

Community Engagement Report

October 2024

Visits – 775 people

Volunteer Hours – 66.5

In October, the Community Learning Center had 775 independent visits. Visitors to the Center participated in classes and activities, volunteered, chose to hang out with friends, used the sensory room, and celebrated Halloween on October 25th with a dance and costume contest. The costume contest had 4 awards given for “Scariest Costume,” “Cutest Costume,” “Most Original Costume,” and “Most Creative Costume” that were judged by SB40 staff members. The Center had 60 volunteers who provided 66.5 hours of volunteer time by helping with tasks such as assembling newsletters, guiding/teaching Open Hearts Storytime Science Fun, Exercise Your Mind, provided childcare for the Parent-to-Parent Group, and helped with the Halloween dance.

The month of October, the students from Truman State University’s Health and Exercise Science Department continued to teach Exercise Your Mind. Participants in the class enjoy interacting with the students and engaging in the themed activities. Christmas program practice began on Wednesdays and the group has chosen to do a puppet show that includes a chorus. The program is being put on in coordination with the First Church of God again this year and participation is open to all including community members. Also in October, Angela and a TSU volunteer began teaching a basic life skills class which includes topics such as appropriate hygiene, dressing for the weather, phone etiquette, household chores, and more.

During October, Melissa taught a Mandt System recertification class for seven area Direct Support Professionals. She met with Dr. Teak Nelson who oversees the intro to disabilities studies class to discuss different volunteering opportunities at the CLC for her class and with Nate Fajkus from BOTT Radio to learn how to post on social media using their portal. Melissa also participated in the annual Legislative Coffee Chat that was held at the Center, the Transition to Adulthood Coalition, and the bi-monthly MOAAIDD Board meeting. And, Melissa met with several volunteers to complete the volunteer training. On October 17th, Melissa and Tatiana hosted a virtual presentation from Hello, It’s Me at the Center with two individuals that went extremely well. Since the presentation, Tatiana has been working with the organization to begin offering a group relationship counseling session once a month. On October 24th, the Parent-to-Parent group met with two families, one of which have a child who is newly diagnosed with a disability.

The Annual Community Engagement Conference Committee met twice in October to begin planning for the 2025 conference that will be held on March 1, 2025 at the William Matthew Middle School. Several of the committee members met with two potential keynote speakers and a representative from a management company about three of their speakers.

Throughout the month, Angela facilitated most of the activities at the Center including working with the volunteers who teach Exercise Your Mind and Science Fun. She also collaborated with a volunteer who was interested in helping her to teach the new Basic Life Skills. Additionally, Angela compiled the monthly community activities list,

supervised volunteers who helped to prepare the monthly newsletters for mailing, decorating for the Halloween dance, and volunteering during Center activities.

Activities for October:

Activity	Number of Visits
Coffee & Cards	45
Dance Aerobics	49
Basic Life Skills	54
Exercise Your Mind	62
Crafts	206
Open Hearts Story Time	89
Get Fit	71
Nature Time	18
Christmas Program	28
Science Fun	49
Healthy & Relaxed	41
BINGO	174
Hang Out	278
Halloween Dance	68
Hello, It's Me	5
Parent-to-Parent Group	8
Volunteers	60
Mandt Certification	4
Total Number of Participants Attending Activities Per Month	1309
Total Number of Visits Per Person	775