

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State official to speak at WilPower

Northfield, Ill., June 14, 2003 - Deb Russell, project director for the Illinois Department of Human Services-Office of Rehabilitation Services, will speak at 7 p.m., Monday, July 14, to the family support group of WilPower Inc., 444 Frontage Rd., Northfield.

WilPower, which provides housing and psychosocial rehabilitation for mentally ill people on the North Shore, holds once-a-month meetings for families, often featuring a prominent speaker.

Russell, who has been helping people with disabilities for more than 10 years, is project director for a five-year awarded by the Social Security Administration. Its goal is to look at barriers, especially those related to benefits, that prevent people from entering or re-entering the workforce.

She has been a special education teacher, a job coach, a job developer, a program administrator and a case manager. From 1994 to 1999, she was a job developer and an assistant administrator for vocational programs that serve individuals with severe mental illnesses.

WilPower, a not-for-profit agency supported by government funds, fees and contributions from the community, holds day programs in its clubhouse at 444 Frontage Rd., Northfield, and operates permanent housing for members in Glencoe, Morton Grove, Skokie and Wilmette. It has provided psychiatric rehabilitation and supportive housing to residents of the North Shore since 1989.