

## **Community Engagement Report**

**November - 2023**

**Visits – 630**

**Volunteer Hours – 38.5**

During the month of November, the Community Learning Center had 630 independent visits where people participated in classes, activities, People 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting, Parent-to-Parent Group, or chose to hang out with friends. The Center had 19 volunteers provided 38.5 hours of volunteer time by helping during crafts and BINGO, teaching Science Fun and Nature Time classes, participating in exercise classes, providing childcare during the Parent-to-Parent Group and assisting with tasks about the Center such as helping with newsletters and sanitizing the sensory room.

In November, the CLC began offering one new class, Smart Trust which is designed to help people recognize how and when people are taking advantage and provide them with skills to advocate for themselves. A volunteer continued to teach Science Fun classes on Thursdays. Participation in this class continues to grow with some members of the Excel Program and Kirksville High School and a home-schooled student now attending. Visitors seem to really enjoy this hands-on class as they experimented with weather. Holly Whitacre, with the Missouri Department of Conservation, came near the end of the month and talked about deciduous trees and made leave casts with class participants. The Center also continued to offer CIRCLES® Intimacy and Relationship classes along with favored fun activities like Coffee and Cards, Dance Aerobics, Crafts, Get Fit, and BINGO.

The Center offered the monthly Parent-to-Parent Group meeting with two families present on November 16<sup>th</sup>. They had the opportunity to visit with local parent and author, Tracey Francis. The group talked about difficult situations they have encountered and gave one another advice on how they might go about finding a solution that could work for their family.

On November 28<sup>th</sup>, People 1<sup>st</sup> held a movie and discussion night to help draw potential members to the group. There were 11 people in attendance. The group watched the movie "Peanut Butter Falcon" then discussed the importance of learning to advocate for themselves as well as others who do not know how.

During the month Melissa taught a Mandt classes for six Direct Support Professionals of area provider agencies. She also facilitated the second Community Engagement Conference Planning Committee and continued to work on details for the 2024 conference including signing a contract with the Keynote speaker and reaching out to potential session presenters with the help of Crystal. Additionally, Melissa participated in the monthly SB40 Board Meeting, Transition Coalition Meeting, and Interagency/System of Care Meeting.

In November, Angela compiled the monthly community activities list and lead all classes and activities with the exception of CIRCLES Relationships.