



# TCRC TIMES

SPRING / SUMMER 2021



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## Dear Friends and Families of TCRC

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2021 Edition of the TCRC Newsletter.

It has been quite a challenge for DD providers over the past year. Illinois is currently ranked 47<sup>th</sup> nationally in funding levels for people with developmental disabilities and the COVID pandemic has obviously put even more of a strain on our field. During the peak of the crisis, as shutdowns changed all our lives, TCRC staff placed themselves at risk by continuing to provide care for our individuals. TCRC provided hazard pay for nearly one hundred thousand hours of at-risk service. As we continue to push forward to try and return things to normal, we need your support. A nationwide DSP (Direct Support Person) shortage has affected our hiring trends and the pandemic has put a lot of stress on our wonderful staff. We have had to fill shifts with temp agency staff, have had to pay extraordinary amounts of overtime costs, have had to raise our starting wage by 23% over the past two years just to compete with places like Target and Wal-Mart, and now have had to implement hiring and referral bonuses just to get people to interviews. By implementing all of the above practices, we are making progress but this obviously has a financial impact on our organization.

As we move forward, we have a lot of exciting things that are on our radar. Many of you probably heard about our acquisition of We Care, Inc. Of Morton (press release in this newsletter). In addition to the acquisition, we have also increased our community presence with a partnership with Miller Center of Pekin as our Taste of TCRC program is serving the community out of the Miller Center kitchen. We are open daily for lunch at Miller Center from 10:30-1:30. Programs like this continue to provide wonderful training opportunities for the individuals that we support and tie in nicely with our community integration goals. We also continue to expand our employment opportunities. We are solidifying some great jobs for our individuals at local businesses but we have also entered into an agreement with Department of Rehabilitative Services to provide jobs and placements in the Bloomington area. We are also working on a lot of collaborative ideas with many other non-profits in the area.

Again, thank you for your continued financial and volunteer support of the programs that we offer. As always, please reach out if you have any questions. I look forward to the challenges ahead.

Jamie Durdell – President & CEO



# TCRC Acquires/Merges with We Care, Inc.

Two leading Tazewell County Non-Profits are finalizing discussions to become one entity. TCRC, Inc. (Tazewell County Resource Centers) has announced that they will be acquiring We Care, Inc. of Morton on July 1, 2021 pending finalized agreements with agency attorneys.

"Discussions for this acquisition began a few years ago", said Jamie Durdell, TCRC's President and CEO. "We are one of We Care's largest customers and we have quite a fleet of vehicles ourselves with our 20+ programs and services so it made sense to take a look at merging together to make each agency stronger."

The name We Care, Inc. will still exist and the programs and services that We Care offers to the Morton area like Meals on Wheels, Food Pantry, and Upscale Resale will all remain the same. We Care will also still remain as the rural transportation provider of Tazewell and Woodford counties. "The Board of Directors' for both agencies wanted to be sure that programs to the community didn't change in this merger", said Durdell. "We will continue to offer our TCRC programs and the We Care programs without interruption. TCRC being larger with more staff, we see this as an opportunity to bring some additional resources to the already successful programs of We Care".

With TCRC's many community based programs including the TCRC Sight Center, Employment Programs, Custodial Services, Residential Services, Community Day Services, Taste of TCRC Kitchen, etc., their main focus is supporting a life of choice for individuals with disabilities. We Care's values in keeping people as independent as possible really matches the values at TCRC. Jamie Durdell, President & CEO for TCRC and will remain in that role and also assume the same duties for the programs and services at We Care.

Both agencies are 501(c)(3) not-for-profit social service agencies serving individuals in central Illinois. More information about programs and services can be found at [www.tcrcorg.com](http://www.tcrcorg.com) or [www.wecareofmorton.com](http://www.wecareofmorton.com)

For more information please contact Jamie Durdell, TCRC's President and CEO, at (309) 347-7148 or [jamied@tcrcorg.com](mailto:jamied@tcrcorg.com).

e-newsletter



E-Newsletter

If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please contact [development@tcrcorg.com](mailto:development@tcrcorg.com)



## MISSION STATEMENT

We are committed to supporting a life of choice for individuals with disabilities.

# Employment Service Program Spotlight

Chris began in the Springboard program in June of 2019 where he then expressed an interest in the Employment Services program and wanting to get into the community to work. Chris first started out in our program and we did some job development training. This allowed Chris to learn what jobs would fit him best and what his interests were. Chris really wanted to be in the cleaning and food prep industry. Once we narrowed down a couple places, we helped him apply and in turn was offered a position at Aramark in the Pekin 108 School District in October of 2020. He works throughout the school year as a cafeteria helper and cleaner. His main duties include, setting up/tearing down tables, mopping the floor, wiping down tables between lunches, handing out milk/condiments and assisting children with anything they need during the lunch period. The Aramark and school staff have been very helpful in the process of getting Chris comfortable and confident in his role. Chris is doing well, enjoys his job and is always excited to return the next day.

If you are interested in learning about TCRC's Employment Services program please feel free to contact Kensi Ramos at (309) 347-7148.



## **TCRC is Hiring!**



### **Now Hiring Staff supporting people with disabilities!**

- ⇒ Full time - all shift positions in our Tazewell County homes and Day Training facilities working with developmentally disabled individuals.
- ⇒ Excellent benefits package including 401 K, Medical, Dental, Vision
- ⇒ Competitive wage
- ⇒ Paid Vacations, personal & sick time



Interested applicants must have a high school diploma or GED and be able to pass criminal background checks. Applicants for work in the residential program must also have a current driver's license, acceptable Motor Vehicle Record, and be able to pass a reading comprehension test. A CNA License or DSP Certificate, experience assisting persons with developmental disabilities, and certification in First Aid/CPR are helpful.

EOE - M/F/Disabled/Vet

# Welcome Back!

To say we have missed all our friends, is an understatement! We are so happy to have them back, all the laughter throughout our hallways, to now be able to see the smiles and feel the joy they have of being among their friends is everything.

We are excited for a new type of Community Day Services curriculum and to be able to get out an about even more than before.



COMING  
SOON!

Register via our website at [www.tcrorg.com](http://www.tcrorg.com) now!

3rd Annual Zombie 5k

Sunset Hills Golf Course

Saturday, October 16th, 2021



## Honoring the life of our friend Deb Smith

We are truly saddened to not have you here to see this wonderful tribute the staff and individuals here at our Newlun Center facility planned up in your memory.

Thank you for all the years you spent, guiding, helping and just being a light to everyone we serve. You will be forever missed.



## WHAT IS YOUR LEGACY?

*...Create a lasting gift for TCRC*



The programs and services at TCRC depend on many different avenues of revenue.

A gift from your estate will help TCRC continue our mission for many years to come.

It doesn't matter how wealthy you are, leaving a gift is very easy. Small or large bequeaths are all important to our mission. There are many ways that you can give.

**Did you know with a planned gift, you can:**

- **Make a larger charitable gift than you thought possible**
- **Take care of the financial needs of your family first**
- **Provide inheritances for your heirs at a lower tax cost**
- **Reduce your income tax and even avoid capital gains taxes**
- **Diversify your investment portfolio**
- **Increase income and effective rate of return**

\*If you would like more information on how you can help TCRC in this manner, please contact [Jamied@tcrcorg.com](mailto:Jamied@tcrcorg.com).



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## New Board Members



A huge welcome to our new Board members, Ryan Johnson and Dana Wiegand. They, along with Tim Mueller, who currently sits on our board, have agreed to transition onto the TCRC Board following the merger with We Care, Inc.

Thank you for joining our Board of Directors, we are happy to have you all!