



Adair County SB40 Developmental Disability Board  
314 East McPherson Street  
Kirksville, MO 63501

Postage  
Information

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Developmental Disability Board

## Adair County SB40 Developmental Disability Board

DD Resource Center  
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Community Learning Center  
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### March 2023

## March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Adair County SB40 Developmental Disability Board is excited to celebrate March as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The U.S. designates each March as a time to celebrate the many accomplishments of people who have disabilities. According to NationalToday.com, "this class of disabilities can refer to impairments in learning and behavior, such as autism, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and impairments in physical and/or intellectual functioning such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, and Down syndrome."

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month strives to raise awareness about people with disabilities and how to include them in all aspects of community life. Additionally, it seeks to raise awareness of the barriers that many people with disabilities still face when trying to live their best life, to become active members of their communities, and receive the rights they are entitled to.

This year, Adair County SB40 will celebrate in many ways to help share the diverse gifts people with disabilities possess and how they make our community a better place to live, work, and play.

On March 9th, Adair County SB40 will recognize four outstanding members of the community for their accomplishments through our Annual Spotlight Awards. One award will be given in each of the following categories: Kids Inclusion Spotlight Award, Youth Leadership Spotlight Award, Community Volunteer Spotlight Award, and Entrepreneur or Employee of the Year. Additionally, two community partners will be recognized for their strong supporters of SB40 and the community we serve.

During the month, Adair County SB40 Employees will be visiting area first grade classrooms to give books to each first grader and read the story to them. Our vision is for the students to learn from the book's message and knowledge shared in the book then take them home to share with their family. This is a great way to share knowledge of the gifts and benefits that people with disabilities have to share with us and how to ensure they are accepted members of our community.

Additionally, Adair County SB40 will once again collaborate with several community agencies to bring the 14th Annual Community Engagement Conference to Northeast Missouri. This FREE community conference is a wonderful way for both self-advocates and community members to come together and learn about and from one another. The Conference will be held on Saturday, March 25th from 8am-4pm at William Matthew Middle School.

Other important days in March to know and celebrate include: March 1st - International Wheelchair Day, March 21st - World Down Syndrome Day, March 24th - World Tuberculosis Day, and March 26th - Epilepsy Awareness Day.

## Come Join Us!

Looking for something to do with your day? Want to meet new people and grow your social circle of friends and acquaintances? Looking for ways to grow and learn new skills and how to be your own best advocate? Need a place to unwind and meet your sensory needs? Then the Community Learning Center is the place for you!

Join us at the Center each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8AM-5PM to take part in the many scheduled activities and classes that we have available or use the new sensory room. You can also make an appointment to visit on a Monday or Thursday.

In March, the Community Learning Center will welcome a new Truman State University Disability Studies student to present Healthy Habits on Tuesdays at 2:30pm. Priyashma will introduce you to fun and exciting activities to help you learn about different ways to live a healthy life. We are continuing to offer out new class, Dance Aerobics! Come dance and get in your workout with Angela on Tuesday mornings at 11am.

Don't forget that you are welcome to stop in anytime between the hours of 8a-5p on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Friday even if there are no scheduled activities at that time. We'll be happy to assist you to find an activity to enjoy.

**SB40 Community Learning Center Activities for February**

Check out the Activity Calendar for more information and times

Tuesdays -	Coffee & Cards Dance Aerobics Healthy Habits Music Moves (March 7th) Exercise Your Mind (March 21st)
Wednesdays -	Crafts Get Fit *Project STIR - Registration Required Movie Party (March 8th)
Thursday -	*Parent-to-Parent Group (March 16th)
Fridays -	BINGO
Saturday -	Young Adult 20/30's Neuro-Diverse Group (March 11th)

Please call or email the Community Learning Center to register for the Parent-to-Parent Group and Project STIR.

660-665-9400x4 or [clc@sb40life.org](mailto:clc@sb40life.org)

## Summer Youth Employment Camp

Adair County SB40 Developmental Disability Board will be offering a Summer Youth Employment Camp for students between the ages of 13 - 15. This year's two week camp will be held from July 17th - 28th, Monday through Friday, from 8:30am - 3:30pm. The camp will offer participants the opportunity to explore and grow the skills they need for future employment and to begin the transition process from school to work or a secondary school experience.

The objectives of the camp are for participants to: begin developing and practicing soft skills for employment, life skills, social skills, relationship building skills, and self-advocacy skills along with community integration skills. These are all skills needed for students with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities to grow a strong foundation that will assist them to live the life they want as adults. During the camp, participants will have the opportunity to explore these skills through fun, hands-on activities and community outings.

This year, the camp will select up to 20 applicants who meet the criteria needed to have a successful experience. The staff-to-participant ratio will be 1:5 so participants should be able to perform their own self-care unless prior arrangement have been made with the participant's support team and parents/caretakers/guardians, and the Program Director. For participants who will require supports beyond what is available through the program for aggression, elopement, one-on-one staffing, etc. special planning by the support team and parents/caregivers/guardians will be required to address how the necessary supports will be provided during the program to ensure the safety and worthwhile participation of all students and staff.

If your youth would like to apply for this year's Summer Youth Employment Camp, please contact Melissa Cline at the Community Learning Center (660-665-9400 or [melissacline@sb40life.org](mailto:melissacline@sb40life.org)) for more information and an application. More information and applications can be found by visiting <https://sb40life.org>. All applications for youth participation are due by Friday, April 14, 2023.



14TH ANNUAL  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE  
DREAM BIG!!  
Planning for a Great Life

Saturday, March 25, 2023  
at William Matthew Middle School

Want to attend the 14th Annual Community Engagement Conference but didn't get to register by March 1st? No problem! You are still invited to join us for an exciting day full of wonderful presentations with tons of useful information, our exhibitor area with over 50 booths, and door prizes at the end of the day. If you did not register for the conference by March 1st you will need to ensure that you plan for lunch. Only registrations received by March 1st will be given a lunch ticket. Feel free to bring a lunch with you. There will also be a concession area available with drinks and a few snacks for purchase. Come join us! You don't want to miss all that this conference has to offer!

## Crystal's Corner

Welcome to Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month! We have a lot going on in March. I hope that each of you are able to participate and enjoy everything we are doing. On March 9<sup>th</sup>, Adair County SB40 will present our annual Spotlight Awards.

This year we are establishing a new award, the **Ramon Pollard Lifetime Achievement Award**. The first recipient of the Ramon Pollard Lifetime Achievement Award will be Ramon Pollard. A longtime resident of Kirksville, Mr. Pollard passed away unexpectedly in February 2023. Mr. Pollard was known throughout his community for his community involvement, work ethic, personal faith and overall kindness to everyone he met. Ramon was a former employee of Wal-Mart, Kirksville Daily Express, JC Penny and Chariton Valley Association. He was a member of the Fellowship Baptist Church of Kirksville. He was loved by all who knew him and will be truly missed.



**Rylund Thomas-Tharp is the winner of the Kid's Inclusion Spotlight Award**. At just 12 years old, Rylund has independently developed several businesses, such as raising Chickens and selling eggs, lawn care, snow removal, and errands for the elderly. He also barter's lawn care in exchange for welding lessons and is learning a new trade. Rylund fixes clocks and re-sells them at the local Farmer's Market! He's always looking for ways to start a business or benefit his community!

**Alyias Bass will receive the Youth Leadership Spotlight Award**. Alyias is a Junior at Schuyler R-1 School district who demonstrates determination and dedication to his peers. Alyias represented the school's Special Olympics group on the Missouri 2022 Special Olympics team in the 2022 USA Games. He medaled in track, receiving a GOLD in the 100m dash, SILVER in the long jump and 7<sup>th</sup> in the 200m dash. Alyias works with other students to help strengthen their skills. He is a great team player, has a very humble attitude and knows how to have FUN!

**Dustin Johnson will be recognized as the 2023 Volunteer of the Year!** In addition to his job at HyVee in Kirksville, Dustin loves to contribute to his community as a volunteer. Dustin volunteers at the Adair County Library. He likes to make sure that the library is clean for everyone to enjoy. Dustin is also involved with the Special Olympics team both as an athlete and as a volunteer helping others. Dustin also volunteers with his church. He assists with his church's Vacation Bible School Program. Dustin has a heart for community service and is willing to do the hard work!

**The 2023 Employee of the Year is Kendrick Rupp**. Kendrick was nominated for SB40 Employee of the Year by his Service Coordinator. His employer is CAPNEMO Head Start. Kendrick received the Employee of the month from his employer in 2022. Kendrick's job coaches say that he 'has always been positive and strives to give his full effort at work. The children adore him!' Kendrick loves what he does and his face lights up when he talks about the children. He has a valuable impact on those around him. Kendrick would like to earn his Child Development Associate Certification (CDA) and further his childcare career.

Adair County SB40 also wants to congratulate our **2023 Community Partnership Award recipients, Mark Wouters (LOQW) and Colton's Steakhouse**. Both of these Partners are never-ending, strong supporters of SB40 and the community that we serve. We appreciate all that they do for our community!

Congratulations to all of our winners, each one of them well - deserved. We hope to see you at the Conference on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>!

## Spotlight Awards



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