OPPORTUNITY HOUSE



Dignity in Pay, Dignity in Work

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OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

empowering people with developmental disabilities

Commitment.

Dignity in Pay, Dignity in Work: A future of Inclusion

A Message from our CEO/President, Tom Matya

Dear Friend of Opportunity House,

For more than 60 years, Opportunity House has opened doors for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), helping them live, work, and thrive in the community they proudly call home. Today, we stand at a defining moment in our history, one that requires leadership, compassion, and a shared commitment to building a more inclusive future.

With the passage of the Dignity in Pay Act, Illinois is moving away from sheltered workshops and toward community-integrated employment. For the individuals currently working in our sheltered workshop, this change brings uncertainty, but it also opens the door to greater opportunity, growth, and independence.

Opportunity House is leading this transformation through the creation of our new Workforce Development & Training Center. This state-of-the-art center will offer vocational skill-building, life-skills training, small group learning, community-based employment, job shadowing, volunteer pathways, in-house training, and a groundbreaking STEAM Learning Lab powered by Project Lead the Way - the first of its kind in Illinois for adults with IDD. This innovative program will prepare individuals for real-world success.

This new Center also positions Opportunity House for the future, strengthening our ability to serve more individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities with community-focused services for decades to come.

But we cannot move forward alone.

Your support ensures that every person has the chance to experience meaningful days and build a future filled with purpose. Every gift helps create new pathways to employment, equips classrooms and training spaces, and provides individualized guidance.

Your investment is more than a donation; it is a declaration of dignity. It says that every person has potential, every person has purpose, and every person deserves the opportunity to work, contribute, and belong.

Today, we invite you to join us in the “Dignity in Pay, Dignity in Work” Capital Campaign. This 2.0 million dollar campaign will enable this transformation. Together, we will build a stronger, more inclusive tomorrow, one where opportunity is not just promised but lived every day by the individuals we proudly serve.

Thank you for believing in our mission, our vision, and in the extraordinary talent and determination of the individuals who call Opportunity House home.

Best Regards,

Tom

Tom Matya
CEO/President
Opportunity House, Inc.

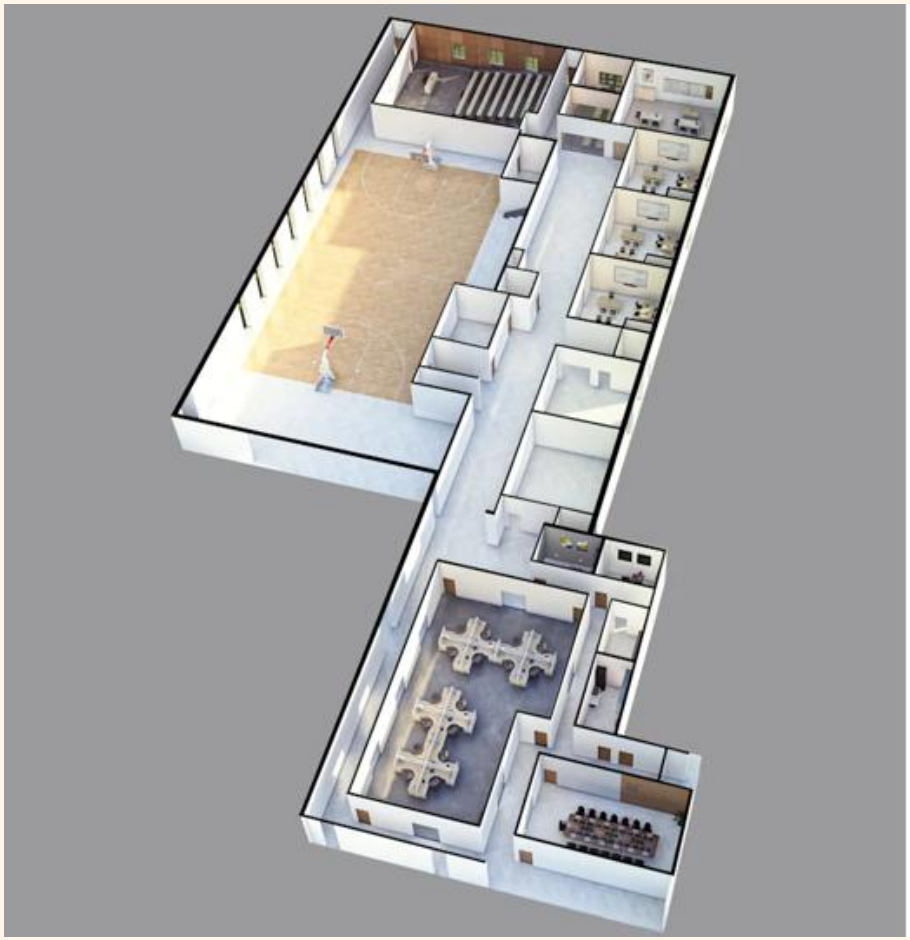
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Artist's Rendering















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Testimonials

From Families of the People We Serve

"Opportunity House provided a whole new light in the life of my daughter. She would not be as successful as she has been without the assistance of Opportunity House. I can't say enough about the support they provided for my daughter."

Client's Guardian

"My son has been involved with OH for 35 years. He is very excited about moving into the new Genoa group home because he loves living with his friends. We are very excited for him as well. He is very involved within the community — he attends the Genoa Methodist Church and has involvement within the park area here. I am happy he has the freedom to walk around the neighborhood and enjoy his community! We are both very grateful for all of the OH employees, from DSP's and nurses to administration. Thank you for letting us be a part of the OH family!"

Diane M.

From the People We Serve

"I like being a part of OH. I enjoy going out on outings like the bowling alley. I really like playing sports with my housemates and friends."

Joanna K.

"My favorite part of Opportunity House is living in a group home because my housemates are my friends. I also enjoy talking and spending time with the staff."

Craig T.

"My friends help me here and support me. I like playing sports like basketball because I am good at it."

Sam S.

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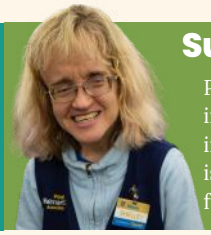
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Residential Services

24/7, 365 residential "Group Home" care. OH houses & serves 70+ individuals throughout our 11 group homes in DeKalb IL, Genoa IL, and Sycamore IL, with more homes opening up in Genoa.



Supported Employment

Provides on- and off-site assistance to individuals seeking or currently employed in our community. "Group Employment" is another opportunity for individuals to further enhance their employment skills.

OH Athletics

Year-round team and individual sports with participation in Special Olympics Illinois tournaments. Sports offered include soccer, basketball, volleyball, bowling, bocce, golf, softball, and bags.



Community Day Services

Weekday program focused on the development and enhancement of daily adaptive living skills and economic self sufficiency with an emphasis on community integration.





Group Employment

Hire an OH supervised crew for your business. OH crews are dependable, efficient, and quality-checked. We handle staffing and customized support; you get results and inclusion



Community Support Program

Provides the support needed to individuals who live independently in the community or with their family. Support is offered to maximize independence.

Recreation

Provides in-house and community activities that are enjoyable, promote and enhance quality of life, and build & maintain friendships and community skills.



Home-Based Services

Case management and service facilitation for individuals living with family or independently. Services are customizable to meet individual's unique needs.



Accreditations

Opportunity House is proud to maintain multiple, ongoing accreditations, including:

- Bureau of Accreditation and Licensing (BALC), Illinois Department of Human Services
- Behavior Quality Management (BQM) Illinois Department of Human Services
- Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) International Certification
- Rule 116 Nursing Certification, Illinois Department of Human Services

These accreditations reaffirm that our programs meet rigorous, nationally recognized standards, and a direct reflection of our unwavering commitment to providing high-quality supports that help the individuals we serve learn, grow, and thrive.

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Programs & Accreditations

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Case Support

Opportunity House is entering one of the most transformative moments in its 60+ year history. With the passing of the Dignity in Pay Act, Illinois is shifting away from sheltered workshops toward community-integrated employment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Opportunity House is committed not only to meeting this mandate but leading the way.

To ensure every individual we serve is prepared, confident, and supported in transitioning from sheltered work to community-integrated employment, we are launching a Workforce Development & Training Center built on dignity and strengthened by the principles of the Opportunity House Mission, Vision, and Values.

The new Workforce Development & Training Center will equip individuals with the skills, confidence, and hands-on training needed to pursue real career pathways in the community. This modern Center expands Opportunity House's capacity to serve more adults with IDD each year, especially those seeking vocational growth, practical learning, and a true sense of belonging. As our programs become increasingly inclusive, innovative, and skill-focused, Opportunity House will become a destination where participants can build not only meaningful days but meaningful futures.

The Workforce Development & Training Center, Key Features Include:

- A STEAM Career Exploration Lab designed to spark curiosity and build transferable skills through Project Lead the Way (PLTW) and additional STEAM-based curricula. Opportunity House will become the first organization in Illinois to offer this innovative programming to adults with IDD.
- Vocational Skill-Building Suites mirroring real workplace environments.
- Community Employment Transition Hub, where individuals practice interviewing, resume building, interview skills, effective communication, and readiness skills for employment.
- Life Skills & Independence Center teaching budgeting, scheduling, community transportation skills, and personal readiness for employment.
- Employer Partner Training Space for local companies to engage and train candidates.
- Volunteer opportunities in the community that mirror job-transferable skills and community building.
- Robust data tracking & employer engagement through automation journeys within our CRM.
- A state-of-the-art auditorium designed to host guest speakers, employer partners, career exploration events, and interactive learning modules that prepare individuals for real-world opportunities.

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Case Support

(continued)

- A fully updated gymnasium with wood flooring and built-in bleachers, creating an inviting community space where families, friends, and supporters can cheer on OH athletes and Special Olympics sports. This versatile space will also be used daily by our Community Day Services participants.
- A dedicated community recreation space equipped with a pool table, lounging seats, board games, and much more. A safe space for individuals to share in connection and community with their peers.

The Workforce Development & Training Center ensures individuals are not simply "moved" into the community but that they are prepared, equipped, skilled, & supported.

Why This Campaign Matters

For decades, individuals with IDD earned subminimum wages in workshop settings due to systemic limitations, not due to ability, motivation, or potential.

Today in Illinois, only about 1 in 8 adults with IDD have a paid community job, yet nearly half of those without a job say they want to work. Among individuals actively seeking competitive, integrated employment, as many as 9 in 10 are still waiting for the opportunity. These figures underscore the urgent need for modern, community-focused employment services like those Opportunity House is advancing through its Capital Campaign.

Every individual deserves fair pay and meaningful work.

Transitioning individuals out of sheltered work requires:

- New training environments
- Modern curriculums
- A supportive pathway that builds confidence and independence
- Employer partnerships and community supports
- Hands-on skill development
- Additional direct support professionals to support smaller group learning to achieve the individual needs of program participants

This model increases both job retention and long-term independence. This capital campaign makes that possible.

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Case Support

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Why Smaller Learning Groups

Research and our own experience in community-based learning show that individuals achieve the strongest outcomes when supported within micro-groups:

- Promotes confidence without overwhelming scale
- Allows staff to tailor instruction to each person
- Ensures safety and quality during hands-on training
- Creates peer support while still maintaining individualized attention
- Mirrors real workplace teams, improving social and communication skills

The Impact

With this campaign, Opportunity House will:

- Serve as a committed partner for individuals seeking employment, supporting their transition from sheltered work to competitive-wage jobs while ensuring every participant continues to experience a meaningful, enriching day. Provide community-integrated training for individuals we serve.
- Strengthen DeKalb County's workforce with enthusiastic, reliable employees.
- Become a model for the state of Illinois by combining STEAM learning, hands-on vocational training, Learning for Life curricula, and employer partnerships in one cohesive program.
- Honor the values of the Dignity in Pay Act by ensuring fair wages, fair opportunities, and a fair chance for every person we serve.

Why Now

The shift away from sheltered workshops is required, but for Opportunity House, it is also the right thing to do. Closing the workshop marks the end of an era, but it also marks the beginning of a future where individuals with IDD are included, seen, valued, respected, and paid fairly for their work.

This Workforce Development & Training Center is not just a building. It is a bridge, from segregation to inclusion, from limited options to endless potential, from the past to the future.

Campaign Vision

We invite donors, foundations, community leaders, and corporate partners to join us in building a future where every person has the opportunity to thrive in the workplace and in life.

Together, we will empower people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to work, live, and enjoy community life with dignity.

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Campaign Commitment Card

MY CAMPAIGN COMMITMENT

I/we are honored to support Opportunity House's transition to community-integrated employment and the launch of our Workforce Development Training Center.

Donor Name(s): _____

Recognition Name (as it should appear): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Total Gift Commitment: $_____

Initial Payment Enclosed (optional): $_____

Pledge Term:

☐ 1 year ☐ 2 years ☐ 3 years ☐ 4 years ☐ 5 years

Payment Schedule:

☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Semi-Annual ☐ Annual

GIFT DESTINATION

☐ Where Most Needed

☐ STEAM Learning Lab & Workforce Training

☐ Community Employment

☐ In Honor/In Memory Of: _____

GIFT TYPE

☐ Cash/Check

☐ Credit Card

☐ Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

☐ Stock/Securities

☐ Bequest or Planned Gift

☐ IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution

SPECIAL NOTES OR INSTRUCTIONS: _____

SIGNATURES

Donor Signature: _____ Date: _____

OH Representative: _____ Date: _____

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NAMING RIGHTS OPPORTUNITIES

Naming Rights

TRANSFORMATIONAL NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

- [ ] Workforce Development & Training Center - $500,000
- [ ] STEAM Career Exploration Lab - $100,000
- [ ] Vocational Training Suite - $100,000
- [ ] State-of-the-Art Auditorium - $100,000

PROGRAM & LEARNING SPACES

- [ ] Life Skills Learning Classroom - $50,000
- [ ] Technology & Digital Literacy Center - $50,000
- [ ] Project Lead the Way Innovation Zone - $50,000

RECREATION & ATHLETICS

- [ ] Recreation & Wellness Studio - $100,000
- [ ] Gymnasium Wood Flooring - $100,000
- [ ] Spectator Bleacher Seating - $50,000
- [ ] Scoreboard - $5,000

SUPPORTIVE SPACES

- [ ] Outdoor Patio & Gathering Space - $75,000
- [ ] Welcome Lobby & Donor Recognition Wall - $50,000
- [ ] Staff Training & Development Room - $50,000

COMMUNITY IMPACT RECOGNITION (NON-ROOM NAMING)

- [ ] Champion of Opportunity - $25,000
- [ ] Advocate for Inclusion - $10,000
- [ ] Partner in Progress - $5,000
- [ ] Friend of Dignity - $2,500

CUSTOM NAMING OPTIONS AVAILABLE

- [ ] I would like to discuss a custom naming opportunity. Please contact me.

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