future where early childhood professionals and families have the supports needed to provide all children with a high quality, equitable education in inclusive environments. STAR NET's mission is to promote evidence-based inclusive practices for young children with disabilities, professional development to support educators and families, and meaningful child outcomes through innovative and engaging learning experiences.

### **Illinois Department of Human Services**

The Children and Youth Community Programs Manager from the Division of Mental Health will be joining the resource fair to discuss services and resources provided by the state for youths with mental health challenges.

### **Arab American Family Services**

AAFS provides service to over 30 communities in the South Suburban Chicagoland area. Our programs focus on the areas of safety net case management as well as domestic violence prevention and intervention, elderly and disability assistance, cultural diversity training, mental health assistance, immigration services, community health and education programs and youth programs. AAFS is a non-political, non-religious organization that focuses on building respect and understanding between Arab-Americans and the mainstream-American culture. We not only assist Arab speakers in their native language and dialect, we are increasingly recognized by government agencies and other nonprofits as the best local resource for cultural exchange and translation services. AAFS serves as a catalyst for social change by actively seeking to confront the myths and taboos that have kept some Arab Americans from obtaining the assistance they need. By helping local neighbors overcome personal crisis, strengthen their families, and live healthier, more successful lives, AAFS is making a profound and positive impact in our community.

### **Suburban Access**

Suburban Access, Inc. is an independent service coordination and advocacy agency that links children and adults who have disabilities with life-enhancing services, relevant programs and experiences, and personal supports to empower them to live life without limits. They assist with the following services free of charge:

- Assessments and screening to document disability and verify that an individual qualifies for state funding.
- Assistance in enrolling in the Illinois database (PUNS) which is necessary to receive services.
- Action Plan for pursuing services and support in coordination with the family.
- Access to services which include residential and community day services, Home-Based programs, respite services and linkage to a variety of community resources.
- Advocacy to ensure that services provided meet the needs of the individual and standards of Illinois.

### **CEDA**

The Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc. (CEDA) is one of the largest private, nonprofit Community Action Agencies in the country, serving residents throughout Cook County, Illinois. We serve more than 300,000 people and more than 150,000 households every year. CEDA offers a variety of programs and services in the areas of community and economic development, education, emergency assistance, employment and training, energy conservation and services, health and nutrition, and housing.

### **Pillars Community Health**

Pillars Community Health is an innovative provider of health and social services, one of the first nonprofits in the state of Illinois to integrate primary medical and dental care with mental health and social services. Our services are community-based—meaning you can locate services close to home and staff are working to help you remain and thrive in your community. We believe in creating an empowering, caring environment where you can make informed decisions about your future.

We envision communities where all people have equal access to the care they need, when they need it. To that end, we are committed to eliminating barriers to care such as language, income, or stigma. Many of our programs are available in both English and Spanish; some programs are offered in Arabic or Polish. Some services are available free of charge; others are offered on a sliding fee scale (meaning the amount you pay depends on your ability to pay).

### **Gigi's Playhouse**

We change lives through the consistent delivery of free educational, therapeutic-based, and career development programs for individuals with Down syndrome, their families, and the community, through a replicable playhouse model. With over 58+ brick-and-mortar locations across the United States and Mexico and 200 inquiries to start new locations all over the world, GiGi's Playhouse is the ONLY network of Down Syndrome Achievement Centers. Every day, we provide FREE, life-changing therapeutic, educational, and career training programs for 30,000+ individuals of all ages.

### **PACE at National Louis**

P.A.C.E. at National Louis University (NLU) is a three-year post-secondary program designed for young adults with multiple intellectual, learning and developmental disabilities ready to thrive in the vibrant city of Chicago! We are one of the leading residential-based programs in the country that integrates employment preparation, independent living skills coaching, functional academic courses and social development into a curriculum that prepares students for independent living through experiential learning.

Students have a range of intellectual, learning and developmental disabilities, most often in areas of language, mathematics, reading comprehension, abstract reasoning, as well as organizational and social difficulties. Student diagnoses include learning and intellectual disabilities, high-functioning autism spectrum disorders, executive function disorder, speech and language impairments, and other similar disabilities that interfere with learning and success in a traditional college program.

### **Illinois ABLE Accounts**

IL ABLE "Achieving a Better Life Experience" Accounts give people with disabilities and their families greater financial independence while preserving benefits. A high-quality, low-cost IL ABLE savings and investment Account can be opened by an Eligible Individual, or Authorized Individual, at any time, no matter what state they live in.

Savings in an IL ABLE Account are not counted in determining entitlement to any federal needs-based benefits. This includes such programs as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Medical Assistance (Medicaid), Supplemental

Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), housing assistance programs, and federal financial aid for higher education.

### **Illinois Service Resource Center**

The Illinois Service Resource Center provides behavior support for students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or visually impaired in Illinois.

ISRC team members work with educators and families onsite to develop individualized behavior support plans.

Behavior support can be for individual students with challenges, or at the preventive level with classrooms or school programs. ISRC serves students with hearing loss regardless of communication mode. ISRC provides behavior support for parents who are themselves deaf or hard of hearing, regardless of the hearing status of the child.

### **Aunt Martha's Health & Wellness**

Aunt Martha's Health and Wellness boldly commits to supporting the well-being of our communities, ensuring equity in access and delivering exceptional care inspired by a culture of innovation. We envision strong, healthy communities, where everyone has access to high quality health and wellness care, leading to better social and emotional health.

Based on your needs, your PCP and Care Team at your medical home can help you get many kinds of other services. Our model makes it easy to connect patients with:

- Behavioral health services (therapy, counseling, psychiatry)
- Specialty health care services
- Substance use disorder (SUD) services
- Community-based support services like basic needs (food, clothing), housing and shelter, and transportation
- Education and employment services
- Care for special populations

### **Love a Latte**

LoveALatte Coffee was established as a nonprofit pop-up coffee shop in 2018. We are a job training opportunity for young adults with special needs in Kankakee County. Our interns receive hands on training in customer service, money management, beverage preparation, among other skills related to future successful employment. You can help support our mission by buying our coffee or making a donation through this website.