

## State of the Budget: Coping with the Crunch

The Illinois Department of Human Services recently has notified AID and neighboring social service agencies of the proposed funding cuts that will range anywhere from 12 to 25 percent of current operating costs. The reason for this notification is, because even though it is mid-September the State of Illinois has yet to approve the next year's fiscal budget. This has been a major problem the past few years, because the legislature and the governor cannot reach an agreement on where to make cuts in order to keep the state in good financial standing.

Typically over the past few years, social service agencies like AID have taken a huge loss on state funding. There have been no increases in cost of living, cost of doing business, or fair staff raises for privately run social service agencies like AID that are dependent on government funds to stay open. Also, the state is late in making payments to our agency and AID is forced to take out loans to make operating expenses, which adds interest payments to our already tight budget. AID serves people with developmental disabilities, behavioral health issues, physical disabilities, substance abuse problems, and a combination of two or three of the above mentioned conditions.

These cuts mean that individuals who have already been faced with a 13 1/2 year average wait time to access non-emergency housing will now have to wait an average of 18 years to receive the services that they desperately need. Some of these individuals are unable to live in a normal home environment. This will be leaving many families having to care for their disabled family members as best they can at home, often meaning that their quality of life is greatly diminished without a work center to attend during the day or having a decent group home to live in.

The social service agencies of the Fox Valley community, including AID, have provided exceptional care for many of the most deserving citizens, but now AID is faced with cutting programs and not having enough room for any new people that need our help. So what can you do to help this critical situation?

The House of Representatives recently voted to restore all state funding to AID, which was also approved by the Senate. Now it awaits the Governor's decision, which may not take place until November. This is not an acceptable time frame. Unless funds are restored soon, AID will be forced to begin staff and program reductions. AID needs you to call or write the Governor immediately. You need to demand that they show some initiative and make sure that these funds are restored for the people who need them the most. Why is Illinois the 14th wealthiest state per capita, yet only ranks 47th in providing social services to its less fortunate disabled citizens?

With the elections coming up in November, this is truly the time to let our legislators know that we need to help the citizens who needs funds the most get them. Without the support of our families, AID will be faced with program closures, reduced services, and staff reductions in programs that are already serving your family member. This yearly budget fight needs to be stopped so that our programs can continue to run smoothly. Please let our legislature know that we need to provide non-interrupted services to our clients and families every year that they are in office. This yearly state budget crisis is not acceptable to the citizens of Illinois. Your help and support are greatly needed.

*Linda McDaniel-Hale is a contributing writer of the Elgin Courier News and a Qualified Mental Retardation Professional (QMRP) at AID.*



*Jennifer smiles as she displays the body wash and deodorant she and other Elgin-area clients received from **World Vision**. More and more, AID must rely on donations to help our clients purchase even basic necessities.*

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# President's Message

Dear friends, families and staff,

Thank you for your continued support and advocacy efforts on behalf of our constituency, children and adults with diverse disabilities and other life challenges. This year has been particularly challenging as you know. While both the Illinois House and Senate passed measures to restore most of AID's state funding to last year's levels, we are still awaiting action by the Governor. Thus far, the Governor has delayed implementation of the cuts by 30 days, which unfortunately does not offer much help.

To counter these revenue reductions, we have implemented the following cost-saving measures: reduced staff by eliminating vacant positions, renegotiated various insurance packages reducing costs, decreased management costs, instituted staff teams charged with finding the most effective ways to cut food and supply costs, and delayed computer purchases and other expenditures. If these measures do not produce the results needed, our future plans include furloughs of exempt staff and potential program closures. While we hope this will not be necessary, the State and now the entire country appears to be facing significant financial challenges. With your continued advocacy, we hope that further reductions will not befall services to persons with disabilities. As we learn more about the status of state government funds, we will keep you posted.

Despite this gloomy picture, we do have things to celebrate. Our donors continue to be very generous. The various fundraising events sponsored by AID over the summer and fall have yielded increased voluntary contributions as compared to last year's levels. Our local legislators, in particular, Senator Michael Noland, and Representatives Ruth Munson and Linda Chapa LaVia have provided funds for AID. As well, the City of Geneva has granted AID funds for a new group home in Geneva and the City of Aurora continues to support our Victims Services program.

Again, my sincere thanks to all of you who are helping AID make a difference in the lives of those served through AID's programs. Together, we surely will weather these difficult times.

*Lynn O'Shea*

Lynn O'Shea - President

**Our Mission:** AID's mission is to enrich the lives of individuals with diverse disabilities by promoting individual achievement and community inclusion.

**About AID:** AID is a nonprofit, community-based organization that serves over 4,200 individuals throughout Kane, Kendall, DeKalb, DuPage, suburban Cook, and Will Counties. Over 20 programs are available for individuals with physical or developmental disabilities, and those in need of behavioral health services or crisis intervention. AID is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities

**For More Information:** For more information about AID, please call or visit our website at:

[www.the-association.org](http://www.the-association.org)

**Aurora area:** ..... 630-966-4000

**Elgin area:** ..... 847-931-6200

**Yorkville area:** ..... 630-966-4450

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Have an idea for a story for the Developments newsletter? Send an email to [ggerhardt@the-association.org](mailto:ggerhardt@the-association.org)

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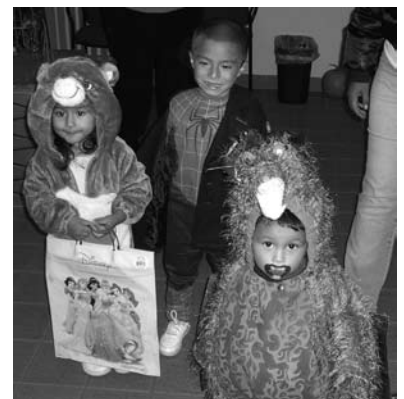
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## Can you help us with anything on our wishlist?

Arts & Crafts Materials	Exercise Equipment - Treadmills, Stationary Bikes	Plastic Bins
Bathroom Decorations (shower curtain, towels, rugs, waste can, etc.)	Fishing Equipment (poles & tackle)	Polaroid Film
Batteries: C, AA & AAA/large quantities	Folding Tables, 10 Foot	Power Washer
Bean Bag Chairs	Gel Mattresses	Professional Mop & Wringer
Beds (twin beds in good condition)	Gift Certificates - Restaurants, Movies, Bowling, Salon Service, etc.	Rocking Chairs or Recliners (leather or vinyl)
Bookcases	Household Items	Shower Chair
Board Games and Card Games	Kitchen Appliances	Sports Equipment
Boom Box CD/Tape/Radio (detachable speakers)	Large Button Telephones for Training	Swim Shoes, various adult sizes
Carpet Shampooers	Laundry Hampers	Tools
Cash Register	Microwave Ovens	Towels (beach and bath)
Computer Games & Programs/Windows '98	Musical Instruments	Televisions
Cookware (cake pans, cookie sheets, casserole dishes)	New Children's Toys (all ages)	Vacuum Cleaners (industrial, shop & household)
Copier (new, if possible)	Office Chairs	Video Camera
Dinnerware & Flatware	Office Supplies	VCR/DVD Combo or DVD Player
Digital Cameras	Outdoor Grills	Walkman with Earphones
CDs (music, karaoke)	Passenger Van with Lift	Work Gloves
DVDs	Padded Armchairs	Wheelchairs
	Patio Furniture, Picnic Table & Benches	Yard Care - Leaf Blower, Rakes, etc.

Bill & Diane Royster	Mike Schulle	Deb Sklenar	Subway - Sugar Grove
John & Carol Ruby	Donald & Marsha Schulz	Michael & Denise Slattery	Subway - Oswego
Ruddy Brothers, Inc.	Connie Scott	Dave & Kathy Slimmer	David & Lynne Sullivan
James & Mary Rudnicki	James & Lorraine Scott	Andy Smith	Rusty Sullivan
Frank & Judy Ruerup	Sears Centre	Barbara Smith	Linda Sundlof
Scott & Heidi Ruerup	Sears Hardware	Debbie Smith	Leatrice Susskind
Robert & Ruth Ellen Russell	Sylvester & Virginia Seick	Delbert & Naomi Smith	Denise Swanson
David & Sharon Rygh	David & Sandra Seifert	Marcus & Melanie Smith	Mary Swims
Gerry & May Rygh	Seigle Family Foundation	Raymond & Kathleen Smith	Willie & Wendolyn Swims
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Antoinette Scafdi	Sherman Health Foundation	Spring Bluff Nursery	Jay & Jennie Tennis
Allan & Jayne Scales	Shodeen, Inc.	Ann Spuhler	Laura Theis
Doug & Alayne Scatterday	Julie & Melissa Shoemaker	St. Charles Kiwanis Noon Club	Kaye & Beth Thomas
Annie Schaal	Molly Siegel	Edward & Mary St. Jules	LaVonna Thomas
Sandy & Krystal Schalund	David Siegfried	St. Mark's Lutheran Church	Maurice & Jocelyn Thomas
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Charles & Carolyn Schaper	Signature Design Group	Ivan & Marlene Stangl	Steven & Loree Thompson
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Kerri Schartow	Sikich Group LLC	Robert & Phyllis Starke	Walter & Rebecca Thompson
Cindi Schermerhorn	The Silagyi Family	Joe & Faith Staudenbaur	James & Nancy Thornton
Harold Schessler	Robert & Laverne Silanskis	William & LuAnn Stefek	Travis Thrasher
Georgine Schick	Cecelia Silber	Steinberg Urological P.C.	Roger & Pam Tilbrook
Schleifring Medical System	Silva Construction, INC	Bruce Steinberg	Timex Corporation
Brian & Jill Schluntz	Shean Simmons	Randy & Debbie Steinheimer	Dan & Maribeth Tischler
Dick & C.M. Schmidt	Shelley Simon	Kevin & Cathy Stern	Nicholas & Beverly Todus
Roger & Karen Schnorr	Simple Truths, LLC	Debby Stevenson	Kathy Tompkins
Michael & Annette Scholes	Sinnett Builders Inc	Joe & Carol Stoffel	Brian & Lisa Tonner
Don & Laurena Schuemann	John & Karen Sizer	Thomas & Sharon Streit	Tony n' Tina's Wedding
Dennis & Margie Schuett	Larry & Annette Skates	Steve & Julie Stuttle	Top Shelf Wine & Spirit

## Perspective: Jan-Aid

Jan-Aid has a new manager, Diane Pillar. Diane has been with AID for 26 years and is currently developing a new marketing approach for the Jan-Aid program with a greater focus on floor care.

Prior to being the manager of Jan-Aid, Diane worked as a case manager in various programs throughout the agency.

Jan-Aid, an AID program since 1976, is a professional cleaning service offered to area businesses throughout Kane County. Currently, Jan-Aid employees 8 staff and 30 clients. Teams consisting of 1 staff and approximately 4-5 trained clients work from around 4:00 PM until 10:30 PM.

Clients in the Jan-Aid program learn to dust, sweep, vacuum, sanitize surfaces such as washrooms, and clean and polish mirrors, glass and chrome. They also specialize in hard floor care and carpet extraction, and are certified for mold remediation.

Keeping a clientele of around 30 businesses including state contracts and municipalities, Jan-Aid stays very busy. Training is often perfected on the job, where supervisors can monitor the performance of each team member to ensure the assigned tasks are being done satisfactorily.

For more information about Jan-Aid or to inquire about services for your business, please call Diane at 630-966-4148.



## Flu Shot Availability

Flu season is just around the corner. Catching the flu can be more serious for many persons with complex disabilities. Planning ahead can help ensure that susceptible clients are able to receive vaccination. AID will be offering flu vaccines this fall for clients and staff for \$25. Individuals with Medicare Part B are covered for this shot. The clinics will be as follows:

- Tues, Oct. 21, 9:00 am - 10:00 am at 135 Van Emmon in Yorkville
- Wed, Oct. 22, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm at 1230 N. Highland in Aurora
- Tues, Oct. 28, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm at 1135 Bowes in Elgin

Additionally, Pneumonia and T-DAP (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis) vaccinations will be offered for \$35 and \$45 respectively.

For more information about any of these clinics, talk with your program nurse or call 630-966-4000.

## Disaster Planning

AID is in the process of establishing a partnership with the Kane County Health Department to become an emergency medication dispensing site; for administering urgent medications such as antibiotics or vaccinations to AID clients, families, and staff, in the event of a disaster. AID and the Health Department are working on the development of a model for dispensing a large amount of medications rapidly to our clients during a disaster. The Health Department's goal is to provide prophylaxis (emergency medications) to the entire population of Kane County within 48 hours of being notified of a disaster which may threaten public health.

Examples of such crises might be a pandemic flu outbreak, bio-terrorism attack, anthrax exposure or a major flood. AID staff would assist the Health Department by creating a "closed clinic" which could rapidly dispense necessary medications to AID clients, staff, and clients' families. AID's clinic would not be open to the general public.

Disaster planning will involve staff from throughout the agency, so stay tuned for more information about this process as the plans are developed.

## Paying off the Mortgage Senator Noland visits Maple Lane



*Dan Kelley, resident of the house on Maple Lane, shakes hands with Senator Noland.*

State Senator Michael Noland paid a visit to AID's house on Maple Lane on September 9th. He also helped pay off the mortgage on this same house by supporting a \$90,000 state grant.

"Of all the things I have been able to accomplish," said Noland, "this is one of the high points."

AID is fortunate to have government officials who look out for the interest of its clients. The office of Representative Ruth Munson also recently funded \$15,000 for transportation service improvement.

"This is a beautiful home, and it provides them with a home atmosphere; it is like living with a regular family," Noland said. The 6 clients at Maple Lane have been living there since it opened about 13 years ago.

Not only will having the mortgage paid off save AID money by eliminating interest and principal payments, but there was enough money left to update the home's older heating and air-conditioning systems.

"It is the gift that keeps on giving," said Lynn O'Shea, president of AID.

# Fundraising Focus

The Development Department's had a busy season with 3 major fundraisers and the annual meeting all within a few months of each other. Here is a highlight of what we've been up to since May:

**Annual Meeting** - AID's Annual Meeting at Eagle Brook Country Club in Geneva on May 21st was an evening of honoring friends, clients and staff. The Board of Directors (pictured) welcomed the addition of Gretta Beiber and Toni Vaughan. After the meeting, an awards presentation provided an opportunity for AID to thank its many supporters, volunteers and dedicated staff, as well as to honor some of our outstanding clients on their achievements.



**Golf Outing** - We held our 3rd annual golf outing on Friday, July 25th at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club in Yorkville. This year's event raised nearly \$60,000. The day included 18 holes of scramble-style golf on the beautiful new course near Rt. 126 and 71, lunch, refreshments, dinner, games, raffle prizes, and a live and silent auction. Some of our bigger sponsors included: The Hershey Company, Caterpillar, IHC Construction Companies, and Gjøvik Auto.



**Mobility for Ability** - On Sunday, August 24th, 36 bikes hit the road to help raise awareness and funds for AID. The weather was great (unlike last year) for this second motorcycle run. The trip began at our Bowes Road facility and stopped at Booker's in South Elgin, Knucklehead's in Elburn, Maple Park Bar & Grill, Mott's Lounge in Burlington, Outpost Tavern in Pingree Grove and finally the Last Shot in South Elgin. The event raised over \$4,000.



**Benefit Auction** - Dinner, hors d'oeuvres, almost 100 silent auction items, a live auction and a dutch auction were all part of the evening of Friday, September 26th at Eagle Brook Country Club in Geneva. Mayor Kevin Burns, our auctioneer, also doubled as an improv comedian. Special thanks goes out to our sponsors: Eby-Brown Foundation, Mary Schottmiller, Trust Company of Illinois, Global Group, Harris Private Bank, Management Solutions of Illinois, O'Shea Electric, Provena Mercy Medical Center and Weldstar. This event brought in over \$68,000 for programs and services here at AID.



In addition to our event-driven fundraisers, we have been raising money for the new Geneva-based "Bethany House" group home. Through grants and donations from Claddagh Irish Pub, Geneva Community Chest, The Gordon Flesch Foundation, Kane County Community Development Block Grant, Kane County River Boat Fund, Dellora A. Lester & J. Norris Foundation and the Shodeen Family Foundation, we are closer to being able to open the doors to this beautiful new home.

The Pedersen Family Foundation continues to take a keen interest in the individuals living in the house on Bonnie Lane in St. Charles "Pedersen Place". We are very grateful to Gail Pfister and her brother Robert Pedersen for taking our group home under their wing and are so thrilled with their most recent grant of \$30,000.



# Did You Know?

Both Kimberly Edwards and Janet Newlin won Outstanding Direct Service Person (DSP) awards from the Illinois chapter of American Association of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) on May 22nd, 2008.

Clients at Keeler Center have been volunteering at the Aurora Animal Shelter. A small group of clients, accompanied by staff visit every week to help socialize cats. The experience of holding and petting the cats is therapeutic to the clients as well as the animals.

Lynn O'Shea was awarded a Leadership Award during the ARC of Illinois' Annual Convention on April 30th.

Donna Katek, Qualified Mental Retardation Professional (QMRP) at Keeler Center also received an "Outstanding QMRP of Less than Five Years" award at the ARC Convention.

Thompson Center clients in Aurora put together approximately 380,000 Pampers Experian Childbirth Education pamphlets every quarter (that's more than 4,000 a day). Starting in October, the clients will start their Rich-Wrap holiday wrapping paper line.

Sara Quincer was promoted to the position of Director of Behavioral Health Outpatient services. She is now in charge of the BH group services, Pathways, and continues to oversee BH outpatient services. Sara is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor with a Masters degree in Clinical Psychology from Roosevelt University in Chicago.

Clients on the work floor at Elgin Area Services bag up about 320,000 Excel Golf Products "Zero Friction" golf tees in a week (64,000 a day).

Ride in Kane helped approximately 100 AID clients get over 7,000 rides between February and June. During that time, the program provided over 25,000 rides to people in our communities.

Have an interesting AID fact for the newsletter? E-mail it to [ggerhardt@the-association.org](mailto:ggerhardt@the-association.org)

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James McCall  
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Delbert & Barbara McCord  
Chad McDannald  
Al & Jan McFadden  
David & Linda McFadden  
John & Gwen McKee  
F. B. McKenzie  
Glenn & Zella McKittrick  
David & Deloris McMullin  
Virtus & Marilyn McNary  
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Kelley Monahan  
Cathy Montgomery  
G.W. Moore  
James Moore  
Betty Moorehead  
Moose Lodge #1368  
Tab & Maria Morin  
Gerald & Barbara Morrow  
The Morton Arboretum  
Fred & Wendy Mosier  
Bill Mostberger

Mother's Club of Geneva  
Mueller & Company, LLP  
Thomas Mueller  
Robert & Nancy Mulford  
Kathleen Munson  
Jim & Mary Murphy  
Michael & Sandy Murphy  
Trudy Murray  
Edward & Nancy Murtaugh  
Tom Muth  
Charles & Kay Myler  
Pat Myler  
Jill Nabonsal  
Brian & Carolyn Nagle  
John Nagy  
Nails By Lynd  
Naper Settlement  
Stanley & Diane Naskrent  
Dale & Pam Nass  
National Christian Foundation  
Leon Natonek  
James & Katherine Navota  
Lori Neal  
Archie Needham  
Robert Nelson  
Manfred & Gertrude Neumann  
New Balance - Geneva  
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Craig Mateski

## Saving for a Rainy Day



As part of the current environmental movement to “go green”, old-fashioned rain barrels are becoming increasingly popular for collecting rainwater for reuse in people’s gardens. Not only useful, the barrels can be decorated and viewed as outdoor art.

Attending class at AID’s Art Center in Yorkville, artists including Alan Johnson and Steve Halcrow (pictured above) painted one such barrel that was donated by the City of Elgin. The painted barrel was up for bidding at AID’s Annual Charity Auction at Eagle Brook Country Club on September 26.

“This project was definitely a hit,” said AID art teacher Jan Peters, “At one point, one of the clients was taking his turn with the paintbrush and began referring to himself as ‘Picasso’. From then on, whoever was painting was called Picasso by the rest of us in class.”

The finished barrel (right) featured a floral scene and went for \$150 at the auction, which will help fund programs such as the arts at AID.



*Matt Rossi (seated), Jake Nauman (left to right), Kenneth Carpenter and Jonathan Lamp proudly display their finished painted rain barrel.*

## Economic Stimulus

*Paying Taxes = Saving Money*

Esther Lebbin sits at her computer, paging through email messages from employees throughout the agency. The messages contain the information necessary for many AID clients to apply for economic stimulus payouts that the government issued this year.

“This shows another stimulus paid,” says Lebbin (pictured right), pointing to the IRS website on her monitor.



Lebbin is a Staff Accountant in the Finance Department at AID’s facility on Bowes Road in Elgin. For the past several weeks, Lebbin has been working with case managers and clients to help acquire economic stimulus checks for those clients that qualify.

“Anyone who either received social security or earned income of \$3,000 or more was eligible for the stimulus program,” says Lebbin. “So we took all of the clients who did not do their taxes and applied for all their stimulus checks to get them their \$300.

What was also found was that many clients who normally would not have filed their taxes, were actually getting refunds.

“A lot of the clients don’t do their taxes. One had over \$700 in refunds,” Lebbin commented. “From now on we’d like individuals who have no one to assist them with their taxes to contact our department and we’ll see to it that they are done in a timely manner.”

Having processed over 75 clients successfully thus far, Lebbin has been able to bring in over \$25,000 that goes directly to the clients. This was done with help from TaxACT online. AID was allowed to use this software for free except in cases where clients got a large state refund, in which case AID paid the filing fee so the clients could get that money as well.

Lebbin has been visiting the IRS website to make sure each application has qualified. For those that did not, she has been finding out why and redoing their claim.

“Now we have all of their information saved in the system. So if next year they need to do their taxes again, it can be done easily. And there may well be another stimulus in the future.”

Another source of assistance in tax matters has come from Jason Hulst, Financial Advisor, who has been filing taxes for AID clients pro bono for 3 years now. Each year, he files taxes for about 60 clients.

For more information about clients receiving assistance with tax preparation, call Esther Lebbin at 847-931-2304 or Jason Hulst at 815-991-5021.

### Would you like to be kept up to date on legislative issues?

To begin receiving legislative alerts about issues that may affect AID and the clients we serve, send your email address to:  
[khazelwood@the-association.org](mailto:khazelwood@the-association.org)

Your email address will be kept confidential and will only be used by AID. You may unsubscribe at any time. Additionally, if you would like a current list of legislators you may contact regarding funding for the people we serve, point your web browser to:

[www.the-association.org/advocate.php](http://www.the-association.org/advocate.php)

# Grants & Donations

1/1/08 - 6/30/08

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## AID Legacy Society

Demonstrate your commitment to AID's mission and future and leave a legacy by including AID in your estate plans.

Making a legacy gift, or planned gift, is an easy and meaningful way to make a difference in the future of an organization that has touched your life.

Through the generosity and foresight of friends like you, AID is building an endowment fund that will help guarantee the availability of services for individuals with disabilities and special needs for years to come.

**Please help us reach our goal!** AID would like to have 50 members of the Legacy Society by our 50th anniversary in 2011. All members will be recognized (if you wish) in AID publications and at our public events.

For more information, please call Kathy Hazelwood, Vice President of Marketing and Development, at 847-931-2290. If you have already included AID in your estate plans, please let us know so we can add you to the list of Legacy Society members.

Listed below are a few of the ways you can help by making provisions for AID in your estate plans:

- Bequest
- Beneficiary of life insurance policy
- Gifts of property
- Illinois Land Trust
- Individual Retirement Accounts and 401ks
- Gift of life insurance (to replace a bequest)

Please consult a legal or financial advisor before undertaking any of these options.

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