

**The Center for Enriched Living**  
**40 Facts about The Center and Reasons to Support Us**

*As of February 8, 2011*

**The Center's Mission Statement:** The Center for Enriched Living exists so that people with developmental disabilities can be fully included in the community, achieve personal success, and enjoy a good quality of life.

1. We enrich the lives of our members with a wide range of programs and new experiences that cultivate friendships and personal development.
2. A developmental disability is a life-long cognitive and/or physical disability that occurs before the age of 22.
3. Illinois is last in the nation in funding for developmental disability services.
4. We receive no federal or state funding.
5. Our outreach is especially important to the 85% of adults with disabilities who live at home as dependents, with little opportunity to socialize, have fun, and learn new skills.
6. Last year we served individuals from 26 agencies and 26 schools.
7. Last year we served over 500 children, teens, and adults with developmental disabilities.
8. We welcome volunteers for our programs, board and event committees.
9. 71% of our annual budget of \$1.7 million comes from private donors. The other 29% comes from membership and activity fees.
10. 36% of our revenue comes from our fundraising events.
11. CEL is open 7 days a week and most evenings to accommodate the schedules and needs of our members.
12. CEL serves people ages 5 to 85.
13. People with disabilities are **twice** as likely to say they are isolated from others when compared to people without disabilities.
14. It is estimated that 3% of the population has a developmental disability.
15. Program activities include, but are not limited to: sports, drama, dance, cooking, health, arts and crafts, computers, leisure games, gardening, and community outings.
16. People with developmental disabilities can reach their full potential when they are socially engaged and more fully included in their school and community.
17. We help build social skills that are used at home, work and life.
18. Provides peace of mind and support to family members when their loved one is engaged and happy outside of their home.
19. CEL has served people with developmental disabilities for the past 43 years.
20. We're accessible to a wide range of people with developmental

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- disabilities; age, geography, and levels of ability.
21. Have our own 20,000 square foot building.
  22. Building is located near major roads for travel accessibility.
  23. Donors and volunteers can visit and see firsthand how members benefit at CEL.
  24. CEL provides support and opportunities for adults who are 22 years of age and older transitioning out of the school system.
  25. Members come from more than 55 Chicagoland communities, primarily in Cook and Lake Counties.
  26. The Center has 7 satellite programs providing locally-based afterschool activities for people with developmental disabilities.
  27. We keep program fees low and offer scholarships for those in greatest financial need.
  28. Program Guides describe the opportunities available through CEL, indicating those offering transportation or financial assistance.
  29. We add to the quality of life – helping our members access resources and experiences that may otherwise not available.
  30. The Center is a vehicle for ending the social isolation that so many people with developmental disabilities face.
  31. The Center offers more than 30 social and skill-building programs annually.
  32. The *Agency Night* Program provides low-cost opportunities to low-income adults including residents of area agencies who have few, if any, opportunities available.
  33. The Center leadership welcomes and encourages collaborations with other organizations, as exemplified by the ELA Program (NSSRA).
  34. Allows our members to enjoy the same things that everyone else does.
  35. Programs address socially based and everyday basic needs for living.
  36. Programs reflect age appropriate interests of the general population.
  37. Our programs are person-centered. The members help in determining the programs each year and **choose** the programs they want to participate in.
  38. We call our participants “members” to foster a sense of belonging.
  39. The REACH (Reach for Success) Day Program is a year-round program designed for adults who are 22 years of age and older, to focus on personal goals and life skills such as holding a job, living on their own, accessing transportation – things to help them through the rest of their lives.
  40. All of our programs have a dual focus: they are designed for participants to acquire news skills while socializing with peers.