Community Opportunities Volume 24 Issue 95 Second Quarter, 2018

OPPORTUNITIES News & Views

Summer Gardening

This year, Day Program's garden got an upgrade to a nice raised bed. Thank you to our maintenance man, Kenny Hauser, who built it and even included a seat all the way around.
Everyone got involved in planting zucchini, green beans, onions, carrots, tomatoes, spinach and peppers at the Program Building. The garden at the Administration Building contains pumpkins and watermelons.
A lot of this year's harvest will be used in a future Day Program project of making salsa. Homemade fresh salsa! Doesn't that sound delicious?

Hats Off to…

...Jeanne M. for spearheading the variety of visits to Day Program from the First Responders and other community helpers.
...Kenny for quickly addresses all our Residential needs!!
...Teresa for being so efficient and readily available to the CLS's!
...Donna Odom for being an amazing mentor for our new hires at 21 Opportunity Ct.!
….Lisa Ann Colbert and Connie West for using varied conditions during the monthly safety drills!!
...Samantha Purvines for stepping up and expanding the range of locations under her belt – Great job!
...Tracy Carroll for always being supportive during medical concerns!
...Caroline Glade for making the ladies hats for the March ladies dinner.
...Kenny for keeping the vehicles up and running!

Welcome New Trainees!

Clementine (Tina) Malone, Residential, 6/4/2018

BrittanyRichter, Residential, 5/8/2018

Upcoming Training & Events

Check your agency e-mail at the beginning of each work day!

- ⇒ First Aid - LC Ambulance District 3-6 pm, first Wednesday of the month
- ⇒ CPR - LC Ambulance District 6-9 pm, first Wednesday of the month
- ⇒ Cooking Class is on the first and third Wednesday each month. Class is $2, from 6p-7:30pm at the Program Building.
- ⇒ Craft Class is on the second Thursday of each month. Class is $3, from 4:30-5:30pm at the Program Building.
- ⇒ Movie Nights are back! -The last Friday of the month. FREE!
- ⇒ Game Night at the Prog. Bldg. – The second Tuesday each month. FREE!

Upcoming closings

Community Opportunities offices, Day Program, Community Skills, BCI & Earth-wise will be closed on Sept.3 in observance of Labor Day.

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

ONE YEAR
Jaimie Brown
Brittany Doris
Allison Fennewald
Patricia Hocking
Samantha Mayer
Courtney Vanzant

TWO YEARS
Vanessa Kientzy-Payne
Amy Miller
Kirstie Tryon
Angel Weathers

THREE YEARS
Carolyn Harman

FOUR YEARS
Teresa Gooch
Marsha Sowell

NINE YEARS
Jeanette Smith

TEN YEARS
Erika Park

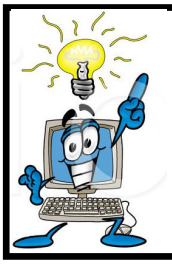
SIXTEEN YEARS
Donna Odom

SEVENTEEN YEARS
Jennifer Michelle Palmer

TWENTY ONE YEARS
Darwin Walter

TWENTY FIVE YEARS
Kathy Lewis

Happy Anniversary!



Set-Works Tip

View your annual goals from your evaluation, by clicking on the staff management icon at the top right corner of the screen and then click on the goals tab.

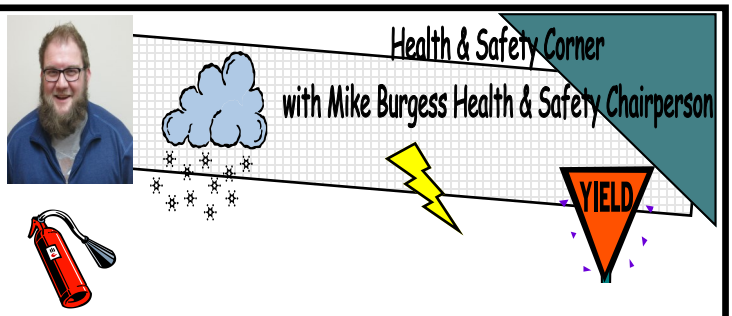
WIN –WIN Situations!

Congratulations to Joan Story who received the $100 Employee Referral Incentive for referring Kenny Hauser.

On a beautiful 88 degree day in April, Day Program decided to move bingo outside. Everyone enjoyed the sunshine!

Because everyone loves puppies!

Staff Brenda brought in her new puppies for everyone to enjoy!



Summer Fun in the Sun but remember to stay safe!

Take these steps to stay sun-safe:

- **Cover up**: When you are out in the sun, wear clothing and a wide-brimmed hat to protect as much skin as possible. Protect your eyes with sunglasses .
- **Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher:** Reapply at least every 2 hours, as well as after swimming or sweating.
- **Seek shade**: Limit your direct exposure to the sun, especially between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., when UV rays are strongest.

Congratulations!

We are happy to announce that Connie West has been selected as the Direct Support Professional for the first quarter of 2018! She has been employed at Community Opportunities for almost six years and works in the residential department. When asked - How does this person contribute to the success of the agency? –the nominator stated, "Connie uses teachable moments as part of her daily routine to enhance the independence of the clients she supports. She is a key team player to assist new employees with recognizing teachable moments and demonstrating how to use them to promote independence". Connie says her favorite thing about her job is seeing the people she works with having fun. Connie often assists the clients she works with to events such as the Muny, Cardinals games, and other community activities. Connie uses these opportunities to teach and promote independence while having fun.

Congratulations Connie on this well-deserved recognition!

Mother's Day Craft Class

Craft Class decorated canvas bags for mom's day. Kay loved the bag Crystal made for her. Craft class is the second Thursday, from 4:30-5:30. Cost is $3 per class. Contact Janelle (ext.. 148)if you are interested.

Robert enjoyed his recent trip to the St. Louis Zoo.

On May 19, Jerry, Jeff and Terry along with staff Jamie and Kirstie attended the St. Peter's First Assembly Church car show. It is quite the event, happening the 3rd Saturday each month. They have food, beverages, ice cream and a band in addition to all the amazing cars!

Tools of Choice

Stay Close & Redirect!

Stay close and redirect to a calm, safe place, continue with empathy and encouragement, and praise for calming down.

Use your "tools" at work every day!

Elsberry High School student Breonna received a 1st place trophy for collecting the most tabs for the Tab Top Pandemonium. Breonna collected 157 tabs.
Breonna told her mom she "wanted to do this for children because they may never be able to make me better, but I can help to make other children better!" Great job Breonna!

Match Game

On the first and third Thursdays, Day Program has an activity of game shows.
It is entertaining for everyone!

Lincoln County Roadrunners Track Meet

On April 28, Jerry & Jeff participated in the Lincoln County Roadrunners Track Meet. Both gentlemen participated in the Long Jump and the Softball Throw.

Jerry placed third in the Softball Throw competition, pictured to the left receiving his bronze medal.

Diana and Yvonne also attended to cheer Jerry and Jeff on in their events. And as normal, Diana and Yvonne were clowning around!

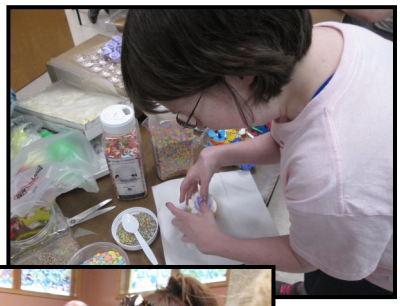
Kentucky Derby Day!

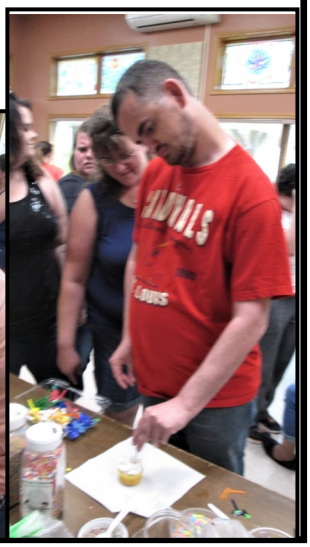
On Friday, May 4, Day Program held their own Kentucky Derby. Everyone decorated and named their horse in addition to picking their lane. Cards were drawn to advance the horses. And of course, hats were decorated to wear. A Kentucky Derby isn't official without hats!

And the winners were: Michele's horse came in 1st, Shelby's came in a close 2nd and Jesse's horse took 3rd.

CUPCAKES! CUPCAKES! CUPCAKES!

Sharon from Sweets to Remember visited Day Program on May 7 to demonstrate the art of decorating cupcakes. She brought all the supplies for everyone to take their turn.





LADIES' MONTHLY DINNERS

The first Friday in April had the ladies celebrating opening day for the Cardinals. Baseball themed dinner hosted by Megan, Teresa & Kay.

It would not be May without a Cinco de Mayo celebration! The ladies enjoyed the theme, especially the piñata.

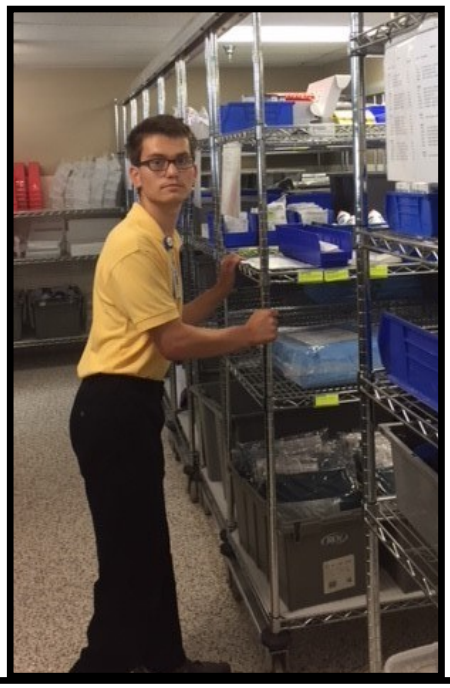
First Friday in June the ladies got together at Weinand Park for dinner and socializing. Donna and Sarah were the hosts with ladies dinning on BBQ and sides.

Employment

In the second quarter of 2018, Employment Specialists Chris, Dave and Donna had an influx of new clients. We welcomed Cauy C, Carol H, Breonna T, Bradley H, Doug P, and Austin W into Employment Services. Congratulations went out to Alexis C, Adam R, Richard P, and Andrew L. for obtaining competitive employment this quarter, and a huge shout out went to Lowes in Wentzville, Forest Keeling Nursery in Elsberry, Troy Manor and LCCOA in Troy for seeing the value in hiring individuals with disabilities. If you happen to patronize any of these businesses, please thank them for their support – we could not do what we do without the community partnering with us.

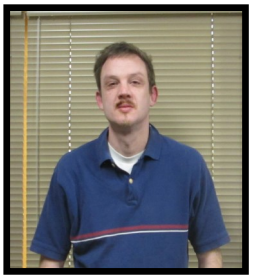
In June, the 6 week Summer Work Experience Program started. We welcomed back Allison Fennewald as a Job Coach for this session and four Summer Work Experience Students – Hannah T, Travis B, Tyler B, and Zachary S and Mercy Lincoln as our partner site.
This program is for students who are going into their Senior year and provides an opportunity to experience several employment areas. We were fortunate to have Mercy Lincoln be our host site. The four students were able to work alongside Mercy employees in Linen, Dietary, Environmental Services, Patient Services, Community Relations and Maintenance. The students learned valuable skills that will help them in their future employment goals. We painted loading docks, spruced up the grounds, assisted with laundry, provided help in the kitchen and environmental services, spent some time helping patients and in the gift shop.

We are looking forward to the continuation of our busy year this next quarter and as always we ask if anyone sees or hears of any job opportunities or potential job opportunities, to please let Chris, Dave or Donna know. It truly takes us working as a team to make Employment Services successful.

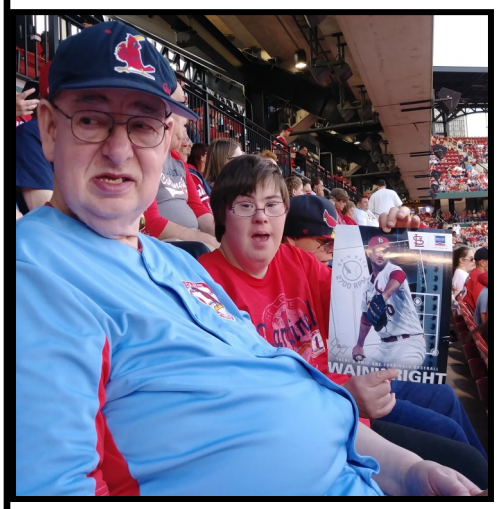


Welcome to Cauy C, Carol H, Breonna T, Doug P, and Austin W. into Employment Services.

Congratulations went out to Alexis C, Adam R, Richard P, and Andrew L.

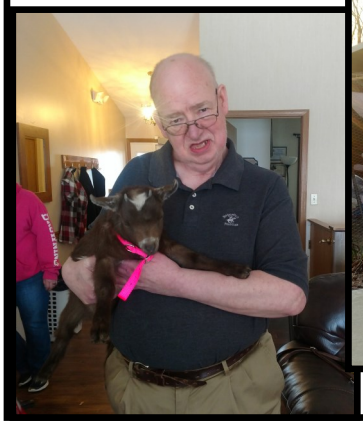


Baseball makes everything better!

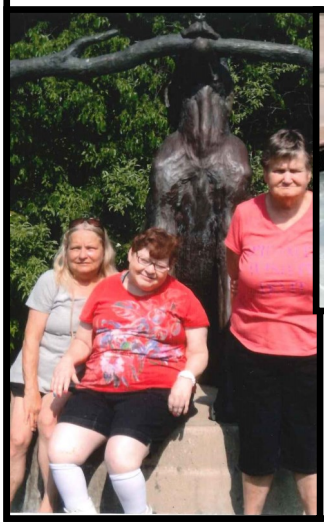


Day Program got into the Opening Day spirit! Community Opportunities received a few tickets to the May 1 game. The Cardinals edged out the Chicago White Sox with two runs in the bottom of the 9th!

During a free evening, Terry spent his time with his staff's farm animals. Terry held, petted and talked to his chicken friend for 30 minutes. Terry loves animals and any chance he gets, he'll take it to spend time with animals. Jerry got to hold one of the staff's goats staff brought in to visit. Everyone enjoyed baby chickens & goats.



Teresa & Kay went on a mini vacation in June with staff Millie to the Tievoli Hills Resort. They got to go swimming. They had so much fun.



FLOWERS!

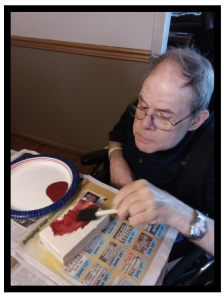
Andrea and Colin from Troy Flower stopped by on June 2 and they brought part of the flower shop with them!

Jackie and Sarah playing a game while waiting on dessert to finish cooking.

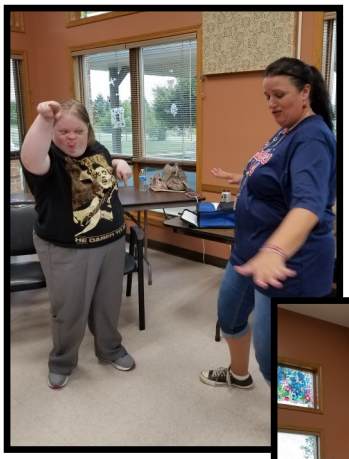
Day Program hosted a shower for Shawna on May 24. Lilian Kay Harper arrived at 7:05 am on Friday, July 13. Lily weighed in at 6 lbs., 13 oz. and was 19 inches long.

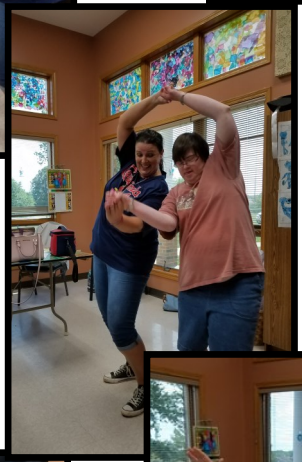
Sunflower Faces!!

Doug, Sarah and Steven made fire-cracker decorations for their house.



DANCE PARTY!





FRIENDLY FACES

Name: Josh Cirincione

Family and pets? My dad's name is Lewis. My brother's name is Michael, my sister-in-law's name is Carla she is my brother's wife, my nieces and nephews name is Marissa, Kaitlyn, and Zachary. They are my brothers kids. My sister's name is Stacy, my nephew's name is Evan. It is my sister's kid. My mom's name is Christine but she died when I was a kid.

Favorite vacation? I never went on an actual family vacation. But when my mom was alive, she and my stepdad would take me to the creek every weekend. Those were some of my favorite memories as a kid.

Who inspires you? Anybody who won't give up on their dreams. Even if it's really hard.

What unique talent do you have or hobby? I love learning about ancient history, religion, myth, civilizations and mysteries.

What is the best surprise you have ever received? A video game.

What is your favorite song? ***"Miracles"*** by Stone Sour

The movie version of my life should be titled? *"A Series of Unfortunate Events"*

My favorite physical activity is... Fishing and exercise

One thing people are surprised to find out about me is…. My fantasy is to be in MMA fighter

If I were a superhero I would be…. Super! LOL

What are you passionate about? Studying ancient history, archaeology, and writing short stories.

What is your favorite family tradition? Eating spaghetti

Pet peeve? When someone stands in front of the TV while you are watching it, and when a female calls me dude

What is the best meal you have ever had? Homemade burritos

Jackie was busy planting flowers at home this past May. Jackie enjoys gardening both at home and helping with the gardens at the Program Building.

Jackie in a go cart going FULL THROTTLE, on Father's Day, a ride in remembrance of her dad.