

Special Olympics

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with mental retardation. These activities give them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.

Today, more than 20,000 athletes are served through Illinois Special Olympics. Millions more are served in over 140 countries throughout the world.

Illinois Center for Autism

Illinois Center for Autism (ICA) is a not-for-profit, community based-based, mental health treatment, and educational agency dedicated to helping people with autism. The ICA 's mission is to prevent the unnecessary institutionalization of people with autism and to help people with autism achieve their highest level of independence within their home, school, and community.

ICA provides a variety of services for people with autism throughout Southwestern Illinois. Satellite Classrooms in the region's schools, client and family support services, the Pasta Fare retail business demonstration project, and transitional services all help provide invaluable opportunities for people with autism.

S.A.V.E.

St. Clair Associated Vocational Enterprises (S.A.V.E.) was founded in 1972 by a small group of parents who came together to provide a better life for their children with mental retardation and other developmental challenges, including Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and visual and hearing challenges who were leaving the school system. As the faces of S.A.V.E. have changed over the years, the mission has remained the same- to help adults with developmental challenges achieve their full potential and live meaningful and happy lives.

S.A.V.E. offers a variety of programs and services designed to support and meet the needs of people with developmental challenges, including the JOBtrack customized employment service, developmental training, residential opportunities, and vocational development.