IN THIS ISSUE
Youth Story: Danny Hooper
Featured Service Provider: RAISE Center
Transition Information to Know Link
Transition Service Providers

The purpose of our NewsBlast 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.

Look for the next issue of the NewsBlast in September!

https://selfadvocacyrocksfmptic.blogspot.com/2021/08/

This “news blast” highlights a youth story, a service provider, 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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Youth Story of the Month

Danny Hooper

Danny has been working at McDonald’s for over a year. His favorite part of working is all the money he makes which he is saving for the future.

He says some days it is very difficult dealing with impatient customers. He also struggles when it gets extra noisy but has learned to take a deep breath and keep going.

His mom says “Danny has worked harder than anyone I know to overcome so many obstacles. He spent countless hours in sensory processing therapy, speech therapy (to learn to talk and layer to practice social skills), and in dyslexia tutoring. He never quits trying, no matter how frustrating his situation is.”

Danny recently graduated from high school. He is glad to be finished. For him, history class was extra difficult at times.
Service Provider of the Month

RAISE Center

RAISE is a project of SPAN, the Parent Training and Information Center of New Jersey. It is funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration and assists youth and young adults with disabilities and their families. RAISE helps families: better understand vocational rehabilitation and independent living programs; communicate more effectively with transition and rehabilitation personnel; understand the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act related to employment, supported employment, and independent living; and develop an individualized plan for employment.

Phone: 973.642.8100
Website: https://raisecenter.org/

The RAISE Standard

Sign up for the RAISE newsletter and to learn more about transition services and self-advocacy for youth with disabilities.

https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001RMFAiqrpI2FKL_hn0ww3iHmzhKY9GUdQVEI-wBBkrbeBT0CChpr_vVpV8-Dt76SSe2eakKzGhNu57t5RSapUDTTXA6Itr7h-fUC8q5cc1Z7dQZA65pMuJbx0ObvNPOQqJki358DcpBqYKeT0mM4IyPBwrtSsLw1qFmvoKyDaaj2fenEjF-dA%3D%3D

RAISE Center Blog

The RAISE Center Blog is a section of the website that is more personal and includes articles from Co-Director Josie Badger and the occasional guest blogger on Transition-related issues from an “insider’s” perspective.

https://raisecenter.wordpress.com/
Transition Information to Know

A Student Profile is a way for you to introduce your child to new teachers, related service providers, administrators, and others with whom she will come into contact. By completing the Student Profile every year, you can provide information about your child’s strengths, challenges, and successes.

Student Profile from PEATC

www.peatc.org


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.

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.

The Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission protects the rights and promotes the welfare of persons with disabilities. They provide legal representation, investigate rights violations, and provide state guardianship for persons with disabilities in Illinois.

They help families navigate special education issues and provide information on guardianship and alternatives to guardianship including Supported Decision Making.
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Self-Advocacy Online

An online resource for learning about self-advocacy, viewing stories from self-advocates, and finding self-advocacy groups.

Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) is a national self-advocacy organization. They are a national board of regional representatives and members from every state in the US. SABE’s mission is to ensure that people with disabilities are treated as equals and that they are given the same decisions, choices, rights, responsibilities, and chances to speak up to empower themselves; opportunities to make new friends, and to learn from their mistakes.

The Alliance is a statewide network of self advocates advocacy groups and allies in Illinois. They work together to make life better in communities and services better for people with disabilities in Illinois. They want advocates and allies from around the state to speak together with one loud voice. They say “we can do more when we all work together!”
FMPTIC provides individual support 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 or nationally to add to this list.

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