



Thank You for Making The Douglas Center #GivingTuesday Campaign a Great Success!

On November 28, 2017, The Douglas Center once again joined #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving. Now in its 6th year, #GivingTuesday has become a global movement engaging thousands of organizations worldwide. This is a day when charities, families, businesses, community centers and students from around the world come together for a common purpose to celebrate generosity and to give.



#GIVINGTUESDAY™

The Douglas Center was grateful and excited to have had the opportunity to participate in a matching donation program sponsored by The Coleman Foundation. From November 1st through the 3rd... AND... on #GivingTuesday, The Coleman Foundation offered a match for donations made online to The Douglas Center. Thanks to the generosity of The Coleman Foundation every gift had an even greater impact in the lives of those we serve living with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities.

We would like to offer a very special thanks to Kathleen Kane, a supporter of The Douglas Center, who raised \$435 for our center through her personal Facebook Fundraiser. Kathleen issued this request to her Facebook Friends and supporters in honor of her birthday:

“This year my birthday falls on giving Tuesday and I’m raising money for The Douglas Center and I’d love your support.

Any amount is appreciated! I’ve included information about The Douglas Center below...

The mission of The Douglas Center is to “assist adults living with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities in improving their independent living skills and enrichment of their quality of life.”

“Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported The Douglas Center by making a donation”

– Rifath Khan

The Douglas Center is thrilled to announce that we not only surpassed last year’s #GivingTuesday fundraising efforts...we also met and surpassed our #GivingTuesday fundraising goal for this year. Our goal was to raise \$10,000 and thanks to you, we surpassed that goal! We couldn’t have done this without your continued support for the work that we do and the individuals that we are honored to serve. “I would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to everyone who

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| #GivingTuesday Success | 1 |
| Baking a Difference | 2 |
| Goodwill Cares | 2 |
| Keller Williams Charity Golf Outing | 3 |
| Staff Promotions | 3 |
| Welcome New Staff | 3 |
| Perfect Score on DHS Survey | 3 |
| “Douglas Good Deeds” Project | 4 |

SINCEREST GRATITUDE TO



supported The Douglas Center by making a donation”, remarked Rifath Khan, CEO for The Douglas Center. “Thank you to all of our supporters who took the time to share our information with your family and friends.”



The Douglas Center

A ray of light for individuals with special needs

Baking a Difference: The Douglas Center Birthday Bakers

The Douglas Center prides itself on providing a wide range of meaningful program choices for its program participants with special needs. The center's programming includes art, music, horticulture, physical recreation, vocational training as well as its many clinical services. In keeping with its mission, the focus of the center's programming revolves around assisting adults living with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities in the improvement of their independent living skills and enrichment of their quality of life. The Douglas Center provides opportunities for its participants to acquire many of the practical and necessary skills needed for everyday living.



Program Participants of the "Birthday Bakers" group add the finishing touches to their bakery creations for the birthday celebrants of The Douglas Center



The Douglas Center "Birthday Bakers" are ready to present their baking creations.

A delightful extension of this programming is called the "The Douglas Center Birthday Bakers." This a group of about four to five program participants who come together once a month to bake and decorate birthday cupcakes for their fellow participants who are celebrating a birthday in the current month. The "Birthday Bakers" group provides them with an opportunity to learn and to improve their cooking and baking skills in addition to bringing a great deal of joy to the birthday celebrants.

On the day of the birthday celebration, each participant celebrating a birthday receives a cupcake, a birthday card created and signed by their fellow participants and a gift of \$2. A lovely time is had by all!

Goodwill Cares Donates \$1,000 Voucher Gift Cards For Individuals With Special Needs



Program Participants of The Douglas Center enjoying their holiday shopping experience courtesy of Goodwill Cares.

The Douglas Center was the recent recipient of \$1000 in Goodwill voucher certificates from the Goodwill Cares program. The Goodwill vouchers were distributed by The Douglas Center to their program participants during the holiday season. This is the second year that the Goodwill Cares program has provided vouchers to our participants.

In years past, The Douglas Center has traditionally purchased holiday gifts for each of its participants. For most of the center's participants, the holiday gifts and festivities they experience at The Douglas Center may be the only celebration they will know. The Douglas Center has in the past provided practical gifts (e.g. winter hats, gloves, scarves). This year, as with last year, The Douglas Center utilized this generous gift as a teachable moment for our participants as well as an opportunity for each participant to purchase their own gifts. Small groups of

program participants were accompanied by their professional staff members to the local Goodwill Store in Skokie and Evanston, Illinois. Each participant was given a specific amount to spend. Throughout this experience, they were guided in shopping lessons around money management, understanding how to make good value choices when shopping, budgeting, empowerment and self-esteem.

The shopping choices made by the participants are always very enlightening as they are very specific to their needs and desires. The joy that is witnessed in this process is heartwarming for our staff. While many of our participants have purchased practical items such as clothing, purses/wallets, beauty products, etc., others have chosen items such as books, home décor, popcorn poppers, lamps, music and sports equipment. One of our participants purchased a few baby items for his new nephew expected to arrive early this year...a gift from the heart!

Keller Williams Chicago O'Hare Selects the Beneficiary of Their 2nd Annual Charity Golf Outing



Mario DiLorenzo, Managing Broker for Keller Williams Chicago, presents Rifath Khan, CEO The Douglas Center, with a check for \$4,000 from funds raised at KW Charity Golf Outing.

The Douglas Center was recently selected to be one of the nonprofit organizations benefiting from monies raised at the second Annual Keller Williams Chicago-O'Hare Charity Golf Outing. The event was held on August 30, 2017 at the White Pines Golf Club & Banquets.

The recipients were announced during the Keller Williams event dinner. Rifath Khan, The Douglas Center CEO, spoke briefly about the many opportunities and choices available at the center for individuals with special needs. "At the Douglas Center we are all about providing opportunities and choices for our participants," stated Ms. Khan. "We work with our participants

to empower and inspire them in the management of their disabilities, assisting them in building their self-esteem and improving their social, work and independent living skills." Ms. Khan shared with attendees of the event, a few inspiring examples of how lives are being changed every day at The Douglas Center.

Keller Williams Chicago-O'Hare held a special award ceremony on October 26th to present the financial gifts to each of the non-profit organizations benefiting from this fundraising event. The Douglas Center was awarded \$4,000 from the funds raised at the Keller Williams event. Keller Williams is a full service Real Estate Company; residential, commercial, luxury, international, property management and leasing, Chicago to suburban, local to global. In addition to their annual philanthropic efforts, Keller Williams also created KW Cares, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting Keller Williams associates and their families with hardship as a result of a sudden emergency.

"The Douglas Center is honored and deeply appreciative to have been selected by Keller Williams as a beneficiary of this wonderful event," commented Rifath Khan. "On behalf of our staff, board members and program participants, thank you for being a "Ray of Light" for individuals with special needs."

Goodwill Cares (continued)

"We are deeply appreciative of the generosity given to us by the Goodwill Cares Program. A very special thank you to Bill Jansen, Goodwill Marketing Specialist, who facilitated this gift for us," stated Rifath Khan, CEO. "Our participants are overjoyed with this experience. This gift not only provides a shopping experience it also provides an opportunity to further develop and improve the independent living skills of those we serve. This is truly a gift that keeps on giving!"

DHS Survey Results 100%

The Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) recently completed their annual licensure and certification survey of The Douglas Center. We are excited to announce that The Douglas Center received a score of 100%. This is the sixth consecutive year that The Douglas Center has received a score of 100% The DHS is responsible for conducting annual unannounced surveys of Human Services Providers. "We are so very proud of our staff and the excellent and caring work that they do on a daily basis," stated Rifath Khan, Chief Executive Officer of The Douglas Center.

Staff News

Recent Promotions CONGRATULATIONS



Mir Khan
Chief Operating Officer



Elizabeth Kristiansen
Director of Programs and Services



David Banas
Director of Clinical Services



Maria Bernardo
Program Manager



Robert Bryant
Sales/Production Manager



Modinat Truitt
Sewing Supervisor

WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS

- David Banas** : Director of Clinical Services
- Kimberly Weber** : Case Manager
- Jacqueline Harding** : Direct Support Professional
- Marissa Span** : Direct Support Professional
- Engracia Branham** : Direct Support Professional
- Olufunmi Aribisala** : Custodian
- Robert Bryant** : Sales/Production Manager
- Toyin Olasunkanmi** : Direct Support Professional
- Marco Ramirez** : Direct Support Professional



The **Douglas Center**

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

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.

Bring your electronic recycling to us!
We accept:



- Computers (*But NOT CRT monitors*)
- Laptops and Tablets
- Motherboards
- Heat sinks
- RAM
- Wires and Cables
- DVDs and Floppy Drives
- Hard drives

“Douglas Good Deeds” Project

Program Participants of The Douglas Center are changing lives one “Good Deed” at a time. The Douglas Center has recently launched the “Douglas Good Deeds” project for their program participants. The project is designed to recognize participants for performing a random good deed for their peers without receiving prompts from anyone. A “Good Deed” occurs when one has gone out of their way to help someone out. The “Good Deeds” project focuses on the awareness of others and on how individually we can experience the joy of being of service.

HOW IT WORKS: Each time a staff member of The Douglas Center observes a program participant performing a random good deed, the participant will receive one-half of a two part ticket. The part kept by the staff member will include the participant’s name and date of the good deed. On participant pay days, a drawing will be held from the good deeds performed during that pay period. A small prize will awarded to the winner of the drawing.

The “Douglas Good Deeds” not only encourages the awareness of others and their needs, it also provides the individual performing the good deed with a sense of joy, fulfillment and empowerment.

What random “Good Deed” have you performed lately?

Find out how we can help you save on manufacturing and fulfillment costs.

A FEW OF OUR SERVICES:

- > Poster Rolling
- > Labeling
- > Commercial/Industrial Sewing
- > Packaging
- > Sort & Collating
- > Custom Specialty Projects
- > Assembly
- > Shrink-wrapping

Call for a Quote 847-674-1921

ENGAGE & stay connected

