



[WWW.RAMPCIL.ORG](http://WWW.RAMPCIL.ORG)

**DeKalb County**  
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DeKalb, IL 60115  
815-756-3202 Phone

**Stephenson County**  
2155 W. Galena Avenue  
Freeport, IL 61032  
815-233-1128 Phone

**Winnebago & Boone Counties**  
202 Market Street  
Rockford, IL 61107  
815-968-7467 Phone

# Summary of Services

## WHAT IS RAMP?

***RAMP's mission is to build an inclusive community that encourages individuals with disabilities to reach their full potential.***

RAMP takes a creative approach to find resources and opportunities available to team up with individuals with disabilities to access the community where we live, work and play. We have this knowledge because the majority of our staff and board of directors have disabilities. RAMP staff meets those we serve where they're at and together as a team we take them where they want to go.

## INDIVIDUALS SERVED

RAMP assists people of any age with any disabilities (cognitive, social/emotional, physical and/or sensory impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities), facing a barrier to control and direct their own lives and goals.



Jane Hendrickson, RAMP Transition Coordinator and Renea Noordhoff, RAMP's Stephenson County Manager at Eats & Beats in Freeport.



RAMP staff, Tessa Acker, Youth Education Advocate, Katie Lee, Assistant Services Director, and Jessica Zimmerman, DeKalb County Manager showing autism support.

## INDIVIDUAL SERVICES

- Information & Referral
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Individual & Systemic Advocacy
- Peer Support/Peer Mentoring
- Community Reintegration – assisting individuals from moving out of institutions back into the community
- Bus Training
- Employment/Job Placement
- Pre-Employment Transition Services for Youth
- Personal Assistant Referral
- Youth Education & Advocacy

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Disability Awareness/Sensitivity Training
- Technical Assistance
- Accessibility Assessments
- Curriculum - for grades pre-school through high school covering topics related to disabilities and every day life beyond school.

## Mental Health/Illness Services

RAMP is now providing mental health/mental illness Independent Living Services, Youth Education and Advocacy, Technical and Accessibility Audits, educational programming and alternative therapies with funding provided by the **Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board (WCCMHB)**. The purpose of the WCCMHB is to plan, implement, and monitor a system of mental health and addiction services for Winnebago County residents suffering from serious mental illness and addictions.

We have partnered with the **Tommy Corral Memorial Foundation (TCMF)** to provide a variety of educational programming and alternative therapies in Winnebago County. TCMF is a non profit organization established by the family of Tomas (Tommy) Corral III, a 19-year-old who lost his battle with depression to suicide. TCMF works in the community to increase education on the factors that lead to suicide, actively developing resources, and providing financial support to help those struggling with mental illness and suicidal thoughts.



RAMP staff, Eric Brown, Education & Advocacy Coordinator and Justine Whitehouse, Development Associate giving a presentation about RAMP.

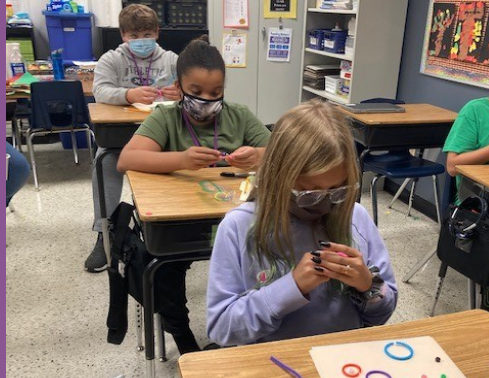
## Winnebago County Coalition for Barrier-Free Survivor Services

This is a 3-year grant funded by the United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). The purpose of this grant is to **pioneer the work towards creating sustainable, systemic change within each of our agencies to provide full accessibility and support for individuals who have experienced domestic and sexual violence who are Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing or have Hearing Loss and/or are living with Disabilities**. The Collaboration known as the Winnebago County Coalition for Barrier-Free Survivor Services was formed in October 2020, and include: RAMP, Adult Protective Services, Remedies Renewing Lives, Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling and the Mayor's Office of Domestic and Community Violence Prevention.

**The Vision:** Winnebago County Coalition for Barrier-Free Survivor Services envisions a community free of domestic and sexual violence and other forms of abuse. All agencies and systems are inclusive, accessible, and collaborative, and (so that) survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors live safely, with dignity and respect.

**The Mission:** Our mission is to create partner services that eliminate barriers, including stigmas and myths, that interfere with the recovery process for survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Winnebago County.

# Curriculum



[www.ONRAMPtraining.com](http://www.ONRAMPtraining.com)

OnRAMP's curriculums and programs are age-appropriate, cross-disability, and flexible enough for ease of implementation while meeting mandated standards including: Common Core, Indicator 13 Transition Plan requirements set forth in the IDEA 2004 and 5th Core requirements for Centers for Independent Living (CILs).

## TNT

High school students gain skills in order to prepare students to live independently, obtain employment, and choose post-secondary education and training goals.

97%

of students increased knowledge of post secondary education/training opportunities.

## IGNITE

Middle school students learn how to become active participants in their Individualized Education Plan.

78%

of students plan to attend or already attended their most recent IEP or transition meeting.

## IBELONG

A disability awareness curriculum that focuses on acceptance, believing in oneself, and how actions and attitudes affect others.

100%

Of teachers surveyed stated this program increased awareness and acceptance of individual differences.

# Youth Education & Advocacy

Everyone has the right to achieve their full potential and this starts with a solid education. **RAMP works with students and their families to learn the laws that protect the rights of a student with a disability, how to navigate the maze of community services, and to learn the skills required to achieve their goals.**

100%

of parents surveyed stated a better understanding of the special education process, law, and their rights.

### SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Educational rights training
- Self-Advocacy skills training
- Transition planning guidance
- Assistant with letter writing (to request services)
- Attendance at IEP, 504 or other related school meetings



170

number of youth advocacy cases.

# Employment Services



Employment Services consumer, Walter, applying for jobs with RAMP's guidance.

**64.5%**

average # of Employment consumers surveyed after 12 month milestone reduced dependence on government assistance.

**50%**

average of consumers received a job as a result of working with RAMP.

RAMP's Employment Services mission is to assist individuals with disabilities in **identifying their own vocational goals** while helping them to obtain the necessary tools to turn those goals into a reality. By reaching those vocational goals they **will increase their independence, move towards self-sufficiency and a better quality of life.**

## BENEFITS OF HIRING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

- Receive federal tax credits such as the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, the Disabled Access Credit, or the Barrier Removal Tax Deduction.
- Minimal turnover rate, only 8% among individuals with disabilities - the average cost of turnover is 21% of annual salary.
- 87% of all U. S. adults spend money at businesses that hire individuals with disabilities.
- Insurance rates are not impacted by hiring an individual with a disability.

# Fast Track

Fast Track, RAMP's newest training program, lays a foundation for youth ages 14-21 with disabilities to reach their full potential by **encouraging enrollment in college, preparing for employment or career opportunities, and preparing for independent living.** These services can be provided in a group setting or via individual instruction. The goal is to leave students with the tools needed for a successful transition to further their education and/or employment desires.



Fast Track student, Gracie, found her self-confidence and earned a full college scholarship.

**92%**

Of youth served stated their desired career and/or education path.



# Project SEARCH



Project SEARCH is a unique, business led school-to-work program that takes place entirely at a healthcare, government or business. **Selected students work in three internships over the course of the year in combination with classroom instruction, goal setting, career exploration, and hands-on training through worksite rotations.** Each student works with a team that include their family, an instructor, a department mentor, rehabilitation counselor and skills trainers to create their employment goal and to support the student during their transition from school to work.

## Benefits of Project SEARCH to the Host Business

- Access to a new, diverse, talent stream with skills that match labor needs
- Gain interns/employees with disabilities who serve as a role model for customers
- Access to a demographic of the economy with intense buying power: people with disabilities represent one of the fastest growing market segments in the United States
- Experience increased regional and national recognition through marketing of this unique program
- Increased performance and retention in high-turnover, entry-level positions

RAMP now has three Project SEARCH locations, two in Rockford, Mercyhealth at Rockton Ave. and Embassy Suites downtown as well as one in DeKalb at Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital.



Project SEARCH Interns at Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital receive their department internship assignments.



# 100%

Of those working are earning minimum wage or higher.

## Community Reintegration Program

The purpose of the Community Reintegration Program (CRP) is to **transition individuals from an institution back in to the community with home based supports**. CRP is funded by the State of Illinois.



Robert is in his 50's, had a stroke 2 years ago and was living in a nursing home. Waiting over a year for an apartment to become available so he could transition was worth the wait because Robert is excited to be living on his own, enjoying sports, making his own decisions as to when to get up or go to bed, what to eat and even what he wants to do each day.

18

Number of RAMP consumers reintegrated into the community in the past year.

100%

Number of RAMP consumers that moved out of a nursing home and remained in the community more than 90 days.

## Traumatic Brain Injury Program

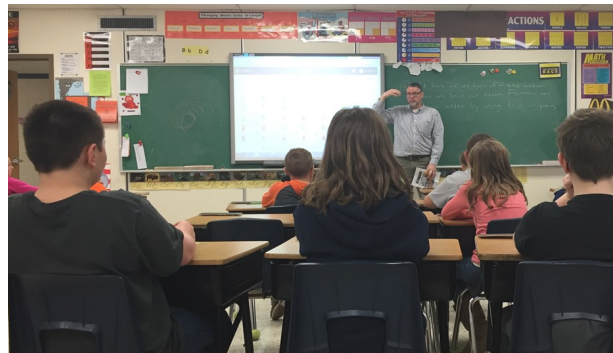
The Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Program is funded by the State of Illinois with the purpose of **providing intensive case management to consumers who have a TBI to ensure they are able to remain living independently in the home versus an institution.**

\$32,213

On average, the amount RAMP saves the State of Illinois per case managed individual every 12 months.

47

Number of RAMP consumers receiving Traumatic Brain Injury case management in the past year.



Bill Haynes, RAMP Board Member and former Traumatic Brain Injury consumer, teaches the iBelong curriculum to a classroom.

## STAFF

**Eric Brown** Education & Advocacy Coordinator  
**Tayanna Clark** Marketing & Outreach Coordinator  
**Kelci Cox-Raney** Lead Independent Living Advocate  
**Dana Crone** VR Coordinator  
**Nicole Eckstein** Transitions Specialist  
**Taryn Finley** Independent Living Advocate  
**Heather Foulker** Quality Assurance Manager  
**Abygail Franklin** Project SEARCH Employment Specialist  
**Autumn Gabriel** Project SEARCH Employment Specialist  
**Kimberly Gay** Office Assistant/Information & Referral Specialist  
**Abbey Greenfield** Lead Independent Living Advocate  
**Jane Hendrickson** Transition Coordinator  
**Megan Howard** Youth Services Specialist  
**Tiffany Hughes** Youth Education Advocate  
**Jessica Ingenito** Project SEARCH Employment Specialist  
**Ron Jackson** Employment Specialist  
**Stephanie Jacobs** Independent Living Advocate  
**Macy Kellenberger** Project SEARCH Coordinator  
**Katie Lee** Assistant Services Director  
**Matt Ludolph** Program Services Assistant  
**Amber Maurer** Program Services Assistant  
**Robin Meyer** Executive Assistant  
**Amy Morris** Development Director  
**Elizabeth Moshure** Employment Specialist  
**Jana Mueller** Fast Track Specialist  
**Jeremy Munson** Employment Services Manager  
**Alice Nichols** Curriculum Development & Training Manager  
**Renea Noordhoff** Stephenson County Manager  
**Victoria Novorolsky** Project SEARCH Employment Specialist  
**Deanna Robbins** Winnebago County Manager  
**Brett Santiago** OVW Coordinator  
**Hannah Schoenberg** Employment Network Coordinator  
**Mark Spain** Human Resources Generalist  
**Jackie Sundquist** CEO/Executive Director  
**Jodey Vass** Development Associate  
**Justine Whitehouse** Development Associate  
**Jessica Zimmerman** DeKalb & Boone County Manager

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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