

## **Community Engagement Report**

**September 2023**

**Visits – 500**

**Volunteer Visits – 27**

**Tidal Wave Charity Day Volunteers - 25**

500 people visited the Community Learning Center in September to participate in classes, activities or to hang out with friends. The Center had 27 volunteers provided 27.5 hours of volunteer time by helping during BINGO, teaching Exercise Your Mind classes, participating in Get Fit classes, and teaching Science Fun classes.

In September, the CLC began offering two classes that have not been on the schedule since the Spring. Truman State University Health and Exercise students began offering Exercise Your Mind. This is a class they offer at the Center each Fall and Spring. The class is based on Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (CST) which the visitors of the Center benefit from as the students learn the skills they will need to become certified in CST. A volunteer continued to teach Science Fun classes on Thursdays. Participation in this class has grown with some Kirksville High School Life Skills students attending. Visitors seem to really enjoy this hands-on class as they experimented with electricity and magnets. In October, the class focus will change to focus on weather. The Center also began to offer CIRCLES® Intimacy and Relationship classes again. This is the largest CIRCLES class to date with 12 participants.

On Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 25 non-staff volunteers assisted Melissa and Angela with the Tidal Wave Charity Day Fundraiser at Tidal Wave Auto Spa. All proceeds from the day will be split 50/50 between Adair County SB40 DD Link and Tidal Wave's Corporate Sponsor, Annandale Village. SB40 was also able to keep 100% of all cash donations made throughout the day. The raised funds will go toward the purchasing of inclusive books for area first grade students in March 2024 in recognition of National Developmental Disability Awareness Month.

The Center offered the monthly Parent-to-Parent Group meeting with five families present. The group socialized and talked about things they would potentially like to do and learn more about in the coming months. People First also met with two members present. The group brainstormed potential ideas of how to locate and draw in more members.

During the month Melissa taught two Mandt Certification classes for 17 area Direct Support Professionals and other provider agency staff. She also met with six people to train as volunteers at the Center. All of these new volunteers are students at TSU or ATSU. Melissa also met with Cody Clark and Crystal to discuss Cody's potential as the Keynote Speaker for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Engagement Conference. Cody is an autistic self-advocate to preforms both magic and speaking engagements throughout the country. Once the Conference Planning Committee has discussed what he has to offer, a decision will be made on whether to continue planning with Cody or explore further options. Additionally, Melissa participated in the monthly SB40 Board Meeting, Transition Coalition Meeting, and Interagency/System of Care Meeting. Angela assisted with the DSP Appreciation Day the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Melissa also spoke on Area Scene about the success of the Tidal Wave Charity Day Fundraiser and the DSP Appreciation Day held at Detwiler Park and the DDRRC by SB40, in addition of the upcoming Disability Employment Awareness Month.