

Agency State Annual Report 2008

LINC, Incorporated

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Satellite Offices in Monroe and Randolph counties

Counties Served: St. Clair, Monroe and Randolph

Established: February 1990

People Served and Budget FY 2008

Direct Services: 544

Information & Referral: 1,978

Total People Served: 2,532

Public Funding:

DHS/DRS (Federal): \$117,585

DHS/DRS (State): \$481,774

Total: \$599,399

Private: \$62,047

Total Budget: \$663,979



Major Accomplishments FY 2008

LINC Incorporated was awarded a grant from the National Council on Independent Living and the U.S. Administration on Aging to hire a part-time Aging and Disability Resource Specialist (ADRS). The agency's introduction in August of an ADRS has been embraced by the community. Already hundreds of individuals have received services through this program. This program is unique in that it brings older adults information on aids that are available to them as they experience the natural process of maturing. Having an ADRS on staff has allowed the agency to extend services to the aging and assist them in maximizing their independence throughout their lifetime.

The agency received its first grant from the St. Clair County 708 Mental Health Board to grow **LINC's** mental health recovery program. The funds provided a 12-week course utilizing the Strengths-Based Approach and self-discovery to help consumers continue their journey of recovery and a workshop series on self-advocacy.



Erica Edwards, **LINC's** Executive Director, was published in *Lifting Our Voices: The Journey Into Family Caregiving of Professional Social Workers*. This book examines the dynamics between being a professional social worker and a family caregiver. Her chapter in this text book, *Caring for My Grandmother: The Birth of a Gerontological Social Worker*, is now available in bookstores.

Firoz Ali Alizada, the advocacy officer for Handicap International in Afghanistan, visited **LINC** for an informal discussion with the Board, staff, and consumers to further gain education knowledge on disabilities and advocacy programs in the US. Alizada's visit was sponsored by the Starkloff Disability Institute to help move Afghanistan forward with the inclusion of persons with disabilities in their communities. Afghanistan has a population of 25 million people with 1 million individuals who have a physical disability.

LINC partnered with the Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council (WEEOC) in 2008 and opened satellite offices for the agency in Waterloo and Sparta, IL. The two cities are located in Monroe and Randolph counties. The collaboration allows additional services for persons with disabilities in the two rural counties provided at one area location. The service of **LINC** and WEEOC complement each other and provides the opportunity for "One Stop" services to persons needing assistance.

The agency introduced a new social support group that has become the craze among those with disabilities. The group, **LINCing Friends Together**, offers a monthly event that promoting socializing in the community and just having fun with their peers. The new social group also raises awareness of individuals with disabilities in our community and shows them that "Attitudes Are the Real Disability."

