

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



Ballroom Ready

Along with the loving assistance of his host family, Daymian has on a new suit and boutonniere in preparation for his first prom at Stephen's College in Columbia. Read more of his journey in this Newsletter's feature story!



Winter Wonderland

Casey and Damen have a sweet, slow dance together during the Kirksville Winter Ball. They weren't the only ones who enjoyed the dance floor either. It was a popular attraction for all clients and families!



Arcade Games and Christmas Party Fun

Trevor and Neveah aim and blast away their time at the West Plains Regional Christmas Party, held at Fun City in Mountain Grove. Clients and families were provided game cards for fun and a pizza dinner!



Restoring hope one relationship at a time.



The Joy of Family

Pictured above, left, Montray Ross celebrated Christmas with his new Host Home family, Brianna and Jackson Porter. He was rejoiced after receiving his Chiefs sweater! Pictured above, right, Lori and Rick Wislocky and their son share their journey and the impact of our in-home/out-of-home respite services on their lives below!

New Year - New Hope for Families

BY WHITLEY LEMON

Rick and Lori Wislocky were like many parents who struggled to find help in caring for their son and to get things taken care of for themselves. For many years, as an agency, we've felt an intense weight and were compelled to do something about this unmet need throughout our communities. That need was Out-of-Home Respite Services. Since it is not a Residential, but a Community-Based Service, we had to pass the required certification to begin making an even more significant impact on families across the state. We began building this new service with two exceptional team members, Ashleigh Barnett and MacKenzie Howard, who, from its inception, have been heading up our in-home and out-of-home respite program. These ladies pulled up their bootstraps, and with the support of our Senior Program Managers, Placement Team, and CEO, they built this incredible program and have been serving multiple families and individuals in impactful ways throughout our state. If unfamiliar, out-of-home respite care is provided to an individual outside their natural home in an approved Shared Living Relief Home. In-home respite care is provided within that individual's home. In both cases, care is provided by a trained, loving, and licensed Restoring Hope caregiver. Respite care is structured to provide planned relief to the individual's full-time caregiver and, in many cases, their family member. Respite is a service used on a short-term basis because of the absence or need for relief of those who typically provide care for the individual.

Rick Wislocky shares his experience of our respite services and working closely with Ashleigh Barnett. "We moved to the Springfield area six years ago in an effort to receive resources for our son, who was turning 18 at the time. While he was still of school age, he enjoyed the activity of going to school and having a routine with his days. COVID happened, and shortly after, he aged out of school. This changed everything, and he no longer had anything to fill his days. We struggled to find any help or resources available for our son. We do not have any family around to call upon, so any form of respite for ourselves was something we could only dream about. Last year, we connected with Restoring Hope with the desire to see what they could offer. The day we received the call about the possibility of getting respite was like a dream come true. It had been years since we had any relief or opportunity to receive any care like this for our son. The respite program through Restoring Hope has been such a tremendous gift to our family. They were both intentional and careful in the selection of a caregiver for our son. Their sensitivity to all of his needs was experienced in their desire to see him succeed with this program and with his caregiver. **We can experience respite now with confidence that our son is not only being cared for, but enjoying his time with the one caring for him.** This gift of respite to our family has been life-changing!"

Program Manager MacKenzie Howard became determined to find a respite home provider for Daymian Driller, a near-homeless young man in desperate need of help. Nearly a week after finishing their Restoring Hope contractor application, training, and documentation, the Vizcarralagos received a phone call from MacKenzie - they have never looked back! Initially, Daymian had plans to transition into an apartment, but loving his life with the Vizcarralagos so much and appreciating the extra support they provided him, he decided to stay. Daymian won the family over with his wonderful and funny personality. He attends the Palmer Day Program in Columbia, where he has made new friends and can now get out into the community. The Vizcarralagos family also provided Daymian with a suit, corsage, and boutonniere to attend a formal dance where he had a steak dinner and a night of dancing and fun with his date. Come March, the Vizcarralagos family plans to take Daymian to the Comic Con, which he is super excited about!

Misty Vizcarralagos's story differs from the Wislocky's in that she and her family helped Daymian transition from a respite client into a full-time Host Home placement. She shares her story: "Daymian came to us just when our family needed him most! My family has had a rough year in terms of health. We all needed to make a change in our stressful day-to-day jobs and to make more time for ourselves and each other. Most importantly, though, **I think we needed to have a purpose.** We needed a reason to get back into our family routines, and having Daymian was just the push we needed. We didn't know it at the time, but having Daymian join our family was the best decision we have made in a long time. He is hilarious and witty; he keeps the family laughing most of the time. He fits in with our family so well and is willing to learn and try new things. My family enjoys sharing new experiences with him and watching him progress with his independence. Daymian bonded with my husband right away and said that he never had a father, and now he has a "great one." My husband couldn't be more proud. He loves taking him on adventures, spending time with him, cooking for him, and teaching him about "guy stuff." We are as attached to him as he seems to be to us; Daymian says that he loves our family and is so much happier because he gets to make choices about his life. Daymian says, "It's nice to just be able to concentrate on what I want to do and have people who are willing to help me. I don't have to worry about family drama and bills anymore, and I am getting to do things I have always wanted." To read a list of common Q & A's regarding respite services, visit this [link](https://www.werestorehope.com/out-of-home-respite) or contact one of our respite coordinators. You may also visit our webpage, <https://www.werestorehope.com/out-of-home-respite>, to find out more!

SPRINGFIELD EXCEL DAY PROGRAM

Springfield Excel participants had an absolute blast at their Christmas party! Clients made a fireplace and placed presents in front of it for every consumer at Springfield Excel. Many gifts were donated by peers who also attend the Springfield Excel program. "They have such big hearts!" states Rebecca Chilson, Program Coordinator. Clients have been making crafts all of December to give as Christmas gifts to their loved ones, such as snow globes, fragrancd winter lanterns, and wooden Christmas tree ornaments with a special picture on the front. Participants have also been volunteering at the Blind Community Thrift Store. "They really seem to relish the sense of responsibility and community that comes with volunteer work," states Rebecca. DSP staff have been leading classes on various life skills such as safety (fire safety, water safety, emergencies one might encounter at home), health/hygiene, and counting and managing money. Participants have learned so much and continue growing together. "So proud of the Excel Springfield group!" exclaims Rebecca Chilson.



KIRKSVILLE EXCEL DAY PROGRAM

"Kirksville Excel has been busy! We have been enjoying activities at the SB40 Community Learning Center. We made Halloween treat bags for the library to pass out. Each bag included a sensory toy/fidget. We had a blast doing all the fun fall activities. Our winter ball was so much fun; we all danced the night away! We have decorated for the holidays and are ready for the new year! We have big plans to create new skill stations centered around money. We have connected with others in the community to enjoy new opportunities and activities!" - Kristin Snyder



Buffalo ISL | Medical ISL's - Lincoln

Lincoln ISL staff took clients to light displays, a Christmas parade, and music programs. Clients received visitors, as well as presents to open. The Shawn house (second Lincoln location) was upgraded with all-new tile floors to allow ease of movement. "The boys love it!" states Program Manager Aaron Harms. Mr. Bradley is temporarily with a different provider to gain more function in his arms and legs. "We hope he will make significant improvements at this rehab facility. We are excited to see what he can do!" says Aaron.



BUFFALO EXCEL DAY PROGRAM

"Buffalo Excel has had an eventful year in 2023! The group has continued to volunteer at New to You and the Dallas County YMCA. They have enjoyed attending music classes at The Spot in Bolivar and different coffee shops in the area. Consumers have enjoyed utilizing the SNAP curriculum and have made exceptional growth in independent living skills. In 2024, Lebanon YMCA extended a partnership with Buffalo Excel, and the group is looking to be more involved in community outings in Lebanon. The group will continue to volunteer at New to You and will add to the volunteer list a local wedding venue in 2024. The Buffalo Excel team is looking forward to the continued growth of the program, community partnerships with Dallas County and Lebanon YMCA, as well as The Spot in Bolivar, and seeing consumers continue to "Excel" each day." - Emma O'Dell



NIXA EXCEL DAY PROGRAM

What a fun and festive quarter our Nixa participants have had! During their Christmas party, participants had a blast wrapping staff and themselves in wrapping paper. They have also been enjoying karaoke. Madison Harlan, Program Coordinator, says, "...we may have a future Excel boy band on our hands." Participants were also privileged with a trip to the Wonders of Wildlife Aquarium. They enjoyed seeing all the animals. Participants love getting out in the community and sharing new and fun experiences.



Medical ISL - St. Louis

Our St. Louis ISL is thriving and celebrating every chance we get! Julian and Christian enjoyed a beautiful fall day at Daniels Farm Pumpkin Patch with DSPs Carmen and Denise. Christian was celebrated with a Dinosaur Birthday bash. Everyone wore dino-style masks, then went to the bowling alley and had a ball knocking down pins. A fun baby shower was held in October for two of our DSPs. Clients were visited by Santa, who passed out presents to all!



Anniversary Dates

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

Contractors

11-12 Years

Jennie Robinson, Ron Robinson

9-10 Years

Marti Fewell, Patricia Holesapple

7-8 Years

Michelle Caudill, Beatrice Dobrick, Steven Dobrick, Wanda Palmer, Emily Styles, Edward Bales, Donald Glenn, Kathy Jo Glenn, Lorilee Mitchell, Dawn Squires, Steve Squires, Candy Younce

5-6 Years

Julie Bruton, Lance Bruton, Stan Kubat, Dwayne Rogers, Colette Rogers, Eunicia Waldron, Jacob Waldron, Cody Meadors, Beverly Sauerbrei, Isamar Sauerbrei, Denise Hawkins, Whitney White, Aletha Calvert, David Calvert

3-4 Years

Racquell Cunningham, Essence Edgar, Yevgeniy Belinskiy, Galina Belinskiy, Svetlana Melnic, Katie Ochoa, Tanya G. Seu, Wendi Perkins, Sharon Stolz, Debra Jones, Diana Throckmorton, Tyler Throckmorton, William Tingley, Sarah Weatherby, Pam Broeker, Greg Stafford, Tami Stafford,

1-2 Years

Lexus Ebarb, Angela Abraham, Daniel Clarke, Cheyenne Clarke, Brooke Flaspohler, Amanda Bono, Teresa Byers, Heather Childress, Adam Williams, Kortney Holenda, Brennon Holenda, Pamela Howard, Alisha Pittman, Mardy Stevens, Robert VanOrden, Ben Hunt, Christy Wilkins, Linsey Jones, Shuaipeng Yun, Melanie Kamery, Erik Rottman, Kelly Rottman, Camina Showman, Dallas Showman, Vickie Smith, Jerry Smith, Christy Weisel, Grace Dunlap, Elona Bevly, Jarvis Haney, Jonetta Hicks, Renita Mitchell

Staff

7-8 Years

Staci Owen

5-6 Years

Tim Berry, Jamie Nuñez

3-4 Years

Coraleen Balke, Ashley Bancroft, Emilee Daleen, Christina Hodges, Jessica Hoffman, Elizabeth Smith,

Dalton Stephens, Michael Cox

1-2 Years

Junior Crose Jr., Elmeda Gemes, Alyson Herzog, Lyndi Robertson, Derek Wright, Kelsey Tooley, Ashley Ames, Rebecca Chilson, Chelsi Harper, Hannah Newton, Shimika Adkins, Darius Jones, Quincy Jones, Brandi Webb-Snyder



Community Service

The **Business Office** worked together to assemble Christmas gifts for Mountain View Healthcare Center Residents this past Christmas season. Below, Kayla, Heather, and Whitney selected the last 15 tree angels and filled gift bags with residents' personal wish lists. We hope they enjoyed their cozy, yummy, and fun treats this Christmas!



The **CMO Program Management Team** used their Community Service budget to purchase Christmas presents for a family in Warsaw. Our team provided two sweet little boys and their mom with a magical Christmas morning!

VISIT OUR WORKS PAGE ON THE WEB AT:
www.werestorehope.com/works-employment-services

restoring hope works



"Our Buffalo WORKS consumers have been really excellent and patient! Considering the hectic December schedule, they remained patient and consistent with their goals. We have seen some volunteering beginning and noticed our Buffalo peeps helping others while volunteering. Pictured right, Aaliyah is a hard worker and crushing her prevocational activities! Aaliyah is a great asset to our groups and her other peers! Aaliyah has discovered she enjoys photography and is looking to gain some experience with this!" - Katelyn Hellmer, Employment Specialist, W.O.R.K.S. Coordinator. Check out our electronic brochure [here](#) to learn more about our Employment Services!



2024 SUMMIT

reach. restore. repeat.

Caregiving Coaching for a Fulfilling Life



RYAN PACE
Springfield SUMMIT



CHAD LEWIS
West Plains SUMMIT



BRITNEA MONACO
Sedalia SUMMIT

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS: incredible speakers, behavioral skills, regional connections, motivation, inspiration, lunch, and refreshments provided.



TO REGISTER: scan the QR code or visit the URL below.
<https://rebrand.ly/r3SUMMIT-Registration-2024>

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: 02.15.2024

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"You never know how the tough times you are going through today will inspire someone else tomorrow." – Tim Tebow

Whats "New" on Our Website?



Swag Shop

Restoring Hope Swag Shop

Check out and order from our new Swag Shop [here](#) or scan the QR code for a t-shirt, hoodie, hat, and more! Or visit our website at www.werestorehope.com > About Us > Swag Shop. Show your support for Restoring Hope and our mission of restoring hope one relationship at a time!



Team Member Roles

Who Are These People and What Are They Doing In My House?

This may have been or likely will be a question you ask yourself at one point in your caregiving journey. That's why our behavioral training team has put together the perfect video to guide you and further explain the various individuals and entities interacting with you and your client or who will soon be coming into your home. Check out the Team Member Roles training video [here](#), or scan the QR code to the left. You may also visit our Resources menu tab on our website or directly visit the webpage at: <https://www.werestorehope.com/team-member-roles>.

Straight From the Business Office

HR - Safety Tip

Office Safety: Although office spaces are generally considered safe, they can be dangerous environments if a few simple precautions aren't taken. The simple guidelines below will help keep your office safe.

- **Ensure** multi-plug extension leads have circuit breakers or install more sockets and switch off and unplug all electrical equipment not in use.
- **Keep** all sources of flame away from waste paper containers.
- **Never** overload electrical sockets.
- **Know** the location of fire extinguishers and how they function.

Payroll Team - Recommendations, Resources, and Requests

Preparing for Tax Season: For tax documents that will be processed in January for employees and contractors, please read the following: All tax items will be processed by January 31st. If you have any questions, contact the Finance Department at rhfinance@werestorehope.com.

Book Recommendation:

What Happened to You?
Written by Bruce D. Perry, MD, PhD, and Oprah Winfrey. This book flips the script on "What's wrong with you?" and suggests readers ask, "What happened to you?" Our team agrees this is a 100% must-read for all caregivers and team members working directly with individuals.



[What Happened to You?](#)

Upcoming Events

r3 SUMMIT - Springfield
March 7th, 2023 | 10am to 2pm
405 N. Jefferson Ave., Springfield, MO

r3 SUMMIT - West Plains
March 21st, 2023 | 10am to 2pm
306 Davis Drive, STE. 200, West Plains, MO

r3 SUMMIT - Sedalia
March 28th, 2023 | 10am to 2pm
1701 West 2nd St., Sedalia, MO

r3 Conference - Camp Barnabas
September 7th, 2023 | 9am to 4pm
901 Teas Trl., Purdy, MO