

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

President/CEO's Report	2
People you Should Know	3
New Funding from: Meany Electric SEA Sertoma Club & Sertoma, Inc. Supporting Our Partners	4
Chairman of the Board Notes	5
Board Members Special Olympics	
CTC Graduation ROHSA Self-Advocates	6
Quality Improvement CARF Accreditation Memorials and Honorariums	7
Calendar of Events	8

Celebrating 60 Years of Service

SouthSTAR will be celebrating its 60th year of providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities next year. In order to fully celebrate this momentous occasion, SouthSTAR is planning a year long celebration. Part of this year long celebration includes planning additional events and increasing fundraising goals hoping you and your family will contribute to SouthSTAR and become a part of the festivities. Some of the specific plans include a Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament on February 7, 2010, the Annual Benefit on March 27, 2010, and a Golf Outing in June of 2010. In addition, we are hoping to raise \$60,000 in our Annual Fund Drive in honor of our 60th birthday.

SouthSTAR has come a long way in these 60 years; from providing services in donated quarters to having three locations, including two developmental training centers and owning/operating 5 group homes within the south suburbs. SouthSTAR remains dedicated to serving individuals in Southern Cook and Eastern Will counties. We are currently serving over 400 individuals with developmental disabilities residing in 30 municipalities and these numbers continue to grow thanks to the help of the community, friends and families of SouthSTAR.

Become a part of the celebration and help us continue to provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities for the next 60 years! Attend an event hosted by SouthSTAR or make a donation today.





Dan Strick, President /CEO

President/CEO's Report

It is hard to believe that next year SouthSTAR Services will celebrate its 60th birthday. By now almost everyone reading this article knows the origins of SouthSTAR. It was the frustration caused by a lack of resources available for their children with developmental disabilities that led a small group of very committed parents to begin the original school for their children. That initial frustration was the seed that was planted and nurtured to grow into what is today SouthSTAR Services.

While the world has changed, and SouthSTAR has changed along with it, there are many things that have **not** changed. I still encounter families every day that are frustrated about the lack of resources available for people with developmental disabilities in Illinois.

While there are certainly more resources available today than there were in 1950 we are still a very long way from having a society where people with developmental disabilities are fully welcome and able to participate. Little by little, SouthSTAR is trying to change this. One small example of our attempt to change the way people with developmental disabilities are perceived is through the work we have been doing with our self advocates. We have a group of people we serve heading to Springfield in November to "Speak up and Speak Out" and let their needs be known. In essence, advocate for themselves and those like them to help bring about future change.

As an optimist, I have to believe that the small changes we make today will help our next generation. SouthSTAR has been making these small changes for over 60 years with the hope that people with developmental disabilities will have better opportunities.

As we begin to kick-off our 60 year celebration, please join us and help make sure SouthSTAR remains viable and relevant for the next 60 years.

*We make a living by
what we get.*

*We make a life by
what we give.*

Visit our website at
www.southstarservices.org
or visit us on
Facebook .

People You Should Know



Lynette Henderson—Janitorial Services

Lynette has been attending SouthSTAR since 1972 when it was the original Happiday School. Then, when SouthSTAR became a training facility, Lynette stayed on in order to gain skills for working within the community. To this day, Lynette remains a dedicated conscientious worker. She is currently working as part of the cleaning crew for the I-57 rest stop. She greeted each person that came in during our interview. Lynette is happy to remain involved with SouthSTAR because she enjoys her job and the work she is able to do. Lynette indicated that she likes cleaning the rest stop and is proud of the job she does.

Judith Holbrook– Employment Services



Judith has been working at SouthSTAR since 1978. In that time she has seen numerous changes take place. When she first started all paperwork, including timesheets, were written by hand, there were no computers. SouthSTAR only had two programs, one focusing on production and one that worked with individuals on daily living skills and socialization. Judith said, “Programs were very group oriented (everyone got the same services) now they are completely individualized.” Judith indicated that SouthSTAR is in a much better place today because the individuals we serve have more choices and more input into their service plans rather than having staff make the choices for them.

Linda Semprevivo - Work Skills 3



Linda has been attending SouthSTAR since September of 1984. She is currently in the Work Skills 3 Room where she is developing skills that will assist her in her work environment. Such skills include staying on task. Linda also works on improving daily living skills utilizing music and some group activities. She enjoys coming to work and talks about being “ready” to do her job. She was excited to know that she was going to be featured in the newsletter and was more than happy to get her picture taken. Although Linda has limited verbal communication skills, it was clear from her non-verbal cues that she is enjoying her time at SouthSTAR and the work she is doing here.

Ruth Horace-Janitorial Services



Ruth has been a member of the SouthSTAR team since 1993. During this time she has trained numerous individuals in janitorial services. Ruth indicated that in the years that she has been at SouthSTAR, she has really seen a change in the involvement that the individuals have with regard to their services. She indicated that the individuals are given more work. Ruth attributes this to the new administration, and believes that the interaction between the administration and the individuals offers more insight into the types of programs needed. She indicated that the open door policy helps encourage individuals to speak up about what they want or the changes they would like to see. In the next 60 years, Ruth would like to continue to see individuals with developmental disabilities gain employment within the community as many of them have the skills required to be successful in the positions available.

Meany Electric - "Energizing Local Charities"

Two years ago, the management of Meany Electric decided to focus their annual picnic on charitable giving. Focusing on giving, Meany Electric developed the "Energizing Local Charities" award as a way to inspire their employees, families and vendors to support local charitable organizations. As part of the award, Meany agreed to match any funds their employees, families and vendors donated to an identified charitable organization. This year, SouthSTAR Services was chosen as the recipient of the Meany Electric "Energizing Local Charities" award. As part of the award SouthSTAR received donations from several of the Meany Electric employees, families and vendors. Meany Electric then matched the amount donated making the total amount of the award \$4,420. SouthSTAR is proud to be this year's award recipient and appreciates the support of Meany Electric, its employees, families and vendors.

SouthSTAR would like to thank the employees, families and vendors who generously donated to the "Energizing Local Charities" award, as well as Meany Electric for matching the donations. Below is a list of the individuals who donated to the award.

Joe Aceves, Nick Doerr, Dan Dominy, Jack Dominy, Jerry Ehresman, Terry Gleeson, Ruth Ann Goich, Glenn Hascek, Pat Healy, Jeff Jameson, Rick Jones, Ed Klein, Partick Meeder, Mike Merriman, Bob Munsie, Andy O'Brien, Jim Pretto, Ken Rasmussen, Phil Rothrock, Diane Shaw, Sill Slobodnik, John Spila Jr., Phil Villafan, Affiliated Customer Service, Southside Electrical District, Elfco and of course Meany Electric.

If your organization has a matching grant program or you would like to develop a charitable giving event, please contact Cheryl Cherny at 708.747-0627 ext. 116.



Funding from SouthEast Area Sertoma and Sertoma, Inc.

SouthSTAR recently received funds from the SouthEast Area Sertoma and Sertoma Inc. to help fund the development of the autism room. Specifically, the funds will be used to provide furnishings and equipment the program needs to focus on maximizing independent functioning levels for adults with autism in a vocational and community setting.

Because SouthSTAR has begun to see an increase in the number of individuals unable to function appropriately in a large group setting, the autism room will provide the staff with a room to engage in additional services so these individuals can improve their lives without having significant behavioral issues hampering their progress.

Thank you to SEA Sertoma and Sertoma, Inc. for your contribution and continued support of SouthSTAR Services.

Supporting Our Partners

On July 18, 2009 several members of the SouthSTAR Services Wellness Team and their colleagues came out in support of the Third Annual Prairie State Pioneers 5K Run 3K Walk .

Prairie State College and SouthSTAR Services have had a partnership for over a decade and have collaborated on several projects together. In addition , many of the individuals receiving services at SouthSTAR attend classes at Prairie State.

Thanks you to all who helped support our partner in this event

Chairman of the Board's Notes

PAGE 5

Chuck Jenrich

As the new Chair of SouthSTAR Services I would first like to thank Marlene Hemleben for her work and leadership as the chair over the last two years. Marlene's dedication and drive is going to be a very tough act to follow.

Three reasons that allow any chair to be successful are the board they lead, the executive staff the board interfaces with and the support staff that does all the real work of the organization. SouthSTAR Services has great people in those three critical areas. Thank you for your outstanding dedication and work.

During what are still very trying times, SouthSTAR has been proactive in positioning it's services and resources to navigate successfully through the storms that may come. While being diligent in our financial resources plans are in place to expand programs, services and housing within our budget. In future editions I will write more about each of these activities as the plans become solidified.

I would like to close by echoing a point made by Marlene in our last edition regarding volunteerism and giving, please consider what you can do on a volunteer basis to help SouthSTAR conserve our precious resources and while the economy has taken a toll on all please donate as your budget will allow. Lastly, please attend parent/guardian events and our open meetings. Our service to you and your loved one can only be improved through your input. Thank you.



2009-2010 Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board

Chuck Jenrich

Vice Chairman - Assessment

Tom Ryan

Vice Chairman – Planning & Resources

Don Goff

Secretary

Mary Mayer

Treasurer

Mark McManemy

Directors:

Joseph Addison

Arlene Ashbach

Barbara Bozzo

Marlene Hemleben

Don Meulbroek

David Perkins

Monica Pinciak-Madden

Lawanda Rutledge

Susan Turner

Jack Woodruff

Special Olympics Bowling

On August 27, 2009 SouthSTAR Services participated in the Special Olympics Bowling Tournament. Several SouthSTAR Olympians won gold and advanced to the Regional Tournament on October 18.

During the Regional Tournament SouthSTAR individual's again showed their spirit by winning big!

Congratulations to Karen H. (2nd Place), Dorie H. and Rhonda A. (3rd Place), and Robert K. (6th Place).

Congratulations to all of the participants in the Bowling Tournament for your determination and effort.

Improving Lives of Individuals with Disabilities Since 1950

2009 CTC Graduating Class

“What could be better than seeing friends and making money at the same time”

Melissa R.

On August 26, SouthSTAR celebrated the 2009 graduating class of the Community Technology Center (CTC). This is the second class to graduate from the CTC. This year, 14 individuals were able to successfully complete the computer course

and participate in the graduation. Congratulations to all the graduates.

SouthSTAR would like to give a special thanks to the following CTC donors:

The Aileen S. Andrew Foundation, The Illinois Council on

Developmental Disabilities, The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, The Novak Family, SEA Sertoma, Sertoma, Inc., The Suburban Service League and The Wink Corporation.



ROHSA—Self Advocates

“Being the Vice President of ROHSA and helping others voice their opinions is my favorite thing about SouthSTAR”

Sean J.

The SouthSTAR self advocates have been busy the past few months. Recently, several member have been appointed to committees in order to voice their opinions regarding programs and services throughout the state. For example, one of the ROHSA self advocates is now a

member of the stipend committee where he helps review requests for stipends for people or their families to attend trainings. Another ROHSA member is currently in training to become a certified Quality Analyst with the Council on Quality and Leadership. Another

ROHSA member is the Editor of a quarterly newsletter with the Alliance which focuses on self-advocacy issues statewide and the ROHSA members make presentation to community organizations as part of our public relations campaign.

Keep up the good work!

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROCESS

SouthSTAR Services will be collecting information for our quality improvement process by using a short satisfaction survey. The survey is aimed at measuring the levels of satisfaction for consumers, parents/guardians, employers, customers and referral sources. These surveys will be sent to all participants either electronically or through the postal service. Remember, your input matters especially when we look ahead to our next 60 years so watch your mail!

“Staff is nice and they pay us well”

Yolanda J.

CARF ACCREDITATION

During the next couple of months, SouthSTAR will be completing the renewal of our CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) Accreditation. Becoming accredited means SouthSTAR has made a commitment to continually enhance the quality of our services and programs, and that our focus is on consumer satisfaction. By maintaining our CARF Accreditation SouthSTAR is showcasing the fact that the services we provide meet internationally recognized standards of quality and that we strive to provide the most state of the art services available to our consumers. Wish us luck as we work toward accreditation.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

(July –September 2009)

In Memory of Roger Cleghorn

Mr. and Mrs. David Gromala
Mr. and Mrs. William McClain
Ms. Judith Parise
Mr. and Mrs. David Perkins
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ryan
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Semprevivo
Mr. Samuel Yacono

In Memory of Vincent Corsello

Ms. Mildred Boggs

In Memory of Tom Derwinski

Thomas and Evelyn Surowiec

In Memory of Susan DiGangi

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Munizzi

In Memory of Joy Keirlen

Miles and Anne Soumar

In Memory of Donald Kramer

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Semprevivo

In Memory of Mattie Conley

Ms. Cheryl Bundy
Ms. Crystal Conley
Mr. Larry Conley
Mrs. Cheri Conley-Baker

In Memory of Andrew Pulec

Mr. Robert Novak

In Memory of Michael Semprevivo

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Semprevivo

In Memory of Joy Townsend

Ms. Florence Mele

In Honor of Kevin Ryan's 50th Birthday

Richard and Virginia Prybell

“It is good to learn things so that you can go out into the community”

Arnetha V.

Calendar of Events

	Nov	Dec	Jan
Meetings			
Board Meeting	18		20
Membership Meeting 7pm	18		
Events			
Texas Hold'em Tournament	8		
Cookie Dough Pick-up	18		
Annual Fund Drive Kick Off	20		
Days Agency Closed			
Veteran's Day	11		
Thanksgiving Break	26-27		
In-service		18	
Holiday		24-25	
Winter Break		28-31	1
Martin Luther King Jr. Day			18



Want to help SouthSTAR and Save Trees? Send us your e-mail address and we will e-mail you our next newsletter. Contact Cheryl Cherny at ccherny@southstarsevices.org



Address Service Requested

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1005 West End Avenue

