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## director'sdesk

During this Hispanic Heritage Month, I'd like to recognize the contributions that Hispanics have made and continue to make in our senior community and beyond and the important place they hold in our society.

The Hispanic culture is one that embraces caring for their families. Caring for a loved one, parent or grandparent is a way of life in the Hispanic community; for many, being able to care for the older adults in their lives brings with it a sense of fulfillment. This is what many feel they were raised to do – care for those that once cared for them.

There is an intergenerational bond in families that forms as grandparents interact with their grandchildren and strengthens over generations. We see this in many communities and commonly within the Hispanic community.

The traditions and culture of the Hispanic community have had a profound impact on many areas of our society. This Hispanic Heritage Month, the Department on Aging celebrates that influence in our community.

*Jean Bohnhoff  
Director-designate, IDoA*

## in|thenews

### Illinois awarded \$1 million grant to pilot person-centered supportive services program

The Illinois Department on Aging announced the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Administration for Community Living, has awarded the State of Illinois a \$1 million grant. Through the grant, the Department will develop and pilot test person-centered supportive services that meet the needs of persons living with or those at risk of developing Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, and their caregivers. The program will be developed and run by the Illinois Department on Aging, Division of Older American Services.

Evidence-based services offered through this program to aid in the cognitive preservation of persons with Alzheimer's and dementia include:

- Care Management services;
- Art therapy workshops;
- Music therapy;
- Exercise classes;
- Storytelling therapy; and
- Other evidence-based programs such as Savvy Caregiver

Continue reading [here](#).

## agencyinsider

The Illinois Department on Aging is pleased to announce the addition of two key members of our already exceptional staff:

### **Melina Tomaras-Collins & Anna O'Connell.**

**Melina** joins our team as Human Resources Administrator and Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, bringing over 25 years of experience. Melina has a wealth of experience in the private sector and previously served as Human Resources Director for the City of Springfield for the last 5 years.



She holds multiple certifications including as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) and as a Society for Human Resource Management Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP). Melina received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois in Champaign and her Master's from Loyola University in Chicago. She currently resides in Springfield.

**Anna** is joining the IDoA team as the interim Chief Financial Officer (CFO) while a thoughtful and extensive search is conducted for a permanent CFO.

She comes to us from the Governor's Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) where she worked from 2006-2016, working specifically with IDoA for the last four years, first as a Senior Budget Analyst and then as Budget Principal.

Anna has a degree in Economics from the University of Mannheim in Mannheim, Germany with an emphasis on Public Management. She has lived in Springfield since 2006 and is one of the founders of the Springfield Celts Women's Rugby Team, established 2015.

## resident'scorner

*Did you know there are resources available to seniors across the state? Here are a few to check out:*

1. If you're 65 or older, you could be eligible for a discount your license plate sticker, depending on your income.

Call our Senior Help Line at 800-252-8966 to see if you qualify and apply for the discount!

2. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is now enrolling seniors and people with disabilities in the program to help with their winter heating bills.

A single person qualifies for help if their monthly income is \$1,485 or less. A two-person household can qualify with a monthly income of up to \$2,003.

Documentation such as proof of income is required to apply.

To find your local LIHEAP agency, click [here](#).

### ***IDoA would like to congratulate SHIP trainer, Bryan Padget on his award, presented by the Bond County Senior Center.***

Bryan has served southern Illinois for 24 years as a SHIP Trainer. He currently provides continuing education classes, seminars and the 4-day SHIP training for new volunteers and coordinators. He is also a SHIP outreach specialist performing radio and TV interviews/education and speaking engagements as needed. The SHIP team is proud to work with such a dedicated person such as Bryan!



# SECA2016

Established in 1983, SECA is a workplace giving campaign that allows State Employees to donate to nearly 2,000 charities at local, state, national, and international levels. State employees have contributed more than \$76 million to help improve our environment.

This once-a-year (September 7 – November 2, 2016) State and University Employees Combined Appeal (SECA) provides all employees the opportunity to donate to the charitable causes of their choice to enhance the quality of life for all.

IDoA staff have been busy hosting a variety of events to raise funds for different charities. Here is a list of events IDoA has put together for 2016:

- \* Illini football ticket raffle - raised \$80 for Animal Protective League
- \* Bake Sale - raised \$303 for the American Cancer Society
- \* Bingo - raised \$155 for Susan G. Komen for the Cure
- \* Pet Photo Contest - raised \$260 for Canines for Disabled Kids
- \* Book Sale - raised \$445 for the Sojourn Shelter
- \* Basket Raffle - raised \$500 for St. Judes
- \* Bake Sale - raised \$75 for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- \* Silent Auction - upcoming; proceeds go to Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault
- \* Chili Cookoff - upcoming; proceeds go to the Animal Protective League
- \* Reverse Raffle - upcoming; proceeds go to Special Olympics
- \* Halloween Cube Decorating Contest - upcoming; proceeds go to Central Illinois Food Bank
- \* Halloween Costume Contest - upcoming; proceeds go to Central Illinois Food Bank

Thank you to all the IDoA staff that has helped to make this year's SECA fundraising successful - and a special thanks to our SECA Ambassador, Lenore Roth, and the rest of the SECA team for all of their hard work.



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