



Illinois Inroads to Inclusion

By Lois Barnhart, Illinois Inclusion Officer

September 2012

The Illinois Inclusion Team will be meeting in October to formulate our 2012-13. strategic plan. This FTF meeting will be hosted by Children's Home, Peoria, IL. This will be a one day meeting to address outcomes of last year's plan and project future focus areas. Thoughts from the public are welcome via email or phone.

The team is currently working on the power point to accompany the Guide for Creating Inclusive Volunteer programs (document available on the Serve Illinois Website for download). The power point will provide an overview of the Guide and can be utilized for training others as to the Guide's use. The power point will be available to all in the year ahead.

Iowa and Illinois partnered once again for a presentation on Inclusive practices provided for Program Directors at the 2012 North Central National Service Convention held in Dubuque, IA at the Grand River Center, August 6-8. Several program directors told their stories as to how Inclusion worked for them leading to successful term completion for their members. They related how inclusive practice was beneficial to teams as a whole, creating an atmosphere of TEAM and support. It is through efforts such as these that we begin to make that culture shift of acceptance and begin to see people for their abilities.

On August 31, filming of the upcoming PSA promoting Inclusion of people with disabilities in National Service was conducted at Hoffman Estates, MAXIM Entertainment Group. Volunteers Merri Dee, Commissioner, Chris Errera, pianist, Brandon Bodor, ED Serve Illinois and Richard Burroughs, RSVP came together to speak on the PSA. Filming was conducted by Morning Star Media Group, Sycamore, IL. We hope to have the PSA ready for release in October!

On October 18, National Service Recognition Day will be held in Springfield, IL. It is anticipated that 1000 members will be participating. Training sessions will be provided for members. This year the Illinois Disability Inclusion Project will be an additional piece of the member training. This will be a huge step in building awareness of Disability Inclusion, the accommodation process and why to disclose. The Serve Illinois Commission has renewed commitment to supporting the Inclusion Project in Illinois!

Illinois Disability Outreach

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LINKS OF INTEREST:

Inclusion:

NSIP (National Service Inclusion Project)
www.serviceandinclusion.org

Volunteerism:

Opportunities in Illinois
www.serve.illinois.gov

AmeriCorps
www.americorps.org



