

SEARCH SPOTLIGHT

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER THAT SHINES A LIGHT ON SEARCH'S DAY SERVICES

YOGA IS BACK!



SUMMER SESSION WEDNESDAYS 7/13 - 9/28



Juan (left), with his brother, proudly exhibiting some of his work.

Flying Solo

One of the most celebrated and accomplished artists in Search's Visibility Arts program is Juan Gerena. He has been developing his talents for years in this fine arts immersion program. The majority of his work has been done in the medium of drawing, but lately he has been creating beautiful acrylic paintings. In May, Juan exhibited many of his drawings and paintings at a solo art show, at the Planet Access Co. Store in Lincoln Square. Immensely popular at all of our Visibility Arts shows, Juan's work is greatly influenced by his Puerto Rican heritage and his family experiences. At his solo show in May, Juan graciously spent several hours at the store meeting the patrons and entertaining his family members who stopped by for the event. An inspiring artist, Juan truly enjoys sharing his talents and works with others.

We've Got Mail

What happens to the mail that we drop into mailboxes? A group from Search's Lincoln Square site took a trip to Chicago's main post office, the Cardiss Collins Post Office downtown, to find out. An employee there took the group on a tour, running them through how mail is processed. They learned about the different jobs at the post office – mail carriers, drivers, mail handlers and clerks. Most interestingly, they learned that most of the mail processing is done by computer-operated robots! Even though these robots have taken over thousands of jobs, mail processing still requires the assistance of human hands. This post office runs 24 hours a day – 7 days a week – 365 days a year. Everyone loved this glimpse into the exciting world of mail.

It's Fun to PLAY at the YMCA

Throughout the Spring Season Search's Kensington site has taken weekly trips to the Lattof YMCA, in Mount Prospect. The individuals who are a part of this fitness group absolutely love going there. One brings his own basketball every Wednesday to the court and schedules his ride home later in the day, so that he can stay at the Y for the whole outing.

When they're at the YMCA, the fitness group splits into 2 – one group always plays basketball together and the other group walks around the track. Everyone has benefited from the spaciousness that the Y provides. The basketball group is improving their skills; the walking group is getting in a great walk every week, and friendships are strengthening. Over the summer, the fitness group will take advantage of the warm weather and utilize several outdoor community resources.



Bill getting ready to drain a turnaround fade from the corner!



Mary loves the modules where she can get creative!

Something for Everyone

The day to day services at Search's Day Training sites include a combination of community life, paid work opportunities, clinical services, attention to personal goals and engagement in the Glidepath curriculum. This curriculum offers a wide variety of Adult Learning content, from physical fitness to works skills to sensory integration and everything in between. It engages individuals cognitively and physically, and some of it is just plain fun.

The individuals at our Waukegan site found this out this quarter when they participated in the *Famous Inventions* module. They learned about the history of things like the radio, the television, the compass, Silly Putty and The Slinky. These topics are paired with related activities that allow the participants to associate the information they are learning with something that they are physically interacting with. Building paper roller coasters and learning about the history of that amusement attraction was a huge hit. Do you know the birthplace of the modern roller coaster and the things that inspired its creation? Ask someone from Search's Waukegan site, and they will be able to tell you all about it.

Testimonial from a Day Services Case Manager

Doug Tesnow is a QJDP & LCPC at Search's Kensington Site

We love outings!!! Individuals in our room really enjoy trying new things, and many of them have their old favorites as well. Each month, we have what is called a Consumer Council meeting. At this meeting we discuss the prior month's outings, as well as plans for the upcoming month. We discuss trips that tie into the curriculum that we are doing and ways to take advantage of seasonal experiences. The meeting also provides opportunities for individuals to practice their budgeting skills. Everyone receives some money through Search's money management program; they track how much they've saved and determine how much is needed for specific trips. When an outing day arrives that has been planned and prepared for, the individuals bring the money they've been saving. There is a lot of excitement when they are able to follow through on the plans that they have made.

Right now we have three individuals who are saving up for an outing to Denny's, and they're already excitedly narrowing down their food order. Many of my favorite experiences with the people I serve happen on outings. I love seeing consumers try a new cuisine and then rave about it for months. It's touching to witness someone connecting with an animal that reminds them of an old pet or seeking out gifts at the store to share with their significant other or family member. These are opportunities to foster new memories and strengthen friendships. The warmer months provide some of the best opportunities to try new places. These trips bring about an additional benefit: members of the community get a chance to connect with the people we serve in unique and positive ways. It is obvious that by the end of some of these outings, the people around us are jealous of me in my job!

SUMMER



After completing a phenomenal Spring Ignite schedule, it is time to look ahead to our Summer Schedule!
To enroll, contact Maggie Davidson at mdavidson@search-inc.org

Tuesdays in Lincoln Square

July 12th - September 27th
(4:00-5:30PM)

**"Active Living:
Fitness Club"**

Wednesdays in Mt. Prospect & Des Plaines

July 13th - September 28th
(4:00-5:30PM)

**"Active Living: Body & Brain Yoga"
&
"Life Strategies: Goal Attainment"**

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