



IN THIS ISSUE

Mosaic Mural Unveiled	1
Competitive Employment Empowerment	2
Giving Opportunity Maximized	2
Collaboration with Coping Together	3
Art From The Heart	4
Electronic Recycling	4

## Unveiling of “Freedom Rising” Mosaic Mural

The Douglas Center proudly debuted the creation of its newest Mosaic Mural on September 27, 2018. This beautiful work of art was a collaborative effort created by program participants in the Art From The Heart Creations® program under the skillful guidance of Chris Zonta our art facilitator. The mosaic mural was specifically created for the center’s “High Fives” Adapted Sports Recreation Area. The design theme was inspired by and reflects life at The Douglas Center through art.



left: Art facilitator, Chris Zonta, describes the meaning of the individual mandala-like flowers to attendees at the unveiling of the mural.

below: Board Members, Russell and Bonni anticipate the unveiling of the mural



“Our core ideals are expressed beautifully in this mural: dignity, respect, diversity, choices and growth.” – Rifath Khan

The mosaic artistry features five words that describe The Douglas Center. Rifath Khan, CEO, beautifully expresses her perception on the chosen words...

**DIGNITY** the right of each human being – our birthright. At The Douglas Center, we encourage everyone to live with dignity.

**RESPECT** on the other hand is earned through our actions. Respecting each other at The Douglas Center is essential. Each person is encouraged to respect others and learn to work with differences.

**DIVERSITY** brings enrichment – admiring, adopting tolerance and appreciating differences. As we learn about individual backgrounds, ethnicities, ages, abilities and religions, we come together and work in harmony.

**CHOICES** The Douglas Center believes in giving choices to the individuals we serve. Each participant is encouraged to make choices in their daily activities and take the responsibility that comes with choices. We provide a wide variety of activities, programs, work, fun activities,



The **Douglas Center**

A ray of light for individuals with special needs

(Continued on page 3)

# The Douglas Center Celebrates Empowering People to Succeed

Beginning a new job can be an exciting time in one's life. You are filled with the anticipation of a new beginning, new possibilities, new people to meet, new skills to acquire. It can be a bit overwhelming but you are excited and up to the challenge.

For individuals with special needs, taking this step requires a great deal of courage, job skills training, independent social skills building and self-esteem. The Douglas Center through its numerous and diverse programming choices, works tirelessly to meet its mission *“to assist adults living with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities in improving their independent living skills and enrichment of their quality of life.”* By providing work skills training, employment preparatory classes (resume building, interviewing skills, etc.), in-house supported employment opportunities and case management, The Douglas Center assists in preparing individuals with special needs for Community Competitive Employment. One person at a time, The Douglas Center is changing lives, by preparing and empowering them to pursue more choices for themselves.

Over the years, The Douglas Center has witnessed countless success stories among those that we serve. We have witnessed small milestones like learning to independently take public transportation to larger ones like landing their first job in the community. Here are just a few examples of program participants who hold employment positions in the community. The Douglas Center is honored to celebrate their courage, hard work and success!

Harrison R. has recently been started a part-time competitive employment position as a dishwasher while continuing to attend The Douglas Center full-time.

Ryan N. began a part-time position at Taco Bell in August of 2017. He recently took a new position with Jewel Osco which offered him more hours. Ryan attends The Douglas Center on the days that he is not scheduled to work in the community,



William D. began working for Taco Bell in 2017. He recently took on a new opportunity with Wal-Mart. William attends The Douglas Center on the days that he is not scheduled to work.

A.S. works at TJ Maxx every Wednesday. She continues to attend The Douglas Center when she is not scheduled to work in the community.

“We are thrilled to celebrate the milestones and successes of our program participants,” stated Rifath Khan, CEO. “We continue to expand our programs and services to be able to provide more choices for their growth and success. Please join me in celebrating their hard work and achievements!”

## Maximize Your Opportunity to Change Lives This November 2018

Your gift during the month of November will have a greater impact in the lives of those living with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities. We ask your support by making a donation to The Douglas Center during the month of November. The Douglas Center is grateful and excited to be participating in The Coleman Foundation/#ILGIVE Matching Grants Program. From November 1st to November 27, 2018 individual donors making an online gift of \$175 or more will receive a \$175 match.

On November 27, 2018, The Douglas Center once again will join #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving. This day of giving harnesses the collective power

of individuals, communities, and organizations to encourage philanthropy and to celebrate generosity worldwide. It is a day that kicks off the giving season by inspiring people to collaborate and give back.

Thanks to the generosity of The Coleman Foundation, you have an opportunity to make an even bigger impact on the lives of those most at risk. To DONATE ONLINE, please visit our website: [www.thedouglascenter.org](http://www.thedouglascenter.org) and click on the “DONATE TODAY” BUTTON...then follow the prompts.

Last year, The Douglas Center was thrilled to receive notification of personal

fundraisers that were set up for our organization on Facebook. We would be honored if you would consider this option during this key giving opportunity. If you would like assistance or more information on how to set this up, please contact Linda Cordero, Marketing and Development at [lcordero@thedouglascenter.org](mailto:lcordero@thedouglascenter.org) or via phone: 847-674-1921 ext. 245.

Remember, only donations made online will qualify for the match dollars. Your gift to The Douglas Center in any amount is greatly appreciated and will make a difference in the lives of so many. Please remember The Douglas Center in your November giving. We are grateful for your support!

## Mosaic Mural Unveiling *(continued)*

x community outings. We believe that each individual we serve has differences, therefore we have many choices to suit the various needs of individuals we serve.

**GROWTH** With the variety of choices available and more new choices added regularly, we have seen a lot of Growth among our participants; not only in age but in learning new skills, improving oneself, self-control, anger management, developing patience. We have seen individuals who begin working on piece work inconsistently then go on to working in the community competitively. Individuals who come to us feeling lonely then go on to developing friendship and life partners... or come to our center being dependent on needing to be transported then on to taking public transportation independently... others who have come to us with no background and skills in art becoming artists, learning to paint, create mosaics and make jewelry.

The white bird in the mosaic mural represents FREEDOM... Freedom to come to The Douglas Center... Freedom to choose what you want to do with dignity and respecting Differences ...and FREEDOM to grow without limits!



The unveiling took place in the “High Fives” Adapted Sports Recreation area. The Douglas Center Board of Directors member, Russell Bryant performed the unveiling honors. Following the unveiling The Douglas Center Program Participant Choir performed the song, “You’ve Got A Friend In Me.”

The mosaic mural and the “High Fives” Adapted Sports Recreation program was made possible by grants from The Coleman Foundation and The Field Foundation of Illinois. The Douglas Center would like to express our deepest appreciation for their generous support.



## The Douglas Center is Collaborating with Coping Together for Behavioral Health Therapy

Individuals with special needs face a variety of challenges in everyday living. They often require assistance in learning new skills as well as unlearning problem or challenging behaviors. People living with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities may benefit from therapeutic treatment for emotional, psychological and behavioral challenges.

The Douglas Center is pleased to announce a new addition to our extensive list of programs and services that we provide to our participants.

**“We are thrilled to be able to provide this new service”**

*– Rifath Khan*

Our center in collaboration with behavioral therapists from Coping Together will be offering behavioral therapy to our program participants who would benefit from mental health counseling. Coping Together is a non-profit organization that assists individuals with developmental disabilities receive quality treatment for emotional, psychological and behavioral challenges.

This addition to The Douglas Center is in keeping with the vision set forth by Rifath Khan, CEO. “We are always seeking opportunities to expand the choices and services in our programming for our participants,” stated Rifath Khan. “We are thrilled to be able to provide this new service. We look forward to working with Coping Together in this collaborative effort to support the behavioral challenges that our participants face.”



**The Douglas Center**

3445 Howard Street, Skokie, IL 60076  
(847) 674-1921 Phone | (847) 679-1823 Fax  
[www.thedouglascenter.com](http://www.thedouglascenter.com)

ENGAGE & stay connected



# SAVE THE DATE Thursday, December 6, 2018

## WINTER ART SHOW & SALE

### WONDERLAND



**11:00am to 3pm**  
**The Douglas Center**  
**3445 Howard Street, Skokie**

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



On display will be an assortment of beautiful gifts and home decor... mosaic flower pots, mosaic mirrors, coaster sets, paintings, inspiration plaques, greeting cards, candle holders and so much more 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 “Art From The Heart” Creations “Winter Wonderland” Art Show & Sale. The beautiful pieces on display would make a wonderful holiday gifts for you or someone special. Stop by and browse their gallery for a great gift! For more information please contact The Douglas Center at 847-674-1921.



OUR MISSION

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.

## 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  
Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 3:00pm

We accept the following:

- > Cell Phones
- > Flat Screen Desktop Computers
- > CPUs (Central Processing Unit)
- > Servers and Networking Equipment
- > Laptops and tablets
- > Docking Stations
- > Copiers
- > Universal Power Supply
- > Hard Drives
- > Lithium Ion Batteries
- > Cell Phone Batteries
- > Computer Accessories
- > Computer Cords & Wires
- > Lithium Ion Power Tool Batteries
- > Lithium Ion Modem Batteries
- > Printers/Fax Machines
- > LCD Monitors
- > Flat Screen Televisions

*Please note : We do not accept CRT Monitors or Televisions*