

## **Community Engagement Report**

**January 2023**

**Visits – 379**

**Volunteer Visits – 8 (12 hours)**

The Community Learning Center had a total of **379** separate visits in January. There were also **8** people who provided **12** hours of volunteer time. The volunteers assisted with setting up for BINGO on Fridays, assisting individuals during activities and classes, assisting with Music Moves, sharpening colored pencils, and assembling newsletters. The Center was closed on January 1<sup>st</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> for New Year's Day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The Center continued to offer its most popular activities in January including Coffee & Cards, Game Time, Music Moves, Crafts, Get Fit, BINGO and the monthly movie party. All of these activities had great participation. A new class, Lead Your Life, was held in January with two self-advocates learning how to use Charting the LifeCourse Tools to set goals for their best life. Craft and BINGO activities continue to grow significantly with an average of 26 participants per class. On January 18<sup>th</sup>, a new Project STIR class began with 14 self-advocates. This is the largest class in many years and the participants seem to be very engaged in the learning and activities. Most of the class have taken the class at some time in the past but have chosen to take the class again to further their knowledge and/or have the opportunity to become peer-teachers for Project STIR.

The week of March 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, Melissa attended a recertification class for The Mandt System in Independence, MO. She received training in the new Mandt System 2.0 Curriculum which has several changes to provide better understanding and retention of information by those trained. Her new certification will be good until January of 2025. She also taught a new certification class to two Direct Support Professionals as well as a new certification class to five DSP's in January.

In January Melissa began meeting with a Kirksville R-III School teacher that is interested in assisting with the Summer Youth Program. They then met with Crystal Amini-Rad, Thomas Barhorst, and Polly Matteson to begin discussing details and needs of the program. Melissa and the teacher will begin meeting to talk about planning to move forward before meeting with the group again in February.

Melissa also participated in the monthly Interagency Meeting to discuss activities and events being offered by several area agencies. In addition, she spoke on Area Scene on January 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss the upcoming Community Engagement Conference, Spotlight Awards, and activities at the Center.

The Parent-to-Parent Group met with five parents, two children and a volunteer on March 19<sup>th</sup>. The group discussed several things that they are interested in learning about and decided to request a speaker on the topic of Executive Function for the month of February.

Angela prepared and lead all of the activities and classes during the month of January, including adding a new dance aerobics class to the calendar on Tuesday mornings at the request of several Center visitors.