

CAREER NOTES

JOB TRAINING PROGRAM QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Inspiring Learning Through Innovation

CARDINAL-BERKSHIRE-CHARDON-KENSTON-WEST GEAUGA-CHAGRIN FALLS

Skills for Life

The ESCWR Job Training Program added a life skills classroom at the Metzenbaum Center this school year. Job Training Coordinator, Candace Craig has worked tirelessly so that our students are able to practice skills such as laundry, cooking and cleaning in an apartment-like setting. Gaining skills for independent living helps students take more responsibility for their day to day care.

The students also practice vocational tasks. This fall, the students are assembled fire safety packets for the Chester Township Fire Department. The packets were distributed to elementary students during Fire Prevention Week. The students used their teamwork skills to create hundreds of packets.

The space is also used to make items for the Empower Works program. The soaps, scrubs, calendars, cards, lip balms, bath salts, and natural cleaners are currently available for sale at Unique Like Me in Painesville. Students develop skills for production, budgeting, inventory, and marketing during this project. Building self-sufficiency helps students gain success and confidence as they become adults.



Above: the life skills classroom

*Below:
Kelly, Trevor, Delaney,
and Emily work on Fire
Safety Packets*



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Brian Reaches Goals

Brian Rutledge (Cardinal '23 graduate) is Solon Manufacturing's newest full-time employee. Brian works in the Shipping and Receiving department where he packages customer orders for distribution worldwide.

Brian learned about career options and soft skills for employment when he joined the Job Training Program in 2021. Brian was willing to learn and quickly developed his work skills. Brian discovered that he enjoyed jobs where he could complete multi-step tasks, use machinery, and be active. By the midpoint of the school year, Brian was getting noticed for his outstanding work ethic, efficiency, productivity and attention to detail.

Brandi Evans, Job Training Coordinator, helped Brian and his family make connections with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). With the support of the Job Training staff, Brian completed virtual sessions with OOD providers to learn more about self-advocacy, soft skills for employment, and getting his learner's permit.

Brian's excellent work skills were evident at Solon Manufacturing, where he excelled in his tasks. The Solon Manufacturing Team reached out to the Job Training Coordinator about the possibility of hiring students for summer employment. The Job Training Program was able to coordinate paid summer positions for Brian and another student with minimal job coaching support from OOD and transportation through the Geauga County Board of DD. At the end of the summer, Brian was offered a full time position with full benefits. In September, Brian passed his driver's test (on the first try) and got a car. We are incredibly proud of his accomplishments!



Brian working in the shipping warehouse

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Thomas Lupca , Andy Mertle, Jack Eiben
(graduate) and Micah Ellis



Maggie Kohler at Heartland Preschool



Misael Santiago at Heinen's



Margaret Malarney at
Chagrin Valley Optical

Purpose of the Course:

The purpose of the job training program is to provide a work environment where students can practice employability skills and learn job tasks in the community.

This elective course offers half and full day work experience for students who are ready to practice their employability skills at a community job site along side paid employees.

Students who work a full day have met all academic requirements.

Students work at different job sites throughout the school year. These job sites are determined by the employers needs and the results of the student's age appropriate transition assessments.

Vocational Director
Jaina Gandolfi
jgandolfi@escwr.org

Job Training Coordinators
Candace Craig
ccraig@escwr.org

Brandi Evans
bevans@escwr.org