

Community Engagement Report

February - 2024

Visits – 341

Volunteer Hours – 28

During the month of February, the Community Learning Center had 341 independent visits where people participated in classes, activities, volunteered or chose to hang out with friends. The Center had 13 volunteers who provided 28 hours of volunteer time by helping with tasks around the Center such as assembling newsletters, sanitizing the sensory room, vacuuming, cleaning the restrooms (while we are hiring a custodial staff), and teaching Science Fun and Exercise Your Mind.

In February, the Center held its regular activities such as coffee and cards, dance aerobics, crafts, Get Fit, and BINGO with the addition of Exercise Your Mind, Science Fun, and Open Heart's Story Time. These three classes are taught by volunteers from the community and TSU students. Angela also continued a new class that was added in January, Fun with Music. Participants really enjoy the activities that she is offering as they miss having group music therapy. Currently, there are no Certified Music Therapists available in our area to work with.

Throughout the month, Melissa and Angela worked in cooperation with Katy on preparing for the Community Engagement Conference that was held on March 2nd at William Matthew Middle School. The conference had 325 participants registered which included 59 exhibitors. There were 310 people in attendance on the 2nd to hear from Keynote Speaker, Cody Clark along with several presenters and two panels. The survey results that were submitted, indicated that people really enjoyed this year's conference, especially Cody's keynote, question and answer, breakout session, and magic show along with the exhibitors.

In February, Melissa participated in the monthly MOAAIDD Board meeting and helped finish up details for the MOAAIDD Conference, "Dignity, Choice, Risk" scheduled for Thursday, March 21st, 10am-3pm in Columbia, MO. The conference committee is offering 40 self-advocate scholarships for people to attend the conference. All other tickets are \$60/person. She also facilitated Conference Committee meetings in preparation for the conference, participated in the monthly Transition to Adulthood Coalition meeting, Interagency meeting and SB40 Board meeting and the quarterly Missouri Family to Family Charting the LifeCourse Chapter meeting. Melissa continued to support the ladies group from Countryside Christian Church to create an Easter egg hunt for children under the age of 12 who receive service coordination from SB40. Additionally, she began participating in a bi-weekly webinar, Family Caregivers, presented by the National Task Group.

Throughout February, Angela the activities at the Center and worked with Jim, the volunteer who teaches our science class, to offer fun hands-on activities and the students from TSU who are teaching Exercise Your Mind. Angela also compiled the monthly community activities list, as well as, assisted and supervised volunteers with newsletters.