#### VOL. 5, NO. 3 | APRIL 2024

#### **MISSION:**

We believe our mission is to support individuals with disabilities by encouraging and assisting them to accomplish health and fitness goals, valued personal goals, and a sense of belonging in their homes and communities. 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



#### Arriving In Style

With the help of Kevin and Emily Styles, his host home parents, Austin Deshields attended #nighttoshine2024. Looking and feeling his best, Austin arrived in a matching tux and limousine, ready to dance the night away!



#### Easter Egg Excitement

Michelle Brooks and Kayla Baker, West Plains ISL clients, had a great time dying eggs with staff. Our agency strives to create a meaningful life every day, lasting memories, and strengthened relationships for our clients.



Disability Rights Legislative Day @ Capital
March 13th marked a day that many within our community
look forward to each year. At Disability Rights Legislative Day,
there was a lively rally and an opportunity for self-advocates,
parents, and caregivers to speak with legislators about what
matters most to them. Danielle Coffey shared, "Not only did our
clients have a chance to advocate for themselves, but we were
also able to give them hope that their future may be even
brighter, and that's really what Restoring Hope is all about."
Read more about DRLD in our recent blog posts!

# restoring hope

Restoring hope one relationship at a time.



Rewards of Working Together - It's a Lot of Fun!

Pictured above in the top row, left to right, Rachel McDonald and Melonie Bradshaw, and in the bottom row, Teira Grider and Kyli Plowman, are grouped at the Springfield r3 SUMMIT. Pictured right above, from left to right, Patrick and Phillip are working together to clean gym equipment at the Lebanon YMCA through their volunteer partnership program.

# Relationships and Resources

When you think about Restoring Hope, what first comes to mind? Is it our Host Home model that provides a home and family setting for an individual who would otherwise be without? Or Excel Day Program and the new community outings each participant experiences? Perhaps you think about our medically fragile clients being cared for while living in a medically-equipped home setting ISL that provides clients the best life possible. Or our Out-of-Home Respite services that give natural families a break they so desperately need from the round-the-clock support they give to their loved one(s). I wholeheartedly love the name of this agency because, at the end of the day, no matter what new service we may begin providing or the new area we expand in, we are restoring hope! The feeling is palpable from top to bottom and from east to west. From staff, caregivers, to our clients, lives are being transformed.

Restoring Hope offers and provides a myriad of resources to Missourians. Our agency has begun offering something new: the r3 Conference and, more recently, the r3 SUMMITs. Heading into year three of the r3 Conference, we are excited about the venue, Camp Barnabas, as it will offer clients even better options for a day of fun for free! Also, caregiver attendees can connect with like-minded people across the state with vast experience, thoughts, ideas, and stories to share themselves. Jeff Smith said it best at our r3 SUMMITs, "Sometimes we think in the mindset of consumers, what am I going to get from it rather than thinking through what might be a value that I would be bringing to that event or to that conference. So I want to really challenge you to try to be there." Thinking outwardly instead of inwardly when it comes to these events fuels your purpose in attending. What if your story helps a fellow caregiver have a successful life with a troubled client? That's huge! The r3 SUMMITs in March were held in Springfield, West Plains, and Sedalia. We heard from guest speakers Ryan Pace, Director of School Safety in the Branson Schools; Dr. Chad Lewis, Board Certified Behavioral Analyst; Britnea Monaco, Board Certified Behavioral Analyst; and Jeff Smith, Co-Owner of Restoring Hope. Each speaker provided new insight to their audience, humor, insightfulness, and strategies to help and encourage us to never give up on others and remember always to live a life of meaningfulness.

Community involvement and integration are also a huge part of Restoring Hope. Our Excel Day Program and WORKS Employment Services are hyper-focused on getting participants into the community for recreational activities and personal development. These services provide an additional resource to caregivers, so clients have somewhere to go during the day and develop independence to be utilized at home and in the community. Participants learn about healthy relationships, folding laundry, money handling, cooking, and personal care, to name a few! They build life-long relationships, folding laundry, money handling, cooking, and personal care, to name a few! They build life-long relationships with each other and have the opportunity to interact with store clerks and community members on a regular basis. They also benefit natural families who need somewhere for their individual to go during the day that's fulfilling and helpful to them. Project Hope is another agency project Restoring Hope has been collaborating with since 2019. Over the years, and with the partnership of donations made from our host and relief homes, team, and community members, we've managed to impact children coming into foster care positively, women and children living in domestic violence shelters, summer fun games/toys and personal care items donated towards foster care children, and lattly personal care items and non-positivable foods for homeless shelters throughout our state Being hope gives and lastly personal care items and non-perishable foods for homeless shelters throughout our state! Being hope-givers in our communities is a rewarding experience we plan to continue each year. I encourage you to connect with your program manager or Regional Program Director to get involved with this year's Project Hope! Each region has selected a unique and worthy cause for which to collect donations. Project Hope will wrap up on June 1st, so be sure to get your donations collected and given to a Program Manager or dropped off at one of our business office locations near you. Resources provide help, and together, we provide hope!

### **PROGRAM UPDATES**

www.werestorehope.com/excelprogram

## restoring hope excel program

#### SPRINGFIELD EXCEL DAY PROGRAM

Springfield Excel participants enjoyed a hot beverage at Big Momma's Coffee Shop, dining at Olive Garden for a formal lunch following Valentine's Day, and loved going to Hurts Donuts this quarter! Rebecca Chilson, Excel Program Coordinator, shares, "Terry and I went to the capitol for Disability Rights Legislative Day!! We had a blast. We're going to be volunteering with Eden Village this month! I went on a tour a few weeks ago, and they showed me this house designed by Drury students specifically for someone who experienced deafness! This house was built open so the individual wouldn't be startled by guests who entered the house and be in his line of sight. The doorbell triggered flashing lights. I love this whole project. They have built affordable homes in their community for people who have experienced chronic homelessness in Springfield for at least a year." Participants have spent much time cooking together and are pictured below stirring some chili as a team!











KIRKSVILLE EXCEL DAY PROGRAM "Kirksville Excel has been enjoying the nice weather and practicing for the Special Olympics track. We have also been doing science experiments. So far, we have made bouncy bubbles and bubbles that cannot be popped. We have been making friendship bread from a starter we received from a community member. We have four starters and two loaves every ten days. We plan to build up our supply and share it with our families and possibly places like the library and SB40 Community Learning Center. We filled Easter eggs for a community kids' event. Our spring plans include getting our garden ready for planting, spending time outside, and starting a bowling club! Kristin Snyder, KV Excel Program Coordinator.







restoring hope







Recently, two of the Restoring Hope WORKS Employment Services participants were able to try their hand at the service industry. "I have been working on Job Development in the community to provide our WORKS Participants with some hands-on experience. WORKS Participants Misty Hix and Aaliyah Baker were able to go to a local business located in downtown Springfield, Modern Sips. Owners of Modern Sips, Michael and Sean, went above and beyond for WORKS and spoke to them about the importance of customer service, daily tasks, and their favorite parts of their jobs. Sean is fluent in ASL, and our WORKS participant, Misty, is hearing impaired. Watching both of them sign with one another while Misty put the skills she has been learning with WORKS in action and Aaliyah talking about how she liked getting to know the customers has been the highlight of my year!" - Katelyn Hellmer, WORKS Coordinator and Employment Specialist.

#### **BUFFALO EXCEL DAY PROGRAM**







Buffalo Excel is looking forward to the warmer months quickly approaching. The Buffalo Excel program has recently partnered with the Buffalo Police Department and is looking forward to meeting officers at the park for ice cream in the following months. The goal of this partnership is to allow first responders to build positive relationships with our clients in leisure activities and our clients to have the opportunity to build a relationship with law enforcement. Buffalo Excel has continued to partner with the Lebanon YMCA, Dallas County YMCA, The Spot in Bolivar, and New to You. We are thankful for their continued support of our clients and program. Chrysler Commons, a local wedding venue, has allowed our group to come and clean the facility and equipment. The group is going to continue to do this monthly. Buffalo Excel enjoys attending outings to the parks in Springfield and local coffee shops and is searching for a greenhouse in the area to be involved with as well. The group is looking forward to landscaping around the Excel center as the warmer weather arrives. Buffalo Excel continues to focus on lessons and skill stations applicable to where our clients are at in their current season of life. They have enjoyed several cooking experiences centered around nutrition and taught by the wonderful Buffalo DSPs. The group has enjoyed several holiday parties over the last several months and will focus on gardening, healthy habits, and enjoying the outdoors by participating in swimming, hiking, and fishing in the coming months." - Emma O'Dell, Sr. Excel Program Coordinator.





#### NIXA EXCEL DAY PROGRAM

"We finally opened our new suite for our Nixa Excel Expansion! We got a new kitchen, and the consumers really enjoyed cooking in it and having the extra space. Our groups have gone on a lot of fun outings these past few months. They visited their friends at Springfield Excel. They also visited Battlefield Mall for the first time with our group. They also went to Red Racks Thrift Store, where they kicked back and relaxed. We started fun themes for each group where they learn about a different subject each month; our current themes are animals, countries, and ancient history. One of our groups built sugar cube pyramids, and they turned out really good!" - Madison Harlan, Nixa Excel Program Coordinator.









www.werestorehope.com/works-employment-services

In the end, both Aaliyah and Misty did so well that the generous owners gifted each of them with a fun drink koozie!







# **Anniversary Dates**

Each quarter, we continue to grow and grow! So, for our caregivers, nurses, and staff who started their journey with us between January and March, we want to thank you for your year(s) of serving others!

### **Contractors**

#### 11-12 Years

Brek Snyder, Veronica Snyder, Lyle Rothschiller, Steve Smith

#### 9-10 Vears

James Hawthorne, Barry Hairston, Tara Swanigan, Christina Williams, Riley Holesapple

#### 7-8 Years

Melissa Alberson, Elizabeth Johnson, Julie Johnson, Craig Edwards, Roscillin Edwards, Curtis Palmer, Dennis Palmer, Kevin Styles, Kayla Swanigan, Larry Williams, Robert Gardner, Kathleen Gardner, Rachael Sherrer, Matt Sherrer

#### 5-6 Years

Cheryl Conaway, James Adams, Mike Brooks, Sarah Davis, Austin Davis, Amy Dismer, Kathie Jackson, Troy Jackson, Yelena Montalvo, Ryan Pace, Ruby Pace, Soledad Pacheco, Joseph Pacheco, Relmond Rice, JoAnne Rice, Yelena Seu, Oleg Seu, Levi Chamness, Sierra Freeman, Charles Chesser, Mary Brown, Natalie Herrick, Thomas Herrick, Thomas F. Herrick, Sharon Spillers

#### 3-4 Years

Hilda Coleman, Daryl Coleman, Yenis
Estrada, Megan Meehan, Shandy Miller,
Melissa Peck, Brandon Peck, Ekaterina
Shavlovsky, Brooke Snider, Paula
Thompson, Alexandra Monroe, Finley
Monroe, Brenda Raetz, Mark Raetz
Roy Weatherby, Joyce Baker, David
Baker, Troy Broeker, Carla Callahan,
Jerry Cottrell, Sherrlyn Keisler, Sydney
Webb, Gail Davidson, Shannon Davidson,
Jaiseno Locke, Jennifer Locke

#### 1-2 Years

Shelby Cordray, Billy Ebarb, Jesus Herrera, Dasha Hopkins, Anthony Lawrence, Kevin Riley, Alaina Yearout, Laura Edge, Danielle Fulp, Jonna Mooneyham, Les Mooneyham, Tyler Reeves, Emma O'Dell, Keegan O'Dell, Lacy Reich, Sierra Stratton, Cherie Van Ausdle, Jon Yates, Jonna Yates, Mindy Lawrence, Josh Carter, April Chambers, Bradley Callihan, Grace Eichler, Cindra Elliott, Josh Kamery, Kendra Lewis, Gage Lewis, Jeffrey Lueck, Tim Parish, Darla Steele, Donald Steele, Jacob Strozeweski, Jessica Hall, Jessica Young, Diane Miner, Sharon Blevins, Renota Sanders, Kay Lynn Remiker, Steve Hawkins, Catherine Suermann, Jerry Suermann, Elizabeth Tolliver













# Staff

#### **11-12 Years**

Veronica Snyder

#### 7-8 Years

Angela Bullard, Kelli DeBoard, Jaime Grider, Whitney Schnakenberg

#### 5-6 Years

Heather Thompson, Kyli Plowman, MacKenzie Howard

#### 3-4 Years

April Chambers, Madison Harlan, Emma O'Dell, Danielle Coffey, Kyle Collins

#### 1-2 Years

Jenalee Childers, Lacy Davis,
Samantha Griffin, Tanya Reed,
Rachael Sherrer, Amanda Tenut,
Jessica Tooley, Deborah Fagan,
Brittny Fredricks, Leah Polk, Vanessa
Ramirez Cifuentes, Hanna Crowder,
Keisa Danfort









### **Traditional | Medical ISL - West Plains**

\*NEW\* We excitedly announce the opening of our ISL in West Plains! Our team is dedicated to seeing that our two young ladies receive support in the recreational, social, and community activities that most interest them within their ISP plans. Clients Kayla and Michelle have enjoyed dying Easter eggs, learning life skills, and enjoying each day to the best of their ability! Michelle recently went to the nail salon and left with a beautiful set of freshly manicured nails. Kyli Plowman, Program Manager, and ISL staff have worked extremely hard to get the new ISL ready by March 15th! We look forward to seeing more of these young ladies' community outings and daily successes!









### **Community Service**

In January, a Springfield Host Family (pictured just right), Lance and Julie Bruton, dropped off a Project Hope donation (household supplies and non-perishable foods) to Cross Lines Community Outreach. Teaching their kiddos the direct and positive impact donations have on others in improving their lives. Pictured up and far right, Kirksville Program Manager Veronica Snyder contributed to the Adair Co R-1 FFA chapter in February. Pictured right and Digital Marketing Coordinator below, Whitley Lemon contributes to the Willow Springs School to assist with students' overdue lunch balances. Each quarter, the Business Office votes on and selects a worthy cause to impact positively.







### Medical ISL - St. Louis

The St. Louis clients have had fun looking at exhibits at the STL Science Center, learning about history at The History Museum, and celebrating the birthday of our Princess, Maddie. Clients also enjoyed the cool, but sunny day during the St. Patrick's Day Parade. They were also visited by the Easter Bunny, who came to town on Spring break.











### Buffalo ISL | Medical ISLs - Lincoln

"Bradley has been a rockstar with his rehab. He is making great strides in his attempts to walk again and has received a communication device. This has opened all kinds of new doors for him. He was able to express his desire to play video games for the first time in roughly three years. His new Xbox and adaptive controllers arrived, and he was so excited. Trent and Kory had a puppy visitor and really enjoyed that as well. Andrew is always ready for a picture, and his smile lights up any room. I cannot say enough about the care and love our people put into the ISLs. It's heartwarming to witness every day. The traditional ISL is going strong. Baylee has a new job and is loving it! The Buffalo team has some pretty special chemistry, and they are raising the bar on what people think about traditional ISLs." - Aaron Harms, Program Manager.







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"Community is much more than belonging to something; it's about doing something together that makes belonging matter." - Brian Solis

# **Caregiver Resources**

We're happy to announce that we have two new Sr. Program Managers who will provide additional support to their Program Directors, regional teams, host families, and relief providers. As our agency grows, we're working diligently to provide the best support to everyone we can!



Sr. Program Manager | Kansas City, St. Louis, Kirksville, Central Missouri

Megan Meehan: "I'm very excited to start this new chapter with Restoring Hope as the Sr. Program Manager for the Central Region. I look forward to getting to know our clients and homes outside of the Kansas City area. I have no doubt that this chapter will be just as good as all the rest have been with Restoring Hope."



# Sr. Program Manager | Springfield and Joplin

Kyle Collins: "I look forward to my new role. We have a great team in Springfield that is always helping each other out. I am ready to start helping my fellow program managers and host homes in this new role as I continue to grow with such a great company and group of people."

# Electronic Change of Address Form



https://rebrand.ly/rh\_changeofaddress

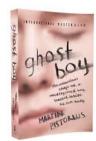
# Contractor Compensation Schedule 2024



https://rebrand.ly/ContractorCompensationSchedule2024

#### **Book Recommendation:**

Ghost Boy.
Written by Martin Pistorius.
This book portrays a family's resilience in the face of hardship, the consequences of misdiagnosis and the gift of a wild imagination. Ghost Boy shares the beautiful, heartwrenching story of a life reclaimed, a business created, a family transformed, and a new love that's blossomed.



**Ghost Boy** 

# **Upcoming Events**

Springfield - Spring Party @ Andy B's May 9th, 2023 | 5pm to 8pm 1127 E Battlefield Rd, Springfield, MO 65807

r3 Conference - Camp Barnabas September 7th, 2023 | 10am to 4pm 901 Teas Trl., Purdy, MO 65734



#### **Registration Opens May 1st**

OUR STORY, OUR HOVHE

Come to learn how to live with an even greater purpose in your home and community!

Caregiver attendees will spend the day hearing from motivational and well-trained speakers, receiving giveaways, and networking with fellow caregivers. Client attendees will enjoy Camp Barnabas's massively fun water park, stocked fishing lake, low sensory rooms (if needed) and an apple shooting gun! Families interested in lodging accommodation will have the opportunity to request more information at the time of registration.