

Community Engagement Report

June 2025

Visits - 604

The Community Learning Center (CLC) continues to evolve as we introduce new programming and adjust our operations to better meet the needs of our community. Below is a summary of recent updates and upcoming plans. In the Month of June, we have welcomed 604 guests for various activities, sensory room time and to socialize with friends. We opened the center back up to regular operating times starting June 2nd.

Operational Update

Trialing New Operating Hours

In response to low attendance during late afternoon hours, we will begin trialing new operating hours for the CLC: 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Data shows that traffic significantly drops after 3:30PM, and this adjustment will allow us to better align staffing and energy with peak usage times. We will continue to monitor attendance and feedback to determine if these changes should be made permanent.

New & Ongoing Activities

1. Monday Community Activities Planning

We have initiated planning for Monday community activities. These events aim to foster connection and engagement among participants and offer an opportunity for community involvement on these days. Ideas for activities include but are not limited to bowling and swim days.

2. Healthy Cooking Class

We are excited to launch a new Healthy Cooking Class that focuses on nutrition education. Participants will learn practical skills such as:

- Understanding calorie intake and food labels
- Portion control and balanced meal planning
- Hands-on preparation of nutritious snacks

This class supports our broader mission to promote wellness and healthy living.

3. Incorporating Donated Weights into Programming

Thanks to a generous donation of weights from the local Girl Scout troop, we have begun integrating strength and resistance training into some of our activities. These additions enhance our fitness offerings and support a more comprehensive approach to health.

4. STIR Class Launch

The STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) class is scheduled to begin at the end of July. This program supports life skill development, self-advocacy, and decision-making—key areas for empowering participants in their personal growth.

5. Special Olympics Celebration – July 16

We are proud to host a celebration honoring the hard work and accomplishments of our local Special Olympics participants. The event will take place on Tuesday, July 16, from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Community Learning Center. This fun-filled afternoon will include activities, light refreshments, and hotdog lunch. Cheyane is working on trying to get community partners to help donate to this event.

Updates on Past Events

1. CEC Post-Mortem & 2025 Planning

A post-mortem meeting for this past March's CEC event is scheduled for later this summer, with hopes that Melissa C. will be available to assist. The goal is to review what went well and identify areas for improvement as we begin early planning for next year's CEC for March 2026.

2. SOMO and "The Zone"

We were proud to support the event with an engaging and inclusive experience through "The Zone", which featured interactive stations, sensory-friendly activities, and wellness resources designed to create a welcoming space for all participants. Our booth consisted of a photo booth and a small craft to create a picture frame for the polaroid photo that they had taken.

Angela has been a key figure in supporting Special Olympics Missouri (SOMO) in our area through her dedicated involvement as a coach. Her leadership and commitment to the athletes have made a meaningful impact, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for participants.

Other Items

1. LobbyTrek Implementation

Pending budget approval, we are looking to pilot the use of LobbyTrek for improved visitor and volunteer tracking. This system would enhance our ability to monitor engagement, streamline check-ins, and gather useful data for reporting and analysis.

2. Fundraising Committee

Cheyane plans to actively participate in the Fundraising Committee moving forward, with the goal of strengthening financial support for upcoming events and initiatives. This will include exploring new donor outreach strategies and community engagement opportunities.