

Community Engagement Report

November 2021

Visits - 148

Volunteers - 26

The Community Learning Center (CLC) was open for regular hours, 8AM-5PM on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays throughout the month of November with the exception of November 25th and 26th in observation of Thanksgiving. We had a total of 148 visits to the CLC this month and twenty six volunteers who assisted with preparing the December mailings and leading classes.

In November, the group of three TSU capstone students who ran the Fun Nights on Mondays completed their project. Each Monday, the capstone students offered fun crafts, games, snacks, and activities from 4-7PM. They had an average of four participants each week and the attendants seemed to enjoy the various activities such as crafts, playing games, using the Wii, watching movies, and enjoying snacks.

We were able to continue meeting at Scooter's for coffee and cards on Tuesday mornings at 9AM throughout the month. More people began to come to this community activity and all seemed to enjoy being with one another. At the end of November, the area numbers of COVID began to climb and a decision was made to move this activity back to the Community Learning Center for the month of December where we will have a better chance of controlling the atmosphere and decreasing the number of people we are in contact with, especially in a location where people are eating and drinking.

Music Moves, crafts, Sweatin' to the Oldies, and BINGO continued in November with the largest attendance being for BINGO. Crafts has averaged about seven people per class with fewer for music therapy and exercise.

On two occasions we had 23 and 25 participants respectively for BINGO which is closer to the amount of attendance we had before COVID closures. Again, with the increase in active COVID cases in the area, the decision was made at the end of November to move BINGO back to an online only game in December. Participants can play from their home via Zoom link. It is our hope that we will return to the building quickly but feel the health and safety of all is of the greatest importance. All other classes will remain open and running as planned through December at this time due to their lower attendance numbers.

Additionally, Exercise Your Mind, a class being taught by a group of 11 TSU students continued in November. This activity was not well attended and it was difficult to get people to come to participate for this class. Melissa is working with the class instructor to figure out a way to draw in more participants as this class can greatly support older adults who are beginning to show diminishing cognitive skills and abilities or signs of dementia.

On November 18th, the NEMO TIE Network met for the second time and we had only one participant come. Melissa worked with him on beginning to build a one page profile for employment. This group will begin meeting the 3rd Thursday of the month at 5PM at the CLC. Individuals between the ages of 15-25 who were not able to attend the first meeting are invited and encouraged to attend the next meeting on Thursday, December 15th at 5PM.

The Autism Advisory Board met on Wednesday, November 10th at 5PM. Possible questions were discussed to submit to the Greenwood Director Search Committee. The committee will begin meeting the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 5PM at the Community Learning Center in December.

In November, Melissa certified six Direct Support Professionals in the Mandt System. A recertification class is planned for December 20, 2021.

The Community Learning Center also assisted in baking turkeys for the Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Angela deboned and prepared the meat which was picked up by a volunteer the day of the meal.