



Fall 2021

Dear Friends of LCS,

Every October we take time to recognize and celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The theme this year for NDEAM is “America’s Recovery: Powered by Inclusion.” This theme reflects the importance of ensuring that people with disabilities have full access to employment and community involvement during the national recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

NDEAM is held each October to commemorate the many valuable and varied contributions of people with disabilities to America’s workplaces and economy. LCS continues to focus its efforts on helping individuals reach their full potential through community employment and community engagement. Look inside this newsletter at the many individuals who continue to not let the COVID-19 pandemic get in the way of them achieving their goals.

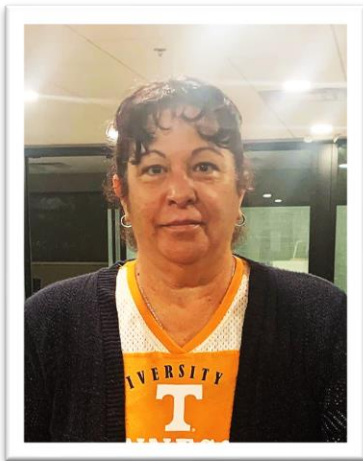


-Alison Hoffman, Executive Director

LCS' mission is to provide training and community engagement for youth and adults of varying abilities to enhance their self-esteem and quality of life.

"POTENTIAL IS LIMITLESS"

New LCS Employees and Staff Job Promotions!



Mary Isabel began working as an Employment Specialist at LCS on August 30, 2021. She has a background as a Substance Abuse Counselor, as well as a Chaplain for several different facilities. She became interested in her current position at LCS because she enjoys helping people and wants to assist participants in finding community employment solutions. What Mary finds most rewarding about working in the community services field is that she gets to help participants achieve a successful outcome based on their personal goals.

Sandy Castaneda recently changed positions from a Community Support Coach to an Employment Specialist. Sandy started her career at LCS in 2016, and she has been working with individuals with disabilities for 23 years. She made the switch to her new position because she wanted to learn more within her field to be able to help more people. Sandy says the most rewarding part of her job is seeing the success of individuals she has worked with when they become independent and show pride in themselves.

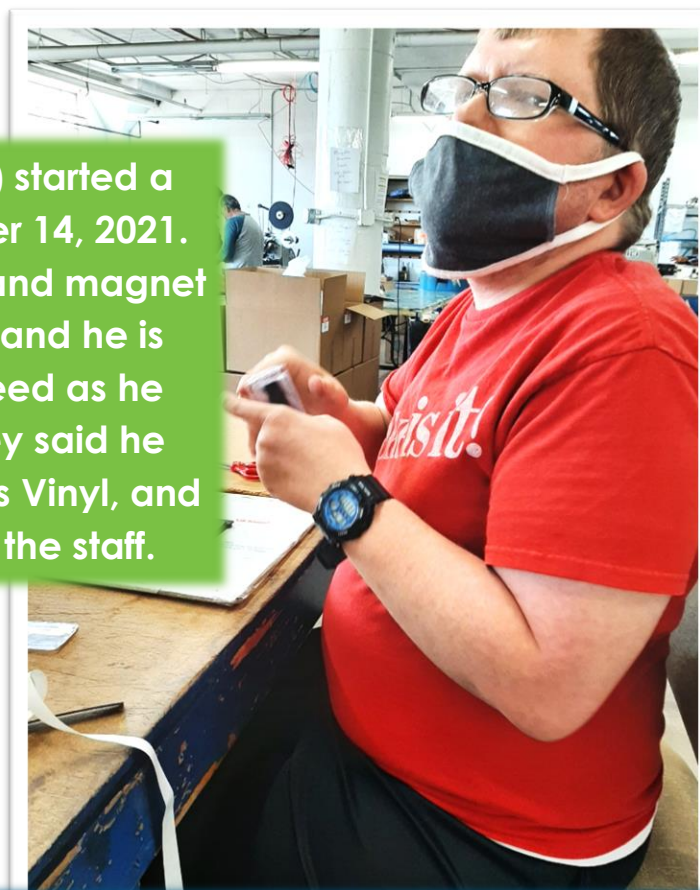


Michelle Cooper recently changed positions from an Explore Job Coach to a Community Support Coach. She has been employed at LCS since 2015, and she has 29 years of experience in the community services field. Her favorite part about her new position is being at different job sites with the participants and assisting them with their jobs. For Michelle, the most rewarding part about her job is assisting participants in their life and their career, and this is also what keeps her motivated to continue doing the work she does.

LCS Success Stories!

All stories were made possible through LCS' partnership with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR).

Joey (featured in the picture on the right) started a paid internship at Altus Vinyl on September 14, 2021. His job involves assembling vinyl pockets and magnet strips. Joey has a great attitude at work, and he is working on improving his production speed as he becomes familiar with his job duties. Joey said he enjoys getting to meet new people at Altus Vinyl, and he likes making a good impression with the staff.



Lee (featured in the picture on the left) was hired at Carthage College on September 13, 2021. His daily tasks involve wiping down tables and chairs, sweeping the floor, collecting garbage, and making sure to follow the sanitation procedures. Lee is always smiling at work, and he enjoys helping his co-workers, other staff, and the students at Carthage.

Volunteering Opportunities and Learning Experiences Help Participants to Develop Their Job and Life Skills!

The year is quickly coming to an end, and we are continuing to take on more volunteering opportunities and learning experiences out in the community. Thank you to all the community businesses that continue to allow us to volunteer at their facility, as well as those businesses who have recently welcomed us back.



Featured in the picture above on the left side is Maverick delivering meals to one of the locations on Connect's Meals on Wheels routes for that day.



In the top picture on the right side, Sal is at Giving of the Nations moving items that were donated with a dolly into the building. Featured in the picture below is Amanda harvesting vegetables at the Cop House Garden on 6th Street.

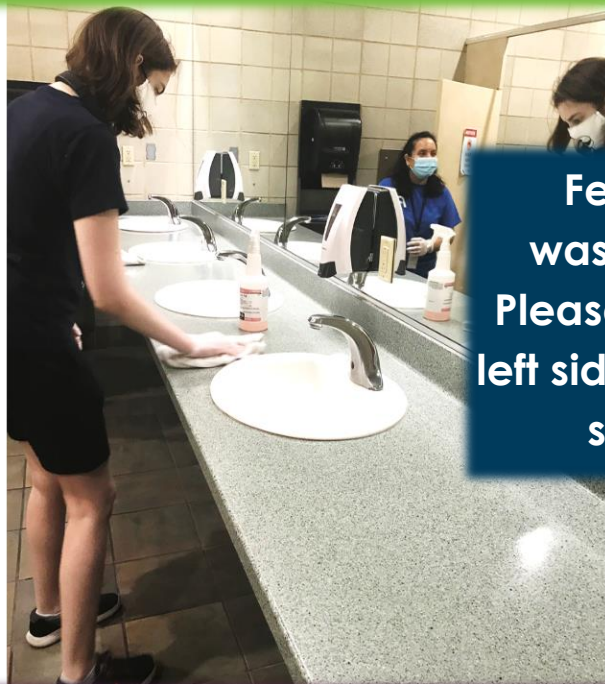


LCS Helps Teens and Young Adults to Gain Work Experience Through the Summer Youth Internship Program!

In partnership with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), LCS successfully completed the 2021 Summer Youth Internship Program. This year, six youths gained valuable work experience through the Village of Pleasant Prairie and RecPlex Park Maintenance and Housekeeping Programs. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Summer Youth Internship Program a success!



Featured in the picture above, Raven is washing one of the trucks for the Village of Pleasant Prairie. Featured in the picture on the left side is Payton who is cleaning the bathroom sinks and the counter at the RecPlex.



Featured in the picture on the bottom right side are the interns who participated in the Summer Youth Internship Program this year with their two Job Coaches.





LCS Reminders and Updates!

Upcoming Holidays/Dates LCS is Closed...

Thanksgiving – **November 25, 2021** and **November 26, 2021**

Christmas – **December 24, 2021** and **December 27, 2021**

New Year's – **December 31, 2021** and **January 3, 2022**

LCS is Hiring! Here's a List of Our Current Job Openings...

- Explore Job Coach
- Connect Community Coach
- Job Coach
- Part-Time Direct Support Professional

For more information or to apply, visit lcsracine.org.





Executive Team

Executive Director, Alison Hoffman

Director of Community Services, Brittany Brown

Director of Human Resources, Carol Ratliff

Director of Operations, Michael Snodgrass

Marketing and IT Coordinator, Alison Howen

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