

Community Engagement Report for July 2018

Recorded Center Visitors: 182

On July 16th, we celebrated the accomplishments of four Project STIR graduates. We had a great crowd of people and media coverage for the ceremony. Our fall session of Project STIR will begin on September 12 and enrollment will begin soon. We began engaging a group of students with the Circles Level 2 curriculum for the first time, and the class participants are learning the more complicated aspects of creating and maintaining relationships.

Several community groups reached out to engage with us in July- the Conservation Department provided an instructional fishing afternoon and the Clothes Closet provided us with some programming materials. The Center hosted a board meeting and social picnic for the newly formed Arc of Northeast Missouri, and we will continue to partner with them in the coming months.

The Community Engagement Team is coordinating the Community Engagement Conference (formerly disAbility Awareness Day Conference) and the planning committee began regular meeting in July. We have representatives from several area agencies working together to plan the conference, and believe that it will be a great tool to promote inclusion in Northeast Missouri. Registration details for the conference will be ready by the end of August.

During the second session of the Summer Youth Program, 14 students continued to work and volunteer at the scheduled worksites including the Adair County Public Library, City of Kirksville Parks and Recreation, Community Learning Center, Jamison Street Community Garden, Jacob's Vineyard and Winery and the Crossing Thrift Store on days that the weather turned inclement and they were unable to work outside. In addition, they continued to work on their employment, life, nutrition, relationship, and social skills by participating in fun themed week activities. The themes for the second session included Healthy Sports, Crafty and Creative, Critter Time, and Space Exploration. Through these themes, the students practiced their skills while having fun and often not realizing that they were working or learning! For the last day, the staff and students had a lot of fun with a visit from Heather Ervin, Lab Manager at TSU who used dry ice to make bubbles and liquid nitrogen to make slushies, a visit to Robison Planetarium to see Jared Young for a space program about our universe, and finished the day off with swimming and ice cream for everyone.