

Community Engagement Report

August 2024

Visits – 540 people

Volunteer Hours – 16

In August, the Community Learning Center had 540 independent visits. Visitors to the Community Learning Center participated in classes and activities, volunteered, chose to hang out with friends, and/or use the sensory room. The Center had 12 volunteers who provided 16 hours of volunteer time by helping with tasks such as assembling newsletters, and guiding/teaching Open Hearts Storytime and Science Fun.

In August, the Center added a new class on Thursdays, Chair Yoga. Angela finish the cooking class with five participants. During the class they not only worked on basic cooking skills, they worked on preparing healthy menus for each week. Once the cooking class wrapped up, Angela held a music class where participants used musical instruments to explore sound and patterns. They also created a few of the instruments they used in the class. The class was well attended and the group followed YouTube chair yoga videos. During Open Hearts Storytime on the 28th, Bre and Sandie from the Adair County Public Library brought three volunteers with them for a story and guided painting. Participants in the activity really enjoyed the guided painting and Melissa is working with them to offer another in late Fall. The Center also continued to offer the other favorite classes and activities including coffee and cards, dance aerobics, Project STIR, crafts Open Hearts Storytime, Circles Level 2, science and BINGO.

During August, Melissa met with Tatiana to begin sharing information and collaborating with Tatian's new position. She spoke on KIRX's Area Scene about the results of the L.I.F.E. Progra, Direct Support Professional's Week in September, the presentation of a Praclamation for Direct Support Professionals Week at the Community Learning Center on Friday, September 6th, along with the Tidal Wave Auto Spa and SB40 Charity Day fundraiser on September 20th. Additionally, Melissa facilitated a Parent-to-Parent Group with a presentation by Rebecca Keller with StationMD, participated in an Interagency Meeting held by the Chamber of Commerce, a City of Kirksville training on ADA compliance of sidewalks, and a Charting the LifeCourse Stakeholder's meeting.

Melissa also met with representatives of Alpha Phi Omega and Alpha Gama Sigma from TSU about volunteer opportunities at the Community Learning Center. Both service organizations are interested in becoming more involved with the Community Learning Center and the possibility of hosting a large event. She also met with the Statewide representative with Best Buddies to discuss ways to help the Truman State University chapter to grow into an active chapter again.

Throughout the month, Angela facilitated most of the activities at the Center, working with the volunteer who teaches Science Fun, including covering several dates when he was unavailable to come. Angela also compiled the monthly community activities list, worked with Melissa to prepare for the Charity Day event supervised volunteers who helped to prepare the monthly newsletters for mailing and volunteering during Center activities. Additionally, Angela covered the CLC while Melissa was on vacation.