

## Community Engagement Report for June & July 2019

Total Visitors: 671

Volunteer Hours: 34

The SB40 softball team worked very hard this summer, playing nine softball games on Sundays and practices on Thursdays. Kirksville First Church of God was kind enough to let us use their field for practice each week. We had an average of 17 players at every game. Softball continues to be a very popular activity with many people, and they look forward to the league every summer.

We hosted two events for the Arc of Northeast Missouri. The first was a carry-in social on June 2, and the second was a MO-ABLE training, consisting of two presentations. Both events were very well attended, and the room was full for all of the events.

The Community Engagement Team presented informational sessions for two groups of students. The first was Truman Special Education students on June 26<sup>th</sup>, and the second was for first year ATSU students on July 30<sup>th</sup>. These events are important for future professionals to understand the history of the field and to prepare them for their careers.

The Community Learning Center was a volunteer site for the Youth Volunteer Corps during the week of July 15-18<sup>th</sup>. The five volunteers learned about different types of disabilities, how to be inclusive, and participated in the Center activities. They also planned and prepared a tea party for everyone. The volunteers realized that they had a lot of things in common with people that they met at the Center and made some meaningful connections with new people. Several of them still keep in touch as pen pals. It was a great experience for everyone.

Most of the details for the 2019 Community Engagement Conference have been finalized. The committee has worked hard all summer to put together a full day of leadership training to empower people to make the community a place of inclusion and healthy communication. More information about the free conference is available on our website and Facebook page.

The Summer Youth Program finished up on August 2nd. The second session had 12 youth on the roster with an average of 76% attendance each week. For the second session the Employment Explorers worked at seven different work sites including: First Baptist Church, Titus Creek Flower Farm, Adair County Public Library, Kirksville Parks and Recreation, The Crossing Thrift Store, Take Root Café, and Timberline Pet Ranch. The youth were able to try out job tasks such as animal care, gardening, sorting and displaying merchandise, dish washing, park maintenance, and janitorial.

When not at work sites or swimming, the Employment Explorers participated in the same activities as the Life Explorers in themed learning activities with the Life Skills Teacher. The themes for the second session included Staying Fit, Crafty and Creative, Entertainment Technology, and Fun with Music. Each themed week included activities centered around life skills, social skills, relationship skills, and soft skills for employment. The youth were excited to learn that they were able to continue swimming during the second session since it one of their most favored activities. For the final day of the program, the groups traveled to Thousand Hills State Park for a picnic, pontoon boat rides, hiking, and yard games.