

SEARCH SPOTLIGHT

A NEW WAY FOR SEARCH TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE IMPORTANT PEOPLE WE SERVE AND THE IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN THEIR LIVES

WATCH THE WILD!



GROUPS WILL BE OUT ENJOYING THE SPRING SEASON - ALL SEASON!

A Community-Minded Café



Throughout January, many of our Visibility Artists had their paintings displayed in the gallery of an independent coffee shop - the Sol Café in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago. This opportunity truly was mutually beneficial, with our artists experiencing the pride of having their art work exhibited and the café generating the additional business of the supportive extended family of Search.

Groups from both our Lincoln and Kensington sites travelled to the café and took in the self-described "rustic, urban vibe" of Sol Café. They enjoyed hand-crafted beverages and relaxed in the café's inviting setting. Viewing the gallery of Visibility Artists' works was obviously the highlight of these trips, but everyone expressed a desire to return regardless of the décor. Next time, we'll save room for some of the food on the menu. All of it is made from locally-sourced ingredients!

What goes best with coffee? ART!

The Importance of Being Generous

Volunteering provides people with an excellent way to make meaningful connections within their communities. At Search, we have made giving back to the communities around our adult learning programs and homes a renewed priority. One of these connections is with Feed My Starving Children (FMSC), which provides life-saving meals for people around the world. Their Schaumburg location is the host to weekly volunteer outings for groups from our Kensington site; groups from our Waukegan site regularly volunteer at the Libertyville FMSC. The best way for people to recognize the importance of volunteer work is to educate them about the impact of the work. The most effective education is often getting directly involved.



Search strives for creativity in all our services, including volunteer options.

This was true for a group from our Des Plaines site. These individuals took time from their demanding work schedules to volunteer their time and talents at FMSC. This experience had an impact on their perspectives. They returned as advocates for the cause of feeding the hungry - a cause that resonates with many of the people Search serves and one that has led to regular volunteer experiences at food pantries and numerous donations of meals to those in need.

This is not the only cause that the individuals we serve have recognized as meaningful. Having a positive impact on nature has also struck a chord. We have groups volunteering at an historic farm in the local community. Individuals act as citizen scientists, in our Watch the Wild groups. On several occasions, we have partnered with the Forest Preserves of Cook County to clean up parks in our communities. One of the newest opportunities we have fostered is lending a hand at a therapeutic riding stable. Volunteer work often does not feel like work at all, and that is something we strive to illuminate for the people we serve.

## Top Chefs

In the current offering of the Cooking & the Kitchen Ignite class, the chefs-in-training are applying a range of skills to create weekly recipes. Each participant utilizes visual resources and personalized instruction to engage in the class at their own unique ability.

In this supportive environment, new skills are acquired and learning is achieved. In this social environment, friendships are formed and strengthened. This is the intention of every Ignite session - to stimulate meaningful, social experiences with a diverse set of peers.



Spaghetti - my favorite!

## Chicago's Museums Expand Our World

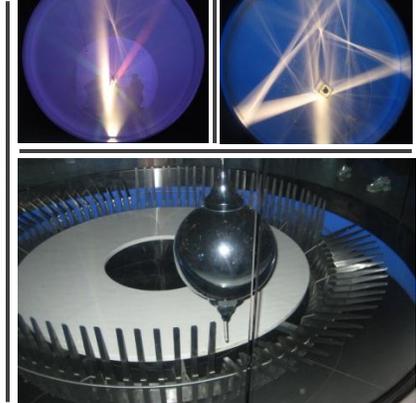


Fun inside & out at the Shedd!

Access to the world class museums that Chicago has to offer is a rewarding benefit of living in the area. Over the past couple months, groups from our adult learning programs took advantage of these cultural goldmines.

Individuals from our Lincoln site visited the Shedd Aquarium. They demonstrated their fearlessness in the Amazon Rising exhibit, viewing piranhas, tarantulas, snakes and other creepy-crawlies from the Amazon Rainforest of South America. In the Abbott Oceanarium, they greeted whales, dolphins and sea lions. These mammals, native to the coastal area of the Pacific Northwest, wowed our group. It was a trip that took us not just to Chicago's Museum Campus, but around the world.

Just a few miles down the coast of Lake Michigan from the Shedd Aquarium is the Museum of Science and Industry - the location of a wonderful trip for a group from our Kensington site. Everyone was provided a camera and encouraged to document their experiences at the museum. The resulting photographs are spectacular and really tell the story of the day. Take a look at some of them below, and see for yourself.



## SPRING IGNITE

After completing a phenomenal Winter Ignite schedule, it is time to look ahead to our Spring Schedule!  
To enroll, contact Maggie Davidson at [mdavidson@search-inc.org](mailto:mdavidson@search-inc.org)

### Tuesdays in Lincoln Square

April 13<sup>th</sup> - June 29<sup>th</sup>  
(4:00-5:30PM)

**"Focus on the Senses:  
Music Appreciation"**

### Wednesdays in Mount Prospect

April 14<sup>th</sup> - June 30<sup>th</sup>  
(4:00-5:30PM)

**"Books & Plays: Peter Pan"  
&  
"Explore the Community: Photography"**

For more information about Search's Adult Learning Programs, please contact  
Ken Bellis (773) 271-8282 ext. 28, [kbellis@search-inc.org](mailto:kbellis@search-inc.org)