



press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Meeting of the Minds to Help Seniors with Disabilities *Key Local Officials Share Ideas on Housing, Other Needed Services*

(Naperville, IL) Naperville City Council Member and candidate for Mayor, Steve Chirico, met with North Riverside Village Trustee Joe Mengoni at Katharine Manor in Naperville on Tuesday, March 3rd.

As a member of the Naperville City Council, Council Member Chirico has taken seriously the task of ensuring that all city residents, especially seniors, have access to vital services and supports. Trustee Mengoni, who also serves as Vice President of Residential and Clinical Services for UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago, understands the challenges facing individuals with special needs, and in finding places where they can live full, productive and meaningful lives. The officials had the opportunity to talk with Katharine Manor residents Jack Schneider and Duane Dixon, seniors with developmental disabilities who receive supports from a regular caregiver.

Jack and Duane had a wide-ranging dialogue with Council Member Chirico and Trustee Mengoni, as they shared some of the daily enjoyments and challenges they face in their Naperville neighborhood. Chirico acknowledged some safety and accessibility improvements needed in the area, and the possible re-development of currently vacant commercial space that could benefit area residents.

“Meeting with Jack and Duane reinforces the importance of providing high quality options for our senior citizens,” said Chirico. “Their residence is truly a home where they are a part of the community and can comfortably age in place with the dignity they deserve.”

“As individuals with disabilities and their families age, we need to be proactive in our efforts to create options customized to their needs,” added Mengoni. “How can we as a municipality assist? As public servants we have an obligation to address these critical issues.”

Illinois Independent Living Center (IILC) and Katharine Manor Apartments (KM) is a wheelchair accessible, barrier-free housing alternative to assistive living or a nursing home. It is designed to provide community-based homes for people with physically disabilities and who desire to live as independently as possible. IILC/KM, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, offers people with long term mobility disabilities the freedom to make their own decisions, for their own needs, in their own residences. This housing choice promotes an independent lifestyle through its wheelchair accessible architectural design, optional Personal Attendant (PA) services and convenient access to the community and its opportunities. You can learn more about IILC/KM at iilckm.org.

UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit human services agency dedicated to enriching the lives of people with disabilities. Providing programs and services from birth to old age, UCP Seguin helps children and adults with disabilities achieve their potential, advance their independence and act as full members of the community. Its programs include innovative training and education, family support, employment and life-skills training, and residential services. You can learn more about UCP Seguin at ucpseguin.org.

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