



Supporting Illinois Brothers and Sisters

We Are Stronger Together



This brochure was developed by Supporting Illinois Brothers and Sisters, in partnership with the Sibling Leadership Network, with an investment of the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities.

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SUPPORTING ILLINOIS BROTHERS & SISTERS, S.I.B.S., 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

S.I.B.S. began with the dream of one sibling and grew into an established Illinois non-profit organization. While support and advocacy have been focused on parents and people with disabilities, siblings have often been left out of the conversation. Siblings play an important role in the lives of their brother or sister with disabilities and have their own unique needs and experiences that should be discussed and addressed.



S.I.B.S. PURPOSE

S.I.B.S. provides support for siblings of individuals with disabilities in Illinois through various activities and resources designed to:

- Provide opportunities for siblings to interact personally with one another.
- Provide access to information of specific importance to siblings, including resources on future planning, and community support.
- Educate parents, agencies, and the public regarding the unique needs of siblings, and the importance of sibling support.
- Provide siblings with the necessary tools to advocate with their siblings with disabilities to improve the lives of their entire families.

What do we do?

Sibling Connections

We connect siblings to each other for peer support through social gatherings, online chat groups, and educational events.

Leadership, Outreach, and Advocacy

We promote leadership opportunities for siblings in the community. We welcome opportunities to present on sibling needs and opportunities at conferences.

**BE AN
ADVOCATE**

Information and Education

We provide siblings, parents, and professionals with information and resources on topics of special interest such as future planning needs, navigating the Illinois service system, and understanding the unique needs of siblings.

Sibshops & Supports for Young Brothers & Sisters

We provide families of younger siblings with referrals to certified local Sibshops or other sibling programs designed to support young brothers and sisters. We connect those interested in becoming Sibshop facilitators with certification information.

As the Illinois Chapter of the Sibling Leadership Network we believe in the following:

- Individuals with 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.
- Siblings of people with disabilities can have a powerful, positive impact on their siblings' experiences, and are uniquely positioned to help ensure their present and future care in partnership with service organizations and government.
- In promoting the rights of our brothers and sisters, and of all individuals with disabilities, we are committed to advocating for policies and services that meet their needs.
- Siblings can be a great support to one another to enhance both our lives and the lives of our siblings.

