

Revolutionary Database Grant Funded

New technology means less paperwork, more personal contact

Working as an individual case manager at Blue Cap or any other similar agency often means generating piles of paperwork every day, but the creation of a new database made especially for agencies like Blue Cap will soon revolutionize their roles.

“Dealing with all the paperwork is frustrating,” says Danielle Parker, Blue Cap case manager. “I stop and help clients during the day because their needs are more important, but I still have to come back and finish all the paperwork.”

Blue Cap currently uses a number of different databases used to track information for state reporting requirements, United Way reports, service plans for individuals, clients’ health information and more. The systems were developed from old computer programs that are no longer produced, and there is no technical support available. Since their creation the databases have developed problems, reporting requirements have changed and their information needs updating. The result is that staff spend much of their time using inefficient, out-of-date systems instead of helping individuals accomplish their goals.

“Time-consuming is the way I describe our current system,” says Ron Shambee, another Blue Cap case manager. “The people we serve miss out on more interaction with me and it inhibits their progress.”

Blue Cap is not alone in the frustration over a lack of technology for compiling information. Blue Cap along with Ray Graham Association for People with Disabilities proposed a collaborative effort to create a database that will address all

their needs. The Coleman Foundation and the Abbey Woods Foundation approved two grants that will cover the cost of the new technology.

The database will also be available to other agencies serving people with developmental disabilities in the area. The technology will especially benefit smaller organizations that don’t have the financial or technical resources to create an adequate system. Blue Cap will distribute demo disks at the ARC of Illinois expo as well as other industry meetings and conventions.



Case worker Danielle talks with Larry at Blue Cap’s Adult Workshop

Part of the grant also provides for training on the new technology at the IT Resource Center (ITRC) for staff at both Blue Cap and Ray Graham. Other agencies that receive the program will also be able to contact the ITRC to receive training on the new program.

In the future with this software, Blue Cap staff will collect information more efficiently and accurately and allow other agencies to do the same. The end result is that Blue Cap’s dedicated case workers will spend less time filling out paperwork and more time caring for the people we serve, helping them realize their dreams.

Blue Cap Thanks Recent Generous Donors

- Andrew Corporation gave \$15,000 as a gift to the Adult Day Services program
- VFW Post #3580 of Blue Island gave \$500
- The Coleman Foundation gave \$15,000 that will purchase a number of lifts for the students and adults

Coming Soon...

Blue Cap Web Site Remodeled

You will soon be able to register for events like the Auction and Golf Outing, conduct a search and make a donation through PayPal on our remodeled web site. Look for other new features such as our web blog where you can weigh in on current issues relating to developmental disabilities, ask questions and find out about fundraising and volunteering events.

Check it out soon at www.blue-cap.org!

Let Blue Cap E-mail the Newsletter Directly to You!

You don’t have to wait anxiously for the newsletter to come in the mail. You could receive it straight to your e-mail every month. Find out the latest agency updates fast with Blue Cap’s e-newsletter. All you have to do is call or e-mail us and give us your e-mail address: Call Cathy Buchina at (708) 389-8137 Ext. 304 or send an e-mail to Sarah Potter at sarahp@blue-cap.org

Wish List

- Updated dummies for CPR and First Aid Classes
- Easy Stand Evolv Stander from Flaghouse Co. for school
- Rifton Chair
- Large bath chair to transport high school students to shower room
- Ultra Adjust Classroom Chair
- Second computer for students' use
- Leather or vinyl couch, loveseat and 20 chairs with arms for senior adult classrooms
- 20" TV/DVD combo for school
- Non-folding chairs and tables for adult lunchroom

All items should be new or in excellent condition and dropped off at Blue Cap's Development Department, located at 1962 Broadway in Blue Island.

The Blue Cap Review is now published monthly.

We welcome your response.

Please contact
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Blue Cap Phonathon will "Hula Up some Moolah"

March 5, 6, 7 volunteers will call our supporters

The 12th Annual Blue Cap Phonathon will take place on Monday, March 5; Tuesday, March 6; and, Wednesday, March 7 at Modern Drop Forge, 13810 South Western in Blue Island. Every year, Modern Drop graciously offers the use of the facility for Blue Cap's Phonathon. Over the course of three evenings, volunteers will call more than 2,500 previous Blue Cap donors.



be entered into a drawing for raffle prizes. The only rule of the game is that you have fun! So dig out your hula skirt & lei and join us as we strive to "Hula Up" our goal of \$35,000.

Check out the job descriptions at www.blue-cap.org and call or e-mail us to sign up for your the job and evening of your choice. Please call Jill Hart, Special Events Volunteer

Coordinator, at (708) 389-8137 Ext. 303 or e-mail her at JillH@blue-cap.org.

Please reply no later than February 16th if you wish to volunteer.

At least 30 volunteers are needed each evening from 5:30 to 8:00p.m. to work in teams covering the phones, recording pledges, filling out pledge forms, stuffing envelopes, preparing the filled pledge forms for mailing and assisting in volunteer motivation. The volunteers will be divided into two zones with each zone consisting of five callers, five recorders and a runner.

Zones will be competing against each other in bringing in the most pledges. Every volunteer will be competing to win prizes throughout the evening. There will also be a clerical area for those who do not wish to make phone calls. At the end of each evening, all volunteers will

Volunteer Schedule



5:30 p.m. for registration

5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for dinner and training

6:30 to 8:00 p.m. for phone calling, recording or clerical

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Blue Island Citizens for Persons with Developmental Disabilities, Inc.
2155 Broadway, Blue Island, Illinois 60406-3097

BLUE CAP

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