

**a message from OUR CEO**

**KIM CORNWELL**  
EPIC CEO



Spring is a time of fresh starts, innovative growth, and new friendships and EPIC is flying high and looking to the future after the tremendous success of our annual Bon Appétit event on March 23rd. We only succeed when we pull together and through the cooperation of four presenting sponsors, corporate partners, in-kind donors, old and new friends of EPIC and staff, board members and event committee members we increased our fundraising by 78%. Final numbers are still coming in, but this growth deserves an EPIC Thank

You! The funds raised and the relationships cultivated by Bon Appétit will allow us to expand the number of individuals served, secure employment, and partner with the community through new found volunteer opportunities. Our technology lab and customized employment services through skill assessments, training, and individualized job placement, assist people with disabilities find employment utilizing technology. Events such as Bon Appétit ensure that we can continue making such an impactful footprint in our community!

**ep!c BON APPÉTIT**

Thank You!



**TO ALL OUR 2017 BON APPÉTIT SPONSORS**

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Jack FM / WWCT  
Kristin and Dr. Greg Johnson  
RK Dixon  
WMBD/WYZZ TV



**April 22nd**

**Earth Day Festival**

Forrest Park Nature Center / 11:00 am - 4:00 pm  
5809 N. Forest Park Drive, Peoria Heights, IL 61616

**April 29th**

**EPIC's Greenhouse Open House**

EPIC / 11:00 am - 4:00 pm  
1913 W. Townline Road, Peoria, IL 61615

**May 6th**

**Metro Centre Annual Plant Sale**

Metro Centre / 8:00 am - 2:00 pm  
4700 N. University Street, Peoria, IL 61614

**May 20th**

**Peoria's Riverfront Market Opening Day**

Peoria Riverfront / 8:00 am - Noon  
200 Block of Water Street, Peoria, IL 61602

The EPIC Harvest provides opportunities for over 80 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be involved in EPIC's greenhouse, garden, and market stand. Individuals who work with EPIC Harvest learn about plant care, soil preparation, planting, garden upkeep and maintenance, harvesting, and preparing for winter.

# EPIC MISSION AND VISION

At EPIC we aim to enrich the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We envision a world where people with disabilities are respected, engaged in community life, and have every opportunity to achieve their personal best.



## ! upcoming EVENTS

**APRIL 19TH**

**EPICASSO ART SALE**  
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
EPIC, 1913 W Townline Rd  
Peoria, IL 61615

**JUNE 19TH-23RD**

**EPIC HOST FAMILY BAKE SALE AND RAFFLE**  
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
EPIC, 1913 W Townline Rd  
Peoria, IL 61615

**AUGUST 4TH**

**EPIC WINEDOWN**  
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Grand Prairie Hy-Vee  
7610 N. Orange Prairie Road  
Peoria, IL 61615

## ! family SPOTLIGHT

### JAMES ZOGG

For those of who do not know James Zogg, he is an individual that began services with EPIC three years ago and lives with one of EPIC's Host Home providers. James also works in our Organizational Employment Services program!



In 2013, James joined our EPIC Host Home family and began living with his current provide and friend, Rick. James has lived with Rick for over three years yet if you had the pleasure to see them together, the bond these two friends have together you would think they have known each other their whole lives. James enjoys going on Host Family trips, watching basketball, and eating at various restaurants in the Peoria area. James has made a tremendous impact on our EPIC family.

Whenever EPIC hosts an event, James is always the first one to step forward and ask how he can help. We often need to remind James he should go and enjoy our events but James responds saying, "my favorite part is helping everyone out." At this year's Bon Appetit event, James was selected as an honorary guest/volunteer. James volunteered by helping people find their seats, he assisted the auctioneer during the auction, and enjoyed mingling with all of our Bon Appetit guests. Being the enthusiastic person he is James said, "I can't wait until next year's Bon Appetit!"

## ! featured PROGRAMS

### HOST FAMILY

Hello from Galesburg!

Starting in February of this year Host Family program expanded its residential model to the Galesburg area. Mike Cheesman, VP of Community Options is introducing EPIC's Host Family program to the Galesburg community and businesses through his new membership in the Galesburg Chamber of Commerce. Mike is raising awareness of EPIC as a new provider agency in the area for people with Intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Host Home residential model offers an alternative to people living in a group homes or with aging family members. The Host Home residential model is an individualized residential option that matches people with disabilities and a contracted provider together, resulting in a home environment where long term relationships are development. If you would like more information about EPIC's Host Family program, please visit [EPICPeoria.org/Programs/Host-Program](http://EPICPeoria.org/Programs/Host-Program).

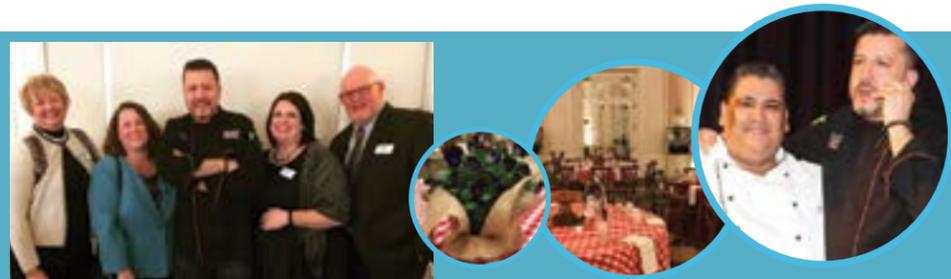


## ! ep:c BON APPÉTIT

On behalf EPIC, and the individuals we serve, we'd like to share with you our deepest gratitude for a very successful 6th annual Bon Appétit! The night was filled with aromatic smells, exquisite tastes and we even learned a few new cooking techniques thanks to our International Celebrity Chef and expert in Italian cuisine, Chef Mario Rozzotti.

We spent an evening with old and new friends enjoying a wonderful meal, great company, and most of all, sharing our mission. EPIC provides opportunities for individuals to learn new skills, express themselves in creative ways, and work in jobs that produce meaningful products and wages.

The evening featured silent auction artwork, decorative voila centerpieces, and arugula that was featured in the event's delicious salads—these were all just a few examples of the amazing things our individuals can create to fulfill those opportunities to the best of their capabilities. We had an incredibly fun evening and can't wait for Bon Appétit 2018!



## ! harvest THANK YOU

Thank you to all of the groups and individuals who have donated their time to our EPIC Harvest program over the years - our garden wouldn't be nearly as successful without you! Interested in volunteering this spring or summer? Feel free to reach out to Jen at [jfunk@epicpeoria.org](mailto:jfunk@epicpeoria.org).



## ! legislative CHIT CHATS

### STATE FUNDING AND EPIC

For the last two years on any given day, news coming out of Springfield initiates hard conversations with many stakeholders on, "How is EPIC surviving without a state budget and no funding?" I start off that conversation telling them that we are getting funding based on 2008 rates. This is because our services fall under one of the Court monitored Consent Decrees (Ligas legal settlement) requiring the state continue to pay agencies like EPIC. 76 % of EPIC's total revenue comes from our contracts with the State. Here is the dire reality of the situation - if they were to stop paying completely, as they did for many other Human Service organizations, EPIC, could only continue to provide vital services for an estimated FOUR months.

This is not acceptable. EPIC plans to offer a number of small group town hall meetings for our stakeholders (people receiving EPIC services, Families, Guardians, Staff, Friends and Advocates) through the month of June 2017. We will briefly review our contract for services with the State of Illinois and information on the status of funding now and into the future for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We need all our stakeholders to be well informed on funding for people with disabilities in Illinois and what we can do together to protect the rights of people with disabilities to live, work and participate in the communities of their choice.

### WAYS TO GIVE

Annual Giving | Recurring Gifts Planned Giving | Tribute and Memorial Gifts  
In-kind Gifts | Special Event Support | Amazon Smile

For more information visit us online at [epicpeoria.org](http://epicpeoria.org) or contact us at (309) 691-3800.

## ! ep:c THANK YOU

Our friends at Eurest Dining had a supply drive for EPIC based on EPIC's needs list (on website under) in January. Euresst donated some incredible and much needed supplies for our programs and community homes. From blankets to art supplies to sensory activities, we were overwhelmed with their generosity! Some of our EPICasso individuals had a blast with a new painting project using canvases and acrylic paints from the donations.

Thank you to all the staff at Euresst that participated.

