



# Streator Unlimited, Inc.

## Annual Report Fiscal Year 2015 50 Years of Service!

We had a *lot of help from our friends* this year. Ladies from Centrue brought treats to celebrate holidays with our consumers. Tons of people turned out for the



Quarter Auction and Food for Thought. We

had support from many local businesses and members of our community. Employees from Exelon put in a volunteer day at the

house donated to us by Wells Fargo. The Dunham Fund granted us \$20,000 towards getting the house ready for some consumers in less-than-ideal living situations. Employees from Herman & Kittle put in two volunteer days brightening up our homes. We are so lucky to be part of this supportive Streator Community.



So many of you have supported our mission this year and we are truly grateful. It makes a big difference.





## FY15 By The Numbers

- \* SU's total budget is \$2.8 million. 76% of that goes to staff and consumer wages and benefits.
- \* We now have five group homes with 24/7 supports serving 32 individuals. Seventeen are now over fifty years old. Residents and guardians indicated 99% satisfaction with their services. The program earned an excellent 99% on its state survey.
- \* The 77 in our day program earned a collective \$152,000. The Developmental Training Program served 43 people and earned an excellent 97% score on its annual state survey. The Workshop Program served 35 people.
- \* We provided Home Based Support Service Facilitation to 7 persons.
- \* In our community employment program, 8 people obtained employment and an additional 7 people received follow-up/job coaching services.



**Retirement**—what does that mean for someone who lives in our group homes? It doesn't mean leaving their beloved home. It means they no longer go to day program. They don't stop doing things, though. They have an at home program which features appropriate activities and activity level and opportunities to get out into the community. We're fortunate to have many long-term residents and they are getting to that age. We now have three people retired at one home and two at another, plus one younger person who has at-home day program to better meet his medical and program needs. Two of our long-term residents passed this year—Mike Rakoczy and Sam Sabino. We were proud to keep supporting them in the places they had lived for so long through the end of their lives.

Not retiring, but moving on, is JC Griffith. We helped him obtain a CDL and he's driven for us. He got a job that pays well and has benefits and continues to better his life. We'll keep supporting JC as needed and are very proud of his accomplishment and our contribution to them.



**Save the date!** Relax after your harrowing Black Friday shopping adventures with some good music.

George Smith's (Hargrove Insurance) five very musical brothers will give a concert of oldies at Al's Place on Friday, November 27th from 7:30-9:30 pm. A couple of them have actually played at the White House. They will perform and pass the hat for donations to SU. Their father was SU's very first Executive Director, just prior to Dale Chiavene.

We are in **uncharted territory** with regards to the state budget. One thing that's not new is the lack of increases in funding since 2004. A lot has gone up since then, and we do the best we can to keep up—fundraising, obtaining grants, living poor (as we call it). It's starting to take a noticeable toll though. When work is low we send people who live in the community home to help with staff ratios. This is a hardship on families. We weren't able to successfully serve a person with autism because we didn't have the resources to meet this person's needs. One of the parents had to leave their job to care for their child. We can't pay for staff to give as much support to people who live on their own in the community to help them improve their lives. We'd like to do more with innovative employment strategies but this also requires a lot of staff time. We make sure what we do, we do very well, but it saddens us when we can't do more. We and our consumers also miss staff when they have to leave SU because they need to earn higher wages. They deserve much, much more. It's also difficult to recruit new staff because of low wages for such important work.



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Facebook!

A few ways to help:

- Send a donation.
- If you shop at Amazon, go here when you shop and a percentage goes to SU <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2558089>
- Direct your *Thrivent Choice Dollars* towards SU.
- Direct your Kroger Rewards towards SU.
- More information on Facebook and our website
- Support SU on Giving Tuesday at [www.ilgive.com](http://www.ilgive.com)

