JULY 2023

Summer Spotlight

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Employment Resources, Adapt's Supported Employment program, is once again operating the Summer Youth Program. The program started in June and runs through August. The Summer Youth Program provides students aged 15-18 years with work-based learning experiences. The program is a collaborative effort between Adapt, Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS), Coldwater Community -

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Picture from left to right; Carey Nozil, Taner Bassage, Natasha Copas, and Chloe Siler

Summer Spotlight continued...

Schools, the Branch Intermediate School District (BISD), and the Branch Area Career Center (BACC). Employment Resources assists with transportation and provides Job Coaching to the students.

Each student has spent two hours in soft skills training (interacting with peers and supervisors, how to dress for work, how to follow instructions, work ethic, attendance, etc.) to prepare for their real work experience. This year we are fortunate to work with Indiana Pokagon State Park. Outdoor work is performed daily unless it rains, and then indoor work is performed. Weeding, trimming, and janitorial are the main duties.

Students complete four weeks of work experience, working 20 hours a week, earning minimum wage. There are two of these four-week sessions and four students enrolled in each session. During the first session, there was one student who decided the program was not for her. Students who have finished the 1st session met and ate lunch at the Potawatomi Inn on July 7th. Tammy from Pokagon thanked each student with a small gift AND offered them direct employment next summer!

Employment Resources

Alan Pomranka was referred to us by Michigan Rehabilitation Services. Alan uses a wheelchair and was having great difficulty finding suitable employment. He has a shining personality, is pleasant and friendly, and is capable of doing many jobs.

Amy, our Job Developer/Job Coach began working with Alan. They contacted several employers before finding the perfect job match. Alan was growing very concerned that he was not being given the chance to prove he could be a valuable employee.

Employment Resources

Continued…

Amy worked tirelessly and was determined to find Alan the perfect job. She visited Holiday Inn and successfully secured Alan a job as nighttime desk auditor. He started the position with a four-week period of on-the-job evaluation (where Adapt remains the employer of record). After two weeks, Holiday Inn Express notified Alan and Amy that they wanted to hire Alan directly. Alan is now an Employee of Holiday Inn Express and doing an amazing job.

Alan and Amy formed a genuine relationship which is the cornerstone for making a successful job/worker match. We are so proud of them both, for Amy's determination and skills at developing jobs and for Alan's perseverance, work ethic, and strong interpersonal skills.

Thank you Amy and Alan for another example what hard work does when we are in service to others!

COMPLIANCE REMINDER

Documentation

Documentation is how ADAPT justifies the services we provide to our folks. Remember to date your signature, complete all documentation by the end of your shift, and inform your supervisor if you find a concern , such as the prior note missing a dated signature. This is easy to fix the next day.

—Mellisa Rice 07/14/2023—

Food Drive

The CLS Day Program in Branch County conducted its first food drive in March. All program participants received a flyer and were encouraged to participate and spread the news! The Food Drive was also featured on Adapt's Facebook page. The day program had a goal that was quickly met. Throughout the month, program participants organized and took inventory of every donated item, ensuring every item was well within the expiration date and in good condition. At the end of March, Adapt donated over 50 pounds of food to the local Food Pantry, where day program participants regularly volunteer. Donations were also made to area women and teen shelters, and to many of the local Blessing Boxes in Coldwater. Well done to everyone who participated in the Food Drive!

Our next project is going to be a food and supply drive for Branch County Humane Society

Jeri Briner, Phil Taylor, and Robert Palmateer are stocking just one of the Blessing Boxes.

Ricky Bauder top) and Tammy Macklin (bottom) were at another Blessing Box location assisting with donating many other items.

Carnival Days in Sturgis

June brought the carnival to the Sturgis Day Program!
We had an exciting day playing carnival games serving up corn dogs and walking tacos. The afternoon was filled with photo booth opportunities, BINGO in our fabulous gazebo, and of course a dance party on the lawn. There were smiles and prizes all around.

Cathy Webb pictured above

Our volunteers: Jody Dobrowolski, Nancy Kamp, Priscilla Bathgate, Schaide Maitland

Wesley Moran pictured above

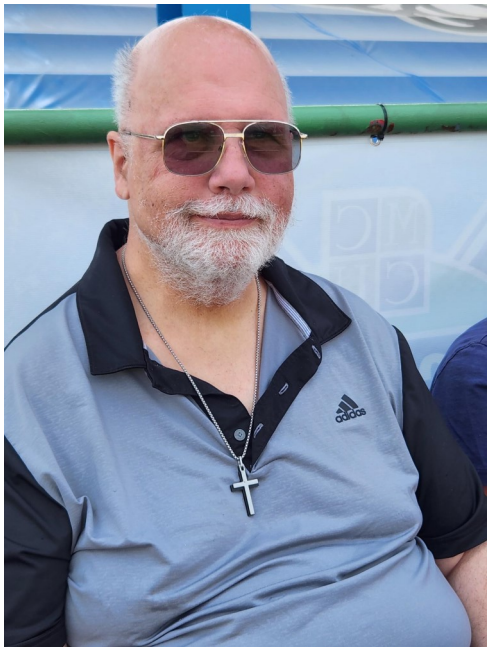
Lucas Miller and Sam Kline pictured to the right.

Annual Battle Jacks Ballgame

July found Adapt at the Battle Jack's baseball game in Battle Creek. Both day programs and several residents from the homes were in attendance. Our Battle Jack's didn't win but that never hinders our enthusiasm for a great day at the ballpark.

Amy Bennett, Torie Kamp, and Joseph Pecuan

Josh Workman



Al Bumann

Outlook Clubhouse

Outlook Clubhouse had its second accreditation review with Clubhouse International from April 12th through the 14th. A Clubhouse International accreditation review is a systematic review of the entire Clubhouse program to ensure they are following all 37 standards developed by Clubhouse International. A two-person team, made up of a director and a member from another accredited Clubhouse, spent 3 days with Outlook Clubhouse. Both member and director interviewed Outlook's members, employees, director, advisory board, and administrative personnel about the program. The survey team participated in the work ordered day, visited work sites, met with Outlook's advisory board, and reviewed paperwork.

The final day was an exciting day where all those Continue reading page 7

Pictured Outlook's Brittany Hantz and Ray Spencer, and John Hayes from Carriage House

invested in Outlook Clubhouse heard the outcomes from the accreditation process. Outlook had a strong audience consisting of all its members, colleagues from Adapt, and a representative from Pines Behavioral Health. The Clubhouse International survey team reviewed every International standard and was impressed by the Outlook program, as well as the overall culture of our Clubhouse.

Outlook's accreditation team was made up of Andrew (Andy) Wilson and John Hayes from Carriage House in Fort Wayne Indiana. They made the accreditation visit very comfortable and offered ideas on how to improve our program. Most importantly, we are welcome to call them with any questions in the future.

Congratulations Outlook Clubhouse!