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Empowering people with disabilities to realize  
there are **no limits** to what they can do!

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### RAMP IS MOVING TO BETTER SERVE DEKALB COUNTY

**January 6, 2010** – We are excited to announce that as of **Monday, January 11th** we will be providing our services to DeKalb County from **115 North First Street in DeKalb**. Our **new office** is located in a historic mansion that sits at the gateway to the downtown DeKalb area. While the building offers many accessibility features not often found in older construction, it lacked a fully accessible restroom which RAMP has added to offer **full inclusion for people with disabilities**. This renovation will benefit all guests and visitors to the building, including our new neighbor, Kishwaukee United Way, and the other office tenants.

**RAMP appreciates the community's support of our renovation project** which will ensure that critical funding for RAMP's **services** remain untouched and a part of **history is revitalized and made accessible**. The history of this home is an important piece of DeKalb culture. According to the book *Landmarks of the Barb City*, by Stephen J. Bigolin, this home was built in 1924 by Harriet Ellwood Mayo, daughter of Isaac Ellwood of barbed-wire fame. It sits low to the ground in good Prairie-style fashion and this style of home fits well with RAMP's need for accessibility as the main entrance has no threshold. The home was built as solid as a rock and the lumber used for the indoor paneling, trim, doors and staircase are reportedly taken from a grove of walnut trees that used to sit on the property. Plans for the bathroom addition call for the improvement to blend with the original architecture and style of the building and maintain the 1920's charm of the home.

For more information or if you would like to help support the renovation or the services RAMP provides, please contact Tina Vavra, DeKalb County Manager at (815)756-3202 or [tvavra@rampcil.org](mailto:tvavra@rampcil.org). Donations can also be sent to or dropped off at the DeKalb County RAMP office, 1022 West Lincoln Highway in DeKalb, or online at [www.rampcil.org/donate.asp](http://www.rampcil.org/donate.asp).

RAMP has been serving DeKalb County since 1992 with the mission of **promoting an accessible society that allows and expects full participation by people with disabilities**. Our programs assist people to **live independently**, make **changes** in their own lives, seek **peer support**, obtain **resources**, and **remove barriers** that threaten their dreams of independence. RAMP has an intimate understanding of the needs and solutions to advance the lives of people with disabilities. We have this understanding because the **majority of our staff and board of directors have a disability**. We are a resource to which the public can refer people with disabilities and expect results. RAMP is a United Way Member Agency.