

## **Community Engagement Report**

**March 2022**

**Visits – 152**

**Volunteer Visits – 14**

March was Developmental Disability Awareness Month and another busy month for the Community Learning Center (CLC). The Center was open for regular hours, 8AM-5PM on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and by appointment on Mondays and Thursdays.

In March there were a total of 152 visits to the CLC this and 12 volunteers who assisted with teaching Exercise Your Mind and CIRCLES classes, helped BINGO players on Fridays and assisted to prepare April newsletters for mailing. Two AmbassaDDAIR volunteers began assisting with calling individuals for Life Check.

Most of the classes and activities at the CLC continued without change in March. Exercise Your Mind met the first two weeks of the month and will meet again twice in April before finishing up for the spring. Game time was added for two weeks at the end of the month and was well attended and people seemed to enjoy getting to hang out and play games with their friends.

Jessica Rooks finished presenting the Family Law Series with an average attendance of six people in person and two live viewers on line. Several views of each session were made in the days afterwards on Facebook.

The Autism Advisory Board met twice in March. The Board chose to plan a sensory open house at the Community Learning Center in observance of World Autism Acceptance Day on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Board is collaborating with Easterseals Midwest, Judevine Center for Autism, and Preferred Family Healthcare's Center for Autism for this event.

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, Melissa and Angela assisted with the Community Engagement Conference at Truman State University. There were about 275 participants in attendance for the event and many attendees expressed their pleasure of meeting and speaking with Keynote Speaker Russell Lehmann. Both also attended the Spotlight Awards Dinner on the 15<sup>th</sup> to recognize community members with disabilities who have gone out of their way to make a difference through outreach, self-advocacy, volunteering, and entrepreneurship.

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, Melissa met with Schiller's Audio Visual virtually to discuss the audio and visual needs of the Community Learning Center. Schiller's will be sending a quote and their recommendations for the space. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, Melissa and Crystal met with Kansas City Audio-Visual for the same purpose. They will also be submitting a quote for services.

In March, Melissa taught a new Mandt certification class as well as a recertification class. She certified a total of five staff for area providers.

Throughout the month Angela planned and led all of the CLC's activities with the exception of CIRCLES® Relationship classes and those taught by volunteers. She also prepared the list of community activities to be placed in the monthly newsletter mailing.