

Community Engagement Report

March - 2024

Visits – 254

Volunteer Hours – 30

In March, the Community Learning Center had 254 independent visits where people participated in classes, and activities, volunteered, or chose to hang out with friends. Twenty-one volunteers assisted by providing 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, Nature Time, Open Hearts Story Time, and Exercise Your Mind.

During March, 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, Nature Time, Science Fun, and Open Hearts Story Time. These four classes are taught by volunteers from the community and TSU students. Angela also continued to lead a class that was added in January, Fun with Music. Participants enjoy the activities that she offers.

On March 2nd, Melissa and Angela assisted with hosting the Community Engagement Conference at the Kirksville R-III William Matthew Middle School. The conference drew 310 attendees this year. In addition to Keynote Speaker, Cody Clark the conference offered 15 breakout sessions and 61 exhibitors. This year's conference coincided with the annual Polar Plunge. Having this occur did not appear to have a large effect on conference participation though the committee will work to ensure they do not conflict in 2025.

In March, Melissa participated in the annual MOAAIDD Board meeting and assisted with registration during the MOAAIDD Conference that was held on Thursday, March 21st, from 10 am to 3 pm in Columbia, MO. She also attended the monthly Transition to Adulthood Coalition meeting. Melissa taught Mandt certification classes for seven area DSPs. She spoke on Area Scene about the L.I.F.E. Youth Program and Voc. Rehab. Job opportunities for area youth. She also facilitated the monthly Parent-to-Parent Group on the 21st where Service Coordinator, Mat Stephens, shared information about IEPs and Section 504 plans.

Throughout March, Angela facilitated all of the activities at the Center and worked with Jim, the volunteer who teaches our science class, to offer fun hands-on activities, Miss Bre from the Adair County Public Library for Open Hearts Story Time, and the students from TSU who are teaching Exercise Your Mind. Angela also compiled the monthly community activities list and supervised volunteers who helped to prepare the monthly newsletters for mailing.