

Friends, Fun and Belonging



## 18 Facts

Since 1968, The Center for Enriched Living has been enhancing the quality of life for youth, teens, and adults with developmental disabilities from throughout the Chicago-area. CEL programs emphasize the achievement of greater well being and autonomy by enabling our members to cultivate meaningful friendships, develop valuable life skills, enjoy the benefits of leisure time activities and continuing education, and participate more fully in the community.

- A developmental disability is one that manifests before the age of 22.
- It is estimated that 3% of the population has a developmental disability.
- People with disabilities are twice as likely to say they are isolated from others when compared to people without disabilities.
- CEL is open 7 days a week and most evenings to accommodate the schedules and needs of our members.
- CEL receives no state or federal funding.
- 80% of our annual budget of \$1.3 million comes from private donors. The other 20% comes from membership and activity fees.
- The majority of our members are at, or below, the federal poverty level.
- The state of Illinois ranks 50th, last in the nation for funding of community-based programs for people with developmental disabilities.
- To talk to someone about programs for members call 847.948.7001 x 217 or 220 for Mary Ellen or Vicki.
- CEL serves people ages 2 to 72 and older.
- Our 20,000 square foot building was built in 2000. It serves as a base for our programs but it's equally important to get our members out into the community to learn to access what is available.
- All CEL programs have the dual focus of skill and social enhancement for youth, adults and seniors with developmental disabilities.
- Too often people with developmental disabilities depend on family members or paid staff for all their social interactions. At CEL, they have the opportunity to develop their own friendships and relationships among peers and within the community.
- CEL programs provide the skills necessary to develop a sense of belonging while maintaining independence within the community.
- CEL works actively to partner with other similar organizations to avoid duplication of services and make prudent use of donor dollars.
- 38% of our revenue comes from our fundraising events.
- Please join us for our special events: Chefs' Night & More is Monday, April 19, 2010 and the Annual Golf Outing is August, 2010.
- CEL is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.