



## Working Our Way Back to Empowering our Participants with Special Needs

Since August of 2020, The Douglas Center has slowly welcomed back some of our program participants under the direction of the DHS (Department of Health and Human Services) Covid-19 guidelines. Over time we have gradually increased the attendance as allowed.

Safety first has always been our highest priority. The Douglas Center conducts weekly Covid-19 testing for all our staff and our participants. All participants attending The Douglas Center program have been vaccinated. We have also advocated and successfully arranged for home-base participants to be vaccinated. They have received the 1st dose and The Douglas Center has made transportation arrangements for participants vaccinations to and from Chicago Reed in Oak Park. The Douglas Center would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Skokie Public Health Department for their guidance in assisting us in the understanding the Covid-19 guidelines and in arranging for our staff to be vaccinated through the Skokie Public Health Department. Their professionalism and generosity of time in responding to our questions was greatly appreciated.



We are overjoyed in welcoming back our participants with special needs. People with disabilities have suffered disproportionately during the pandemic due to the shutdowns. They have experienced losses in job training, employment opportunities/income, lack of social interaction and isolation. These losses can be difficult for most, but for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, they can be devastating. The type of programming offered by The Douglas Center assists people with disabilities to live fuller lives by developing skills that assist them in integrating into the community. However, the longer that they are without this support they begin to lose the skills that they have acquired. We are so excited to be able to restart the process back to empowerment.  
(continued on page 2)

## A BIG Thank You to Our Interns!

The Douglas Center launched its Social Work Internship Program in January 2020. Now in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year, this program has grown to become an integral part of vital programming we provide. The Douglas Center offers our heartfelt gratitude to those who have participated in this program. Words cannot begin to express our appreciation for their hard work, patience, and professionalism. We are equally grateful for the opportunity to witness their growth and achievements during their time with us.

Our interns have expressed how much they are enjoying their experience with The Douglas Center and feel they are contributing in changing the lives of individuals with special needs. Three of our interns will be completing their internships this spring of 2021.

The Douglas Center Internship program has partnered with several local universities including Loyola University, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), Northeastern University and Dominican University. We would like to express our gratitude to our interns currently enrolled in our program.

Adrian, Northeastern University, Bachelor's in Social Work Candidate  
 Nora, Loyola University, Bachelor's in Social Work Candidate  
 Maria, Loyola University, Master's in Social Work Candidate  
 Sophie, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), Master's in Social Work Candidate

(continued on page 3)

### IN THIS ISSUE

Working Our Way Back to Empowering our Participants	1 & 2
A BIG Thank You to Our Interns	1 & 3
Let's Get Social	3
Celebrating 22 Years of Service	4
DC Hosts "Spring Art Fair"	4
Support DC by Shopping AmazonSmile on Mother's Day	5
Julius Meini Collaborates with DC	6
Computer Monitors for Sale	7
DC seeks volunteers with computer refurbishing experience	7

### The Douglas Center Closing Schedule

- In-Service Day: May 7th
- Memorial Day: May 31st
- In-Service Day: June 11th
- Independence Day: July 2 & 5
- In-Service Day: August 6th



## Working our Way Back to Empowering our Participants with Special Needs (cont'd)

During the shutdown, The Douglas Center has worked diligently in finding creative ways to continue some of our participant activities with virtual programming. Some of these included Drumming Circles and Skokie Book Club.

As we return, we will continue to follow the Covid-19 guidelines. Facemasks are still required. **A REMINDER: The Douglas Center has a limited quantity of reusable fabric masks for sale.** These masks have been manufactured by The Douglas Center. Masks are available for purchase for \$2.00 per mask. For more information on placing an order, contact our center via email: [omar@thedouglascenter.org](mailto:omar@thedouglascenter.org) or phone: 312-857-5266.

The Douglas Center is pleased to announce that we are now accepting new applications to our program. For information, please contact David Banas at 847-674-1921 X238.



*The Douglas Center conducts weekly Covid-19 testing for all staff and participants..*

Face Mask  
**\$2**



MULTILAYER COTTON  
WASHABLE/REUSABLE  
ELASTIC EARLOOPS



Contact us at:  
[Omar@thedouglascenter.org](mailto:Omar@thedouglascenter.org)  
or  
312-857-5266  
3445 W. Howard  
Skokie, IL 60076  
[www.thedouglascenter.org](http://www.thedouglascenter.org)



## A BIG Thank You to Our Interns (cont'd)

Their responsibilities at The Douglas Center have included:

- Working directly with program participants
- Counseling
- Social media management
- Intake
- Outreach to group homes
- Presentations to Special Ed Schools
- Administrative duties
- Organized and managed the “Art From The Heart” Art Show event
- Grant writing

The Douglas Center internship curriculum is under the supervision of David Banas, LCSW, Director of Clinical Services. Interns are responsible for completing assigned weekly and monthly assignments. Each intern receives weekly mentoring by David Banas. Internships are available to BSW and Master level Social Work students who are seeking hands-on experience working with adults living with intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities. The internship curriculum will expose students to key areas of practice within the social work career field. This program provides an opportunity for interns to refine and apply concepts and skills learned; to diversify their field experience and advance their career goals

For information on applying for an internship with The Douglas Center, please contact David Banas, Director of Clinical Services at [dbanas@thedouglascenter.org](mailto:dbanas@thedouglascenter.org) or via phone: 847-674-1921 X238.



*Adrian, Northeastern University*



*Nora, Loyola University*



*Maria, Loyola University*



*Sophie, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)*



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## Let's Get Social

The Douglas Center is delighted to give you an inside look at what's happening at our center. Come follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Youtube. Throughout the week we share photos and info about life at our center, our mission, our projects and even some surprise announcements! Click on the icons below and like, subscribe and follow us!





# Celebrating 22 Years of Service to People with Special Needs

On March 8, 2021, The Douglas Center celebrated 22 years of providing programs and services to individuals with intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities. Since its inception, The Douglas Center has grown from a 2,500 square foot facility with one participant and one staff member to a 40,000 sq. ft. facility and 140 participants. “As we celebrate this milestone, we wish to express our gratitude to our staff, our participants, board members, volunteers, contractors, supporters and community partners who have played a vital role in supporting our mission”, stated Rifath Khan, CEO of The Douglas Center. “This has been an extraordinary adventure and we look forward to many more years of service.”



During this difficult time of Covid-19, The Douglas Center has continued to explore avenues to serve our participants and the community. Throughout this time of crisis, our staff worked remotely from home where possible during the shelter-in-place order. They continued to check-in with our program participants to offer support where needed. They conducted virtual programming where possible. While this past year has played out much more challenging than most, The Douglas Center is pleased to share that we were able to keep our staff employed and our doors open.

“I am deeply humbled to have had the privilege of service at The Douglas Center for 22 years. It has been my honor to lead the center in its mission and growth,” stated Rifath Khan, CEO.

## The Douglas Center Hosts “Spring Art Fair”

The Douglas Center is hosting our “Spring Art Fair” ...and just in time for Mother’s Day, spring planting, Teacher Appreciation gift giving...and don’t forget a little something for yourself! Our art fair will feature beautiful works of art made by program participants in “Art From The Heart” Creations program.

**Tuesday, May 3-7, 2021**

**9 am to 4 pm**

**Location: The Douglas Center:  
3445 Howard Street; Skokie, Illinois 60076**

Come see our latest selection of products including handmade mosaic art, holiday cards, succulents in mosaic planters, and so much more!

“Art From The Heart” Creations is a program participant-based business launched by The Douglas Center. This program provides participants living with disabilities hands-on experience in the creation, production and selling of their own art products. This venture enables the participants to earn income from the sale of their artwork, attain a sense of accomplishment, self-esteem and assistance in achieving greater independence in life. **A portion of the proceeds of these art creations goes directly to the individual that created it.**

The public is invited to attend our Spring Art Fair. The beautiful pieces on display would make a wonderful gift for you or someone special. Stop by and browse our show for a great gift! For more information please contact The Douglas Center at 847-674-1921.

**Social Distancing  
ART FAIR  
MAY 3RD TO 7TH  
9AM - 4PM**

Help local artists with  
**special needs** earn a living

**Handmade Mosaic Art,  
Holiday Cards,  
Succulents in Mosaic  
Planters and more**

**Contactless Payment**

**The Douglas Center  
3445 Howard Street  
Skokie, IL  
(847)674-1921  
thedouglascenter.org**

**Coffee and pastries provided by Julius Meinl\***  
\*A portion of sales will be donated to The Douglas Center

## Mother's Day is May 9th... Support The Douglas Center By Shopping at AmazonSmile!

Mother's Day is just around the corner (Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>). DID YOU KNOW that when you shop on AmazonSmile... you can find the perfect gift for Mom while supporting The Douglas Center?

Amazon through its AmazonSmile program will donate 0.5% of a customer's purchase price to the charity of their choice. If you already shop on Amazon, we invite you to shop at smile.amazon.com and choose The Douglas Center as your charity of choice. You will receive the SAME GREAT PRODUCTS at the SAME GREAT PRICES and the same GREAT SERVICE. You shop...Amazon gives. How does it work?



### ON YOUR DESKTOP/LAPTOP:

#### 1. Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

The entire shopping experience is the same

#### 2. Sign in and Choose Your Charity: The Douglas Center

The screen will look slightly different depending on whether you're already signed into Amazon. If you're already signed in, you'll see a different screen. Simply search for The Douglas Center in the "charity of choice" box displayed on the amazon.smile.com site. You will see "Supporting": The Douglas Center" beneath the search bar on the amazon.smile site.

Or pick your own charitable organization:

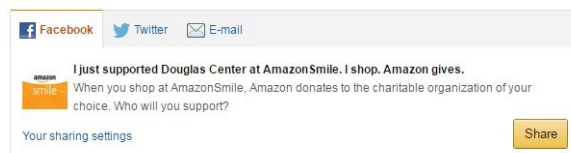
 

#### 3. Begin shopping!

Once you've selected your charity everything else functions the same. Shop for your favorite products or the perfect gift. You can checkout normally as well. No extra cost is passed onto you - Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to The Douglas Center.

#### 4. Share with your friends

After you have successfully completed a purchase on AmazonSmile you can share the news with your friends on Facebook, Twitter or via email. This option appears on the confirmation page after your order is complete.



### ON YOUR MOBILE PHONE:

**1. Join AmazonSmile.** If you are not already an AmazonSmile member, sign up at smile.amazon.com. Simply select your favorite charity to start generating donations, at no cost to you.

**2. Download or update to the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app.** You can find it in the APP Store for iOS or Google Play for Android.

**3. Turn on AmazonSmile. Open the app and find 'Settings' in the main menu (☰).** Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

**Note: Only purchases made at smile.amazon.com will result in donations. Bookmark this link and support us every time you shop on Amazon: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/01-0781831>**

We hope you will take the opportunity to support The Douglas Center with your eligible purchases on smile.amazon.com

## Julius Meinl Collaborates with The Douglas Center

The Douglas Center is honored and excited to announce our collaboration with Julius Meinl in the manufacturing of limited quantities of Julius Meinl tote bags made from recycled Julius Meinl coffee bags. Julius Meinl has recently opened a new location at 1920 W. Montrose in Chicago where they will be selling these durable, responsible and tres chic tote bags! Additionally, they can be purchased via the Uber Eats, Ritual and Door Dash apps. The totes are available in small and large sizes and in different colors.

Julius Meinl will donate all proceeds back to The Douglas Center to support continued programming and services for the adults with special needs that we serve. The Douglas Center wishes to express our deepest gratitude to Julius Meinl for their generosity and support of our mission.

# FREE COFFEE!



Free Small Coffee with the purchase of a Small Bag (\$12.99)  
Free Large Coffee with the purchase of a Large Bag (\$18.99)

\*Price of coffee can also be used towards a different food or drink item



The proceeds of the bag go to The Douglas Center, a Skokie based organization which helps to enrich the lives of individuals with special needs.







**The Douglas Center**

*A ray of light for individuals with special needs*

3445 Howard Street, Skokie, IL 60076  
P: (847) 674-1921; F: (847) 679-1823  
[www.thedouglascenter.org](http://www.thedouglascenter.org)

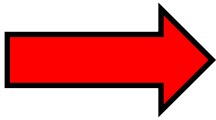


The Douglas Center serves to assist adults living with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities in improving their independent living skills and enrichment of their quality of life.

**OUR MISSION**

**\*\*\*ANNOUNCEMENT\*\*\***

**The Douglas Center  
is hosting a  
Computer Sale**



The Douglas Center is looking for volunteers with knowledge and experience in refurbishing computers/laptops. For information please contact: Anna O'Dwyer at [aodwyer@thedouglascenter.org](mailto:aodwyer@thedouglascenter.org)

**COMPUTER MONITORS FOR SALE**  
At The Douglas Center

Slightly used and in great condition

Selling for \$25 each

Please call us at 312-857-5266 for more information

*\*All sales made from computer monitors are given to a non-profit which provides services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (special needs).*

**DO YOU HAVE OLD ELECTRONICS?**

**Bring your electronic waste to The Douglas Center and we will dispose of it safely and responsibly.**

Drop off your electronic items at our location:  
3445 Howard Street, Skokie Illinois 60076  
Monday—Friday: Call for Drop-Off Appointment

*Please note: We do not accept CRT monitors or televisions.*