

Sign up for SIBS!

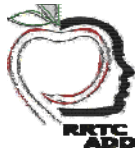
First Name _____
Last Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____
Email _____
Phone # _____

Mail this form to:

SIBS
c/o Nora Handler
3800 N. Lakeshore Drive #3E
Chicago, IL 60613

For questions, contact Tara:
708-989-3619 or tara@sibsnetwork.org

And, look on Facebook at SIBS Network.



Sponsored in part by the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Aging with Developmental Disabilities: Lifespan Health and Function



Supporting Illinois Brothers and Sisters
C/O of Nora Handler
3800 N. Lakeshore Drive #3E
Chicago, IL 60613



Supporting Illinois Brothers and Sisters



**A New Voice of Support in
Advocating Change in Illinois**
<http://www.sibsnetwork.org/>

About Us

Supporting Illinois Brothers & Sisters, SIBS, is a non profit organization whose mission is to provide support to siblings of people with disabilities in Illinois by connecting them with information, networking opportunities, and resources in order to enhance the quality of life for their entire families.

SIBS began with the dream of one sibling and a local support group and has developed into an organization that is incorporated. The people that created SIBS realized that support and advocacy has been focused on by parents and people with disabilities. These brothers and sisters realized that a new voice was needed, the sibling voice. Siblings can play an important role in promoting the independence and self-determination of their brothers and sisters with disabilities as well as advocate for improving the system of supports for people with disabilities and their families.

SIBS Purpose

- To empower siblings to be better advocates through mentoring and education. To work together to educate state representatives and be a voice for family support in Illinois.
- To strive to give siblings a voice and the knowledge that they are not alone.
- To educate families and service providers on how to support siblings.
- To assist siblings of all ages in feeling supported, getting connected to other siblings, and having the necessary tools needed to advocate for their brother or sister.
- To provide opportunities for siblings to network at events such as local sibling gatherings and fun get-togethers that include our brothers and sisters with disabilities.

The Vision

The vision of SIBS is to be an active and vibrant network to connect siblings of people with disabilities with resources including:

Sibshops

Sibshop programs provide brothers and sisters of children with disabilities the opportunity to obtain peer support and education in a recreational context. SIBS is working to create a statewide network of Sibshops and provide training and technical assistance for organizations who want to develop Sibshops.

Sibshop Facilitator Training

Those who wish to become a Sibshop facilitator must receive training on the Sibshop model. SIBS will connect people who are interested to training opportunities.

Sibshop Facilitator Network

SIBS is working to develop a network of Sibshop facilitators in Illinois. This group of trained Sibshop facilitators will meet annually to share ideas, resources, activities and challenges. Regular communication will occur through an active listserv hosted by SIBS.

Family Sibday

SIBS co-sponsors an annual Family Sibday for siblings of children with disabilities and their families. It is a day filled with networking, information sharing, education, and fun for the whole family!

Sibling Future Planning

SIBS is getting involved in assisting families to plan for the future as parents age and siblings become more involved in support and caregiving with their brothers and sisters with disabilities.

AdultSibsNet

SIBS has developed a listserv for adult brothers and sisters that live in Illinois to communicate with each other and share information and support through e-mail. Join the listserv at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AdultSibsNet/>

Core Values

As members of the Sibling Leadership Network we believe the following:

1. Individuals with developmental disabilities have the same rights as all members of society to dignity, respect and the opportunity to grow and to be productive members of their communities.
2. Siblings of individuals with developmental disabilities, many of whom will share the longest life-relationship with their brothers and sisters, can have a powerful, positive impact on their siblings' experiences.
3. Brothers and sisters of individuals with developmental disabilities are uniquely positioned to help ensure the present and future care of their siblings, and we strive to achieve this in partnership with service and support organizations as well as government agencies.
4. Siblings of individuals with developmental disabilities often share similar experiences and concerns and can be of great support to one another to enhance both our lives and the lives of our siblings.
5. We are committed to promoting the rights of our brothers and sisters, and of all individuals with developmental disabilities. We are committed to advocating for policies and services that meet their needs.