

# 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): \$507,594

**Total: \$625,226**

Private: \$62,047

**Total Budget: \$687,226**



## 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.

A night at the ballgame cheering on the Gateway Grizzlies was just one of the many community activities the new, **LINCing Friends Together group**, attended this year. The group focuses on a monthly event to promote socializing in the community and having fun with their peers.

