

The mission of the Center for Independence is to help children and young adults with disabilities achieve their highest level of independence in the home, school, community and workforce. We provide therapy programs that develop life skills and motor function in a manner that promotes self-reliance and an "I Can!" attitude. Committed to breaking down barriers to employment, the Center also provides job linkage and placement for young adults with varying disabilities through our innovative program, Working Together Chicago.

(708) 588-0833 ~ www.CFImove.org



Note from the Director

In 1998, we opened our doors with a mission to help children with physical disabilities gain the skills and confidence to reach their full potential. The Center for Independence through Conductive Education continues to be a pioneer in recognizing the immense benefits of conductive education. We were one of the first to adopt this life-changing intensive motor therapy program in the United States. As the children at the Center grew and their needs evolved, we continued to adapt and change along with them.

The Center has proudly served a generation of children and families. Over the years we developed and added new programs that would help them navigate the physical, emotional and social challenges they would face at each stage of childhood, adolescence and young adulthood.

With the addition of "Working Together Chicago," the Center is now opening doors of employment for people with developmental disabilities - giving them the pride and purpose of a paycheck.

So, after 25 years, we took stock of what we have accomplished and how our programs have evolved and expanded to serve babies through adulthood.

To that end, we are changing our name and logo to more closely reflect what we have become...



-Patti Herbst
Executive Director

Site Locations: The Center is proud to offer programs at the following locations:

Countryside
(Main Site)
100 W. Plainfield Rd, Ste. 100
Countryside, IL 60525

Brighton Park - Chicago
2701 W. 36th Place
Chicago, IL 60632

CFI Annual Fundraiser

The Center is excited to announce the 26th Annual Fundraiser will be held on Friday, September 20, 2024 at Bobak's Signature Events and Seven Bridges Golf Club!

This year's event theme is "This Is How We Roll!" Dressing like you're going to a roller disco is highly encouraged!

The Golf Outing at Seven Bridges will begin at 1pm and the evening event at Bobak's will begin at 6pm. Join us for dinner, dancing, auctions and raffles - all while supporting the hardworking children with physical disabilities in the Center's therapy program!

More information can be found here: <https://cfi26.givesmart.com>

WTC Fundraiser - Save the Date

The Center's Working Together Chicago program, which places people with disabilities in jobs throughout the Chicagoland area, is hosting its 6th Annual Fundraiser on Thursday, November 14, 2024 at Countryside Banquets!

Join us for auctions, cocktails, food and raffles! 100% of funds raised will help put young adults with disabilities to work! People with disabilities can have great success in the workplace when they have the right supports and are given a chance - you make it possible!

More information will follow!



In just one day, Working Together Chicago placed four participants with disabilities in paid jobs - a new record for our WTC team! June was a great month!

Congratulations Michael, Daniel, Joe and Christian. Good luck in your new positions!

Northwest Announcement

It is with mixed emotions that we share the news of the closure of the Northwest Program of Center for Independence after 18 years of service. This decision was not made lightly, and it comes after much consideration and reflection on the Center's mission, sustainability, and future prospects. While we are saddened by the closure, we are also filled with gratitude for the incredible journey we've been on and the lives we've been fortunate enough to touch. The intensive therapy services are still available at sites in Countryside and Chicago. Center staff are working to ensure a smooth transition for our Northwest families and to provide any support or assistance needed during this time of change.

We want to express our deepest gratitude to our wonderful NW Center parents for entrusting us with the care and education of their children. It has been an honor and privilege to be a part of their lives.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff, volunteers, and community partners. We are so grateful for St. Francis de Sales Church and The Hope Collective for their unwavering support, dedication and love. Both of these generous churches created an encouraging and nurturing environment where children with disabilities were given the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

We will also be forever grateful to the Moser, Gancayco and Bathery families who made the Northwest program possible. That generous spirit of community will continue to inspire us for years to come. The Northwest Center will continue to operate through Summer Camp – July 2024. We are forever grateful for the memories, relationships and the impact we have shared together.



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www.CFImove.org
www.WorkingTogetherChicago.org

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The simplest thing you can do for a person is to care!