

Community Engagement Report

August 2023

Visits – 489

Volunteer Visits – 9

During the month of August, the Community Learning Center had a total of 489 separate visits. 9 volunteers provided 11.5 hours of volunteer time. Volunteers at the Center assisted with setting up for and assisting individuals with BINGO on Fridays, sharpening colored pencils, folding laundry, washing dishes and putting them away, and assembling newsletters for mailing.

In August, Holly Whitacre with the Missouri Department of Conservation came to the Center once to offer hands-on activities during Nature Time and invited class participants to an on-site activity at the Conservation Department with another area organization. The Center took two individuals to the activity and had 6 others meet us there. Another volunteer, Jim Gage, a retired science professor began volunteering at the CLC to teach Science Fun. He is currently leading classes about electricity and magnets. Kirksville High School students in the Life Skills classroom have been attending the science time along with other participants. The Center continued to offer all other regularly scheduled activities throughout the month. The same KHS students have also been taking part in some of these activities in addition to utilizing the Sensory Room as their time allows.

The Young Adult Neuro-Diverse Social Group and Parent-to-Parent Group did not meet during the month of August. People First held a meeting on the 29th with three people in attendance and utilized the time to brainstorm ideas to increase awareness of the new chapter and draw in new members.

Throughout the month, Melissa met with Alpha Phi Omega, Tau Lambda Sigma, and the new Adair County SB40 Community Learning Center - ATSU Club (ATSU IDD Club) about volunteer opportunities through the CLC and trained several of the volunteers to begin attending activities and supporting individuals during activities and classes. She also met with TSU Best Buddies about the 2023-2024 academic year and will assist, as needed, to register individuals when the chapter is ready and to pair buddies. Additionally, Melissa took part in the monthly SB40 Board of Directors meeting, the Legislative Coffee Chat, System of Care meeting, spoke on Area Scene about several upcoming events, and sent out 400 monthly newsletters. She also taught a Mandt Certification class for Kirksville R-III School District administrators. After the training, the district decided to remain with the system they had been using to better fit the needs of their classrooms at all age levels.

Angela began working closely with the Center's new volunteer, Jim, to plan for Science Fun classes. She also led most of the activities held throughout the month and compiled the monthly list of community activities for newsletters.