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The purpose of our News Blast is to provide information to youth ages 14 1/2 to 22, parents, and professionals who serve youth with disabilities in planning for, and achieving, a successful transition into high school, through high school, and into needed adult services.

This monthly “news blast” highlights a youth story of the month, a service provider of the month, a link to an article about transition or self-advocacy, and links to service organizations and agencies that provide services to youth with disabilities as they transition out of school services.

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https://selfadvocacyrocksfmptic.blogspot.com/

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Holland Wrobbel helped start Holly’s House of Hope, Inc. and works there three days a week doing what she loves – selling clothes! This non-profit opens up the store monthly offering fill-a-bag events and also provides goods to people in need free of charge.

Holland attended school in Highland, Illinois and her transitional work was literally transformative to all. In addition to working at HHH, she works at a local restaurant. Holland also does some office work for the local high school and helps out in the coffee shop.

Holland is capable.
Holland is exceptional.
Holland is unique.
Service Provider of the Month

Holly’s House of Hope, Inc.

1000 Zschokke St Highland, IL 62249
Phone 1-866-544-6559
Email hhh@hollyshouseofhope.org
Website www.hollyshouseofhope.org
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Our Mission

Holly’s House of Hope builds skills and provides opportunities to guide young adults who are uniquely abled toward more purpose-filled lives through service to our communities.

We focus on enhancing employment, social, and service opportunities for people who are uniquely abled.

Holly’s House of Hope provides job training services for individuals to grow, learn and discover their purpose in life; a purpose within the community that will bring themselves and those around them much hope and joy.

Services

• Standardized Skill Assessment
• Vocational Training
• Life Skill Development
• Employment Placement
  • Apprenticeship
  • Community Work
• Social Interaction
• Service in the Community

Community Store

Holly’s House of Hope’s Community Store provides vocational training to young adults who are uniquely abled through our T.E.A.C.H. model.

Teach: Teach transferable job skills through volunteering in our community and facilitating internships.
Engage: Engage in job shadowing to help clients determine preferences and abilities, allowing our clients to make choices regarding where they would like to work.
Assess: Assess job skills.
Coach: Provide job coaching.
Hire: Support job placement.
Transition Information to Know

“Competitive Integrated Employment, real work for real pay, is the gold standard of transition outcomes for students with disabilities. The work should align with the post-school employment goals of the student and is the desired transition outcome for all students with disabilities who choose to work, regardless of disability or needed accommodations or support. “

This description of Competitive Integrated Employment can be found in The Competitive Integrated Employment Toolkit. This 65 page guide discusses content and activities that build students’ skills and notes effective practices that lead to post school success. The document addresses examples of workplace readiness including communication, financial literacy, networking, orientation and mobility skills, problem solving and critical thinking, professionalism, and teamwork. There is a section on teaching self-advocacy skills to students.

Competitive Integrated Employment Toolkit

Transition Service Providers:

Social Security Administration

SSA provides government benefits to eligible individuals including Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). Search the website for “disability benefits”. Search “ticket to work” to learn about working while receiving benefits.

Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living

CILs exist to help people with disabilities achieve maximum independence in work, school, housing and every other part of life. They offer peer support, information and referral, individual and systems advocacy, independent living skills training, and transition support to bridge high school to college and/or work.
IDES administers employment services in Illinois. Search “Employment First” on the website to learn how Illinois law promotes community-based, integrated employment as the first option for employment-related services for individuals with disabilities.

**Community Residential Services Authority**

CRSA provides technical assistance to families, service providers, educators and other professionals to help plan for and implement appropriate, effective services for children with severe emotional disturbances and behavior disorders in Illinois. This includes youth in high school.

**Illinois Department of Human Services**

**Division of Rehabilitation Services – DRS**

DRS assists people with disabilities in making informed choices to achieve full community participation through employment, education, and independent living opportunities. They provide personal attendants through their Home Services Program.

**Illinois Department of Human Services**

**Independent Service Coordination/Pre-Admission Screening**

PAS agencies conduct and arrange for assessment of individuals with developmental disabilities who are in need of active treatment. ISCs assist in setting up services and registering individuals for the PUNS database of persons in need of services and funding.
The Autism Program of Illinois

The Autism Program of Illinois serves and support persons with autism spectrum disorder and their families through a coordinated network of providers, parents, and university programs. They provide evidence-based services for individuals including youth of transition age. They connect youth through programs such as virtual support groups and social skills groups.

UIC Specialized Care for Children

UIC-SCC partners with families and children and youth (to age 18) with special healthcare needs. Care coordinators work with families to put together a transition plan that identifies clear goals for adulthood and the strategies, services and resources necessary to achieve them.

Illinois Assistive Technology Project

IATP provides free information and assistance on assistive technology and other related disability topics. They can provide assistive technology evaluations and devices, including those to support community living, education, and employment. IATP provides WIPA (Work Incentives Planning and Assistance) services for 67 counties of Illinois. This program helps those receiving SSI/SSDI to make informed choices about employment.

Family Matters Parent Training and Information Center

FMPTIC provides individual support to youth with disabilities and their parents related to educational services and provides training on transition-related topics. Staff work with youth on self-advocacy skills and teach them about their special education rights and responsibilities.

Please let us know of other organizations that serve youth statewide to add to this list.

info@fmptic.org