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**Business**  
JOURNAL

April 2024



**Intricate Minds  
promotes harm reduction**

**Q&A With Dr. Traci Krause**

**Illini Angels invest in business startups**

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## Getting more than you give

When I moved to Springfield after college I had a job here, but no friends or family in the area. Having grown up in a town of 20,000 people and having attended college in a different town about the same size, Springfield seemed large and overwhelming. I wondered how I would ever meet people and get to know anyone, much less learn my way around and navigate all the one-way streets.

I had always heard good things about Habitat for Humanity, so I showed up at the Springfield chapter's office one day and told the executive director that I'd like to get involved. I started volunteering and soon found myself on the board of directors. That director is no longer employed at Habitat and I'm no longer on the board, but we're still friends to this day, one of many wonderful connections that I ended up making through volunteer work.

I ended up serving on boards for a variety of area nonprofits over the next couple decades, and while I hope I did some good along the way, I know the good it did for me was significant. The skills that I learned and honed, from human resources to event planning to organizational management, are all things that serve me well in my daily life. I made many personal and professional connections that persist to this day, and my current employment is a direct result of an introduction that came about through one of those nonprofit connections.

Although I've had to scale back on my volunteer efforts during this phase of my life, I remain grateful for my experiences with a variety of nonprofits in our community. No matter your skills and interests, there is almost certainly an organization that can find a use for you, and you will be the one who benefits the most.



*Michelle Ownbey, publisher*



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*a*  
*Q & A*  
*with*  
*Dr. Traci Krause*

*By David Blanchette*

Dr. Traci Krause came to Springfield in May 2023 to serve as the chancellor of St. John's College of Nursing. She had spent a decade as dean of the School of Nursing, Health Sciences and Wellness at Minneapolis College and prior to that was the assistant director of nursing in the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

An Iowa native, she served as a nursing instructor in Estonia during her time in the Peace Corps and she credits that experience with her decision to obtain a master's degree in public health and nursing.

Krause and her husband, Michael, have three adult sons: Jackson, Harrison and Tyler. Krause obtained a certification in photography during her time at Minneapolis College and also enjoys baking in her free time.

**Where did you grow up, and what was your first job?**

I grew up in the northern Iowa town of Mason City. I was a nursing assistant in a nursing home when I was 16 years old. Back then you could just walk into the nursing home and get a job. Now you have to get a background check and training, but it was much easier then.

**When did you decide on a nursing career?**

I am kind of an accidental nurse. I went to college the first time for elementary education. At that time in my life, I thought I never wanted to leave northern Iowa, but there weren't a lot of jobs so I substitute taught for about two years. I found substitute teaching to be a rough job, so I wanted to do something different.

I never thought I could handle that "icky" factor of being a nurse, but I was a nursing home assistant and there was some ickiness there. So I went back to school, and I had to take an anatomy and physiology class where we did dissection. After I did that, I thought, "OK, I can do this."

**What did you experience during your service with the Peace Corps?**

Other than having my three sons, that was probably the most significant life-altering change for me. I worked on the adult psychiatric unit in Mason City and was engaged to be married. My fiancé and I responded to an ad for the Peace Corps. It took about a year before we were invited to go to Estonia, and we were married by then.

It was about four years after the fall of the Soviet Union. Very few people in Estonia spoke English. We did three months of intensive training, including instruction in how to speak Estonian. I grew so much because it was such a challenging experience. When we came back to the United States, I appreciated how fortunate we are here. We have this abundance that many people in the world do not have.

The Peace Corps inspired me, so a month after we left the Peace Corps, I entered Johns Hopkins University to earn my master's degree in public health and nursing.

**What drew you to the HSHS position in Springfield?**

We lived in Minneapolis at the time, and I worked at a large community college there. I loved my job and was not actively looking for another one, but HSHS reached out via LinkedIn. I was a nurse with advanced degrees so I had gotten those messages fairly routinely, but there was something about this job that made me want to look deeper.

I saw that the college was attached to a much larger health system so finding clinical spots for nursing students wouldn't be an issue like it was where I was at in Minnesota. Plus, the school's history is so unique – it was founded in 1886 by

compassion and care.

The school in Minneapolis had 10,000 students and a large faculty. Because of our small size at St. John's, the bench isn't that deep. But the great news is, with the people that work there, if we don't have the answer, we figure it out.

**What opportunities and challenges are there in the near future for the nursing profession?**

The pandemic was hard on the nursing profession. It prompted many in that mid-generation of nurses to decide to retire. There's such a nursing need throughout the whole country so continuing to educate nurses remains a key priority.

Nursing is generally not representative of communities in the United States. There is a lot of opportunity there to attract students of color and more under-represented communities.

**What advice would you give to young people who are considering the medical profession as a career?**

Helping people feeds your soul, and nursing is a sacred calling. You see people in both the worst and best moments of their lives and that is really special and important. You have to understand that what you are doing each day is making a difference in people's lives.

**Now that you've been in Springfield for about a year, what do you like most about the community?**

Springfield is a nice-sized community, it reminds me of where I grew up in Iowa. The weather is generally better than in Minneapolis. There is a lot to do here; I still do a lot of the tourist stuff. There are also good people here, it's that Midwestern sensibility of being kind and helping out your neighbor.

**What may people be surprised to learn about you?**

I love to bake. I try not to do it too much because it's too easy to eat those baked goods. I make great brownies and cookies, and I make birthday cakes every year for my adult children. SBJ



Left to right: Middle son Harrison, oldest son Jackson, husband Michael, Traci and youngest son Tyler pictured in December 2020. PHOTOS COURTESY TRACI KRAUSE

Franciscan sisters who came across the sea from Germany. I had a very diverse student population in Minneapolis and probably half of my students were multi-lingual, they grew up speaking a language other than English. I thought about how those Franciscan sisters' journey was so similar to that of the students I had in Minneapolis.

**What strengths does the St. John's College of Nursing have, and what needs improvement?**

We really focus on individualized attention because we are relatively small. We also promote excellence in education. One of the major strengths is being part of St. John's Hospital and HSHS; it allows our students to have so many amazing clinical experiences. I have invested staff and faculty – everyone is there to educate that next generation of nurses who are going to go out and make a difference with

# Nonprofits collaborate to serve the community

By Karen Ackerman Witter



Clients line up in their vehicles and on foot to be served at the Grace Lutheran Food Pantry outdoor distribution point along Capitol Avenue next to Grace Lutheran Church. Each client receives non-perishable foods, meat, milk, eggs, bread and a bag of personal hygiene items. PHOTO COURTESY OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Nonprofit organizations are essential to our community, not only from the perspective of mission fulfillment, but also as a significant part of our local economy," says John Stremsterfer, president and CEO of the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln. "The nonprofit sector is incredibly dynamic and fills vital roles for the betterment of educational attainment, health outcomes, cultural richness, economic development, animal welfare, environmental preservation and so much more."

Stremsterfer also says collaboration among multiple nonprofits makes for more effective and lasting outcomes. Following are examples of local nonprofits collaborating to address complex problems, provide educational programs, serve community needs, be more efficient and fulfill their respective missions.

## Compass for Kids and Kidzeum

Compass for Kids and the Kidzeum of Health and Science both serve youth in the Springfield area and have a history of collaboration. Kidzeum staff visit Club Compass sites to lead STEAM activities, and Compass for Kids staff visit Kidzeum to lead social-emotional learning lessons.

Both organizations needed a marketing staff member, but neither had sufficient fund-

ing to hire a full-time person. The nonprofits decided to share the cost, determined it was best to have one organization be the primary employer and signed a formal agreement. Kidzeum and Compass for Kids co-wrote the job description, interviewed candidates and selected Christy Freeman Stark, who started in November 2023. Stark's responsibilities are split 50/50 between the two organizations with appropriate timekeeping. Kidzeum pays Compass for Kids half of the cost, and Compass for Kids handles payroll and benefits. They collaborate on performance evaluations.

For Compass for Kids, Stark is responsible for developing and implementing an annual marketing and communications plan, managing social media, updating the website and doing graphic design for marketing materials. For Kidzeum, Stark manages graphic design, advertising, public relations and external communications.

Molly Berendt, CEO of Compass for Kids, says the initial benefit of this partnership was financial and being able to attract and hire a director-level employee by offering a full-time position with benefits.

"Additionally, it's helped to deepen a collaborative relationship where each organization feels comfortable sharing our inner workings,

and we can help each other grow and improve," she said.

Leah Wilson, executive director of Kidzeum, cites the benefits of finding a creative solution that fills a critical role. "Small, startup nonprofits often run pretty lean – sometimes too lean, which leaves key positions understaffed, or unfilled altogether, causing organizational strain and underperformance."

## Grace Lutheran Church Food Pantry and Full Measure

For 50 years, the Grace Lutheran Food Pantry, founded as a community ministry program of Grace Lutheran Church in downtown Springfield, has provided food and personal items for people in need. In 2023, the pantry served 9,039 households and 23,437 individuals, a fourfold increase in the last 30 years.

Numerous organizations and many volunteers make the pantry possible. Grace Lutheran, First Presbyterian, St. John's Lutheran, Our Savior's Lutheran and Peace Lutheran are the anchor churches. The churches provide substantial financial donations and volunteers. Our Savior's School provides food donations through an annual Thanksgiving drive. Grace Lutheran Church also contributes in-kind support.



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Many other churches, schools, businesses, scout troops, individuals and community organizations also contribute food, personal hygiene items and cash donations. The pantry receives significant grants from the King's Daughters Organization fund and St. Joseph Home Legacy of Care Fund managed by the CFLL. There was a surge in donations at the onset of COVID-19, but also an increase in demand when COVID-relief funding declined.

The unsung heroes are the approximately 60 volunteers who run the pantry. They contributed 4,800 volunteer service hours in 2023. Volunteers pick up and load food, pack bags with non-perishable foods and personal hygiene items, log clients into a computer database, ensure compliance with Central Illinois Food Bank guidelines and distribute food at the curb. The volunteers, who are primarily seniors, benefit from socialization and working alongside each other.

Clients may visit the pantry once a month and do not need to provide proof of income. Curbside service is provided on Capitol Avenue, just east of Seventh Street, directly across from the public library, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is now a priority to provide healthier and more fresh foods.

Melissa Hostetter is a former social worker who now teaches middle school in District 186. She created an initiative called Full Measure to bridge the gap between food pantries and families without transportation. Full Measure volunteers pick up food supplied by various pantries and deliver to Springfield households. Grace Lutheran Food Pantry is the primary pantry they use since volunteers can drive up, provide the names of the families being served and readily access an assortment of nutritious food.

"We've definitely come a long way in 50 years," said Doug McFarlan, volunteer director of the pantry. "It's heartbreaking to see the need, but fulfilling to try to help meet the need and to watch our clients do their best to provide for their families."

### Local organizations partner to better address unsheltered homeless

Homelessness is a complex issue that numerous organizations are working to address locally through multiple initiatives. "We know that strategies to effectively connect people who are unsheltered to resources require consistent, coordinated outreach, relationship building and trust and strong collaboration across partners," says Josh Sabo, executive director of Heartland HOUSED.

In February, Heartland Continuum of Care partners began a 100-Day Challenge with technical support from REINSTITUTE, with the goal of better understanding and addressing the challenges connected to the unsheltered homeless in our community. Twelve people

representing Heartland HOUSED, Helping Hands, Washington Street Mission, Memorial Behavioral Health, SIU and other community members with direct experience attended a two-day summit in Joliet to plan and set goals for the challenge. Cohorts from Rockford, suburban Cook County and Will County also participated.

Over the 100 days from February into May, community partners are working to develop a by-name list of all people experiencing homelessness in Springfield and Sangamon County. They are working to create new tools to improve data collection and success of referrals and build on existing community initiatives such as the Springfield Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team. At the end of the 100-Day Challenge the partners will report what they have learned and next steps.



Boys from The Outlet enjoyed learning about tapping trees to make maple syrup at Lincoln Memorial Garden  
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OUTLET

### Lincoln Memorial Garden, The Outlet and Rotary Club of Springfield Sunrise

Boys from The Outlet are enjoying field trips to Lincoln Memorial Garden thanks to a grant the Rotary Club of Springfield Sunrise received from Rotary District 6460. For many of the boys, this was their first opportunity to visit LMG and have an outdoor learning experience. During the first field trip last fall, the boys hiked the trails and learned about plants and animals as well as environmental career opportunities. In February, the boys enjoyed a maple syrup demonstration. A third field trip will be in the spring to see woodland wildflowers.

Several members of Sunrise Rotary participated in the field trips. Rotarian Cindy Davis commented how polite and attentive the boys were and that she also learned a lot. Individual Rotary clubs can apply for district grants, which are funded by donations to the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International from clubs throughout west and central Illinois.

Through this collaboration, boys from The Outlet had an outdoor experience they

would not likely have had otherwise and LMG reached a new audience. Rotarians were able to see the impact of their donations first-hand. The organizations are also exploring opportunities for additional educational programming by LMG on-site at The Outlet's campus.

John James, director of community programming for The Outlet, says their mentees have enjoyed exploring nature, from "observing a steady-eyed eagle clutch its prey between its talons, to skipping rocks and counting its ripples across Lake Springfield, to pressing a hand-drill into a maple tree to cause it to yield its sap. Our ventures have been educational, relaxing and inspiring."

### Collaborations to present exhibits and public programs

Nonprofit organizations collaborate to produce a myriad of public programs and educational offerings. The Educational Center for the Visually Impaired is working with the Springfield Art Association to present an exhibition, "What Art Feels Like." The show includes work by 23 artists from the Springfield area and five other states. It is especially designed for the visually impaired, who can't typically attend an art exhibit, and for the sighted to be able to touch art made from metal, wood, paper, fabric, glass and more. The opening reception is April 5 at the SAA, 700 N. 4th St., 5:30-7:30 p.m. The exhibit extends through April 27. Visitors can use a Seeing AI app to listen to descriptions of the art.

The Sangamon County Historical Society presents monthly programs and frequently partners with other community organizations to raise awareness about local history. The April 16 program will be a tour and program by Ken Page at the Historic Engine House 5, 1310 E. Adams St., at 5:30 p.m. Known as Springfield's colored firehouse, the building is now owned by the Central Lodge #3 Prince Hall Masons, the oldest and longest continuously operating African American fraternal organization in Springfield. The May program hosted by SCHS is scheduled for May 21 and will honor the legacy of Underground Railroad conductors, including those buried at Oak Ridge Cemetery. The program will be at the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum, 1440 Monument Ave., at 5:30 p.m.

Becoming a member of area nonprofits can result in benefits that extend far beyond Springfield. Museums, gardens and zoos have reciprocal programs within their discipline that may include free admission at participating institutions. For example, LMG is a member of the American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Admissions Program. Kidzeum is part of the Association of Children's Museums, and the Illinois State Museum Society and SAA participate in the North America Reciprocal Museum Association. **SBJ**



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# HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Sources: IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax. Forms provided by Guidestar.org • Ranked by net assets.

NAME/ADDRESS	PHONE WEBSITE/EMAIL	NET ASSETS/ ANNUAL REVENUE	CALENDAR/ TAX YEAR	PRINCIPAL	MISSION	YEAR EST'D
<b>YMCA of Springfield</b> 601 N. Fourth St. Springfield, IL 62703 4550 W. Iles Ave. Springfield, IL 62711	217-544-9846 springfieldymca.org	\$32,499,244 \$8,985,294	1/1/2022- 12/31/2022	Angie Sowle, CEO	The YMCA puts Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.	1874
<b>Hope</b> 5250 S. Sixth St. Frontage Road Springfield, IL 62703	217-585-5437 hope.us communicatinghope@hope.us	\$28,338,782 \$32,317,598	7/1/2021- 6/30/2022	Clint W. Paul CEO	To provide state-of-the-art services in the most inclusive environment to encourage persons to fulfill their individual potential through evidence-based treatment, advocacy and community education.	1957
<b>Catholic Charities Diocese of Springfield in Illinois</b> 1625 W. Washington St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-523-9201 cc.dio.org	\$25,795,167 \$14,428,540	7/1/2021- 6/30/2022	Steven E. Roach executive director	To extend to all the healing and empowering presence of Jesus.	1925
<b>Central Counties Health Centers, Inc.</b> 2239 E. Cook St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-788-2300 centralcounties.org info@centralcounties.org	\$23,313,623 \$14,981,754	7/1/2022- 6/30/2023	Heather Burton president/CEO	Making quality care accessible.	1999
<b>Girl Scouts of Central Illinois</b> 3020 Baker Drive Springfield, IL 62703	217-523-8159 getyourgirlpower.org	\$19,270,656 \$7,027,783	10/1/2021- 9/30/2022	Kelly Day Interim CEO	Builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.	1956
<b>Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois</b> 610 N. Seventh St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-528-3314 rmhc-centralillinois.org ak@rmhc-centralillinois.org	\$17,469,444 \$2,907,386	1/1/2022- 12/31/2022	Amber Kaylor CEO	Provides a supportive place for families to stay while their child is receiving medical care, and supports programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children.	1986
<b>Abraham Lincoln Council Boy Scouts of America</b> 5231 South Sixth St. Road Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-2727 alincolnbsa.org askabe@scouting.org	\$15,760,658 \$1,066,805	1/1/2023- 12/31/2023	Jeff Whitten scout executive/CEO	To prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.	1920
<b>Central Illinois Foodbank</b> 1937 E. Cook St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-522-4022 centralilfoodbank.org foodlist@centralilfoodbank.org	\$12,930,877 \$17,327,822	6/1/2022 - 5/31/2023	Pam Molitoris executive director	Our mission is to provide food, and develop awareness of and creative solutions for food insecurity.	1982
<b>Midwest Mission Distribution Center</b> 1001 Mission Drive Pawnee, IL 62558	217-483-7911 midwestmission.org office@midwestmission.org	\$7,312,603 \$6,165,388	1/1/2022- 12/31/2022	Chantel Corrie executive director	Bringing the hearts and hands of God's people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief.	1999
<b>Land of Lincoln Goodwill Industries</b> 1220 Outer Park Drive Springfield, IL 62704	217-789-0400 llgi.org info@llgi.org	\$5,997,883 \$29,605,192	7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022	Ron Culves president/CEO	Providing people the skills and resources to become self-sufficient through the power of work.	1938
<b>Senior Services of Central Illinois, Inc.</b> 701 W. Mason St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-528-4035 centralilseniors.org	\$3,884,761 \$4,560,445	10/1/2021 - 9/30/2022	Carol Harms executive director	Supporting and serving seniors with non-medical services to promote independent living and enrich quality of life.	1967
<b>Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County</b> 2744 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-523-2710 habitatsangamon.com executivedirector@habitatsangamon.com	\$3,617,638 \$3,046,177	7/1/2022- 6/30/2023	Colleen Stone executive director	Dedicated to eliminating substandard housing and homelessness worldwide and to making adequate, affordable shelter a matter of conscience and action.	1989
<b>Safe Families for Children</b> 700 N. Seventh St. Suite A Springfield, IL 62702	217-953-1141 Springfield.safe-families.org kasendra.miller@safefamilies.net	\$2,748,422 \$9,924,305	7/1/2021- 6/30/2022	Kasey Miller director	Seeks to keep children safe and families together by building a network of caring and compassionate volunteers to support families facing social isolation. Goals: Prevent child abuse and neglect, reduce the number of children entering the child welfare system and support and stabilize families.	1941
<b>Kidzeum of Health and Science</b> 412 E. Adams St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-679-2123 kidzeum.org info@kidzeum.org	\$2,546,919 \$737,483	1/1/2022- 1/21/2022	Leah Wilson executive director	Create Experiences of learning and discovery through play for children of all backgrounds and abilities.	2018
<b>Springfield Urban League</b> 100 N. 11th St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-789-0830 springfieldul.org	\$2,344,920 \$12,575,995	7/1/2021- 6/30/2022	Marcus E. Johnson president/CEO	Empowering those who struggle to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights.	1926

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<b>Family Service Center of Sangamon County</b> 919 S. Spring St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-528-8406 service2families.com fsc@service2families.com	\$2,209,176 \$4,063,802	7/1/2022- 6/30/2023	Karen Cox executive director	Committed to improving the lives of families in central Illinois through foster care, adoption and counseling services.	1863
<b>Jewish Federation of Springfield, Illinois</b> 1999 Wabash Ave., Suite 206 Springfield, IL 62704	217-787-7223 shalomspringfield.org sjf@shalomspringfield.org	\$1,971,190 \$412,144	1/1/2022- 12/31/2022	Nancy Sage executive director	To serve the Jewish people through coordinated fundraising, community-wide programming, services and educational activities.	1941
<b>Phoenix Center</b> 109 E. Lawrence Ave. Springfield IL 62704	217-528-5253 phoenixcenterspringfield.org	\$1,687,319 \$1,577,371	1/1/2022- 12/31/2022	Jonna J. Cooley, Ph.D., executive director	To support central Illinois' LGBT community with programming for promoting equality, health and well-being, and social and educational growth.	2001
<b>Sojourn Shelter &amp; Services</b> 1800 Westchester Blvd. Springfield, IL 62704	217-726-5100 sojournshelter.org sojdirector@gmail.com	\$1,682,957 \$1,813,988	7/1/2021- 6/30/2022	Angela Bertoni, CEO	An emergency shelter, crisis management services, education and court advocacy for adult and child victims of domestic violence.	1975
<b>Boys &amp; Girls Clubs of Central Illinois</b> 430 W. Jefferson St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-544-0548 bgccil.org info@bgccil.org	\$1,482,997 \$3,197,708	7/1/2021- 6/30/2022	Tiffany Mathis Posey CEO/ executive director	To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.	1956
<b>Fifth Street Renaissance</b> P.O. Box 5181 Springfield, IL 62705	217-544-5040 fsr-sara.org	\$1,294,469 \$3,522,246	7/1/2021- 6/30/2022	Penny Powell executive director	Assists individuals and families in difficult situations by providing transitional housing and opportunities to acquire education, employment and housing.	1979
<b>Contact Ministries</b> 1100 E. Adams St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-753-3939 contactministries.com	\$1,232,259 \$772,475	7/1/2021- 6/30/2022	Cindy Drum executive director	Providing emergency and transitional shelter with life skills and training, as well as food, clothing, financial assistance and referrals.	1979
<b>Compass for Kids</b> 1201 S. Fourth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-691-8103 compassforkids.org molly@compassforkids.org	\$1,049,701 \$3,225,754	6/1/2022- 5/31/2023	Molly Berendt executive director	To provide academic and social-emotional support to empower children and families underserved by our community.	2016
<b>Helping Hands of Springfield</b> 2200 Shale St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-522-0048 helpinghandsofspringfield.org	\$1,043,714 \$1,818,065	7/1/2021- 6/30/2022	Laura Davis executive director	To provide shelter, support and housing for people at risk of, or experiencing homelessness in the community.	1989
<b>M.E.R.C.Y. Communities</b> 1344 N. Fifth St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-753-1358 mercycommunities.org info@mercycommunities.org	\$1,032,160 \$977,759	7/1/2022- 6/30/2023	Amy Voils executive director	To provide housing and supportive services to foster the independence of homeless families.	1999
<b>Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery</b> 1011 N. Seventh St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-525-6800 miniobeirne.org	\$1,025,656 \$582,390	7/1/2021- 6/30/2022	Chriss Wilson executive director	To prevent child abuse and neglect by providing emergency, temporary care, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for children who may be at risk or whose parents are experiencing some type of crisis.	1988
<b>Rutledge Youth Foundation</b> 151 N. Bruns Lane Springfield, IL 62702	217-525-7757 rutledgeyouthfoundation.org	\$1,005,927 \$4,932,933	7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022	Martin Michelson executive director	To provide families with safe, supportive and stable homes through appropriate resources and support.	1952

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# HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Sources: IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax. Forms provided by Guidestar.org • Ranked by net assets.

NAME/ADDRESS	PHONE WEBSITE/EMAIL	NET ASSETS/ ANNUAL REVENUE	CALENDAR/ TAX YEAR	PRINCIPAL	MISSION	YEAR EST'D
<b>The James Project</b> 907 Clocktower Drive, Suite C Springfield, IL 62704	217-546-3532 thejamesproject127.com office@thejamesproject127.com	\$995,753 \$250,089	1/1/2022- 12/31/2022	Olivia Hayse executive director	Recruits and supports dedicated foster parents through the provision of homes and services.	2012
<b>Springfield Center for Independent Living</b> 330 South Grand Ave. West Springfield, IL 62704	217-523-2587 scil.org scil@scil.org	\$863,699 \$531,648	7/1/2023- 6/30/2024	Pete Roberts executive director	A service and advocacy organization for anyone with a disability.	1985
<b>Inner City Mission</b> 726 N. Seventh St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-525-3940 innercitymission.net	\$748,084 \$879,309	1/1/2022- 12/31/2022	Scott Payne executive director	Helping the homeless find their way home by giving what is needed to bring about lasting joy, peace and stability. Shelter, sustenance, clothing, teaching and Christian mentorship are all elements of the stable environment provided in order to expand joy and peace in each person's life, family and community.	1983
<b>AgeLinc</b> 2731 S. MacArthur Blvd. Springfield, IL 62704	217-787-9234 agelinc.org	\$618,820 \$6,061,004	10/1/2021- 9/30/2022	Carolyn Austin CEO	To help older adults live and age well. We work to create an awareness of aging and caregiving issues and encourage development and coordination of services to address those issues.	1974
<b>Youth Service Bureau</b> 2901 Normandy Road Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-8300 ysbi.com	\$542,915 \$946,910	7/1/2021- 6/30/2022	Katina Kooi executive director	Provides services to at-risk youth who are, or are at risk of becoming, runaway, abused, neglected and/or homeless.	1977
<b>The Parent Place</b> 314 South Grand Ave. West Springfield, IL 62704	217-753-8730 tppos.org bhammen@tppos.org	\$511,014 \$405,742	7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022	Bridgett Hammen executive director	To teach positive parenting skills and techniques to nurture the families in our community and aid in the prevention of child abuse and neglect.	1974
<b>Sparc</b> 232 Bruns Lane Springfield, IL 62702	217-793-2100 spfldsparc.org	\$510,182 \$12,291,756	7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022	Douglas McDonald CEO	To help individuals with developmental disabilities improve the quality of their lives.	1951
<b>Community Child Care Connection</b> 2801 W. Lawrence Ave. Springfield, IL 62704	217-525-2805 4childcare.org	\$507,743 \$2,082,999	7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022	Erica Romines executive director	Assisting families and child care providers in obtaining education, and quality, affordable child care to help children and families reach their greatest potential.	1994
<b>Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Illinois</b> 928 S. Spring St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-753-1216 bbbscil.org	\$433,417 \$680,934	1/1/2022- 12/31/2022	Jeff Parmenter CEO	To create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.	1972
<b>Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault</b> 3 W. Old State Capitol Plaza Suite 206 Springfield, IL 62701	217-744-2560 prairiecasa.org	\$302,882 \$1,113,781	7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022	Donna Plier Shelley Vaughn	To alleviate the suffering of sexual assault victims and to prevent sexual violence by providing emergency room response, medical advocacy and trauma counseling.	1978
<b>Prevent Child Abuse Illinois</b> 528 S. Fifth St., Suite 211 Springfield, IL 62701	217-522-1129 preventchildabuseillinois.org	\$237,944 \$943,818	7/1/2022- 6/30/2023	Tarra Winters	To prevent child abuse by providing statewide leadership through education, public awareness, support for community initiatives, and advocacy.	1990



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# Intricate Minds promotes harm reduction as a road to recovery

By Scott Reeder



Tiara Standage, founder of Intricate Minds, in front of the nonprofit's new location at 619 North Grand Ave.

PHOTO BY ZACH ADAMS

It may be the only place in Springfield where a person can get a haircut and a meth pipe for free.

Intricate Minds provides free hypodermic needles and pipes to those struggling with addiction as part of a harm-reduction strategy designed to reduce the spread of disease.

"We provide clean syringes and pipes. We have Narcan and fentanyl test strips. I want to keep people who are in active use safe," said Tiara Standage, who founded the nonprofit in March 2023 and recently relocated it to a storefront at 619 North Grand Ave.

Her organization provides a variety of services to at-risk populations ranging from mentally ill people to homeless individuals to those struggling with substance abuse.

The center also gives away condoms, pregnancy tests, Plan B and hosts a class called "Period Poo."

"It's an educational class to teach young ladies about their bodies, their periods and sexual health. And we just recently partnered with Planned Parenthood," said Standage. "We give away clothes and shoes, hygiene kits, we do free haircuts on Monday. We have several support groups," she said. Among them is a men's mental health group and one for adult children of people who abuse drugs and alcohol.

It's a subject that hits too close to home for Standage, who lost her mother to a fentanyl overdose.

"It wasn't surprising. She was an active user almost all of my life. It's hard to talk about sometimes, but when you have a family member that's an active user, you're always trying to get them to rehab and get them the help they need. Sometimes it works and sometimes it

doesn't," she said.

"I wish I would have known the principles of harm reduction that I know now. When my mother was still alive, I was just always taught if she's not clean to stay away. And that's exactly the opposite of what harm reduction is. Harm reduction is meeting people wherever they're at in their addiction. Some people aren't ready to stop using drugs. With harm reduction, abstinence from drugs is not a requirement for help," Standage said.

Not everyone is so sanguine about her approach.

She said Intricate Minds was forced to vacate its previous location in the Southtown neighborhood at South Grand Avenue and 11th Street.

"My neighbors over there and the city didn't want me there doing harm reduction," Standage said. "I opened on Dec. 1 as a community center and not even a couple weeks later, I had seven city inspectors in there. We passed the inspection. And (there was) just a lot of back-and-forth from the city and my landlord."

She said she was asked to leave by her landlord.

Ward 2 Ald. Shawn Gregory, who represents the Southtown area, said there was concern that homeless people were congregating around the center and that it might become a shelter. Also, there was a fear that discarded needles might litter the neighborhood.

"I just don't want to see that all over Southtown," he said. "We're trying to get things cleaned up."

Gregory said that like Standage, he also has personal experience with family members

who used drugs. "I get the services that she provides, and I respect those services. Both my parents were on drugs. I grew up in a foster home all my life. So, I get what she's trying to do," he said. "I'm not educated on harm reduction. I don't know enough about it to be a fan or be against it."

The concern is without merit, said Sara Bowen-Lasisi, who volunteers for Intricate Minds and has experience in harm reduction and public health.

"It's not valid in any way, shape or form. Harm reduction is evidence-based. It's not something I have to convince anybody that works," she said. "There's plenty of research and evidence that shows that harm reduction absolutely does work without increasing syringe litter within the community as well as not increasing overall drug use in the community. ... People who enter into harm reduction services are three to five times more likely to seek out abstinence-based recovery."

Bowen-Lasisi said the center has been welcomed in the Enos Park neighborhood.

"These are humans; they're people, they need love and attention and compassion, just like your average person who does not use drugs," said volunteer Tami Griggs.

"So if you give them that same attention and compassion and treat them like a human, then you can meet them where they're at and hopefully lead them to a road to recovery."

Scott Reeder, a staff writer for Illinois Times, can be reached at [sreeder@illinoistimes.com](mailto:sreeder@illinoistimes.com).



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Sources: The individual service organizations.  
 Ranked by number of members.  
 Many groups are meeting online at this time.  
 Contact the groups for more information.

# COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

	NAME/MEETING ADDRESS	PHONE WEBSITE/EMAIL	MEETING TIME(S)	# OF MEMBERS	CONTACTS	DUES	MISSION STATEMENT	YEAR EST'D
1	<b>Coalition of Rainbow Alliances</b> AgeLinc, 2731 S. MacArthur Blvd., Springfield, IL 62704	217-726-7966 springfieldcoral.org coral.springfield@gmail.com	Second Sunday, 4 p.m.	803	Brian Sylvester	None	To build a LGBTQ-inclusive community that provides visibility and advocacy.	2000
2	<b>King's Daughters Organization</b> 205 S. Fifth St., Suite 530 Springfield, IL 62701	217-789-4431 kdospringfield.org kdo@cfl.org	Once a month	340	Kim Cochran	Varies by circle	To aid the elderly in our community through both direct volunteering and financial support by way of our grant program.	1893
3	<b>American Business Club of Springfield</b> Inn at 835 835 S. Second St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-306-0468 abcspringfield.com robertowens1@live.com	First and third Thursdays, 12 p.m.	305	Robert J. Owens president	\$360 annually includes lunches	Inspiring mobility and independence.	1925
4	<b>Junior League of Springfield</b> Varies 2800 Montvale Dr. Springfield, IL 62704 (Main office)	573-647-9281 jlsil.org presidentjlsil@gmail.com	Second Tuesday Sept. - June	80	Rexann Whorton	\$135 annually	An organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. Current focus is food and security in Springfield and the surrounding area.	1939
5	<b>Rotary Club of Springfield - Downtown</b> Maldaner's Restaurant (2nd Floor) 222 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-566-4326 spirotary.org	Mondays, 5:30 p.m.	45	Travis Magoulis	\$360 annually	Service above self. Projects that promote literacy and combat hunger in our community, working with Rutledge Youth and sponsoring student participation in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program and providing grants to numerous nonprofits and international projects.	1913
6	<b>Sertoma Club of Springfield</b> MCL Restaurant & Bakery 2151 Wabash Ave. Springfield, IL 62704	217-891-2782 spfldilsertoma.com album1@aol.com	First and third Mondays, 12 p.m.	42	Cheryl Pence	\$200 annually plus meals	SERTOMA = SERvice TO MAnkind. Areas of service: projects to benefit hearing impaired, including hearing aids for low-income seniors, assistive listening equipment for public venues; support for other community needs including Boys & Girls Club, Golden Laurel Awards, national heritage projects.	1954
7	<b>Springfield Jaycees</b> Lincoln Library 326 S. Seventh St. Springfield, IL 62701	springfieldjaycees.net spfldjaycees@gmail.com	Third Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.	40	Emily Watts	\$68	Aspiring to build leadership skills by creating positive change in the community. Notable projects: Downtown Fourth of July fireworks, Holiday Lights Parade, United to Beat Malaria, Camp New Hope, World Clean-up Day. Encouraging new projects to combat food insecurity in Springfield.	1939
8	<b>Kiwanis Club of Springfield - Downtown</b> Varies 517 S. Fourth St. Springfield, IL 62701	downtownkiwanis.org info@downtownkiwanis.org	Wednesdays, 12 p.m.	38	Jerry Daniels	\$156 annually, plus meals	Kiwanis is a unified group of members and partners dedicated to improving the lives of children in our community. Kiwanians impact our community through our service-leadership programs.	1922
9	<b>Rotary Club of Springfield - South</b> MCL Restaurant & Bakery 2151 Wabash Ave. Springfield, IL 62704	rotarysouth-spi.org rotarycarl6460@gmail.com	Thursdays, 12 p.m.	36	Carl Affrunti	\$200 annually, plus meals	Service above self. Youth literacy and health.	1966
10	<b>Rotary Club of Springfield - Sunrise</b> Hoogland Center for the Arts 420 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-899-7899 springfieldrotarysunrise.org springfieldrotarysunrise@gmail.com	Wednesdays, 7 a.m.	34	Roni Mohan	DND	Service above self. Grants to local nonprofits that serve youth. Literacy projects at Graham School. This I Believe essay contest for high school youth in collaboration with WUIS - NPR IL. Rotary Youth Exchange. Support for Rotary Foundation efforts to eradicate polio and fund other international projects that change lives.	1987

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Sources: The individual service organizations.  
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# COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

	NAME/MEETING ADDRESS	PHONE WEBSITE/EMAIL	MEETING TIME(S)	# OF MEMBERS	CONTACTS	DUES	MISSION STATEMENT	YEAR EST'D
10	<b>Springfield Noon Lions Club</b> Visit the website for meeting information.	springfieldnoonlionsclub.com spfnoonlionsclub@gmail.com	First and third Tuesdays, 12 p.m.	34	Mike Garcia	\$125 annually, plus meals	Mary Bryant Home for the blind and visually impaired eyeglass recycling program, Camp Lions for Blind and Deaf Youth, Students Can See. Eyeglasses and exams for low-income students and adults.	1919
11	<b>Springfield Frontiers International</b> MCL Restaurant & Bakery 2151 Wabash Ave. Springfield, IL 62704	217-553-9582 springfieldfrontiers.org Hemingway_Larry@yahoo.com	First and fourth Fridays, 12 p.m.	30	Larry Hemingway Sr.	\$165 annually, plus meals	"Advancement through Service" by harnessing the cooperative influence and energy of the members and directing that influence and energy towards solutions to major issues which are civic, social, educational and racial in nature.	1953
12	<b>Springfield Breakfast Optimist Club</b> Cathedral Church of St. Paul 815 S. Second St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-638-2389 domer23297@aol.com	Fridays, 8 a.m.	22	Ron Omer	\$40 semi-annually	Friend of Youth. By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in kids.	1960
13	<b>Rotary Club of Springfield - Midtown</b> Heart Technologies/Wiley Interiors 301 E. Laurel St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-698-1318 midtownspringfield.org info@midtownspringfield.org	Tuesdays, 12 p.m.	21	Kevin Corbin Trevelyn Florence-Thomas	\$40 quarterly	Service above self. Projects that promote local programs for literacy and equal opportunity for students of District 186, particularly Washington Middle School, The Outlet and the Million Word Reader Club. Also Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA), sponsoring and hosting international exchange students and other international and local projects to continue the work of eradicating the polio virus around the world.	2003
14	<b>The Zonta Club of Springfield</b> Illini Country Club 1601 S. Illini Road Springfield, IL 62704	217-787-8680 zonta.org facebook.com/zontaclub-springfield springfield@zontadistrict6.org	Second Wednesday, 5:30 p.m., August-June	15	Carol Borecky	\$140 annually, plus meals	Works to improve the lives of women and girls worldwide through service and advocacy. Local projects reflect that mission.	1939
14	<b>Rotary Club of Springfield - Westside</b> Brickhouse Grill & Pub 3136 Iles Ave. Springfield, IL 62704	217-836-6024 facebook.com/Springfield-WestsideRotary rotarywestside@gmail.com	Wednesdays 12 p.m.	15	Nicole Pacheco	\$155 quarterly with meals, \$100 without. Under age 36, \$50 without.	Service above self. Focusing on children and literacy.	2008
15	<b>Altrusa International of Springfield</b> Laurel United Methodist Church 631 South Grand Ave. West Springfield, IL 62704	facebook.com/ AltrusaSpringfieldIL altrusaspringfield@gmail.com	Third Monday, 6:30 p.m.	14	Janine Drew	\$90/ annually	Altrusa International provides community service, develops leadership, fosters international understanding and encourages fellowship by an international network of volunteers desiring to further the principles of the Association.	1948

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# Association management trends for 2024

## Technology and AI are important, but members still want a personal touch

By Holly A. Whisler



Left to right: Kim Robinson, president; Micah Roderick, chief of staff; Veronica Knox, director of meetings and events; and Lara Laird, vice president of finance and operations at FrontLine Co's Springfield office.  
PHOTO COURTESY FRONTLINE CO.

Springfield is home to 125 trade and professional associations, and you may belong to one or more of them. Association management companies offer the full array of resources and expertise needed to run the daily operations of an association, even those without any paid staff. As in many industries, technology, artificial intelligence and the human side of organizations are driving this year's association trends.

Kim Robinson is president of FrontlineCo, an association management company established in 2001 with offices in Springfield, Chicago and Naperville. She explained there are stand-alone associations that manage their staffing needs, and there are volunteer associations that have no paid staff and work with AMCs to handle staffing and digital marketing, for example. She said, "We provide staffing for 24 associations, and the major benefit is that those costs are shared among all 24 associations. We're like a staffing agency and much more prevalent than people know."

Many association management professionals are using cutting-edge technology to benefit their clients. Sandra Wulf, CEO and co-owner of Pivot Management, 526 E. Allen St., said that post-pandemic association management has seen a digital transformation.

"ChatGPT has been an exciting learning experience to see how it can be used in digital marketing with brainstorming and the creation of images and video," she said, noting that ChatGPT is an add-on to the marketing team.

This additional resource is inexpensive, which is key for small associations.

Robinson agreed that AI is being leveraged to make the most effective use of digital marketing dollars, and she said it's crucial to assure clients that great care is being taken to avoid the limitations of AI.

Technology has become a part of everyday life, but in the last six to 10 years, the online experience people are accustomed to – shopping online and getting quick delivery – has set their expectations very high, said Robinson. "They know if I order something today, I can get it tomorrow. Our No. 1 goal is to serve our members and meet those high expectations." However, people still want to call a person and discuss a question. "We are very diligent about picking up the phone and providing that personal service," she said.

The pandemic changed the way people attend meetings and conferences. The hybrid model of in-person and virtual attendance are options that are here to stay. Wulf said that associations are relying on hybrid and on-demand meetings because some people no longer want to leave the house or office.

Wulf said, "In the economy of time, hybrid events serve a purpose. If you can get the information needed through an on-demand option at your convenience, that frees up valuable travel time and helps people balance their professional and personal lives."

Robinson agreed, but has noticed there are some people who are reluctant to acknowl-

edge that the hybrid model has its advantages.

Now that people can attend conferences in person, Robinson recognized that those who meet in person really value it. "We missed the peer-to-peer connection," she said. "Although people have great demands on their time, they still want to meet with peers." Robinson said that FrontlineCo's numbers for in-person meetings have bounced back since the pandemic.

Wulf added that one of the valuable aspects of meeting in person is the opportunity to network and make connections that serve us throughout our careers. She expressed concern for the young professionals who work from home who might be missing out on forming those important networks.

Diversity, equity and inclusion are still at the forefront, and Wulf said it's something many associations have been in tune with for some time. She added that DEI is an ongoing process of increasing our efforts to make an impact on the lives of association members. "We imbed inclusion in all of our communication and presentations; it needs to be included in everything under the umbrella of association management," she said.

The human experience of the pandemic brought awareness to mental health and how that plays into our overall well-being. Wulf said the focus on mental health continues to develop even more since the pandemic, and now it is not uncommon to have a wellness event at in-person meetings.

Wulf added that as society has become more socially aware it is now common that events include an aspect of social responsibility, such as collecting non-perishable food or donating professional clothing. She has also seen events where attendees are given the opportunity to assemble care packages to be donated. Some associations select an organization or charity to adopt for the coming year and uses it as an opportunity for community building among association members.

Looking toward the future and the young professionals in the workforce, Robinson emphasized how important it is to have all generations represented in association membership. "Members are the lifeblood of the organization, and expectations among the generations are very different," she said. "It's challenging to meet those expectations and the pace is quick, so we ask ourselves: How can we go faster and provide better service?" **SBJ**





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Learn numerous techniques for aging well, increasing longevity, and maintaining independence during all stages of aging. Sessions for this program include exercise, sleep strategies, healthy eating and hydration, financial planning, healthy relationships, advanced planning, medication management, volunteerism and falls prevention. Call AgeLinc to find dates and locations of programming in your area.

#### **Monthly Lunch & Learns for Caregivers**

AgeLinc provides a luncheon and monthly education opportunity for any family/partner caregiver on the third Wednesday of every month. The Lunch & Learns are hosted at the AgeLinc Conference Center. Caregivers can call the AgeLinc office to learn more about Lunch & Learn topics or to reserve seats.

#### **AgeLinc Caregivers Conference**

AgeLinc's offers an Annual Caregiver Conference at the Crowne Plaza, 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield. Relative/Friend caregivers of both adults and children are welcome to attend this conference for a catered meal, resources, vendor's tables, guest speakers and more. Contact AgeLinc to learn more about this conference and to register. (A participant registration fee of 20 dollars is reimbursed at the end of the conference. Paid respite services for caregivers can be arranged by AgeLinc to allow participation in the conference.)

#### **Relative Caregivers of Children Resource Conference (Kinship Family Resource Conference)**

AgeLinc hosts an Annual Kinship Resource Conference for relative caregivers/ foster families for those with children under the age of eighteen. Caregivers/ Foster families will have access to comprehensive resource packets, clothing/diaper resources, back to school supplies, hygiene products, as well as a free boxed meal. Education was provided on The Child Only Grant, The Extended Family Service Program, and McKenny-Vento law for children in public school while staying with a relative caregiver. Contact AgeLinc to learn more about this conference and to register.

#### **Relative Caregiver of Children Gap Fund Assistance (if funding is available)**

AgeLinc provides emergency, one-time financial assistance for items or services that address the safety and care needs of relative caregivers of any age or the child(ren) in their care. This funding can fill the "gap" where referral services are limited. Gap assistance may be able to help with utility or rent expenditures, one-time childcare costs, one-time prescription medication costs, education materials, beds, car seats, clothing and more. In addition, Relative Caregivers of children can be linked with services in their community to help establish legal guardianship, clothing, food, state funded healthcare for a minor and more. This assistance requires appropriate documentation of existing or pending legal guardianship of a minor and may only be accessed once per client within a 12-month period. Service provided by AgeLinc for 12-county service area.

#### **SHIP-Senior Health Information Program (Medicare and Medicaid Assistance)**

AgeLinc provides free Medicare education and enrollment assistance (comparing and understanding plans and benefits) throughout the year. Have questions about your benefits, open enrollment, plans comparisons, or new to Medicare? Call AgeLinc to make an appointment with a certified SHIP counselor to go over Medicare benefits and Medicare cost assistance. AgeLinc can refer you to a certified SHIP location nearest you. All individuals receiving Medicare benefits are eligible for this service.

#### **Farmers' Market Coupons**

From mid-July through the end of October, AgeLinc has coupon books available to low-income seniors for fresh Farmers' Market produce. Farmers' Markets coupons can be redeemed at participating vendors across the multi-county service area. Individuals aged 60 and older can apply for this benefit at the AgeLinc office. Please call to check on availability before applying in person. Supplies are limited.

#### **Benefit Access**

AgeLinc can help low-income seniors ages 65 and older or individuals with disabilities apply for reduced-priced car registration and free city bus passes through the Illinois Department on Aging. AgeLinc staff can assist interested parties with the application for benefits online and with the submission of required proof of income.

#### **Information and Assistance**

Have a question about transportation, nutrition, care, benefits, financial assistance, or any resources in your community? AgeLinc can help! Call (800)252-2918 Monday-Friday from 8am-4pm for answers to questions and referrals to services for seniors and people with disabilities in your community.

#### **Medicare Fraud Assistance**

Have questions about Medicare fraud or possible tele-fraud and mail fraud? Seniors are the targets of frequent attempted "scams," putting their personal information at risk. Never give your Medicare number, bank information, or social security number to anyone who calls you. Call AgeLinc immediately at (800)252-2918 to help identify and report possible fraud.

#### **Navigating Senior Living Options**

AgeLinc can meet with you to discuss Senior Living Options for a family member, loved one, or friend. Although we are unable to make recommendations on specific communities, we can assist with scheduling tours for Independent Living, Assisted Living, Supportive Living, Memory Care, and Skilled Nursing communities in the Central IL area.

#### **We're Happy to Share Our Services with the Community**

Have an organization, business, or group that would benefit from hearing about the services AgeLinc provides in Central Illinois? Please give us a call at (800)252-2918 and we'll be happy to provide a free presentation. We can also share information on the effects of Social Isolation and Loneliness in seniors in your community and Medicare Fraud Education.

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# MAJOR ASSOCIATIONS

Sources: The Associations.  
Ranked by numbers of members.

	NAME/ADDRESS	PHONE WEBSITE	MEMBERSHIP	PRESIDENT	MISSION	YEAR EST'D
1	<b>Illinois Education Association</b> 100 E. Edwards St. Springfield, IL 62704	844-432-1800 leanea.org	135,000	Al Llorens	To effect excellence and equity in public education, to be an advocate for public education employees and to serve as a voice for our students across the state.	1853
2	<b>Illinois Federation of Teachers</b> 700 S. College St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-544-8562 ift-aft.org	103,000	Daniel J. Montgomery	Members fighting powerfully for a strong union and the future we all deserve.	1936
3	<b>Illinois REALTORS®</b> 522 S. Fifth St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-529-2600 IllinoisRealtors.org	50,000	Matt Silver	We protect property rights and advance the real estate profession.	1916
4	<b>Illinois State Bar Association</b> 424 S. Second St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-525-1760 isba.org	28,000	Shawn Kasserian	Promote the interests of the legal profession and improve the administration of justice, the quality of members' professional lives and their relations with the public.	1877
5	<b>Illinois CPA Society</b> 524 S. Second St., Suite 504 Springfield, IL 62701	217-789-7914 icpas.org	21,700	Geoffrey Brown, CAE	To enhance the value of the CPA profession.	1903
6	<b>Illinois State Medical Society</b> 600 S. Second St., Suite 200 Springfield, IL 62704	217-528-5609 isms.org	12,000	Piyush I. Vyas, MD	To educate, advocate for, and support the health and wellbeing of the people of Illinois and the physicians who care for them.	1840
7	<b>National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB)</b> 600 S. Second St., Suite #101 Springfield, IL 62704	217-523-5471 nfib.com/Illinois	11,000	Noah Finley	The voice of small business, advocating on behalf of America's small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. NFIB is nonprofit, nonpartisan and member-driven.	1943
8	<b>Illinois Principals Association</b> 2940 Baker Drive Springfield, IL 62703	217-525-1383 ilprincipals.org	6,500	Dr. Paul Kelly	To develop, support and advocate for innovative educational leaders.	1971
9	<b>Illinois State Dental Society</b> 3100 Montvale Drive Springfield, IL 62704	217-525-1406 ids.org	6,200	Richard Bona D.D.S.	Ensuring professional success of our members and optimizing the oral health of Illinois citizens through education, legislation and communication.	1865
10	<b>Mid-West Truckers Association</b> 2727 N. Dirksen Parkway Springfield, IL 62702	217-525-0310 midwesttruckers.com	4,390	Don Schaefer president and CEO	MTA promotes the safe and economic operation of trucks through safety training, drug and alcohol testing, insurance, licensing, permit services and regulatory guidance.s	1961
11	<b>AIA Illinois</b> 201 East Adams St., Suite 1A Springfield, IL 62701	217-522-2309 aiaill.org	4,250	Eric Kliner executive vice president	Empowered by members to champion the profession of architecture.	1946
12	<b>Illinois Manufacturers' Association</b> 220 E. Adams St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-522-1240 ima-net.org	4,000	Mark Denzler	The IMA is the unifying voice for manufacturers in Illinois working to strengthen the business climate for innovators and creators in the manufacturing field. The IMA is boldly moving makers forward.	1893
13	<b>Illinois Nurses Association</b> 911 S. Second St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-523-0783 illinoisnurses.com	3,600	Tori Dameron	To work for the improvement of health standards and availability of health care services for all people in Illinois, foster high standards for nurses, stimulate and promote professional development of nurses and advance their economic and general welfare.	1901
14	<b>Illinois Chamber of Commerce</b> 215 E. Adams St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-522-5512 ilchamber.org	3,500	Lou Sandoval	The unifying leader of policies that support growth in Illinois' dynamic and diverse economy.	1919
15	<b>Illinois Trial Lawyers Association</b> 401 W. Edwards St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-789-0755 ittla.com	2,000	Katharine C. Byrne	Achieve high standards of professional ethics, uphold laws and secure and protect the rights of those injured in their persons or civil rights.	1952
16	<b>Illinois Funeral Directors Association</b> 3 Lawrence Square, Suite 2 Springfield, IL 62704	217-525-2000 ifda.org	1,388	Matthew R. Baskerville	Advancing the funeral service profession through advocacy and value.	1881
17	<b>Illinois Society of Professional Engineers</b> 100 E. Washington St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-544-7424 illinoisengineers.com	1,200	Colleen Jaltuch, P.E.	Advance and promote the public welfare in connection with construction, environment, licensing, public health and transportation.	1886



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The event is an opportunity to celebrate survivors, gather with friends and network, all while providing support to fight this horrible disease. Funds raised at this event are invested in cancer research at SCI.

The doors open at 11 a.m. and the luncheon begins at 11:45 a.m. at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, 701 E. Adams St. Tickets are \$50. Guests can register online for tickets, tables or sponsorships at [aesbid.com/ELP/WPL24](http://aesbid.com/ELP/WPL24), or call 217-545-2955. All proceeds raised at the event stay in the region and benefit cancer research at Simmons Cancer Institute at SIU Medicine.

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# Pioneers of the UIS Prairie

## The first freshmen gather to honor their mentor

By Ed Wojcicki



UIS alumnus Kyle Simpson, left, moderates a panel discussion with the past and current directors of the Capital Scholars Honors Program, Karen Moranski and Marc Klingshirn, during a reunion breakfast Feb. 24 on the UIS campus. PHOTO COURTESY UIS

About 100 people who helped to transform University of Illinois Springfield into a four-year university held their first reunion Feb. 24, at a breakfast on the campus.

That visible display of support for UIS was a testimony to the impact felt by those first freshmen classes starting in the fall 2001, with many of them becoming the first to graduate from the Capital Scholars Honors Program a few years later. They call themselves “Cappies” and returned to campus from many places in Illinois and from widespread locations including California, Washington, D.C., and even New Zealand, where alum Ryan Morrison has settled.

The hook that attracted them was that the architect of the Capital Scholars program, Karen Moranski, was honored the night before with the University of Illinois’ Distinguished Service Award. Before the Cap Scholars program was launched, UIS and its predecessor, Sangamon State University, was an upper-division school that admitted only juniors, seniors and graduate students. UIS became part of the U of I system in 1995.

When the alumni learned of Moranski’s award last fall, they organized a reunion as a show of support to a popular mentor and administrator and as an opportunity to see old friends again.

Moranski recalled during a panel discussion

at the breakfast that getting the Cap Scholars program approved became politically dicey with the Illinois Board of Higher Education because other regional public universities considered the admission of freshmen at UIS a threat, as competition. Cap Scholars was eventually approved in 1999 with the requirement that it have limited enrollment. The first cohort in 2001 had 113 students, but that honors-only provision was relaxed a few years later when UIS got approval to admit other freshmen in addition to those in the honors program.

The honors program was innovative with team-teaching by up to five faculty members from different academic disciplines and a strong emphasis on the liberal arts.


Moranski fondly recalled the foundational courses nicknamed “Questions Courses” because they have such titles as “Who Am I?” and “What is Power?” While the course titles remain in the curriculum, the content fluctuates because different faculty with different perspectives teach them, and the times change, too, said the current Cap Scholars director, Marc Klingshirn. He observed that such questions for students remain pertinent in a world threatened by events in the Middle East and other places.

One of the lessons of UIS being a place for a full university experience was evident at my breakfast table, which included five of the

original Capital Scholars. All still live in Illinois but none in Springfield. They still feel a bond with each other as “pioneers on the Prairie” and that drew them to the reunion.

They have the same fondness for the campus and for Springfield that many people have of their undergraduate alma maters. Their social media accounts over the weekend beamed with favorable comments about being together, partaking of horseshoes at local restaurants and beverages at Floyd’s and other places.

“My heart is full and my singular ab is sore from laughter after three days celebrating the #moranskieffect with #capitalscholars,” Morrison from New Zealand posted, adding it was “a reminder of the people who helped shape us into #whoweare (a question many are still answering) . . . from #campusantics to #adulting it was so easy to pick up where we left off. Special shout out @krmoranski for being the guiding star in our UIS constellation of Prairie Stars.”

After spending 21 years at UIS, Moranski left in 2016 for Sonoma State University in California, where she is now provost and vice president for academic affairs. 

*Ed Wojcicki of Springfield is a retired UIS administrator and journalist and now freelances.*

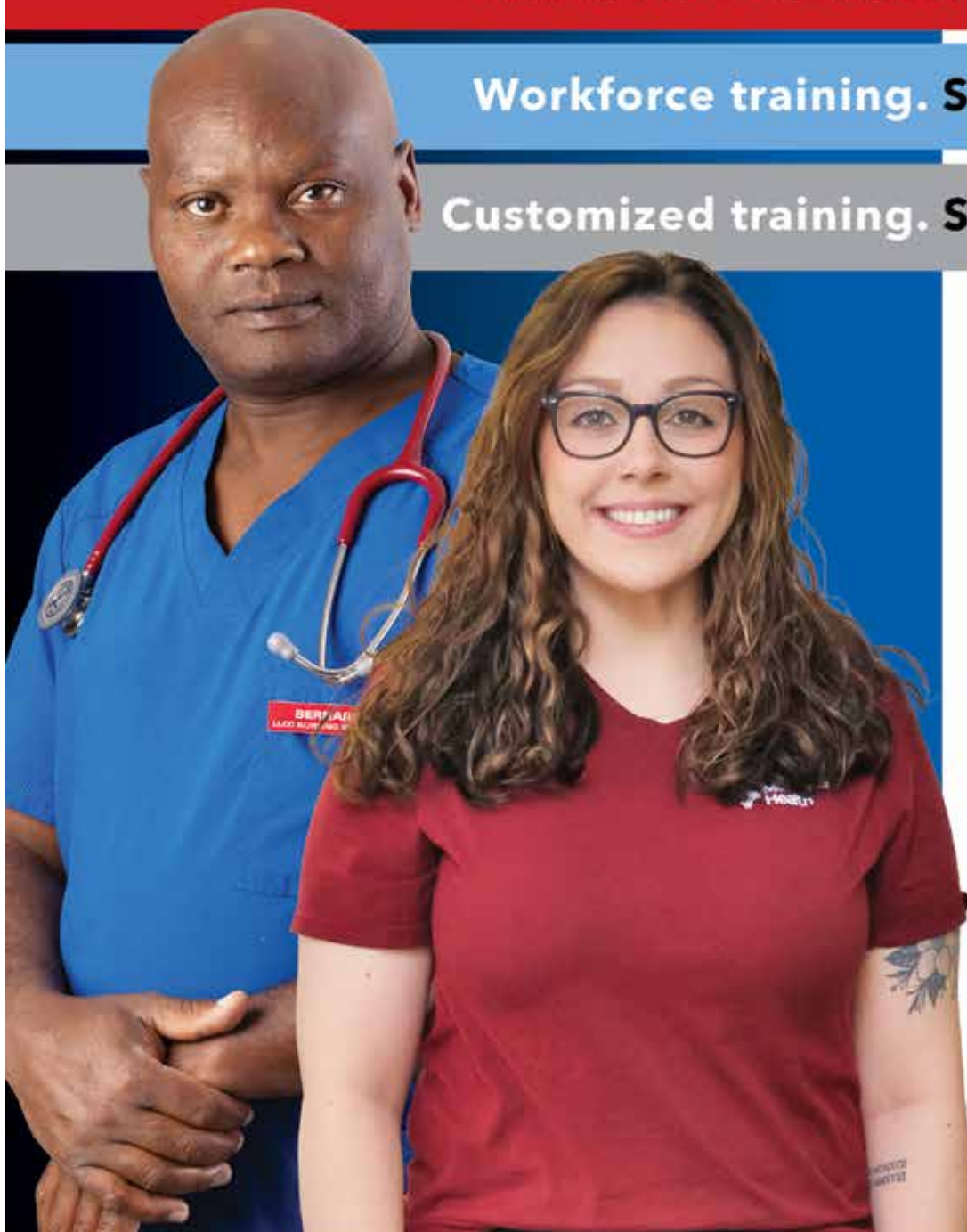
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# COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Sources: The individual colleges and universities. Ranked by 2023 enrollment.

	NAME/ADDRESS	PHONE	WEBSITE/EMAIL	TYPE OF INSTITUTION	CURRENT ENROLLMENT	TUITION	PRESIDENT/CHANCELLOR	YEAR EST'D
1	<b>Lincoln Land Community College</b> 5250 Shepherd Road P.O. Box 19256 Springfield, IL 62794-9256	217-786-2200	llcc.edu info@llcc.edu	Community college	6,548	\$137/credit hour (in-district residents)	Charlotte J. Warren Ph.D., president	1967
2	<b>University of Illinois Springfield</b> One University Plaza Springfield, IL 62703	217-206-6600	uis.edu admissions@uis.edu	Public university offering bachelor's and master's degrees, one doctorate and graduate certificates in Springfield, Peoria and online.	4,661	\$9,645 per year/full-time undergraduate, \$5,316 graduate	Janet L. Gooch Ph.D., chancellor	1970
3	<b>Illinois College</b> 1101 W. College Ave. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-245-3030	ic.edu admissions@ic.edu	Four-year private, liberal arts college offering campus and online degrees.	958	\$36,870 and includes books. Room, board and fees \$10,864	Barbara A. Farley, Ph.D.	1829
4	<b>SIU School of Medicine</b> 801 N. Rutledge (main bldg.) Springfield, IL 62702	217-545-8000	siumed.edu admissions@siumed.edu	Public education for medical students, graduate students, medical residents.	951	\$17,808 per semester tuition (no out of state)	Jerry Kruse, M.D., MSPH dean/provost	1970
5	<b>Blackburn College</b> 700 College Ave. Carlinville, IL 62626	217-854-3231	blackburn.edu admissions@blackburn.edu	Four-year, private, liberal arts work college, Presbyterian affiliated. Includes comprehensive transition program Blackburn & Beyond and online professional education programs.	390	\$28,149 per year including fees, \$9,915 room and board. (\$5,000 tuition credit if participating in nationally recognized Work Program)	Gregory J. Meyer, D. Min	1837
6	<b>St. John's College</b> 729 E. Carpenter St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-525-5628	sjcs.edu information@sjcs.edu	Private, nonprofit, upper division, two year program of Bachelor of Science in nursing, graduate MSN program, LPN-BSN pathway, BSN-DNP.	90	\$11,925 / semester - BS nursing - 2 yr. program / second degree accelerated prelicensure; \$417 / hour - online RN to BSN program. \$916 cr hr- MSN.	Traci M. Krause	1886

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## Angels among us

University of Illinois alumni, students and faculty connect to incubate business growth

By Catherine O'Connor



Larry Sweat, CEO of Bi-Petro and an Illini Angel, mentors start-up entrepreneurs by sharing his more than 40 years' experience in the financial aspects of running a successful company. PHOTO BY CATHERINE O'CONNOR

While working on building a new home in downtown Springfield, University of Illinois Springfield's business incubator is rolling out some new, innovative programs to expand its resources and service, highlighting access to expertise and sources of start-up venture capital for entrepreneurs. Innovate Springfield, which currently offers office space, business planning, market survey and logo design assistance, will be expanding to an additional three floors in a nearby building at 441 E. Adams St. to launch the Tech X Lab. The space across the street will offer 3D printing maker space, an AI lab, conference areas and classroom space, according to director Ben Hage.

"We needed to get closer to the main street itself, so people can see us," Hage said of the annex, located across the street from its current address at 15 Old State Capitol Plaza.

In addition to directing operations of the UIS business incubator and working with the Sangamon CEO program for area high school students, Hage facilitates entrepreneurship education along with Illinois Ventures, the venture capital arm of the university. It is an early-stage technology investment firm focused on research-derived companies in information technologies, physical sciences and life sciences that helps start and build businesses based on

innovations from University of Illinois.

Illini Angels, a program of Illinois Ventures established in 2023, draws talent, ideas, startups and members from all three University of Illinois System campuses. Illini Angels is a powerful cohort of investors – a team that brings decades of experience in investing, innovating, building strong companies, establishing connections and encouraging the highest-impact relationships. Illini Angel investors must meet the Security and Exchange Commission's guidelines for accredited investors, attend organizing and investor meetings, make seed-funding investments of \$5,000 to \$100,000 and pay annual membership dues of \$1,500.

Paul Magelli, the inaugural director of Illini Angels, is an entrepreneur and a pioneer in big data and analytics. He recently spoke to a group of idea-stage entrepreneurs gathered at Innovate Springfield and said, "When you're starting a business, it often feels like you're trying to cross a desert and climb a mountain."

Magelli's presentation focused on taking educated risks and learning from mistakes. He emphasized that failure should be celebrated because it often leads to success. "Thomas Edison tried about 1,000 light bulbs before he found one that worked. So, 1,000 failures really should be viewed as 1,000 successes," he said.

The Illini Angels investment network targets the needs of entrepreneurs in the incubation stage where 10% or less of companies actually get funded. "Angels cover the breach they face to get across that desert," according to Magelli.

Venture capitalists usually anticipate a return on investment, but Illini Angels are not typical venture capitalists. They are a group of around 80 passionate U of I alumni who are industry leaders and mentors driven to contribute their own money to the early stages of a company's development with no hard clock on returns. "In other words, angels don't know when or if they will see any profit from cash return on their investment, but they hate to see people waste away in the desert," Magelli said.

Larry Sweat is CEO of Springfield-based Bi-Petro, a Midwestern leader in the crude oil industry. As an Illini Angel, he looks to mentor entrepreneurs and share his decades of financial experience when it comes to running and growing a successful company. After graduating from U of I in 1980 with a degree in accounting, Sweat joined Bi-Petro in 1982 as controller, became treasurer in 1989 and was named CEO in 2000. He currently serves on the board of directors of Illini Angels.

Sweat has years of experience working alongside blue-collar families trying to make a living in the oil production and refining market, which taught him a great deal about balancing risk. To him, angel investing is a relationship that is more than writing a check. It includes seed funding, much-needed advice and mentorship with an excellent connection built on trust and clear communication. He noted that a good entrepreneur gives regular updates to the investors and must always have a Plan B.

The Illini Angels program provides opportunities for alumni, students, faculty and board members to stay connected to the university community by offering their passion, expertise as mentors and financial support of start-up companies affiliated with the U of I network.

"This is almost philanthropic. It puts money back into the economy, with growth of jobs and creative ideas. But it can be high risk," Sweat said. "It's not for the faint of heart." SBJ

*Catherine O'Connor earned bachelor's and master's degrees in public history from UIS, and served in the University's General Assembly legislative internship program.. Since retiring from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency in 2015, she has enjoyed working among fellow Illini alumni, faculty and students as an open desk member of Innovate Springfield.*



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# INDEPENDENT PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Sources: The individual schools.  
Ranked by current enrollment - Fall 2023.

	NAME/ADDRESS	PHONE	WEBSITE/EMAIL	CURRENT ENROLLMENT	PRINCIPAL/DIRECTOR	GRADES	AFFILIATION	YEAR EST'D
1	<b>Christ the King Elementary</b> 1920 Barberry Drive Springfield, IL 62704	217-546-2159	ctkcougars.com	535	Jill Seaton	Preschool-8	Catholic	1957
2	<b>Sacred Heart-Griffin High School</b> 1200 W. Washington St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-787-1595	shg.org	525	Dr. William Moredock president Teresa Saner, principal	9-12	Catholic	1895
3	<b>Springfield Christian School</b> 2850 Cider Mill Lane Springfield, IL 62702	217-698-1933 217-787-7673 (Preschool)	scs.school scs@scs.school	483	Racheal Thurman	Kindergarten-8	Christian	1951
4	<b>Blessed Sacrament Elementary</b> 748 W. Laurel Ave. Springfield, IL 62704	217-522-7534	bssbruins.org	420	Nicole Kuhlman	Preschool-8	Catholic	1925
5	<b>Our Saviour School</b> 455 E. State St. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-243-8621	oursavioursham- rocks.com	310	Stevie VanDeVelde	Preschool-8	Catholic	1872
6	<b>Little Flower Catholic School</b> 900 Stevenson Drive Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-4511	little-flower.org	303	Jennifer Killian	Preschool-8	Catholic	1948
7	<b>Calvary Academy</b> 1730 W. Jefferson St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-546-5987	caspringfield.org	300	Jessica Smith	Preschool-12	Christian Nondenominational	1977
8	<b>Trinity Lutheran School</b> 515 S. MacArthur Blvd. Springfield, IL 62704	217-787-2323, Ext. 1	trinity-lutheran.com	250	Alicia Klug	2 years - 8	Lutheran	1860
9	<b>Our Savior's Lutheran School</b> 2645 Old Jacksonville Road Springfield, IL 62704	217-546-4531	oursaviors-school.org	219	Carmen Yagow	Preschool-8	Lutheran	1962
10	<b>St. Agnes Elementary</b> 251 N. Amos Ave. Springfield, IL 62702	217-793-1370	stagnescatholic- school.org	200	Rachel Cunningham	Preschool-8	Catholic	1897
11	<b>Routt Catholic High School</b> 500 E. College Ave. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-243-8563	routtcatholic.com	135	Daniel Carie	9-12	Catholic	1902
12	<b>St. Aloysius Elementary</b> 2125 N. 21st St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-544-4553	saintaloyusius.org	130	Denise Reavis	Preschool-8	Catholic	1928
13	<b>Lutheran High School</b> 5200 S. Sixth St. Frontage Road E. Springfield, IL 62703	217-546-6363	spiluhi.org	115	Zachary Klug	9-12	Lutheran	1979
14	<b>St. Patrick Catholic School</b> 1800 South Grand Ave. East Springfield, IL 62703	217-523-7670	st-patrick.org	62	Michael Carlson	Preschool-5	Catholic	1910
15	<b>Montessori Children's House</b> 4147 Sand Hill Road Springfield, IL 62702	217-544-7702	montessorispring- field.org	59	Sue Harris	Preschool-6	Nonsectarian	1977
16	<b>Concordia Lutheran Church- School-Preschool</b> 2300 Wilshire Road Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-3309	concordiacares.org school@concor- diaspfla.org	30	Brian Carr interim principal	Preschool-8	Lutheran Church Missouri Synod	1931

# HANSON HONORS EUGENE “GENE” WILKINSON

Hanson lost a pillar of our company Feb. 7, 2024, when Chairman Emeritus Eugene “Gene” Wilkinson passed at age 89.

A skilled engineer and a pioneer of our early growth, Gene began his more-than-50-year Hanson career in 1962.

His career path included helping to establish Hanson’s first regional office, in Peoria, in 1966; working on the design of the McClugage Bridge in Peoria during the 1970s; serving as vice president from 1973 to 1979, with oversight of Hanson’s structural division; assuming the executive vice president role starting in 1979 and transitioning to chief operating officer in 1986; and leading Hanson as president from 1990 to 1998 and CEO from 1990 to 1999.

Gene credited the late Walter E. Hanson, our founder, and the late Lee Dondanville, former Hanson president and CEO, with helping him make the transition from engineer to executive.

“The mentoring of Walt and Lee was extremely important,” he said. “Having experienced almost every kind of job in the company — from drawing board work up to CEO and board chairman — was pretty significant from a personal standpoint.

“I think Walt’s philosophy of employee involvement and shared company ownership was pretty amazing, when you think about it,” Gene added. “That culture has continued on through the ages ... It’s a culture of being a people company rather than a corporation.”

Whether he was designing, recruiting or leading, Gene firmly believed that what mattered most was the people involved. Thank you, Gene, for laying a foundation of camaraderie, mentorship and integrity at Hanson.



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# Vying to fill vacancies

UIS and District 186 receive grants to help address teacher shortages

By Cinda Ackerman Klickna



UIS School of Education alumna Katherine Lounsberry in a classroom at Dubois Elementary School on May 11, 2021. PHOTO COURTESY UIS

A teacher shortage and a waning interest in teaching as a profession are both being addressed locally by two major grants. The Teacher Vacancy Grant pilot program provides resources to attract, hire, support and retain teachers in the state's most understaffed districts, and the Grow Your Own grant awarded to University of Illinois Springfield's School of Education provides up to 15 forgivable loans to junior and senior teacher candidates who plan to teach in Springfield or Decatur for a minimum of five years.

Springfield Public Schools District 186 has not had the number of open teaching positions that other districts have seen due to teachers agreeing to teach extra classes to fill in the gaps. That is not an ideal situation, but it helped the vacancy problem in the short-term. Thirteen additional teachers were needed in the 2023-2024 school year, much less than the nearly 60 that were needed the prior year. However, the need for more teachers still exists.

According to a UIS press release, the \$145,000 GYO grant, Future Ready Teaching: Thinking Critically, Acting Boldly and Inspiring Brilliance, aims to assist the School of Education in developing a consortium to address teacher shortages in central Illinois. Partner institutions include UIS, Richland Community College, Springfield Public Schools District 186, Decatur Public Schools, Springfield Urban League and a union in Decatur that represents paraprofessionals.

The grant was developed along with consortium partners and co-authored by Beth Hatt, director of the UIS School of Education; Pamela Hoff, UIS distinguished professor of policy and equity; and Ryan Williams, assistant director of strategic initiatives for the UIS School of Education.

Jennifer Gill, superintendent of District 186, said, "We have had students in our district become teachers and return here. That is what we hope to grow." This year has been a planning year, with implementation set for this fall.

Arwah Franklin, assistant director of human resources in District 186 and a member of the planning team, said, "Many of the candidates are already employed in the districts as paraprofessionals. Some already have 60 college credit hours so they would come in as a junior or senior."

Hatt explained the wraparound services participating students will receive from the grant funds. "Candidates will receive a stipend to help with child care, housing, transportation and meals, and access to technology resources. As part of the preparation for the program, students will participate in a summer program to orient them to the campus, meet other candidates and establish relationships with personnel in the School of Education."

The grant is renewable annually, depending on fund availability, and is supported by an appropriation from the Illinois General Assembly.

The Teacher Vacancy Grant, awarded to Dis-

trict 186, provides \$298,600 for each of three years to help fund student teachers, recruit new teachers and assist current teachers who accept student teachers.

The grant allowed the district to give a \$500 bonus to 50 first-year teachers and 26 second-year teachers this school year. Cooperating teachers – those who accept having a student teacher – were given \$1,000 upon the completion of the student teacher's semester work. The grant also allowed some first-year teachers who demonstrated financial need financial assistance in securing an apartment.

Franklin explained why bonuses and other forms of payments are helpful when attracting educators to your district. "I go on many recruitment trips, and one time while recruiting at Missouri State University, I had set up my table near a man from the Kansas City, Missouri, district. He was handing out a form offering \$8,000 to any person who came to that district to student teach. We certainly didn't offer anything like that. So, this grant will help us attract student teachers and new teachers."

The Teacher Vacancy Grant pilot program has already been successful. At the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, 97 teachers were recruited to Springfield Public Schools District 186. **SBJ**

*Cinda Ackerman Klickna is a former Springfield Public Schools District 186 teacher.*

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# Central Illinois Golf Outings

# 2024

## APRIL

13 – Rail Masters Tournament, The Rail Golf Course, 217-525-0365.

14 – The Masters Nine-Hole Shotgun, Long Bridge Golf Course, 217-744-8311.

20 – Night Golf, Two-Person Alternate Shot, Pasfield Golf Course, 217-698-6049.

20 – Redbud Romp, Four-Person Scramble, Edgewood Golf Club, Auburn, 217-438-3221.

## MAY

4 – Bergen Parent/Child Scramble, Bergen Golf Course, 217-753-6211.

4-5 – The Rail Shootout, The Rail Golf Course, 217-525-0365.

25 – Two-Person Red, White and Blue Tournament, Piper Glen Golf Club, 217-483-6537.

## JUNE

1 – Tim Kratochvil Memorial Golf Outing, Edgewood Golf Club, Auburn, 217-438-3221.

1 – Mason County Democrat Outing, Country Hills Golf Course, Greenview, 217-632-7242.

2 – Ladies Scramble, Piper Glen Golf Club, 217-483-6537.

8-9 – Central Illinois Amateur, Piper Glen Golf Club, 217-483-6537, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, 217-786-4111.

16 – Red, White & Blue Individual Stroke Play, Bunn Golf Course, 217-522-2633.

20 – Night Golf, Two-Person Alternate Shot, Pasfield Golf Course, 217-698-6049.

22-23 – Women's City Tournament, Bunn Golf Course, 217-522-2633, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, 217-786-4111.

27-30 – Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS. Panther Creek Country Club, 217-670-2910.

29-30 – Piper Cup, Piper Glen Golf Club, 217-483-6537.

## JULY

4 – Flag Event, Piper Glen Golf Club, 217-483-6537.

6 – The Rail Open, The Rail Golf Course, 217-525-0365.

6 – Over 50/Under 50 Two-Person Scamble, Country Hills Golf Course, Greenview, 217-632-7242.

13-14 – The Challenge, Two-Person Best Ball/Scramble, Edgewood Golf Club, Auburn, 217-438-3221.

20 – The Mulligan, formerly the One-Person Scramble, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, 217-786-4111.

20-21 – Players Invitational Tournament, Country Hills Golf Course, Greenview, 217-632-7242.

27-28 – Springfield Men's City Tournament, Bunn Golf Course, 217-522-2633, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, 217-786-4111.

## AUGUST

3-4 – Springfield Men's City Tournament, Bunn Golf Course, 217-522-2633, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, 217-786-4111, The Rail Golf Course, 217-525-0365, Piper Glen Golf Club, 217-483-6537.

10 – Vegas Scramble, The Rail Golf Course, 217-525-0365.

11 – Pasfield Parent/Child Alternate Shot, Pasfield Golf Course, 217-698-6049.

23 – Ed Kane Memorial, Four-Person 1 gross 1 net ball, Bunn Golf Course, 217-522-2633.

24 – Bulldog Invite, Country Hills Golf Course, Greenview, 217-632-7242.

24-25 – Club Championship, Piper Glen Golf Club, 217-483-6537.

26 – Senior Scramble, The Rail Golf Course, 217-525-0365.

## SEPTEMBER

7-8 Round the Town, Two-Person Team Event, Bunn Golf Course, 217-522-2633, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, 217-786-4111.

8 – NFL Kickoff Nine-Hole Shotgun, Long Bridge Golf Course, 217-744-8311.

21 – Henning Memorial, Country Hills Golf Course, Greenview, 217-632-7242.

21 – Night Golf, Two-Person Alternate Shot, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, 217-786-4111.

## OCTOBER

13 – Chili Man Four-Person Scramble, Hard Course Day, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, 217-786-4111.

19 – Hard Course Tournament, The Rail Golf Course, 217-525-0365.

26 – Halloween Horror, Two-Person Flighted Event, Edgewood Golf Club, Auburn, 217-438-3221.

## NOVEMBER

2-3 – Hy-Vee Two-Person Turkey Shootout, Bergen Golf Course, 217-753-6211, Pasfield Golf Course, 217-698-6049.

29 – Turkey Shootout Scramble, 4-Person Scramble, Edgewood Golf Club, Auburn, 217-438-3221.



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## Golfing for a cause

By Janet Seitz

When coming up with ideas for fundraisers, nonprofit organizations often need to give a lot of “fore” thought about to how to attract donors and participants. The result may be a golf outing.

Orthopedic Center of Illinois Foundation’s Chip in Fore Charity golf outing was “created as an opportunity to raise funds for the OCI’s Foundation, which is dedicated to promoting the advancement of musculoskeletal care and healthy lifestyles for central Illinois communities,” stated Megan Smith, OCI’s director of marketing and communications. “OCIF provides grants to charitable organizations and scholarships for medical education.”

Chip in Fore Charity beneficiaries are chosen each year, said Smith, and all central Illinois nonprofit organizations are encouraged to apply to be the grant recipient. Applications typically open in April and can be accessed on the foundation’s website ([www.ocif.net](http://www.ocif.net)). Previous beneficiaries have included HOPE, Springfield Zoological Society, YMCA, Central Illinois Foodbank, Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Illinois, Contact Ministries, Southwind Park, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Illinois and several other groups. Grants are typically \$20,000.

This September, OCI will hold its 21st outing. Smith explained the event is not open to the public and typically includes 100-120 golfers, all of whom are physicians, patients (by invitation only) or employees of corporate sponsors. In order to golf in this event, an organization must sponsor at a level that includes complimentary golfers.

“The most challenging part of hosting this event is simply keeping track of all the details since there’s a lot of moving parts, and making sure everything stays on schedule,” said Smith. “The most enjoyable part is putting together swag bags for our golfers and making sure all of our sponsors get the recognition and day-of experience they deserve. Being able to give \$20,000 to a local nonprofit organization is pretty amazing, too.”

Also on par with this type of event is SIU

Medicine’s Department of Pediatrics’ On Par for Pediatrics golf outing, formerly known as the Camp COCO golf outing. It will take place at The Rail Golf Course June 3. Registration begins in April.

“Camp COCO was unable to continue in light of COVID-19, as it was an obvious danger for children with cancer to assemble,” explained Erin Cox, SIU Medicine events coordinator. “Patient care and safety is the utmost priority at SIU Pediatrics.”



Left to right: Dr. Timothy VanFleet, president of the Orthopedic Center of Illinois, presents a check from the Orthopedic Center of Illinois Foundation’s Chip in Fore Charity golf outing to Clint Paul, president and CEO of Hope, and Jodi Ogilvy, chief communications and development officer at Hope. PHOTO COURTESY OCI

However, SIU Pediatrics still needed a fundraiser to help those children and their families, regardless of whether the camp could continue or not. The decision was made to expand the fundraiser to include not only children with cancer, but children with other diseases such as blood disorders, heart defects, diabetes and more. “In 2022, On Par for Pediatrics came to life, and our community has done a wonderful job helping us support our most fragile patients since that time,” said Cox.

Isabella Silver with SIU Medicine’s office of marketing, communication and engagement, added, “Funds raised at this year’s golf outing will support pediatric patients and their families, easing their financial burdens by providing overnight lodging, food or transportation for families whose child is receiving extended treatment.”

Information on the event can be reviewed at <https://www.siumed.edu/foundation/par-pediatrics-golf-outing>.

“Since our Camp COCO fund is self-sustain-

ing, we wanted to extend our reach to cover a wide range of patient needs from infant to teens in central Illinois,” added Cox. The SIU Medicine Women and Children’s Clinic can provide non-perishable items for families with food insecurities as well as home essential items including cribs and mattresses, blankets, diapers, formula, car seats and clothing.

“We also offer financial assistance for urgent medical needs waiting for insurance approval and other types of care not covered by insur-

ance such as diabetes care that requires insulin sensors, insulin pumps and growth hormones. Our list of items is continuously evaluated and continues to grow based on our current families’ needs. For patients with hospital stays, we can assist families as needed with transportation and hospital cafeteria meals.”

Similarly, the Heart of Wes Barr Foundation provides items for agencies Wes Barr held near and dear to his heart. The foundation raises funds to purchase goods and supplies for social service agencies, law enforcement, veterans’ organizations and animal protection agencies. Barr was a law enforcement officer who was active in many nonprofit organizations in the Springfield community before his death in 2019.

His widow, Sherry Barr, recalled, “A few of Wes’s friends contacted me and wanted to do a fundraiser in his honor, and I asked them to hold off just a little. I was already thinking about starting a foundation and wanted them to be on the board. The golf outing was the first fundraiser the Heart of Wes Barr did once we got our nonprofit status.” This year marks its fifth golf outing, which will be held in September (See <http://theheartofwesbarr.org>).

Board member Flynn Hanners stated that 100-120 golfers participate, which they recruit from the community, many of whom knew Barr. “Wes was a golfer and many of the players are friends and admirers of his,” he said. “They play to help keep his memory alive and to help the community at large.” <sup>SBJ</sup>

Janet Seitz is a local communications professional, writer and artist. To share your story, contact her at [janetseitz1@gmail.com](mailto:janetseitz1@gmail.com).





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## OSF HealthCare expands women's health care services



An April opening is planned for an OSF HealthCare clinic in Lincoln, 602 Woodlawn Road.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF OSF HEALTHCARE

"This new select service offering is in alignment with OSF's long-standing tradition of helping women access high-quality, compassionate clinical care where they need it," said Jennifer Ulrich, interim president of OSF HealthCare St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington. "Our relationship and all services offered in our hospitals and clinics align with our OSF mission, values and our ethical commitments as a Catholic health care ministry and ensure holistic and caring obstetrics care for all women in the area communities."

Services at OSF Medical Group – Obstetrics & Gynecology will include typical care offerings at OSF HealthCare locations, such as well-woman visits, prenatal and postpartum care, pelvic floor disorder treatments and general gynecologic care.

"We continue to see a shortage of obstetricians and gynecologists across the nation. This model of midwife care is an answer, allowing for a superior patient experience with more time for each woman," said Dr. Dele Ogunleye. "We are pleased to collaborate with OSF to expand this service."

OSF HealthCare is an integrated health system founded by The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis. Headquartered in Peoria, OSF HealthCare has 16 hospitals – 10 acute care, five critical access and one transitional care – with 2,131 licensed beds throughout Illinois and Michigan.

Women in the Lincoln, Decatur-Forsyth and Champaign-Urbana areas will soon have increased access to obstetrics care through a new collaboration on select services between OSF HealthCare and Advanced Women's Healthcare in Bloomington.

Clinics with Advanced Women's Healthcare providers and OSF Mission Partners began serving patients in Forsyth, 845 US Route 51,

in February, and anticipate an April opening in Lincoln, 602 Woodlawn Road.

At OSF HealthCare Heart of Mary Medical Center in Urbana, a team of OB/GYNs and certified nurse midwives from Advanced Women's Healthcare began seeing patients for well-woman, prenatal and postpartum care in February at the medical office building on the OSF Heart of Mary campus.

## HSHS awarded Healing Illinois grant

Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) was recently awarded a Healing Illinois grant to foster discussion between central Illinois community members and health care professionals around equity in health care.

Healing Illinois is an initiative led by the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Field Foundation of Illinois. Statewide, 184 recipients will receive \$4.5 million in funding for community-based activities to advance racial healing. In central Illinois, this grant is awarded by the United Way of Central Illinois. Last month, HSHS announced that it also received a Healing Illinois grant to support a speaker

series in southern Illinois.

The HSHS grant project entitled "Revealing and Embodying Racial Healing for All People: Healing Central Illinois" will foster in-person dialog between community members and HSHS colleagues to advance racial healing. The Healing Illinois grant project in central Illinois will remember the 1908 Springfield Race Riots and the role of the Hospital Sisters at St. John's Hospital in offering care for all people regardless of race. Invited HSHS colleagues and community members will participate in two day-long programs in the weeks leading up to Juneteenth. HSHS colleagues from HSHS St.

John's Hospital in Springfield and its affiliated hospitals, including HSHS St. Mary's Hospital in Decatur, HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital in Effingham, HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield and HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital in Shelbyville, will participate in this program.

"At the heart of the HSHS Mission is Christ's healing love for all people," said Angela Senander, HSHS system director of formation. "We seek to reveal and embody Christ's healing love in each encounter we have with patients, family members, colleagues and community members."



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# Buying a business

By Thomas C. Pavlik Jr.

If you want to work for yourself, you may well be thinking about purchasing an existing small business. It could be a printer, restaurant or distributor, for example. The current business owner may be looking to retire or is simply tired of the stress of owning and managing a business. Chances are the business doesn't own any real estate, but rather leases its location. Many times, negotiations occur directly between buyer and seller and then lawyers and other professionals are consulted. All too often, however, the parties themselves fail to discuss any number of issues that may thereafter crater a potential deal, resulting in everyone losing time and money. So, if you are thinking about buying a business, here are some issues you will want to address up front.

## What are you buying?

Once you agree on a purchase price, you will want to decide if you are buying assets or stock. Most buyers prefer to purchase assets for the depreciation benefits. Sellers, on the other hand, prefer to sell stock or other ownership rights to their entity. From the buyer's perspective, purchasing stock increases the likelihood that you will also be obtaining legacy problems such as claims that may have occurred under the old owner's watch but which aren't advanced until after the closing. Consult with your legal and accounting professionals and decide what makes sense for you. Finally, if buying assets, make sure that you are buying the name of the company, telephone number(s), website domain, client lists, social media accounts and anything else that might be essential for continuing success.

## Allocation of purchase price

Assuming you are buying assets, you will want to discuss how that purchase price will be allocated. Again, it's best to get input immediately from your accountant. Generally, the purchase price will be allocated between goodwill, hard assets (e.g. equipment) and leasehold improvements. As a buyer, you may well want to allocate the purchase price to items that can be quickly depreciated, which, generally speaking, will result in tax advantages. Of course, due concern has to be given to the fair market value of the assets being purchased. Differences will most often occur when the seller wants to allocate more of the purchase price to goodwill. Address the issue up front before spending time having your lawyer draft a document only to find out that there's no agreement to be reached on this issue.



## Landlord consent

Many businesses have value because of their location. If you are purchasing a business operating out of a leased location, you will want to make sure that the landlord will consent to an assignment of the lease. Expect that landlord to ask for financial information about you as well as your experience. It's usually quite common for purchase contracts to be conditioned on such landlord approval.

You will also want to get a copy of the existing lease immediately. Pay attention to how many years are left on the lease and whether there is a right of renewal. If the lease is coming due in the near future, it's probably in your best interest to see if a new lease can be negotiated now. Pay particular attention to the terms of the lease with regard to additional rent provisions – such as CAM, insurance, maintenance obligations, etc. Be sure to factor in those extra costs, which can be substantial, in deciding whether the lease is affordable based upon the type of business you will be operating at that location.

## Employees

It's important to determine if there are any key employees that will be essential to running the business and whether they will continue with the business after the purchase. Also, determine whether the current owner is going to expect you to hire existing employees you might not otherwise want. If you do, you may well become liable as a successor employer for various obligations. Most purchase agreements require the previous owner to terminate all employees prior to

your acquisition, and this is usually the safest course.

## Warranties

The well-advised purchaser requires adequate warranties that all the financial information regarding the business is true and will be true as of the date of closing. Likewise, you should request warranties that all taxes have been paid and that there is no litigation pending or threatened. The larger the transaction the more detailed the warranties and representations should be. In addition, you should make sure that the seller will provide you an indemnity should any of the warranties or representations turn out to be false.


## Contingencies

If you are planning on financing your purchase, you should make sure the seller knows that the purchase is conditioned on your ability to get financing. Further, if you plan to change the business model and as a result will need certain licenses or zoning changes, you should make sure that those are conditions as well. Without those conditions, you might find yourself in breach of the sales agreement.

## Bulk sales

Although Illinois no longer has a bulk sales law, make sure that the seller will agree to go through the bulk sales process with the Illinois Departments of Revenue and Department of Employment Security. If not, and if the seller didn't pay its trust fund taxes, it's possible that the state can take the assets you just purchased in satisfaction of those unpaid taxes. Sellers generally don't want to go through the process as it requires a certain amount of money (as determined by the Department of Revenue and Department of Employment Security) to be held back in escrow pending clearance by the state. Make sure this is acceptable now, as the savvy buyer shouldn't proceed without it.

## Non-competition clauses

Get an agreement immediately with the seller that he or she won't compete with you after the closing with a similar business. For example, if you are buying a hair salon, you don't want the seller opening a similar business across the street. Although recent changes in the law make it harder to enforce non-competes, those changes do not apply in this setting. Your lawyer can flesh out the actual terms of the agreement, but make sure the seller is amenable to the concept. 



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By Kelly Gust

When you meet someone new and they ask, "So, what do you do?" how do you typically respond?

If you're like many of us, you share your job title and likely a few details about how you spend 40 or more hours per week at work – that's over 2,000 hours per year, by the way. Our jobs are a core part of our identities. And rightly so; most of us take extreme pride in our work and in our ability to deliver good outcomes for the customers, clients, patients, students or whomever it is that we serve. Professional pride is a good thing, and often the mark of a successful person.

### Getting lost in your work

Many people rely on their career as a source of meaning in their lives. Our work makes us feel like we belong somewhere, and like we are understood. If we don't feel that sense of belonging, we tend to move from job to job every few years (or sooner) as if searching for our soulmate in career form. Sure, we should all work to get paid as much as we can for our skills, but searching for the ideal job to fill a hole in your sense of self-worth will certainly lead to burnout. Your happiness and self-worth are up to you. You are more than your job.

If you've ever been laid off (it's happened to me twice), you know the shock of suddenly losing that part of your identity. Being without a job is an empty, hollow feeling ... like a key part of your character has been lost.

Relying on your job for self-fulfillment, self-worth and your sense of identity is a slippery slope. The chase for career success can lead to feelings of inadequacy, that you're not quite there yet, or that you're not good enough. Corporations are only too happy to encourage these feelings by continually raising the bar for

performance to increasingly high standards of bigger, better or faster.

### Warning signs

So, what are the warning signs? Someone whose sense of self-worth is entangled with their job and is reliant on their job or co-workers for validation and approval. They rely heavily on praise or recognition from colleagues or supervisors to feel good about themselves or feel like they had a good day.

Another warning sign is that their own personal well-being takes a backseat to the needs of their organization. They feel pressured to agree to every workplace request, fearing rejection or disapproval for saying no. They also stay late and miss important events in order to accommodate work and struggle to come up with interests or hobbies outside of work. Oftentimes sleep, nutrition and exercise are deprioritized with rippling negative effects.

If any of those warning signs resonate with you, it's important to know that over time, constantly putting others' needs before your own can lead to burnout and disengagement, harming your own performance and that of your organization. Your work should be an extension of your identity, not the root of it.

### Fostering healthy dynamics

How can you foster a healthy sense of accomplishment and professional pride, while maintaining your self-identity? First, spend some time getting reacquainted with yourself and building self-awareness: What are your strengths, and how can you leverage these strengths outside of work? A friend of mine is analytical and a good project manager. This makes him a good operations leader at work, and he is able to leverage these skills when

doing home renovation projects, which brings him a sense of fulfillment and personal pride.

Next, consider what roles you play in your life (partner, parent, child, friend, etc). Are you investing enough time in these various roles? If not, where do you need to spend extra time or effort? Again, strengthening these relationships will help you feel a sense of self-worth. Most likely, these people think you're great whether you have a job or not.

Third, make sure you're using your vacation time, even if you just stay home. It's important to gain separation from your job if you're too immersed in the work.

Consider taking up a hobby or restarting an old one. A hobby allows you to round out your response when asked: "What do you do?" You can provide intriguing answers, such as: "I'm an avid reader," "I play an instrument" or "I enjoy rock climbing." It makes you a more interesting conversationalist too. Finally, your new hobby will likely lead to the final area of focus – making new friends outside of work.

While getting lost in your job can seem like a trivial issue, its impact on well-being and overall health cannot be understated. By building self-awareness and personal accountability for a full and rewarding life, you'll be more resilient to setbacks. You can enjoy a healthy sense of professional success without sacrificing individual autonomy or well-being. <sup>SBJ</sup>



Kelly Gust is the CEO of HR Full Circle, a Springfield-based consulting firm that provides talent management and human resources consulting to organizations of all sizes and stages.

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# SILVER SEVENS

By Thomas C. Pavlik



Grilled pork topped with onion tangles, served with chips.





The Jackpot Burger with chips.

I'd been hearing about Silver Sevens over the last few months and seeing some good commentary on social media about its food, so I figured it was time to give it a try. I'm glad I did.

Silver Sevens is located on Lake Plaza Drive just off of Stevenson Drive. For those in need of a landmark, it's located across the street from Déjà Vu. Parking might be tight if Silver Sevens is at full capacity, but the day we visited it was not a problem, and the restaurant was about two-thirds full. Surprisingly, we only saw one gambler at the video gaming terminals.

There's a small bar area and a compact kitchen together with a drive-up window that was being put to quite a bit of use. The space is clean, if somewhat spartan, and has plenty of TVs, most of which were tuned to various sporting events. Thanks to all of the front-wall windows there's plenty of light, something unusual for video gaming in my experience.

Silver Sevens' menu reminded us of a diner's menu — sandwiches, burgers, horseshoes and daily specials. All handhelds come with homemade chips and tots or fries are available for a \$2 upcharge. We visited on a Monday, and the special was the ribeye-steak sandwich and chips (\$8.50). Although it's not on the menu, Silver Sevens' Facebook page promotes fish specials (served with chips and slaw or potato salad) on Fridays and Saturdays (\$10 shrimp, \$9.50 for two pieces of fish and \$11 for three

pieces of fish). Tacos and a handful of salads are also on the menu if you aren't looking for diner or tavern fare. Finally, if you're inclined, Silver Sevens serves alcohol, as a gaming parlor.

Food comes out in baskets lined with wax paper and the portions are quite fair for the prices, which we found to be reasonable. Service was friendly and excellent. Although there was only one server on duty, we were well-attended to, and our drinks were kept topped up. I particularly appreciated being given a to-go glass as we were paying our check. As to paying the check, Silver Sevens' servers all have tablets on which orders are placed and hand-held credit card machines, which gives customers peace of mind knowing the location of their cards at all times.

We decided to start with bowls of chili (\$5.50). They came with onions and cheese on the side. My guests liked the color, grease quotient and the heat level, but opinions were unanimous that it lacked the necessary chili flavor. Nonetheless, we all finished off our bowls.

Silver Sevens bills itself as offering the best pork tenderloin — period. So, naturally, I had to give it a try (\$8.50). This was a pretty big sandwich — enough for two traditionally sized offerings. It had a nice crust and was very well-seasoned. I opted for tots, and they paired well with the sandwich. I'm not sure I would go as far as to say that it was the best pork tenderloin

ever, but it was pretty darn good.

One of my guests opted for the double cheeseburger (\$6.50) and fries. It was a smashburger that reportedly had a nice crust. She particularly appreciated that the bun was nicely toasted but found the fries to be somewhat soggy. On the plus side, they were reported as well-seasoned.

My other guest decided on the ribeye sandwich with the homemade chips. We all sampled the chips, and they were the star of the show — well seasoned, crispy and browned but not burnt, with just a hint of softness in the middle. They were the perfect vehicle to scoop up some ketchup. And speaking of ketchup, we were impressed that our ketchup bottle, unlike so many other restaurants, was filled to the top. The ribeye was also nicely cooked and was generously sized.

Silver Sevens isn't a fancy restaurant, nor is its food. But it's fresh, made with quality ingredients, at reasonable prices and with generous portions. Couple it with some good service, and we understand why we've heard so many good things about it. **SBJ**

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