

Community Engagement Report

June - July 2023

Visits – June (620), July (465)

Volunteer Visits – 22 (23.5 hours)

In June the Community Learning Center had a total of 620 separate visits and in July there were 465 separate visits. 22 volunteers provided 23.5 hours of volunteer time between the two months. The volunteers assisted with setting up for and assisting individuals with BINGO on Fridays, assisting individuals during activities and classes, cleaning windows, assembling newsletters, weeding, and sanitizing sensory items.

During June the Center had a strong increase in the number of visits. This is likely due, in part, to KHS summer school students attending both crafts and BINGO throughout the month. There was also increased instances of people arriving in the morning, bringing their lunch to eat with friends, and staying for most of the day's activities. Kaelie Gerber with Music Moves, provided her last group music therapy class at the Center. She is leaving the area with her family. Holly Whitacre with the Missouri Department of Conservation began coming to the Center twice a month to offer hands-on activities during Nature Time, which Center participants said they really enjoyed. On June 16th, a TSU Exercise Science student presented a class about the dangers of vaping and how to avoid peer pressure. The 4-week class finished on July 7th.

In July, attendance at the Center dropped to what has been seen over the past few months. In addition to regular classes and activities throughout the month, the 13th Project STIR class **graduated 14 students** on July 26th! These students had been working to learn about advocacy, self-determination, how to problem solve and negotiate, and speak up for their needs and wants in a way that will help people to want to assist them since mid-January. This is one of the largest classes since the first class that was held in 2011. SB40 Board Member, Deb Wohlers, attended the graduation and presented the graduates with their diplomas. Deb is the one who brought Project STIR to Missouri and held the first ever Project STIR class in 2011.

The Summer Youth Employment Program 2-week camp was held July 17th - 28th with six participants. During camp, the students had the opportunity to tour area job locations and discuss the various jobs available at that location and the skills needed to work there, worked on soft skills for employment such as hygiene, arriving on time and using a clock-in/out system, and completed some fun activities that could grow into potential jobs such as soap making.

During the months Melissa and Angela worked together allow each to take a vacation with support from the DDRC staff to cover lunches. They worked with volunteers to send out 400+ newsletters each month, provide regular programming.

The Young Adult Neuro-Diverse Social Group and Parent-to-Parent Group both met both months. The social group met June 10th and July 15th at the Center to play games, listen to music, and enjoy snacks. The parent group met on June 15th and July 13th. In June, the group met at the Kiwanis Inclusive Playground to play, enjoy snacks, and allow the parents to socialize. This event had three families in attendance. In July, met at the Center for a sensory play time. One family attended this event and worked on learning to follow directions while playing a game.