

## **Community Engagement Report**

**March 2023**

**Visits – 489**

**Volunteer Visits – 21 (20.5 hours)**

During March the Community Learning Center had a total of 489 separate visits and 21 volunteers provided 20.5 hours of volunteer time. The volunteers assisted with setting up for and assisting individuals with BINGO on Fridays, assisting individuals during activities and classes, cleaning windows, and assembling newsletters.

In March the Center continued to have strong participation in all activities with the size of crafts and BINGO groups continuing to grow to full capacity on most days. TSU Exercise Science students continued to offer Exercise Your Mind which is a class based on Cognitive Stimulation Therapy and provides theme-based activities to help people use and increase their working memory. A new class was added to the calendar in March, Healthy Habits. A TSU Disability Studies student began offering a class on how the body works and ways to ensure you are remaining healthy including portion control, how different foods effect the body, and how to incorporate physical activity into your day. Project STIR classes continued to meet and six class members, along with a parent and one support staff, attended the MOAIDD Annual Conference in Columbia, MO on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Throughout March, Melissa continued to work with the new teacher hired to organize and lead the summer program. Applications for staff have gone out along with youth applications. The program will focus on youth ages 13-15 with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities for vocational transition planning. The program is scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>.

During the month Melissa and Angela worked with the Community Engagement Conference Committee to complete planning and preparation for the conference. Melissa also worked with the keynote speakers and presenters to obtain final copies of presentations for the conference and continued to add details to the website as they became available. Both Angela and Melissa assisted with setting up, cleaning up, and working the conference on March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

Melissa also participated in the monthly Medical Health Equity Advocacy meeting and spoke on the monthly Area Scene spot for SB40 on March 15<sup>th</sup>. She discussed the upcoming Community Engagement Conference, reported on the Spotlight Awards, and SB40's distribution of books to area 1<sup>st</sup> grade classrooms by service coordinators and administrative staff.

The Young Adult Neuro-Diverse Social Group and Parent-to-Parent Group both met in March. The social group met on March 11<sup>th</sup> to play games, listen to music, and enjoy pizza with seven participants despite winter weather. The parent group met on March 16<sup>th</sup> with five families attending. Dana Elam stepped in for a last moment change to the agenda and presented to the group about ADHD and some of the effects it has on executive functioning and autism.

Angela prepared and lead all of the activities and classes during the month of March, with the exception of Project STIR, Music Moves, and Exercise Your Mind and Healthy Habits. She also worked with volunteers to send out 423 newsletters and coordinated volunteer tasks throughout the month.