

Community Engagement Report

August 2022

Visits – 301

Volunteer Visits – 8 (7.5 hours)

August was a busy month for the Community Learning Center. There was a total of 301 visits and seven volunteers who provided 6.5 hours of volunteer time. The volunteers assisted with setting up for BINGO on Fridays, assembling the September newsletters to be mailed, and providing child care for the Parent to Parent Group.

In August, the CLC continued to hold its usual activities; Coffee & Cards, Music Moves, Crafts, Get Fit, and BINGO. A few activities that were added to the calendar in July were continued through the month including Sewing Group and Fishing. Both of these activities were well attended. The sewing group is learning hand sewing techniques and assembling quilt blocks that will be turned into lap quilts or pillows. The fishing group caught a total of 11 fish in August and drew more individuals who have not attended other activities before. Additionally, a new class was added – Telling Your Story. In this class participants are working to assemble books that will help them communicate information about themselves to those who support them or tell a story about a specific point in their life.

The Parent-to-Parent Group met on August 18th with three parents in attendance. One new parent attended the meeting. The group reviewed the things discussed at the July meeting (things they did not want for their child) and began to talk about things they do want for their child which led to discussion of their current situations and needs. The group will continue to meet the third Thursday of the month at 5:30PM.

In August, Melissa taught a Mandt Recertification class for four area Direct Support Professionals. She spoke on Area Scene on August 17th to share information about upcoming activities for the CLC and the Direct Support Professionals week and awards in September. Melissa also began continued trainings to become a Charing the LifeCourse Ambassador and certified in the Skills System that will allow her to work with groups on learning to self-regulate their emotions. She met with Sandra Keyser to plan two benefit specialist presentations in the upcoming months to help educate individuals, their families, and support teams about working and maintaining their benefits. Additionally, she attended a training on the new NEMO Resources website that will be launched in the near future.

Throughout month Angela planned and led most of the CLC's activities, prepared the list of community activities to be placed in the monthly newsletter mailings and supported volunteers with setting up BINGO on Fridays and assembling the newsletters. She also supported a young lady who is beginning classes at the area community college to understand some of her initial assignments. Angela also participated in the monthly Medical Equity meeting providing knowledge from her years of working in an area hospital.