

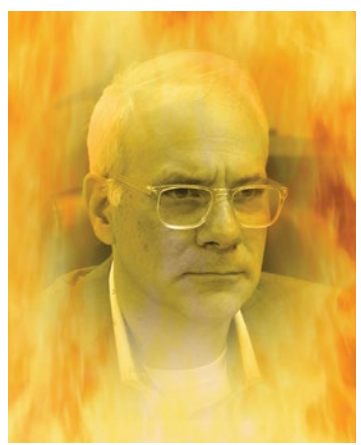


FSSA UPDATE

October 2022 | Volume 11, Issue 3

FSSA passed fundraising goal... Dan will eat something *hot!*

FSSA raised over \$150,000 for SECC in 2022



The State Employees' Community Campaign kicked off on Sept. 1, 2022, with FSSA having a goal of raising \$150,000 for our favorite charities. As of Oct. 21, 2022, we have surpassed that amount, having raised over \$159,900.

Last year when we met our goal, Secretary Rusyniak ate a bug! You can rewatch it on [our YouTube channel](#).

This year, he has heroically volunteered to eat a hot pepper, or a hot sauce made from the pepper, depending on what we can find. The type of pepper and how hot it is, will be determined by the amount raised by the end of the campaign on Oct. 31, 2022.

If you would like to donate to help turn up the heat on Dan, you may do so with a payroll deduction or one-time donation by electronic check or credit/debit card. To learn more on how to donate, please visit the [SECC Hub page](#) or the [SECC donation page](#). Contractors may also make a one-time donation by visiting the [2022 Indiana SECC One-Time Giving Site](#).

Pepper goal amounts



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2022 State Employees' Community Campaign staff participation

Area	Total 2022	# Donors
Administration	\$29,315.32	20%
Disability Determination Bureau	\$5,021.64	19%
Indiana 211	\$1,421.00	19%
Division of Mental Health and Addiction	\$2,930.20	19%
Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning	\$3,217.53	20%
Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center	\$26.00	2%
Evansville State Hospital	\$8,141.93	14%
Madison State Hospital	\$11,306.88	13%
Logansport State Hospital	\$9,578.58	14%
Richmond State Hospital	\$4,342.00	12%
NDI	\$5,580.14	11%
Division of Disability and Rehabilitation Services	\$19,306.30	23%
Division of Family Resources	\$46,228.94	30%
Division of Aging	\$2,558.24	28%
Medicaid Policy and Planning	\$10,947.79	25%
Total:	\$159,922.49	17%
Goal	\$150,000.00	
Need to goal	\$(9,922.49)	

There is still time to donate to your favorite charities or double-check your existing donation; the campaign will end on Oct. 31, 2022.



Disability Determination Bureau ends federal fiscal year as a national leader

The Disability Determination Bureau recently held a staff summer celebration to celebrate the end of a very successful federal fiscal year. DDB, a FSSA agency with around 250 staff members, works with the Social Security Administration, a federal agency, to determine Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income eligibility.

During the fiscal year, DDB received 81,604 cases and were able to close 81,154 of them. They also finished the year with a "Production per Work Year" number, the average number of cases processed per staff member, of 318.6. This is the highest in their region and among the top three in the nation! With such a high rate of cases processed, DDB met their initial and reconsiderations targets and were able to provide assistance to other states in their region to help them reach production goals.

Social Security Disability Insurance covers workers who have established eligibility through prior work and Supplemental Security Income has a needs-based income and resource eligibility requirement. The purpose of these programs is to identify people who have disabilities that preclude the ability to work, or for children, preclude the ability to fully participate in learning activities. These programs have two desired outcomes. The first is to correctly identify disabled adults and children and the second is to have adults with potential referred to a public or private vocational rehabilitation services, through the Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work program.

In order to accomplish its mission, the DDB must work closely with the 26 SSA field offices throughout the state, and the Social Security Administration at the regional and national levels.

2022 Equity Champion awardees

Award highlights the Office of Healthy Opportunities' main objectives

FSSA's Equity Champion Award was established to recognize staff members who exhibit an outstanding commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion; promote inclusionary efforts; and demonstrate exemplary contributions to developing a culturally diverse and welcoming

culture. The award was given to highlight the Office of Healthy Opportunities' four main objectives for improving constituent experiences with our agency.

Please join OHO in congratulating the following Equity Champion Awardees!

Community Engagement

Reimagining existing programs and policy with help from FSSA constituents.



Kari Jones

State Opioid Grant Manager, DMHA

For increasing access to agency systems for providers that primarily serve communities of color and developing pathways to improve agency relationships for those providers.

Policy and Program Design

Refining programs to improve participation and remove barriers for constituents.



Nonis Spinner

Director of Eligibility and Member Services,
Office of Medicaid Planning and Policy

For her rapid mobilization of staff and equity-minded responses to provide postpartum Medicaid coverage throughout the pandemic.

Workforce Development

Building a representative workforce that is informed about social risk factors.



Steve Upchurch

Director of Training
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, DDRS

For developing the DDRS Equity Group, building numerous staff trainings that support social equity among persons with disabilities, and founding the No Barriers Employee Resource Group.

Workforce Development

Building a representative workforce that is informed about social risk factors.



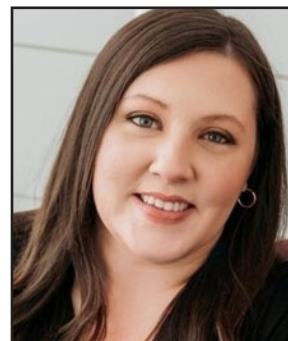
Monique Prezzy

Director of Training
Division of Family Resources

For creating the DFR Diversity Hiring Committee and developing original trainings and workgroups related to equity and inclusion.

Accountability and Evidence

Implementing accountability mechanisms for equity guided by research and evidence.



Autumn James

Deputy General Counsel
FSSA Office of General Counsel

For her work assessing disability and broad equity-related legal issues and compliance throughout FSSA.

OPERATION: SECC



The week of Sept. 26 to 30 had a board game theme for the State Employees' Community Campaign. FSSA staff were able to participate in that day's theme and wear jeans. **Monday: Operation: SECC.** Which charities do you support? Let folks know! **Tuesday: Twinning Tuesday.** Can you Guess Who your co-worker, team, department is twinning with? **Wednesday: Chutes and Ladders.** Slide into your childhood and dress as your childhood or even teenage self. **Thursday: Scrabble.** Wear the first letter of your name and see how many words you can make with your co-workers! **Friday.** Dress like a favorite board game character or item—Colonel Mustard, Mr. Monopoly, the thimble, a Sorry pawn, Draw Four Card, a Settler of Catan, 12-sided die, etc!



Paddle Battle XVI Team DMHA. 2022 State Employees' Community Campaign sixteenth annual Paddle Battle, Sept. 9 on the White River Canal.



Twinning Tuesday pictures: Lake County DFR Broadway office (above) and Evansville State Hospital staff (right).

Rush County Division of Family Resources Mismatch Day.



Shelby County DFR's corn hole tournament.



Evansville State Hospital hosted a charity fair to kick-off their SECC events.



Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center's SECC team this year, Gale Bourland, Ayla Bunch and Brandy Fox. EPCC did a personal care item drive with the items being donated to the Ozanam Family Shelter in Evansville.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND FSSA!!



Congratulations to DMHA's Tony Toomer on being named INARMS 2022 Lifetime Recovery Advocate!



Congratulations to Jeff Wedding, Indiana State Psychiatric Hospital Network director of operations, being named a 20 under 40 honoree from the Evansville Rotary Club.



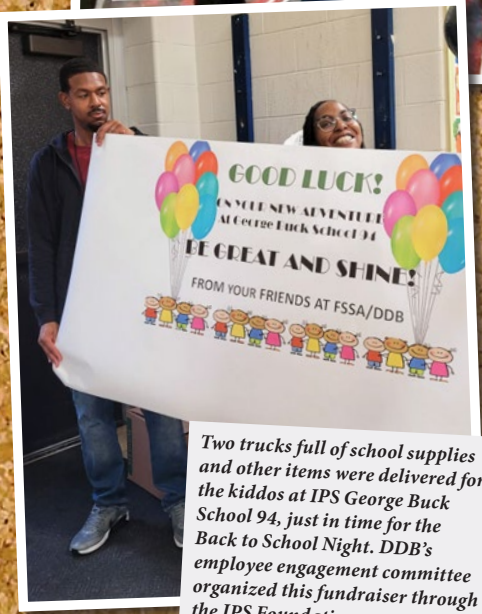
Congratulations to DMHA Director Jay Chaudhary on receiving the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors' Ramstad/Kennedy Award for Outstanding Leadership in Support of Recovery.



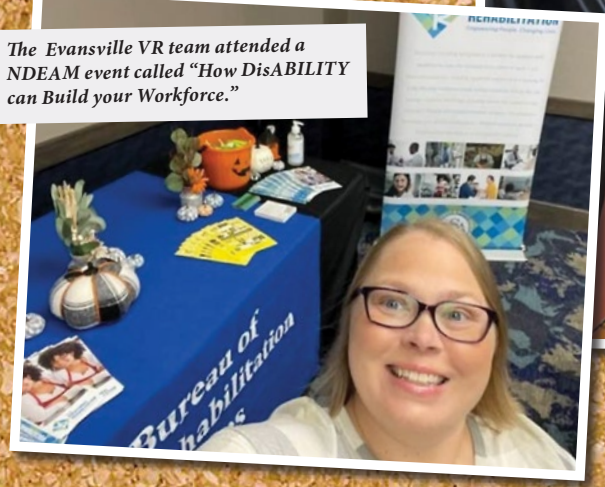
Members of the DDRS team attend the INARF conference.



Dr. Dan tours the Richmond State Hospital museum with Superintendent Paul Stanley and Community Liaison Kelley Cruse Nicholson.



Two trucks full of school supplies and other items were delivered for the kiddos at IPS George Buck School 94, just in time for the Back to School Night. DDB's employee engagement committee organized this fundraiser through the IPS Foundation.



The Evansville VR team attended a NDEAM event called "How DisABILITY can Build your Workforce."

NeuroDiagnostic Institute opens Advanced Treatment Center for Integrative Psychiatry

In July, the NeuroDiagnostic Institute held open houses for the Advanced Treatment Center for Integrative Psychiatry. One was for NDI staff to tour the new area and learn about the treatment options available to patients. The second was for invited guests, including Lt. Governor Crouch, who spoke at the event. Attendees were also given tours of the area and a demonstration of sound healing; one of eight treatment options offered in the ATC.

Integrative Psychiatry is a patient-centered model of care that combines conventional psychiatric treatments with evidence-based therapies to promote whole person healing and long-term wellbeing. The ATC, located on the first floor of the NDI, treats the patient's illness while also improving their health at the same time. It uses a foundational model that all people are made up of a physical, mental, emotional and spiritual bodies.



Open enrollment begins Oct. 26

Ends at noon on Nov. 16, 2022

Open enrollment begins on Oct. 26 and ends at noon ET on Nov. 16, 2022. This is an excellent opportunity to review and make changes to your benefit plans, as well as learn about the many great wellness resources available to you as a state employee.

To view plan rates, benefit summaries and more, please [visit the Open Enrollment webpage](#).

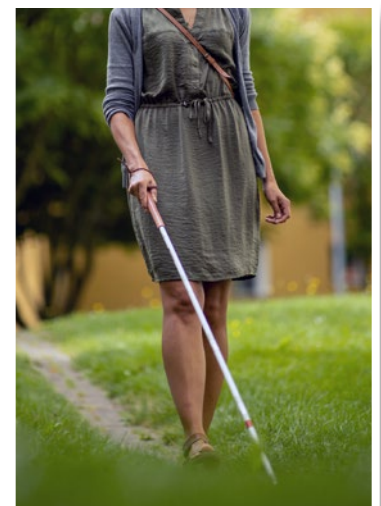


www.InvestInYourHealthIndiana.com

White Cane Safety Day Proclamation

Declared for Oct. 15, 2022 in Indiana

Governor Holcomb has signed a proclamation to declare Oct. 15, 2022, White Cane Safety Day. This acknowledges the importance of the safety of individuals who are blind or visually impaired while traveling and is nationally recognized as an instrument of independence. Visit the DDRS Blind & Visually Impaired web page to [read the proclamation](#).



FIVE QUESTIONS



Name: Michele Holtkamp
Title: Director, Office of Communications and Media
Education: Bachelor of Science in communications/journalism; Master of Business Administration

Editor of daily newspaper named best in the state of Indiana, then transitioning to work as Gov. Holcomb’s communications director and almost immediately being tasked with producing a daily one-hour live COVID-19 television news conference for months on end. Member of the board of directors for the Good Cheer Fund of Johnson County, which feeds +850 families every Christmas. Member of the board of directors for New Directions of Decatur County, which works to prevent domestic violence and abuse and help victims recover. Soccer mom and 4-H leader.

1 What attracted you to a career here at FSSA?

My career goals have always been to consistently move the needle to make my corner of the world a better place. After the work of the past few years, I became very interested in FSSA because of the issues the agency touches and the ability to improve the lives of Hoosiers. My brother was born with spina bifida and used a wheelchair his entire life, and through accommodations, was able to travel to a job and volunteer activities. My best friend’s daughter suffered a traumatic brain injury at birth and her life is improved by the help of a nurse who travels with her to school. I’ve seen first-hand how the work of this agency can help Hoosiers live their best life.

2 What gives you a sense of accomplishment professionally?

My greatest moments of accomplishment are when I know I’ve helped advance an issue, refined a solution, or made a suggestion that leads to an improved end result. Oftentimes, satisfaction has come when I’ve been able to hit pause on a project that would have unintended consequences.

3 What do you want FSSA workers to know about the work you’re doing?

I want to get to YES! The communications and media team can be the link between the important work in the divisions and the Hoosiers and stakeholders who need to know about it.

4 What is the best advice you can offer, based on your years of experience?

Be crisp—write and communicate so that you are never misunderstood. Be direct – no surprises is always best. Leave your ego at the door. Amazing work can happen when you aren’t concerned with who gets the credit.

5 What about your background might your co-workers find surprising?

I live with my twin nine-year-old sons in Decatur County on the same farmland where I grew up.