

## **Community Engagement Report**

**October 2022**

**Visits – 374**

**Volunteer Visits – 25 (25 hours)**

Participation in events at the Community Learning Center continued to rise in October with our largest number of visits since before March of 2020. There was a total of **374** visits and **25** volunteers who provided 25 hours of volunteer time. The volunteers assisted with setting up for BINGO on Fridays, assisting individuals during activities and classes, providing child care for the Parent-to-Parent Group, assisting with Music Moves and teaching the Exercise Your Mind class and yard cleanup. Several of the volunteers at the CLC this month were from the TSU Disability Studies Minor and Alpha Phi Omega (APO) Fraternity.

The CLC continued to offer several popular activities in October including Coffee & Cards, Sewing, Game Time, Music Moves, Crafts, Get Fit, Telling Your Story and BINGO. All of these activities had a large amount of participation. In October, Money Time and Healthy Snacks were added as new classes. Money Time had six participants and Healthy Snacks had one. Melissa and Angela have determined that most activities and classes scheduled right after BINGO on Fridays are not attended well, most likely due to people leaving for lunch time and other scheduled obligations.

On Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> Sandra Keyser, Employment First Specialist, with DMH Division of Developmental Disabilities provided an informational presentation about how to manage benefits while working. She discussed eligibility requirements for SSI and SSDI, how income can affect both SSI and SSDI, recognizing how SSI and SSDI interact with Medicare and Medicaid benefits and how employment fits in, types of work incentives that are available, and the basics of benefits planning. Sandy's presentation had 10 participants. She will be providing a training specific to transition and benefits on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Parent-to-Parent Group met on October 20<sup>th</sup> with seven parents in attendance. This group continues to grow slowly yet steadily. During the meeting, Melissa presented a short informational session about several online supports that the parents could utilize. The parents also discussed their desires for the direction of the group and what they would like to learn or have information about. The next Parent-to-Parent meeting will be November 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at the Community Learning Center. Childcare for this month was provided by APO.

During the last week of the month the new platform swing for the Sensory Room was fully installed. The contractors also provided repair along the Northwest wall in the Sensory Room to ensure rain water did not run in.

In October, Angela planned and led most of the CLC's activities and classes, prepared the list of community activities to be placed in the monthly newsletter mailings, updated the bulleting boards at the CLC and YMCA, and supported new volunteers at the

Center. She also worked with Melissa on upcoming activities for November and December.

Melissa attended the Skills System training on October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> to learn how to implement the tools and assist people to recognize their own emotions and help in their own de-escalation when upset or in crisis. On October 7<sup>th</sup> she participated in the annual NEMO Community Connect event at the Kirksville Moose Lodge and provided information about SB40 services to 50+ community members. Melissa also participated in the Transition Fair at the Kirksville High School Library on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Crystal Amini-Rad covered the fair on the 26<sup>th</sup>. There were a number of families and professionals who attend the fair and received information for the many participating agencies. Additionally, Melissa spoke on the monthly Area Scene program about the Transition Fair, Disability Employment Awareness Month, and the Benefits for Transition session coming up in November with Sandra Keyser.