

BE THE SPARK

Supporting People with developmental disabilities through Advocacy, Resources, and Kindness

JCBS NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2023 EDITION



April is
**Autism
Acceptance
Month**



National Autism Acceptance Month aims to show support, inclusion, and acceptance for individuals diagnosed with Autism. The CEO of Autism Society of America, Christopher Banks stated in an interview with USA Today that awareness is knowing that somebody has autism and acceptance is when you include a person with autism in your activities and community.

In 2023, the CDC reported that there are approximately 1 in 36 children in the United States diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

Here are a few ways you can celebrate this month!

Spread awareness in your community!
Social media is a great tool.

Celebrate differences, but also celebrate your similarities! People with Autism are just like YOU.

Educate your family. There are many books to help introduce the topic of Autism to your children or loved ones.

Spread kindness! Make the world a more inclusive place and spread positivity!

UPDATES

Page 2 – Take a look at what we've been up to lately

SPOTLIGHT

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SAVE THE DATE

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Letter from the director



Do you ever hear a word or phrase that once you hear it, you can't stop thinking about it? Last week, I had the opportunity to listen to a presentation by Chris Worth, graduate research assistant and instructor at the University of Missouri – St. Louis.

During his presentation, which was about UMSL Succeed, an incredible postsecondary education program for young adults with intellectual disabilities, he used the term, "messy inclusion." He referred to "messy inclusion" as the student's right to make decisions is not contingent upon making the right decisions. Think about that for a moment.

He used the example of a student not showing up for one of their classes, like an early morning Monday class. He said no one is going to make them go to class as no one would show up to your dorm room and make you go to class.

Hopefully, we all have a good support system to give us advice and encourage us along the way, but we're still allowed to make bad decisions. Life is filled with good and bad decisions! It's truly how we learn from our mistakes.

The article Chris co-wrote called, "Messy Inclusion: A Call for Dignity of Risk in Inclusive Post Secondary Education," states, "To strike a balance between risk, dignity, and choice, we must begin by educating...through modeling and providing an authentic experience." "In messy inclusion, we recognize that there is a piece of identity and value that comes out of making a mistake."

I'd love to hear your thoughts on messy inclusion. We close with our mission statement, SPARK: Supporting People with developmental disabilities through Advocacy, Resources, and Kindness (and mistakes!)

COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZE DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY!

On March 21st, 2023, the Johnson County Commissioners met with us at the RISE Center for Growth – Day Program building to make a proclamation for Down Syndrome Awareness Day! We appreciate our County Commissioners for taking the time to get to know the individuals we serve and making it possible for us to continue our mission to SPARK!

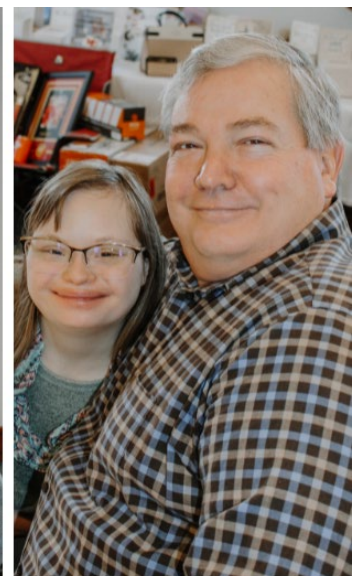


BRUNCH & BUBBLY RECAP!

Our Foundation's Brunch & Bubbly was bigger than ever! We saw a lot of familiar faces and met a lot of new people as well. During the Brunch & Bubbly, we recognized Larry Ficken, the former President and Vice President for the JCBS Board of Directors. Larry was on the Board for 18 years and has been instrumental in many of the changes at JCBS.

Our Foundation wants to thank everyone who attended, our sponsors, raffle donors, and volunteers! Because of them, our Foundation was able to raise nearly **\$13,000!**

Big thank you to Mary Jane's Café for catering our delicious brunch, to Weston Tobacco for providing our bar, and lastly thank you to the band, Manda Shea & The Sumpthin' Brothers!



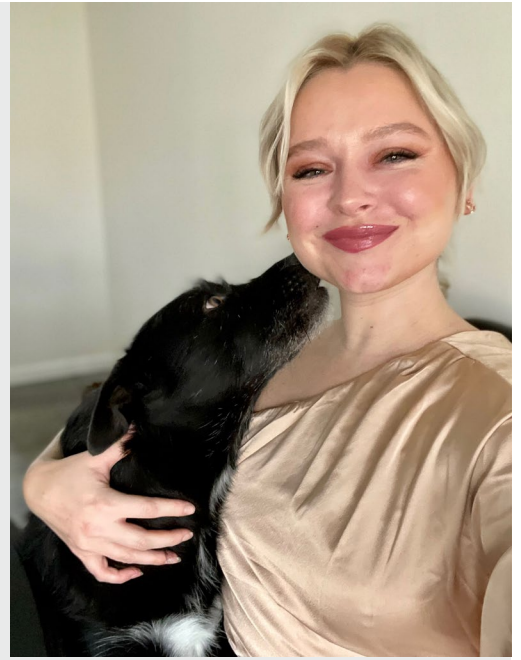
Meet Allie, our new Targeted Case Manager!

Allie Martin is originally from Ohio, but grew up in Houston, Texas. She has a BA in Criminology and a Texas Teaching License from the University of Texas-Dallas. Allie has multiple hobbies like practicing yoga/meditation, watching, and attending sporting events, and reading.

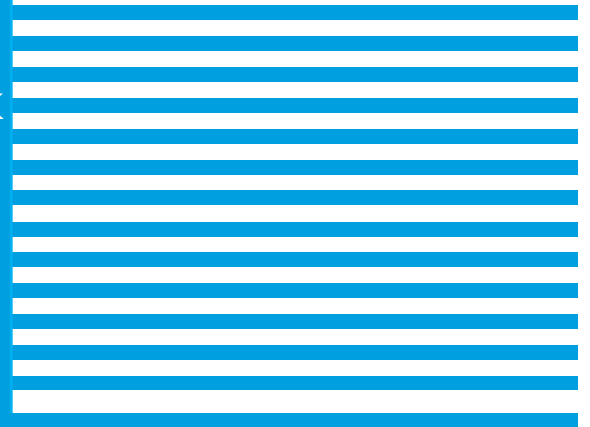
Fun Fact: Allie tries to read one book a week! She likes to read fantasy/historical retelling novels. If Allie could travel anywhere in the world, she would go to New Zealand and take the Lord of the Rings walking tour. Who wouldn't want to see The Shire in real life?!

Another fun fact about Allie is she has met a lot of celebrities. Her most notable encounter was with Ed Sheeran who designed her first tattoo! Not many people can say that, we think she may be the only person who can say that!

Allie, we are happy to have you on our team!



"I chose JCBS because I wanted to work for an organization that focused on helping locals in the community through positive outreach" – Allie Martin



SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, May 16th 2023

BRIGHT SOX

We have secured a field for the Bright Sox Softball League! Our first game will be on Tuesday, May 16th at 6:30 PM* (*time subject to change). We will be alternating weeks like we did last year. We will play for 6 weeks, and we have 2 extra rain-out days scheduled. We will be playing at the same field as last year, Lion's Lake.

In April, we will be working on getting the information to you all so please be on the lookout! Most information will be shared on our Facebook page. Our Targeted Case Managers will also be emailing our registration link. See you soon!



RESOURCES

Contact US

<https://www.jcbs.com/our-team/>

Missouri Family to Family Good Life Classes

Missouri Family to Family offers many different Good Life Classes, ranging from educational classes, to support groups, and to groups who are just wanting to relax and meet new people. Follow the link below to see the upcoming Good Life classes! These classes are all free and we encourage our individuals and families to attend!

<https://mofamilytofamily.org/events/>

Charting the LifeCourse Tools

Charting the LifeCourse is designed to be used for your own life, for your family members, or in the work you do. The framework and tools will help you organize your ideas, vision, and goals, as well as problem-solve, navigate, and advocate for supports.

<http://www.lifecoursetools.com/>

Public Notice

Quarterly Board Meetings are held via Zoom or in person at the Johnson County Board of Services office located at 200 N Devasher, Warrensburg, MO 64093. Meetings are held quarterly on the third Tuesday of that month. Meetings dates are subject to change with notice. Please see our website for meeting information: **JCMBS.COM/PUBLIC-NOTICE/**

May 16th, 2023

August 15th, 2023

November 21st, 2023

February 20th, 2024

Need help with Medicaid?

Contact Liz Hargrave

ehargrave@jcbs.com

(660) 240-3343 EXT 708



Targeted Case Management Satisfaction Survey

Identification of Researchers:

This survey is being done by the Johnson County Board of Services.

Purpose of the Survey:

The purpose of this survey will help JCBS improve our services to the individuals we serve and their families.

Request for Participation:

We are inviting you to participate in a survey on the Johnson County Board of Services.

It is up to you whether you would like to participate. If you decide not to participate, you will not be penalized in any way. You can also decide to stop at any time without penalty. If you do not wish to answer any of the questions, you may simply skip them. If you wish to withdraw, please close the browser before submitting, at the end of the survey. Once you submit the survey, we will keep the information you provided confidentially.

Privacy:

All of the information we collect will be kept confidential. Your confidentiality will be maintained to the degree permitted by the technology used. Specifically, no guarantees can be made regarding the interception of data sent via the Internet by any third parties.

Explanation of Risks:

Completing this survey will NOT negatively affect your services.

Explanation of Benefits:

Completing this survey will help provide feedback for JCBS.

Questions

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Melissa Frey at mfrey@jcbs.com.

This survey takes approximately 5-10 minutes to complete

Don't forget to us how we are doing! Complete our now online TCM Satisfaction Survey!

shorturl.at/qtwn8