

Adult Day Services

Innovations in Learning

April 2015

Effective Teaching – SUCCESSFUL Learning

PROGRAMMING

We are stretching our Disability Awareness theme into April, in honor of National Autism Awareness Month. Show your support on April 1 and 2 by WEARING BLUE! As is a tradition at Innovations, we will once again be sponsoring a team for WALKNOW for Autism Speaks on May 16, 2015. If you are interested in joining us this year, log onto <http://www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/chicago/innovationsinlearning46410> Fundraising efforts will be taking place throughout the month, as well as many fun activities throughout the agency. April 6-10 will be our SPIRIT WEEK. Show your Innovations spirit by dressing in style!

Monday, April 6: Crazy Hair/Hat/Innovations Spirit Wear
Tuesday, April 7: Sports Day
Wednesday, April 8: Superhero/Character Day
Thursday, April 9: Pajama Day
Friday, April 10: Mismatch Day

Put your creativity to good use. Innovations is looking for a new tshirt design for this year's walk shirt. If you would like to enter a design into the contest, please do so by April 23. Entries can be turned into the front office and will go on display for voting at the Blues Fest. Order forms were sent home, be sure to preorder your shirt. No shirts will be sold after April 30.

SAVE THE DATE: April 24 will be our 2nd Annual Blues Fest. This is a fun fundraising event, and all proceeds will be donated to Autism Speaks and Prevent Child Abuse Lake County. This year's fest will be even more important for each of you to attend as this is when you will have the chance to vote on your favorite essay and art project. Prizes will be awarded! Flyers will be sent home as the date approaches.

This month's theme is "Learn and Grow". Our focus will be an introduction on how things grow, both physically and emotionally. The Growing Piece will also be making some special visits to teach us all how to grow something from a seedling.

Some of our new groups are rolling out this month. With those changes, the communication sheets will also be updated, so take a look at what is new. As promised, we are continuing to work on our data collection process with great improvements to come as well. We were hoping to roll out the new format of monthly reports already, but sometimes things don't go as fast as expected. They will be coming out soon, hopefully within this next month. Please let Jennifer Ferrara know if you have any questions.

In March, each classroom participated in a group art activity in support of "Chairish the Children", a fundraiser and awareness event for Prevent Child Abuse Lake County. Chairs are on display throughout the month of April at the Lake County Visitor's Center in Hammond. If you get a chance, go check them out and vote for your favorite.



In observance of Good Friday,
Innovations Day Program will be
CLOSED on April 3, 2015

THE GROWING PIECE

The Growing Piece is dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals with Autism and related Intellectual Disabilities by providing meaningful employment and relevant skills training; while ensuring a supportive and positive environment that helps each person achieve his or her individual potential. *The Growing Piece* is currently looking for clients, family members, and other interested individuals that may be interested joining in this new opportunity. More information will be coming home this month, you may also contact Jennifer Ferrara or Bridget Harrison at any time.

STAFFING

Congratulations to Kasey Westerland. She has been promoted to a new position at Innovations, ADI Trainer. We are excited about this new opportunity for her, as she helps us improve our training process of all Day Services employees. If you see her, please give her a big CONGRATS!

Stride: Sierra, Jacqui (supervisor: Stacey)

Shine: Todd, Katie, Dawn, Michele, Wendy (supervisor: Stacey)

Leap: Kasey, Robert, Sierra, Carlos, Ray, Tiffanie (supervisor: Anie)

Life: Heather, Jim, Stacey G, Michelle, Tiffany (supervisor: Anie)

COMMUNITY HABILITATION

Please note your outing day. If you need to arrive late or early on that scheduled outing day, please speak with your Program Supervisor to make arrangements in advance.

Life: Monday

4/6: No Outing

4/13: Lake County Visitor's Center: *Chairish the Children*

4/20: Local Farm stand

4/27: Bowling and Pizza (\$10 fee, due 4/24)

Stride: Tuesday

4/7: Crown Point YMCA

4/14: Lake County Visitor's Center: *Chairish the Children*

4/21: Local Farm stand

4/28: Volunteering: TBA

Shine: Wednesday

4/1: Library and Shopping

4/8: Crown Point YMCA

4/15: Lake County Visitor's Center: *Chairish the Children*

4/22: Local Farm stand

Leap: Thursday

4/2: Crown Point YMCA

4/9: Lake County Visitor's Center: *Chairish the Children*

4/16: Grocery Shopping

4/23: Local Farm stand