



## Creative Community Living Services Quarterly Update News for our Donors

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Welcome to the third issue of the Creative Community Living Services Quarterly Update. We hope you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy during these challenging times. Our hearts were warmed recently when the following message was enclosed with a very generous donation from the parents of a CCLS client:

"Thank you so much for the wonderful care that you provide for our son every day. We feel so grateful for your care, the strong leadership in your organization, and the compassion and dedication of your staff. We are so fortunate as a family to be working with CCLS."

Thank you to these donors for their kind words and very generous gift. We are fortunate to be working with your family, the other families we serve, and all the donors who support our efforts.

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### **Grants Benefit CCLS Clients in Milwaukee Area**



CCLS has received three new grants in the past few months from the Green Bay Packers Foundation, Francie Luke Silverman Foundation, and We Energies Foundation. The funds from the Packers Foundation allowed CCLS to purchase new dining room chairs for our facility in Grafton. The other grants will be used to purchase and install new carpeting at our Bayside facility and for general group home improvement in the

Milwaukee area. This is the second consecutive year that we have received funds from We Energies Foundation.

Thanks to these three foundations for their generous support of our organization!

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## **CCLS Awarded GuideStar Gold Seal of Transparency**

CCLS is proud to announce that we have earned a 2021 Gold Seal of Transparency from GuideStar. The Gold Seal indicates that CCLS provides timely and accurate information about our programs, finances, and leaders to GuideStar, which is the world's largest source of information about nonprofit organizations. Individual donors, foundations, and corporations often use GuideStar's data and ratings to make educated decisions about which nonprofits to support.



To view our nonprofit profile on GuideStar, go to <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/39-1195540>.

## **Michelle's Action Angels Donates Wreaths to Clients**



Here are pictures of two CCLS clients from the Madison area with wreaths that were donated by Michelle's Action Angels Community Outreach in December. They look wonderful!

Michelle's Action Angels Community Outreach is a nonprofit corporation founded in loving memory of Michelle Gildersleeve. They aim to provide advocacy and community outreach to the special needs community to help and support individuals with special needs and their families have independent, fulfilling, and meaningful lives.

## **Annual Fund Appeal Supports CCLS Programs**

CCLS is pleased to report that our 2020 Annual Fund Appeal letter, which was mailed in late November, has raised more than \$4,700 for our organization. This total is nearly 20% higher than the amount we raised from our 2019 Annual Fund Appeal mailing. The purpose of the Annual Fund Appeal campaign is to raise funds for CCLS and increase awareness of our agency. The funds will be used to help purchase new appliances and furniture for our programs and PPE for our staff and clients. Donations will also help provide special events for the people we serve and training opportunities for CCLS staff.



Contributions are accepted throughout the year and can be mailed to the CCLS office in Watertown or made online at <https://www.cclswi.org/donate.html>. Thanks to all of you who donated to our 2020 Annual Fund Appeal! We appreciate your support very much.

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## New Tax Deduction for Charitable Contributions in CARES Act



The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which was enacted last spring, includes a special new provision that will allow more Americans to deduct some of the charitable contributions they made in 2020. Under this new provision, individual taxpayers can claim an “above-the-line” deduction of up to \$300 for cash donations they made to charities during 2020 even if they take the standard deduction and do not itemize their deductions. Claiming this deduction will lower your adjusted gross income and taxable income, which will decrease the amount of tax you owe on your 2020 return.

For a complete list of IRS COVID-19 tax tips, go to <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/coronavirusand-economic-impact-payments-tax-tips>.



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"Thank you to all our donors for helping to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities in Wisconsin. For more information about CCLS and our fundraising program, contact me at [kevin.brown@cclswi.org](mailto:kevin.brown@cclswi.org), (920) 261-1345, ext. 400, or 314 East Main St., Watertown, WI 53094."  
Kevin Brown, CCLS Director of Development and Community Engagement

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<https://www.cclswi.org/donate.html>