

Community Engagement Report
June and July - 2024
Visits – 419 people (June), 598 (July)
Volunteer Hours – 13 (June), 33.5 (July)

In June, the Community Learning Center had 642 independent visits by 419 people. In July, there were 1014 visits made by 598 people. Visitors to the Community Learning Center participated in classes and activities, volunteered, chose to hang out with friends, and/or use the sensory room. The Center had 13 volunteers who provided 13 hours of volunteer time in June and 21 volunteers in July who provided 33.5 hours of volunteer time by helping with tasks such as assembling newsletters, and guiding/teaching Open Hearts Storytime and Science Fun.

Throughout June and July, the Center held its regular activities such as coffee and cards, dance aerobics, crafts, Get Fit, and BINGO. Two new classes were added to the calendar for the month in June; Beginning Cooking and Budgeting Basics. Cooking class filled quickly and the participants began by learning about the many utensils and kitchen appliances used when cooking then practiced making a meal for all usual mealtimes (breakfast, lunch, dinner) as well as snacks and desserts. The participants enjoyed learning to cook independently and getting to enjoy their cooking. Crafts and BINGO continue to have the largest attendance for structured activities. People coming in to hangout with friends or staying between activities has the most attendance. Please see the bottom of this report for a summary of attendance. Over the past several months, a group of friends have formed a lunch group for Wednesdays after crafts. They each take turns choosing where they want to go. Many of the people in this group participated in a similar lunch “club” on Fridays after BINGO before the Center’s closure during COVID-19.

In June, the much needed pavement work at the Center was completed by Spilman Concrete. We now have a safe parking lot and sidewalks for our visitors. The sinking brick work in the front of the building was replaced with a concrete patio that visitors will be able to utilize now that the surface is safe. They also moved the KirkTran stop to a location that allows another accessible entrance to the front of the building via the old driveway.

During the two months, Melissa taught both a new and re-certification Mandt System class for seven area Direct Support Professionals. On June 19th and July 17th, Melissa spoke on KIRX’s Area Scene about the L.I.F.E. Youth Program the celebration of the 34th ADA Anniversary on July 26th and Disability Pride Month. She planned a swimming party at the Kirksville Aquatic Center on Friday, July 26th to celebrate the ADA Anniversary. She also began working with the Service Coordination Team to identify individuals who have had mini successes in their lives over the past year and featured each on Facebook for Disability Pride Month. Additionally, Melissa attended a City Council workgroup meeting with Crystal Aminirad to share updates, ideas, and information for the council to consider when planning for the coming year in June. In both June and July, she facilitated the Parent-to-Parent Group where Andy Magruder shared information about assistive technology and Susan Lassabe spoke about the many intricacies of Medicaid.

Melissa finished hiring staff for the L.I.F.E Youth Program and assisting the L.I.F.E. Skills Teacher to prepare activities and outings that would fit within the budget for this year in June. The program ran from July 8th – August 1st with eight youth who worked on learning life, social, team, and employment skills. The program participated in outings to learn about area careers, practiced restaurant etiquette, and teamwork activities.

On June 24th, Angela and Melissa participated in First Aid and CPR class along with other SB40 employees and four individuals receiving supports. Three of the youth were able to gain valuable knowledge and received a certificate for their full participation in learning the skills. One of individuals received a full First Aid and CPR certification. In July, Melissa completed a training for Sibshops with Tatiana Dixon and began working on developing a group for youth siblings of people with disabilities in the area.

Throughout June and July, Angela facilitated most of the activities at the Center, worked with the volunteer who teaches Science Fun, covering several dates when he was unavailable, and began teaching the cooking and budgeting classes. Angela also compiled the monthly community activities list, worked with Melissa to prepare the CLC's activity calendars for July and August, in addition to, planning a 4th of July dance, and supervised volunteers who helped to prepare the monthly newsletters for mailing and volunteering during Center activities. Additionally, Angela covered the CLC while Melissa was out the first week of July.

Activity Attendance Summary for June:

Activity	June of Visits	July of Visit
Coffee & Cards	31	75
Dance Aerobics	32	81
Project STIR	20	14
Cooking Class	13	19
Crafts	126	154
Open Hearts Story Time	55	87
Get Fit	46	73
Circles Level 2	24	73
Science Fun	15	40
Budgeting Basics	6	-
BINGO	120	139
Hang Out	134	181
Movie Party	-	9
4 th of July Dance	-	59
Parent-to-Parent Group	0	8
People First	0	0
Volunteers	13	21
Mandt Certification	7	0
Total Number of Participants Attending Activities Per Month	642	1014
Total Number of Visits Per Person	419	598