

Community Engagement Report

October 2023

Visits – 659

Volunteer Visits – 42

In October, the Community Learning Center had 659 independent visits where people participated in classes, activities or chose to hang out with friends. 74 of the visits occurred during the Halloween Dance on October 31st. The Center had 39 volunteers provided 42 hours of volunteer time by helping during BINGO, teaching Exercise Your Mind, Heroic Hygiene, Science Fun, and Nature Time classes, participating in exercise classes, and providing childcare during the Parent-to-Parent Group.

During October, the CLC offered one new class, Heroic Hygiene, which was taught by three Truman State University Seniors. The two classes focused on self-care and hygiene during cold and flu season and dental health. TSU Health and Exercise students continued to offer Exercise Your Mind through the end of the month. A volunteer continued to teach Science Fun classes on Thursdays. Participation in this class continues to grow with some members of the Excel Program. Visitors seem to really enjoy this hands-on class as they experimented with electricity and magnets. In November, the class focus will change to focus on weather. Holly Whitacre, with the Missouri Department of Conservation, came near the end of the month and brought a Missouri tarantula and a scorpion with her to share with class participants. The Center also continued to offer CIRCLES® Intimacy and Relationship classes along with favored fun activities like Coffee and Cards, Dance Aerobics, Crafts, Get Fit, and Bingo.

The Center offered the monthly Parent-to-Parent Group meeting with one family present. They had the opportunity to brainstorm specific needs for their family and talked about potential ideas for the 15th Annual Community Engagement Conference to address needs of families with children who are between the ages of birth - 13.

During the month Melissa taught a Mandt recertification class for three Direct Support Professionals for area provider agencies. She also facilitated the first Community Engagement Conference Planning Committee and began working on details for the 2024 conference. Additionally, Melissa participated in the monthly SB40 Board Meeting, Transition Coalition Meeting, and Interagency/System of Care Meeting.

On October 25th, Melissa helped set up the Annual Transition Fair at William Matthew Middle School and was supported by Tiffany Busch and Katy Kaestner to facilitate the event. The fair had good attendance with most people having youth as students in the middle school.

Additionally, on October 16th and 17th Melissa and Crystal hosted the Emergency Management Disability Awareness Training at the Community Learning Center.