



A Newsletter from The Douglas Center: Summer 2022

## Thank You for Making The Douglas Center ABILITY LAB a Huge Success!

The Douglas Center would like to express our deepest gratitude for the support we received for our ABILITY LAB on March 25<sup>th</sup> at our Center. Our ABILITY LAB event was a part of the month-long Coming Together 2022: Sharing Experiences of Disability program. The public was invited to our center for a hands-on experience showcasing what many of our participants experience at our center as they work to develop and focus on their ABILITIES.

Throughout the day we hosted approximately 200 visitors. Our Ability Lab event provided an opportunity to understand and experience the challenges our community faces and how they can work toward living a more independent life. Throughout the day, tours of our center were given in addition to the opportunity to participate in several hands-on activities available. Some of these activities included painting a quilt square (which will be a part of a community quilt display), creating greeting cards, planting succulents in our Horticulture program, Multi-Sensory therapy experience and assembly/packaging experiences.

“The Douglas Center ABILITY LAB provided an opportunity to raise visibility on individuals with special needs,” stated Rifath Khan, CEO of The Douglas Center. “This program helped bring to light the many challenges faced by people with disabilities as well as showcasing the possibilities for a more meaningful life when given the opportunity to learn and improve their skills. We are grateful for the tremendous response and participation from the community. Your presence, participation and support of individuals with special needs and of our mission are deeply appreciated.”

The Douglas Center was honored to be at the forefront of Coming Together 2022: Sharing partnership in Nilis Township among organizations in Skokie, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove and Nilis, Illinois. For 13 seasons this project worked to build bridges of knowledge and understanding among people of different groups and ages. Each year Coming Together highlighted a different topic, with an emphasis on literacy, cross-cultural awareness and community-building. In the 2022 Coming Together season, The Douglas Center was honored to join forces with community members and expert organizations, to bring focus to the voices, experiences and talents of members of the community with disabilities across Nilis Township, as well as advocacy and support resources available to all community members. The Douglas Center will continue to work with the organizations that have participated in Coming Together project as they work to transform this tremendous project.

The Douglas Center is currently accepting referrals for program participants. For more information, please contact David Banas, Director of Program and Clinical Services at [dbanas@thedouglascenter.org](mailto:dbanas@thedouglascenter.org).



The Douglas Center Key Partner in Coming Together 2022:

### IN THIS ISSUE

Thank You for Making DC ABILITY LAB a Huge Success	1
DC Spring Art Show and Sale	2
Loyola University School of Social Work Honors David Banas	3
DC Collaborates with The Talking Farm	4
Announcing Premiere of The Douglas Bugle	4
DC Electronic Recycling Program	5

### The Douglas Center Closing Schedule

- In-Service Day: June 17th
- Independence Day: July 4th
- In-Service Day: August 26th
- Labor Day: September 5th
- Columbus Day: October 10th



Omar Khan, MD, Director of Health and Wellness, Administration and Development speaks with attendees.



Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen with “Together We Can” mosaic mural.



Left: Toyin Olanukanmi, DSP, welcomes a tour group



## Join us for The Douglas Center Annual *Spring Art Show and Sale*

The Douglas Center is hosting our Annual “Spring Art Show and Sale” ...and just in time for Father’s Day, seasonal planting, special celebration gift giving...and don’t forget a little something for yourself! Our art show and sale will feature beautiful works of art made by program participants in “Art From The Heart” Creations program. Stop by and browse our show for a meaningful gift!

**Monday, June 13 through Friday June 17, 2022**

**9 am to 4 pm**

**Location: The Douglas Center:**

**3445 Howard Street; Skokie, Illinois 60076**

- Parking is available in the visitor parking area located at the front of the building
- Art Fair is held in an indoor/outdoor space
- We accept credit cards, cash or checks (ID is required with checks).

For more information please contact The Douglas Center at 847-674-1921.

***Art From The Heart* ❤️ *Creations*®**

*Art From The Heart* Creations is a hands-on art experience that empowers the special needs adults at The Douglas Center in creating, producing and selling of their own works of art. Our artists take great pride in their work and gain a sense of purpose and self-confidence when their artistic achievements are valued by the community. A portion of the sale of each art pieces goes directly to the artist that created it. .

## Loyola University School of Social Work Honors David Banas

The Douglas Center is proud to announce that David Banas, our Director of Program and Clinical Services, was recognized as “Field Supervisor of the Year” by the Loyola University School of Social Work Internship Department. David was nominated by students of the university’s internship program for providing high-quality service to their students. The award was made at the Loyola University 2022 Honors and Awards Ceremony held in recognition of students and partners who demonstrate excellence.

The Douglas Center Internship program is in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year and is under the direction of David Banas, LCSW. The internship program is currently partnered with several local universities including Loyola University, Northeastern University, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and Dominican University. Since its inception, many of our university partners have expressed their appreciation for how well administered our program is under the direction of David Banas. Additionally, The Douglas Center has received rave reviews from our interns for the professional direction, guidance and hands-on experience they received during their time with us.

Under the supervision of David Banas, our interns are responsible for completing assigned weekly and monthly assignments. Each intern receives weekly mentoring. Internships are available to BSW and Master level Social Work students who are seeking hands-on experience working with adults living with intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities. The internship curriculum exposes students to key areas of practice within the social work career field. This program provides an opportunity for interns to refine and apply concepts and skills learned; to diversify their field experience and advance their career goals. For information on applying for an internship with The Douglas Center, please contact David Banas, Director of Clinical Services at [dbanas@thedouglascenter.org](mailto:dbanas@thedouglascenter.org).

“I am honored to have received this award. Our Social Work interns are an important part of our team and are a vital part our mission to provide programs and services that assist adults living with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities,” stated David Banas, Director of Program and Clinical Services for The Douglas Center. “We are committed to developing the next generation of social workers through mentoring, close supervision and field instruction. My sincerest thanks to our Loyola University interns for this honor.”



David Banas receives “Field Supervisor of the Year” Award from Loyola University



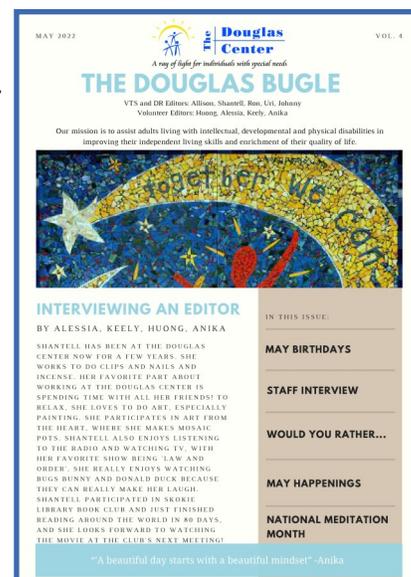
## Announcing the Premiere of THE DOUGLAS BUGLE: A Publication created by Program Participants

**HOT OFF THE PRESS:** The Douglas Bugle is an in-house newsletter created by and for our Douglas Center program participants. Each issue includes an interview with one staff member and one program participant conducted by our participant editorial contributors. Also included are staff and participant birthdays and celebrations.

This project is produced in partnership with volunteers from the Northwestern University local chapter of the National Student Speech Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA). Our NSSLHA volunteers work with participants helping them to develop interview questions and conducting interview practice/modeling sessions with them. This publication project assists in the development of their communication, social skills and team building skills. The program participant editorial contributors work as a team, building consensus on the chosen interviewees, layout, color and graphic design, etc.

We would like to thank the volunteers who assisted in this edition: Huang, Alessia, Keely and Anika. This edition was developed and edited by our program participants (Jackie, David M, Matthew).

To view the premiere issue of The Douglas Bugle [CLICK HERE](#).



## The Douglas Center Collaborates with The Talking Farm

The Douglas Center is pleased to announce our collaboration with The Talking Farm. The Talking Farm sits on 2.5 acres of land in Skokie, Illinois and works to feed and sustain the local community by growing produce and creating educational programs. Its mission is to provide education, example, and hands-on experience to members of the community to expand the awareness, importance, and availability of food grown sustainably.

In partnership with our staff, The Talking Farm will be on-site at The Douglas Center and will conduct two educational groups on a weekly basis. They will provide educational information in the following areas:

- Health and Wellness
- Nutrition
- Planting in our Horticulture program



People with disabilities are more likely than the general population to have an imbalanced diet. They are more likely to have problems with obesity and are less likely to engage in regular exercise and eat a balanced diet with enough fruit and vegetables. This can lead to a greater risk of health problems such as heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, diabetes and mobility difficulties. Our collaboration with The Talking Farm will provide valuable information to our participants on the importance of living a healthier lifestyle and the importance of being connected to nature and eating healthy food.

We are excited and grateful about our collaboration with The Talking Farm and the difference this will make in the lives of those we serve.

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## THE DOUGLAS CENTER IS HIRING

The Douglas Center is looking for qualified individuals to join our team. We offer flexible work schedules, opportunities for advancement, a great team environment and competitive benefits. If you are interested in applying for this position, contact Anna O'Dwyer, Office Manager at 847-647-1921 Ext. 229.

### DSP (DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL) PART-TIME/FULL-TIME

**\*\*\*Our Direct Support Professionals will receive a \$500 Signing Bonus: \$200 signing bonus after 2 months of employment and \$300 after 6 months\*\*\***

The Douglas Center is looking for Direct Support Professionals to assist and support adults with developmental disabilities in areas of vocational skills training, developmental rehabilitation, social skills training, and community integration in our community day services program located in Skokie, Illinois. The DSP will provide job coaching support to adults with developmental, intellectual and physical disabilities by teaching new job assignments that include but are not limited to: light manufacturing, assembly line, sewing, heat sealing, packaging and other work projects. The DSP will track and monitor client production records, timecards, goals, and monitor client progress and behavior. The DSP will also assist individuals with daily living skills such as feeding, toileting and other personal care duties as needed. Schedule/Work Hours: Monday Through Friday 1st shift (25 hours per week). Typical schedule is 8:30a-1:30p or 9:30a-2:30 pm. No weekends or holidays required.





**The Douglas  
Center**

*A ray of light for individuals with special needs*

3445 Howard Street, Skokie, IL 60076  
P: (847) 674-1921; F: (847) 679-1823  
[www.thedouglascenter.org](http://www.thedouglascenter.org)



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.

OUR MISSION

# 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 Illinois 60076  
Monday—Friday: Call for Drop-Off  
Appointment**

*Please note: We do not accept CRT monitors or televisions.*