

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Warriors play a great role in the path and development of Opportunity Knocks. Our emphasis on community engagement is reflected in our special fundraising events held throughout the year. The Warriors attend, participate, volunteer and even serve on planning committees for our events. For more information on our events, please visit our website at: www.opportunityknocksnow.org/events

THE OK CHILI COOK-OFF

Come join us in January on the NFL's conference championship Sunday. This annual OK event plays host to an epic chili throw-down, the NFL's best football and great friends getting together for OK.

A NIGHT FOR OPPORTUNITIES GALA FUNDRAISER

With the coming of Spring also comes the OK gala. Watch for the Night for Opportunities gala each year in April. First class food and drinks great live music and exciting auctions highlight this semi-formal affair.

THE OK BBQ BLOCK PARTY

We'll be dancin' in the streets, talking loud and drawing a crowd! Come on out for this day-long block party featuring great fun for all ages, full with excellent local food vendors, craft brewers, live music, kid's entertainment, Warrior entertainment and great contests. This year, we're also planning a pre-party fun run!

THE OK CLASSIC SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Each September, OK plays host to a coed 14" softball tournament on the fields in Forest Park. In addition to softball, it is a day full of great food, friends and family fun.

GET INVOLVED

Visit our website to see our volunteer, internship, board membership, and employment opportunities: www.opportunityknocksnow.org/get-involved

DONATE

Opportunity Knocks is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, almost entirely funded by the generosity of individual donors. Your donation helps us continue to engage young people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities: www.opportunityknocksnow.org/donate

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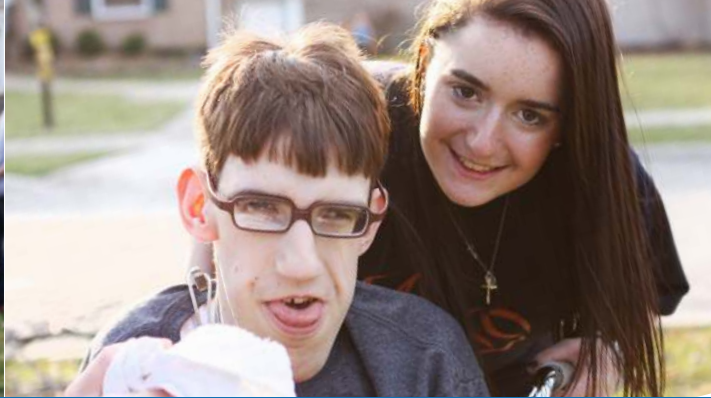
www.opportunityknocksnow.org



OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS



SERVING INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED,
PERSON-CENTERED PROGRAMS.



WHO ARE WE?

Opportunity Knocks is an Illinois 501c.3 non-profit organization that serves young people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in the Oak Park, Forest Park and River Forest communities through social, recreational and life-skills programming.

WHAT IS A WARRIOR?

The people we serve are Warriors and it is our belief that their place in the community is both valuable and necessary. Because of their perseverance and strength we endearingly dub our participants as Warriors.

**OPENING DOORS,
CREATING
OPPORTUNITIES,
& CHANGING LIVES!**

HISTORY

Established in 2010, Opportunity Knocks was created by Mike Carmody who was a Special Education teacher and who has a brother who has Downs Syndrome as an effort to satisfy the need for transitional programs for young people with developmental disabilities. When students in the Special Education public school programs age out of the system at 22 years, they lose valuable supports and structure such as social outlets, continuing life skills and advocacy education, and even transportation.

AFTER OPPTS

After Oppts is an after school/after work program offering a wide variety of activities that are developed in collaboration with the Warrior participants. Program activities are embedded with a focus on peer leadership, health and wellness, social interaction and community connections.

LIFE SHOP

The Life Shop is an adult day program that takes a Warrior-centered approach to life in the community. The program is designed for Warriors older than age 22, focusing on building life skills, health and wellness, community integration and vocational skills.

MORNING OPPTS

Morning Oppts is a partner program with Oak Park River Forest High School. On late arrival Wednesdays when the OPRF faculty perform professional development training, OK hosts structured activities for the students in their TEAM Program (Transitional Education with Access to the Mainstream).

HEALTH & WELLNESS

The Warrior Wellness initiative launched in July 2013 to combat the health disparities faced by our Warriors. Embedded within each program area, Warrior Wellness promotes the physical, mental, and social well-being of our Warriors, staff, and community. It has become the 6th point in the Warrior Code of Conduct!!

COMMUNITY OPPTS

An important concept engrained into the Opportunity Knock's mission is our effort to encourage our participants to give back to the local community. As part of this philosophy we make every effort to empower the Warriors. So was born, Community Opportunities and a Warrior Mission focused on helping homeless pets, supporting the environment, and helping children in need. Meet the Warrior driven non profit within the non profit.

KNOCK OUT PICKLES

Knock Out Pickles are artisanal pickles that are produced, marketed, and distributed by program participants (also known as Warriors) of Opportunity Knocks, a local nonprofit that serves young people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. Knock Out Pickles are a revenue stream for the privately funded organization while providing meaningful and gainful employment opportunities for the Warriors.