

*In Touch with*



St. Clair Associated Vocational Enterprises, Inc.

Fall/Winter, 2006

*Happy  
Holidays!*

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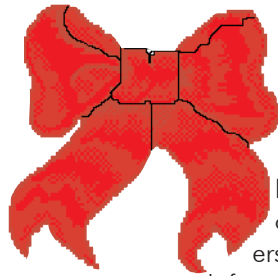
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*In Touch with SAVE*  
welcomes submissions  
for publication

Contact the Editor:  
pwhite1948@charter.net  
618-234-1992



## Consumer Spotlight

In this newsletter, the Spotlight is on several winners. At the Annual Dinner in September, many of our consumers, employers, volunteers and staff were recognized for outstanding work over the past year. Wish we could picture them all! See the entire list on page 3.



Beth Lawson (r) presented an award to Naccoma Harris.



Kathy Denham (l) congratulates Kevin Weber as Residential Consumer of the Year.



Photo at left: Carol Swann congratulates George Nunn.

Photo above: Leroy Turner celebrates with Oster Taylor.



### SAVE Board Members

Ty Cottingham, President  
 Pat White, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
 Hank Keeley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
 George Lewis, Secretary  
 Jim Wescoat, Jr., Treasurer  
 John Bethard  
 Eugene Briggs  
 Larry Fox  
 Barbara A. Hohlt  
 Margo Origliosso  
 Don Rigney

### Lee Hopp SAVE Foundation Board Members

David Bruchhauser, Chairperson  
 Eric Rhein, Vice Chairperson  
 Eric Forguson, Treasurer  
 John W. Anderson, Secretary  
 Randolph Law, President  
 Jack Butler  
 Frank Booker  
 Laninya Cason  
 Craig Hubbard  
 Dennis Jacknewitz  
 Dr. Marlene Smoot  
 Steve Voss

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 Michael Buehlhorn  
 Mrs. Georgia Costello  
 Harry Cruncleton  
 Alan J. Dixon  
 Sheriff Mearl J. Justus  
 Elizabeth Metcalf  
 Marianne Serkin  
 Rev. Bernard Voss  
 Paul Waller, Jr.  
 Nestor Zenarosa, M.D.

### Executive Director

Randolph Law  
 3001 SAVE Rd.  
 Belleville, IL 62221  
 618-234-1992  
 www.saveorg.org

# Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

Welcome to **Barbara Hohlt**, the newest member of the Operating Board of SAVE! Barbara lives in Belleville and has worked in public health for 22 years. She has been a supporter of SAVE for many years, and we are excited to have her join the Board.

I heard from several of you after my first issue of *In Touch with SAVE* was published. I received a letter from John and Carol Reimer, whose son lives at SAVE, that touched my heart.

"...our Best Wishes, and request only that you and the wonderful SAVE staff continue your good work. Please take good care of our son, R----. He is a precious member of our family....Thank you for helping the aging parents of a SAVE consumer feel better about the caring hands guiding our son's welfare, care and direction."

John and Carol live too far away to volunteer their time to SAVE on a regular basis, but they included a check for the SAVE Booster Club! My thanks to them for their letter and their support.

The **SAVE Annual Dinner** was held on Friday, September 29 at **Panorama Bowl** in Belleville. From all reports, it was a rousing success. This issue is filled with photos of people who were recognized for their work and contributions to the success of SAVE. Congratulations to all!

On October 5, Board President Ty Cottingham and I represented the Board at the annual **United Way** site visit to SAVE. The United Way con-

tributes to the Vocational Development and PTOEC (Parent-Teacher Organization for Exceptional Children) programs. We appreciate their support and the time the volunteers gave to tour and find out about SAVE.

From **Jody Sydek**:

"I am the new President of the SAVE Booster Club and a parent of a consumer who works at Turkey Hill. I'm blessed to be associated with the consumers and the staff.

I want to thank **Johanna Heimann**, the past president of the SAVE Booster Club for the many years of dedication to raise money for the many needed services that the Booster Club was able to provide...a big thank you for **Don Forness**. I hear he is her sidekick, or is it the other way around! He, too, has put in a long life of hard and devoted work to the Club and SAVE. The list is endless in what these two and a few Booster Club members have accomplished."

In the next newsletter, we will have an article on the Booster Club's activities and how you can be involved.

Thank you for your wonderful comments. Keep your cards and letters coming! I'm very interested in telling your stories about SAVE! Email me at pwhite1948@charter.net or leave a message at SAVE 618-234-1992.

Pat White  
Editor

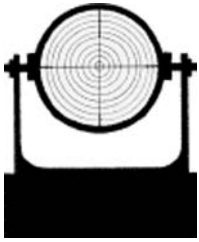
### SAVE Programs & Services

**JOBtrack** offers employees who WANT to work and onsite job coaches to help train and monitor their progress.

**Developmental Training** and **Vocational Development** programs provided consumers with 100,000 hours of employment last year.

**Residential Services** offers 40+ individuals supervised, independent living in a home and neighborhood environment.

For information on SAVE's programs and services, visit us online at [www.saveorg.org](http://www.saveorg.org) or call 214-234-1992. For contract services, contact **Jim Schnipper** at 618-234-1992.



# Employment Spotlight

## AAA Tool is JOBtrack Employer of the Year

by Paul Wibbenmeyer

This year's Employer of the Year is **AAA Tool and Machine Company** in O'Fallon, Illinois. AAA makes metal stamping dyes, mostly used by the refrigeration industry.

They have large contracts with Maytag and Whirlpool, for example, and have been in business since 1962. No one from AAA was able to be at the Awards Dinner in September, and Ken, one of the owners, said they weren't really in this for the recognition, anyway. I think that makes them even more worth recognizing.

SAVE has worked with them for several years now. Their business can be a dirty one, and JOBtrack placed a person there as a cleaner several years ago. They've been patient with some of the issues the employee we referred to them went through. They've also been patient with JOBtrack through the changes we've been through over the past few years. The long time employee has recently moved on, but AAA asked us if we had someone to replace him. The new worker has been there for two days, and all reports are good.

Most of the employers we work with are good people who are willing to be open minded and give someone a chance. AAA stands out among them.

Our congratulations to AAA!

*P.S. Paul made sure AAA Tool & Machine Company received their plaque!*



**Paul Wibbenmeyer** (r) gives **Joshua Knopp** the **JOBtrack Consumer of the Year** award.

Joshua is on his second stint with JobTrack. He worked with us for several years, and was unemployed for a while when his first job was eliminated.

In his two jobs, this young man has seen a lot of growth. His effort was always there, but in his current job he's learning how to make his efforts turn into the kind of results his employer wants.

He's been working at the O'Fallon Wal-Mart for the past six months, and he seems to be thriving there. Joshua works in the produce department, cleaning up and doing what's needed to help make the area run smoothly.

The produce department can get pretty hectic. His current job coach, Dee Morgan, describes him as a good listener, who seems to understand things and who catches on quickly to what is expected of him. These are definitely areas where he has improved.

Joshua has also shown himself to be thorough in completing tasks, even the ones that aren't his favorites, and he's showing some initiative, too. Overall he's a confident, reliable worker, and an asset to JOBtrack and his employer.

## And the Winner is..

These are all the Award Winners at SAVE's Annual Dinner in September.

**Board Member  
of the Year  
George Lewis**

**Volunteer of the Year  
Bob Foree**

**Staff of the Year  
Wendi Burgess**

**Edward Bench Memorial  
Susan (Sue) Cullen**

**Friends of SAVE  
Zonta Club of Belleville**

**Developmental Training  
Consumer of the Year  
(SAVE Road)  
Oster Taylor**

**Residential Consumer of  
the Year  
Kevin Weber**

**Developmental Training  
Consumer of the Year  
(North)  
Naccoma Harris**

**JOBtrack Consumer  
of the Year  
Joshua Knopp**

**JOBtrack Employer  
of the Year  
AAA Tool**

**Optimist of the Year  
George Nunn**

# Shame on Illinois

by Brian Rubin

<b>S</b> pecial <b>N</b> eeds <b>F</b> uture <b>P</b> lanning <a href="http://www.SNFP.net">www.SNFP.net</a>	The Law Offices of
	<b>Brian Rubin</b>
	<b>&amp; Associates</b>
	<b>847.279.7999</b>
	<b>toll free 866.To.Rubin</b>
	<b>email@SNFP.net</b>

The "State of the States in Developmental Disabilities" is a nationwide study of how states rank in serving individuals with developmental disabilities. The U.S. Government, in part, funds the study. The report was first issued almost 25 years ago. The 2005 study was recently released, and the "report card" for the State of Illinois reflects failing scores in every area. Specifically, the study found:

1. When states are ranked on the percentage of individuals with developmental disabilities that are living in residential settings ("out-of-home"), who are residing in community settings of less than six individuals, Illinois ranks 48th of the 50 states. When you include Washington D.C., Illinois ranks 49th! The only states with lower scores are Arkansas and Mississippi.

2. When states are ranked in Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver spending for services to the developmentally disabled in the "community or in their own homes" and not in "institutional" settings, Illinois ranks 46th of the 50 states. The only states lower are Arkansas, Mississippi, Nevada, and Texas.

3. When states are ranked on securing all available Federal Medicaid matching dollars, Illinois ranks 43rd of the 50 states.

4. When states are ranked on total spending for Developmental Disabilities in the community, considering state per-capita income, Illinois ranks 43rd of the 50 states.

5. Yet, Illinois ranks 9th of the 50 states on spending on having individuals with developmental disabilities reside in large Institutional settings!

6. When states are ranked in the number of persons with developmental disabilities still living at home with aging caregivers, who soon will no longer be able to be care providers, Illinois ranks 6th of the 50 states!

Why is this the case you might ask? Illinois is one of the wealthiest states per capita. The answer is that individuals with developmental disabilities, your child and my child, are not the priority that individuals with developmental disabilities are in other states, in just about ALL other states. All states are having "budget" issues. Yet other states, even in difficult economic times, are making our children a priority. Shame on Illinois. But for the grace of G-d, it could be their child, grandchild, sister, or brother. Tell your elected officials to just "do the right thing". Ask them how we can be listed, again, and again on the bottom of the states. I stated again, and again, for we have been on the bottom of the states for many years, for many "reports". Speak up, and speak out for our children.

*Editors Note: Reprinted with permission. From Brian's website: "My law firm's practice is limited to serving my fellow families of children with special needs... not concentrated, but limited. That is all we do. I have been in practice since 1976. Since 1982, when my own son, Mitch, who has Autism, was one year old, my professional practice, as well as my personal time, has been devoted to planning for the future of my fellow families of children and adults with special needs. I have chaired the State's Advisory Council on Developmental Disabilities; Co-Chair the State's Task Force on Autism; serve on the State's DHS Strategic Plan Committee; serve on the State's Olmstead Committee; serve on the ARC of Illinois Board; and serve on the Clearbrook Board, among many other current and past positions (please visit our web site for more information). My Undergraduate Degree is in Accounting, and I am a former IRS Agent, and a former IRS Attorney."*

Clip this and mail it to your State Senator, Representative and the Governor. This is shameful! For more articles and information on protecting your special needs family member, visit Brian's website at [www.SNFP.net](http://www.SNFP.net) or call 847.279.7999.

# Volunteer at SAVE....

Got a little time on your hands? Spend a few hours as a SAVE volunteer. Many opportunities exist to help out SAVE, including Foundation and Operating Board members, bingo on Wednesday night and helping with programs like Opportunities for Unlimited Recreation (OUR). For more information, call Sue at 618-234-1992, ext. 31.

## Bob Foree Named Volunteer of the Year

Bob started out as one of a group of four men who would come to SAVE one day a week to take on any project. The crew is now just Bob, but he continues to come out on Wednesday (except during the summer when it changes to Tuesday. He plays golf on Wednesday). Bob has used his expertise to help solve problems in many areas: building walls, installing doors, fixing electrical problems and helping with many other things.



Bob Foree (l) received his Volunteer of the Year award from Executive Director Randy Law.

## Board Member of the Year: George Lewis

SAVE Board President **Ty Cottingham** (r) surprised **George Lewis** with the Board Member of the Year award at the Annual Dinner. George has served on the board for 33 years.

During that time, he has held several offices, served on several committees and is currently chair of the Operations Committee.

In the past year, he has actively promoted SAVE and recruited three new board members.



# Every Wednesday Night Belle-Clair Fairgrounds!

200 South Belt East, Belleville, IL 62220

Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Dinner available for bingo players

Bonus and Regular Bingo

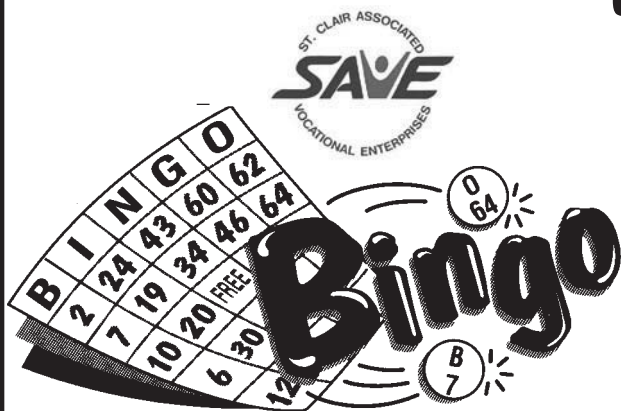
Early Bird 7:00 p.m.

BINGO-MATES available for Early Bird

Pick-a-color Raffle in 20 numbers or less with a Powerball

6 cards for \$5.00 ~ Additional cards \$ .50/ea.

**\*\* All Proceeds Benefit Adults with Disabilities \*\***



# What's Happening!

## Opportunities Unlimited for Recreation Program

by Sue Zaring

### Monsters, Inc.

O.U.R. members traveled by bus and MetroLink to Scottrade Center in September for Disney On Ice's production of *Monster's, Inc.* It was a great time!



(l-r back) Angie, Eddie, Michelle, Linda & Tom (l-r front) Jaydee and Susan

## Knights of Columbus Turkey Trot

SAVE consumers, staff and volunteers walked a mile around O'Fallon City Park, Route 50, on Veteran's Day, November 11 to raise money for Special Olympics. The O'Fallon K of C has done this fundraiser for many years, and SAVE has been a faithful participant. This year, the gang also joined in the O'Fallon Veterans Day Parade.

## It's time for a CHRISTMAS PARTY!

**Event:** Annual SAVE Christmas Dance with Disc Jockey, **Pat**

**Location:** Panorama Lanes, 200 South Belt West, Belleville (Wheelchair entrance in back)

**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2006

**Time:** 7 pm to 9 pm

**Cost:** \$2.00- \$1.00 more for a picture  
Call Sue at 618-234-1992, ext 31

Have an idea for O.U.R.? Want to volunteer to help out on one of the trips? Call Sue Zaring 618-234-1992, ext 31.

## SAVE Report Card

by Guy Gregg, Assistant Director

Part of SAVE's on-going effort to improve services involves doing surveys with consumers and stakeholders (stakeholders are parents, guardians, representatives of other agencies, as well as other interested parties) to see what they think. These surveys are designed to measure whether or not people are satisfied with the services they receive from SAVE.

Every year these measures are compiled as part of an internal "report card" for SAVE. Save is happy to report that for 2005 the grades were very good!

The four SAVE programs: **Developmental Training, Vocational Development, Residential Services** and **JOBtrack**, each has a satisfaction

goal for both consumers and stakeholders that are measured quarterly.

Because our supported employment program (JOBtrack) only reported on 2 of 4 quarters in 2005 due to administrative turnover, this meant that 14 reports were developed to show stakeholder satisfaction and 13 out of 14 reports showed satisfaction with SAVE services. Measures of consumer satisfaction also resulted in 14 quarterly reports. Consumers of SAVE services report satisfaction with the services on 13 out of 14 quarterly reports.

*Editors Note: Congratulations to Guy and the Program Managers: Kathy Denham, Paul Wibbenmeyer, Beth Lawson and their staffs for their hard work keeping everyone happy! These satisfaction numbers don't happen by accident!*

## Democracy in Action

by Guy Gregg, Assistant Director



Cathy Stivers, Allyson Lintz, Janice Starr, Kevin Weber and Sharon Parent (l to r) took part in the 2006 SAVE voter registration drive held on September 27th.

In addition to learning about voting and trying out voting machines, SAVE consumers learned about the importance of making informed decisions.

Helping to provide training are Dallas Alley and Mark Lehman, Deputies with the County Clerk's Office (seated in front). Hopefully all voters will make this kind of effort to learn about the candidates and issues before every election.

Special thanks for coordinating this event goes to **St. Clair County Clerk Bob Delaney, County Clerk Office Manager Patty Shevlin and Cheryl Simmons** of SAVE.

## Zip Rezeppa Visits

by Jim Schnipper

SAVE consumer, **Mark Hudzik**, met **Zip Rzeppa** through staff member, **Tom Schuchardt**. Tom and Zip worked together at MERS. Mark was telling Tom that he really liked Zip and Tom arranged for them to meet in St.



**Sue Cullen, Zip Rzeppa, Mark Hudzik and Jen Morgan pose for a picture.**

Louis where Zip is Executive Director of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louis Council (most of us remember him as a sportscaster at KMOV Ch 4). Zip gave Mark a tour of his facility and Mark invited Zip to tour SAVE.

# Thank you!

Donations to SAVE and the Lee Hopp SAVE Foundation for July 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006

## SAVE

Bernard Janklow  
Knights of Columbus Council 13197  
Mary McTaggart  
Agnes & Marsha Munoz  
John & Carol Reimer  
Dr. Larry & Joan Vick  
Sue & Richard Zaring

## In Memory of...

**Ann Babka**  
Susan & Richard Depegian

**Kenneth Anna**  
Beverly Baum & Ronald Bremmleck  
Eunice Eckhardt  
Mary Steinkamp

## In Memory of...

**Grace Hall**  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward E. Mauck

**Myrtle Lynch**  
Don, Lori, & Donna Forness  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Hentze  
American Legion

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the families who have lost loved ones, and we thank them for designating SAVE as the recipient of these memorials. For information on how you can contribute to SAVE and the Lee Hopp SAVE Foundation, including gifts, life insurance, bequests in a will or trust, and through other tax planning methods, call 618-234-1992.

## Zonta Club Honored at the Annual Dinner



Zonta Club of Belleville members accepted the Friends of SAVE award.

**The Zonta Club of Belleville** has been a huge supporter of SAVE for many years. Donating to SAVE is even part of the Club's bylaws.

In 1973, when SAVE negotiated the deal to occupy Turkey Hill, all the houses had to be renovated to make them habitable for residential consumers. Many area clubs and organizations, including Zonta Club, donated time, labor and materials to rehab the buildings.

Thirty-three years later, the Zonta House is home to Kathy Denham and four consumers.

## SAVE Foundation's Donor Appreciation Event at Ravissant Winery



Foundation Board Member Eric Forguson (l) and Chairman David Bruchhauser toast SAVE.



(l-r) Craig Hubbard, David Bruchhauser, Steve Voss and Randy Law at the event.



(l-r) Eric Forguson, Bill & Peggy Foley and George Lewis.

# Season's Greetings

## Remember SAVE for the Holidays!

When you're making your list and checking it twice, be sure to include SAVE!

Your donation, in any amount, is a tremendous help. You may designate how you want your money to be spent, or it will be put to use where it's most needed.

The SAVE Foundation has many ways you can make a difference: gifts, memorials, bequests, insurance and more. In addition to the warm feeling you receive knowing you've helped our consumers to live full, independent lives, your gift is tax deductible!

Mail your check to:  
**SAVE**

3001 Save Road  
Belleville, IL 62221  
For more information  
618-234-1992



St. Clair Associated Vocational Enterprises  
3001 SAVE Road  
Belleville, IL 62221

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Permit No. 15

## Welcome Wendy Guyer!



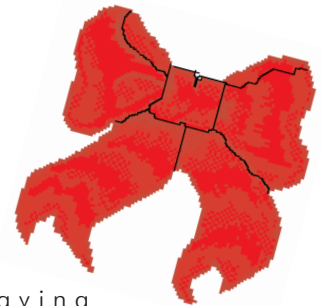
**Wendy Guyer** has recently joined the Lee Hopp SAVE Foundation staff as Development Officer.

Wendy has worked in the non-profit world since 1991. Before coming to

SAVE, she worked at Hospice of Southern Illinois, the Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce and The ALS Association, St. Louis Regional Chapter. She has experience in marketing, public relations, direct mail appeals, special event planning, grant writing and working with volunteers.

Wendy graduated cum laude from McKendree College with a BBA in Marketing, has her Associates degree from Belleville Area College and attended Penn State University.

Wendy says, "I learned about SAVE and the services they provide when I was with the Belleville Chamber. I worked with SAVE and other community service agencies to help them promote their services to chamber members as well as the community.



Having done some volunteer work with developmentally disabled individuals in the past and being familiar with the quality services that SAVE provides to consumers, I am honored to be a part of the 'SAVE family.' I look forward to working with the staff, board, volunteers and consumers to increase awareness in the community and to increase the funding available for services. I find it both personally and professionally rewarding to raise funds to provide services which make a profound difference in the lives of others."

*Welcome, Wendy! We are happy to have you on board.*