

We believe it is our mission to support individuals with disabilities by encouraging and assisting them to accomplish health and fitness goals, value personal goals, and a sense of belonging in their home and community. We will provide a supportive atmosphere of love, care, acceptance, dignity, and respect while upholding their right to:

- BE FREE TO MAKE DECISIONS/CHOICES
- BE AN INTEGRAL MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH THEY LIVE
- BE THE BEST THAT THEY HAVE THE DESIRE TO BECOME



Trout Dinner

Program Manager, Kyle Collins, honored Alex (pictured) with a fishing day at a trout farm. Soon after, and with the guidance of Alex's host parent, Tony Johnson, he prepared a delicious trout dinner plated with a side of steamed veggies!



Birthday Fun in the Sun

Our program managers try to always go the extra mile to build positive relationships with their consumers. Above, Jennifer shows off a happy grin at the regional pool party, after receiving her birthday card from Kansas City Program Manager, Megan Mehamn.



restoring hope

Restoring hope one relationship at a time.



Life - It's More Fun With Friends!

Wendy Callahan, Erin Brawley, and Veronica Snyder (left to right) group up for a happy team embrace at the Cardinals Busch Stadium in St. Louis, MO. Jessica Wallace, St. Louis Program Manager and Christian Carmona-Velasco spend some quality cuddling time at the beach under a nice shaded tent, while on Christian's Make-A-Wish trip to Disney.

Our Lifeblood: Relationships

BY WHITLEY LEMON

If someone ever told you that this job - social work, caregiving, advocating, teaching, and mentoring persons with developmental disabilities was easy, they were sorely mistaken. There's sound validity in the statement that anything truly worth achieving comes with a hefty price tag. Relationships are no exception to the rule. Bestselling author, Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi offers an interesting perspective on the transpiration of relationships, "People believe that friendships happen naturally, and if they fail, there is nothing to be done about it but feel sorry for oneself. In adolescence, when so many interests are shared with others and one has great stretches of free time to invest in a relationship, making friends might feel like a spontaneous process. But later in life, friendships rarely happen by chance; one must cultivate them as assiduously as one might cultivate a job or a family." So, as if it wasn't challenging enough to make friends, throwing in heavy doses of either sexual, verbal, and/or physically traumatic life experiences, not only causes some to build a hypothetical fortress of brick and reinforced steel to protect themselves, but attaining lasting and fulfilling relationships with others can feel like venturing into uninhabitable and post-nuclear territory. Not safe.

So, what do we do about this? How do we clear the path and run our hands through this painful and hopeless theoretical mirage for others and in many cases ourselves? This feeling of being unloved, no good, damaged? We take down brick after brick, cut through steel, clear out the rubble, dust each other off, and allow ourselves to be vulnerable. We give all we have to restore hope one relationship at a time through not only our words, but we show up, we reach out, and we simply CARE. Relationships are essential to our livelihood. "Life is not meant to do alone." It's physiologically, psychologically, and spiritually unhealthy to lack connection with others. Reflect with me just a moment. Think of a time you received an unexpectedly kind note in the mail, maybe someone bought you a coffee - just because. A friend showed up at your parents' visitation to convey how they care and to give you a tearful hug. Perhaps you received an encouraging text message out of the blue or a face-to-face and heart-felt apology from someone who deeply hurt you. Or perhaps you finally after all this time get a genuine smile from someone who hasn't opened up to you until that point. This is real life. Real pain, joy, expression, friendship, vulnerability - it's raw, it's relational, it's hard work - but our bodies and souls need it!

You may have heard us say this before, but relationships remain our constant core foundation, the lifeblood of our agency. It's why we not only exist today, but continue to experience substantial growth. It's why we continue to see and feel the positive impact on the lives of those whom we serve. It's why our programs and model work! Success follows because of our diligent efforts in connecting individuals and families with quality services that support them in finding belonging amongst family, their schools, in businesses, and within their communities. But it is the successes that arise from the lives of our clients and caregivers that we are most proud of, and it all begins and ends with relationships.



ART SHOW

So much effort, preparation, and creativity went into our first-ever annual Excel Art Show! Categories individuals were able to submit pieces in consisted of pottery, miscellaneous, drawing, and painting. Pictured below, Mitchell Barclay won Best in Show for his imaginative dragon painting. He also created and designed his very own frame for his piece - how creative, right?! We cannot wait to see what the next Excel Art Show has in store!



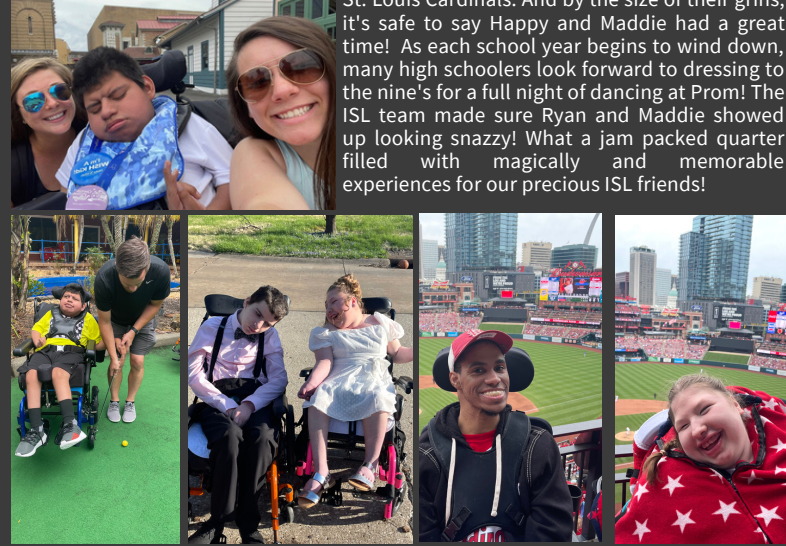
CURRICULUM AND CONNECTION

Our Excel Program may look like all fun and games, but don't let these pictures fool you. Each day Excel individuals are provided a structured and tailored curriculum that not only establishes balance and routine, but is helping instill life skills, build independence, and bolster self-sufficiency. Pictured just below and left, is our Nixa group gathered to discuss creating a personal budget. By following the forum model, individuals experience a very interactive daily lesson and in this case followed up with an afternoon activity where they put their skills to the test while shopping at Walmart. Individuals additionally were encouraged to make a list of items that would be on their monthly budget, compare prices at different stores, all to see what best fits their budget. Our Buffalo location has just opened and will begin kicking off their curriculum as more individuals begin participating in our program where every person matters, everyone moment counts, and everyone can excel!



MAGICAL MEMORIES

Christian, Ryan and a few amazing staff within our St. Louis region embarked on a magical and unforgettable journey to Disney to help support Christian on his Make-A-Wish trip! The group enjoyed many park attractions, putt-putt golf, the beach, and so much more. Everyone had a blast, especially Christian! Additionally in the St. Louis region, a couple of ISL friends, Happy and Maddie, along with a few other agency Program Managers were gifted tickets from Veronica Snyder, Kirksville Program Manager to watch the St. Louis Cardinals. And by the size of their grins, it's safe to say Happy and Maddie had a great time! As each school year begins to wind down, many high schoolers look forward to dressing to the nine's for a full night of dancing at Prom! The ISL team made sure Ryan and Maddie showed up looking snazzy! What a jam packed quarter filled with magically and memorable experiences for our precious ISL friends!



Medical ISL - Lincoln

HIGHEST QUALITY OF LIFE

"The ISL is enjoying some summer fun and eagerly awaiting the opening of the second home. The team at the Central MO ISL is outstanding and go above and beyond daily for our boys. Some of the biggest hearts anyone could ask for. Mr. Trent shared a little about what he thinks of the summer thus far, "this is the funnest summer I've ever had". Some of the activities so far include: water gun fights with staff and house mates, water balloon fights, pool noodle tag, painting with water guns, two local baseball games, one softball game, church services on Wednesdays and Sundays, Jubilee days including an exotic petting zoo, and even a fishing day. Nothing has been officially planned out and everyone takes the initiative to make sure the boys have an amazing quality of life beyond the minimum daily tasks. RH has the absolute best people who see our clients as people and not a job." - Aaron Harms, Program Manager Central Missouri Region



Anniversary Dates

Each quarter we continue to grow and grow! So, for our contractors and staff who started their journey with us between April - June, we want to say thank you, for their year/s of service to others!

Contractors

13-14 Years

Becky Smith

11-12 Years

Tony Johnson, Donald Plevka, Carrissa Plevka

9-10 Years

Charity Yardley, Jaimee Wolfard, Phil Pietroburgo, Jill Pietroburgo, Margaret Rothschiller

7-8 Years

Emily Gillaspay, Teresa Dowell, Roy Dowell, Chandra Stratton, Randy Swanigan, Liz Brake, Gaila Tackitt

5-6 Years

David Emmons, Jackie Blancett, Kathy Blancett, Judy Cato, Haley Cauthron, Kimberly Childress, Glenn Childress, Charlie Stevens, Kimberle Yates, Jairus Yates, Batya Emunah, Zerubbabel Emunah, Heather Montez, Christopher Montez

3-4 Years

Chasity Johnson, Summer Conaway-

Armilio, Brittney Cooper, Valeriu Ionita, Jose Montalvo, Nikolai Neal, Christina Oller, Gary Oller, Liviu Roscan, Olga Roscan, Andrey Seu, Tanya Seu, Bruce Brown, Marilou Brown, Jessica Chester, Brian Chester, Slavik Mechenko, Anna Mechenko, Betrina McComb, Clifford McComb, Angel Morrow, Jesse Morrow, Lois Randall, Harold Randall, Marty Sauerbrei, Jason Sauerbrei, Gayla Schepker, Kindra Eden, Kael Eden, Elvia Eden, Jill Carter, Timothy Carter, Donna Craft, Michael Fisher

1-2 Years

Lyniece Brown, Andrew Brown, Wendy Hawkins, Greg Hawkins, Jasmine Wright-Kessio, Martha Baskett, Liz Cook, Jacob Highley, Jason Hodges, Julia Phelps, Del Purtee, April Purtee, Tanya M. Seu, Williams Snider, Susan Stevens, John White, Cindy White, Dalton Brake, Catelin Davis, Mandy Bunch, Darren Bunch, Hope Cross, Ben Cross, Diana Wells, Aniyah Crawford



Staff

3-4 Years

Amber Ebeling, Aaron Harms, MacKenzie Howard

1-2 Years

April Chambers, Erin Brawley, Ashleigh Barnett, Abigail Scharbach, Scott Stricklin, Hillary Dulaban, Megan Meehan



Class of 2022 Graduates



PROJECT HOPE - BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

Each year the Restoring Hope team thoughtfully decides upon a cause to make our focus for Project Hope. Once a consensus has been reached we work with our amazing Host Homes, team members, and community to fill the needs of those deemed less fortunate in our local communities.

This year we chose **Birthday Blessings**, which is an incredible organization that helps provide not only birthday cheer to the foster youth of our surrounding and far outreaching counties within the state, but they also help deliver hygiene items, transitional needs, and school supplies!

Pictured right, Wendy Callahan and Erin Brawley are dropping off, only our first large donation! A great deal more was collected to donate since. All of this and more was made possible by our friends, families, and the support of our community! And we couldn't be more grateful and proud of each and everyone of you who made a difference in the lives of our foster youth! Thank you.

Still want to donate? Go to: smile.amazon.com, to donate items to **Birthday Blessings!**



Resources for our Families

Missouri Family to Family - hosts Good Life Groups (geared toward various age groups, caregivers, siblings) to provide support to the developmentally disabled community. It's all virtual through Zoom to provide our friends, caregivers and guardians with information and resources.

W: <https://mofamilytofamily.org> | P: 1.800.444.0821

Delta Dental - has developed an online Dental Care Resource Guide that lists 135 dental clinics across the state that provide low cost or free dental care. It's broken up by region so you can click on the area you are searching for and not have to sift through a lot of extra information. They also have a link on their website to Dept. of Health and Senior Services list of free or low cost transportation services to assist with travel to and from appointments.

W: www.DeltaDentalMO.com/ResourceGuide1

Midwest Special Needs Trust - ensures you as a consumer, caregiver, or case manager understand financial options available to persons with disabilities, special needs trusts, ABLE accounts, important considerations, charitable grant programs.

E: grants@midwestspecialneedstrust.org | P: 573.256.5055

Prom King

Grary Slayton was voted Prom King at his High School Prom, for no doubt being an exceptionally hard worker and a kind young man to his peers and school faculty!



Work Program

Christian Padron giving a big thumbs up in front of Pizza Ranch, where he works. We love celebrating with our clients as they succeed in the goals they set out to achieve!



Champion of Mental Health

Tony Johnson, shows his support for Robbie Dean at the Mental Health Champions Banquet in Jeff City, MO where Robbie was honored as one of this year's outstanding nominees!



Upcoming Events

Springfield | Pool Party

July 21st | 6:15-8pm | Neal Grubaugh City Pool | 907 E Parkview St, Ozark, MO 65721

r3 Conference

Aug 6th | 10am-3pm | Wonderland Camp 18591 Miller Circle, Rocky Mount, MO 65072

Stay current with upcoming events by visiting our website at: werestorehope.com > About Us > Events



reach. restore. repeat.

What to Expect

Behavioral Tips

Family Resources

Giveaways

Full Day at Wonderland Camp!



Conference T- Shirt Design Contest Winner:
Jesse Crooks

Tax Help

Tech Support

Q&A Panel

Networking with other Families

Keynote Speakers



Dr. Christine Woods

Crowned Counseling
Asst. Teaching Professor & BSW Program Director at University of Missouri, Counselor/Therapist



Robert Cox, LPC

Life Recovery Consulting
Owner/Therapist

Watch our story and find even more resources on our site!

www.werestorehope.com

Connect with us:



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"To make a difference in someone's life, you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful, or perfect. You just have to care." - Mandy Hale