

2021 Quarterly Newsletter



Spring 2021

Dear Friends of LCS,

It is hard to believe that spring is already upon us. It is wonderful to see the flowers and trees blooming, the birds singing, and the sun shining. People are starting to be able to get out more and being able to visit with family and friends with the increase in people receiving the COVID vaccine. When I think of spring, I think of a time for plans and projects, as well as a time for renewal. LCS is no different and has started off 2021 with updating our strategic plans and goals to continue to increase integrated community employment and community engagement. I am pleased to share that some of our volunteer sites have started to open back up, which has allowed some individuals the opportunity to start getting back out into the community. I am optimistic and hopeful that we can continue to make steps to getting back to our normal because community engagement is the essence of what we are and do at LCS. LCS continues to put the health and safety of participants and staff at the forefront of all we do and the decisions we make. LCS is thankful for the continued support from all and our community partnerships that help LCS make mission happen.

-Alison Hoffman, Executive Director

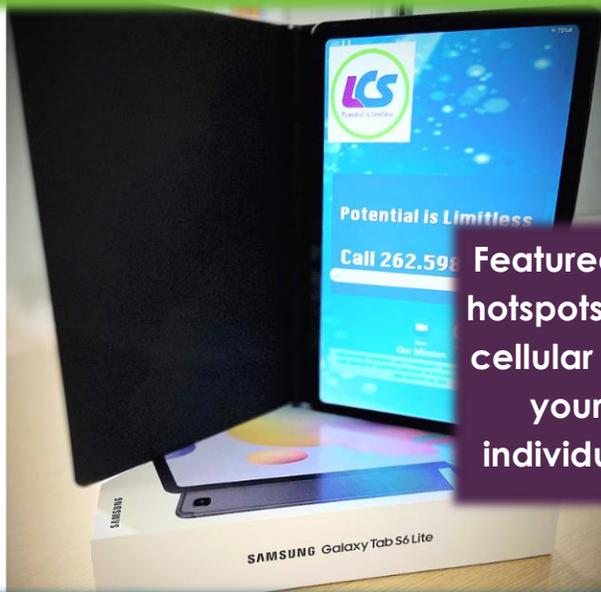
LCS' mission is to provide training and community engagement for youth and adults of varying abilities to enhance their self-esteem and quality of life.

"POTENTIAL IS LIMITLESS"

LCS is Excited to Help Participants Stay Connected with The Tech Lending Closet!

This opportunity was made possible by Len Iaquina who generously donated \$1,000 to LCS after the Marketing and IT Coordinator, Alison Howen, won a contest with a case statement she wrote about the Tech Lending Closet for a fundraising course.

The Tech Lending Closet Program was created to give participants who cannot physically attend LCS and who do not have access to the proper technology or Internet connection the ability to attend LCS' virtual job trainings and classes from the safety of their own homes. Interested participants can sign up to borrow a Samsung Galaxy S6 Lite Tablet and/or a mobile hotspot device by providing their name, phone number, email address, and which device they would like to borrow on the sign-up sheet or by emailing it to Alison Howen: howena@lcsracine.org. Participants will be notified once a tablet and/or hotspot is available for them to borrow. We hope this program will help provide more job skills and opportunities, along with a sense of normalcy for participants who used to attend LCS before the pandemic.



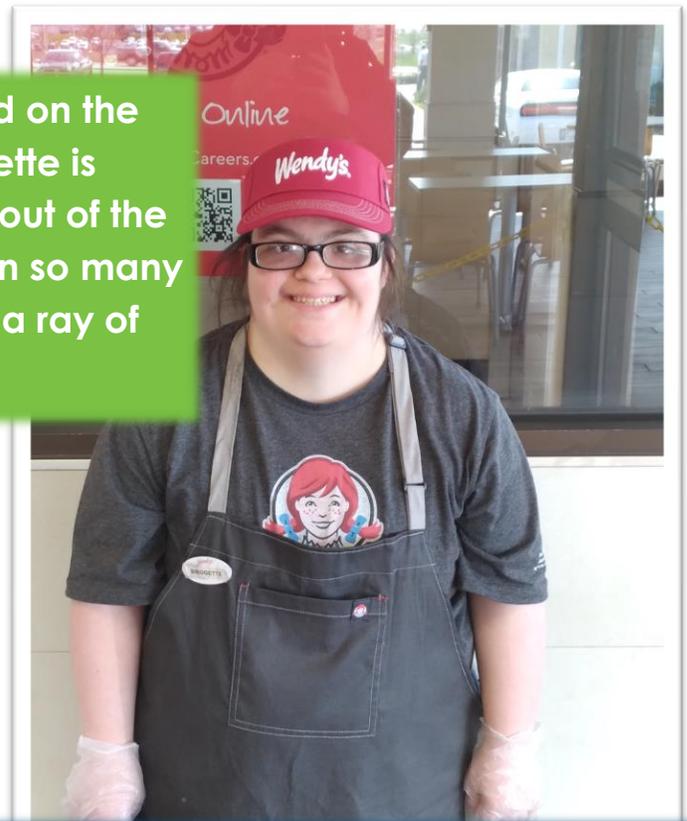
Featured in the picture above is a hotspot device. Mobile hotspots are small, portable devices that work by taking a cellular connection and converting it into a wi-fi signal for your laptop, tablet, or smartphone. This is useful for individuals without an Internet connection in their home.

In the picture above is one of the tablets participants will have the opportunity to borrow from LCS to participate in our virtual classes and trainings. LCS purchased two of these tablets for the Tech Lending Closet.

LCS Success Stories!

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

After more than a year, Bridgette (pictured on the right) is back to work at Wendy's! Bridgette is extremely glad to be back to work and be out of the house. The pandemic has affected all of us in so many ways. LCS knows Wendy's is glad to have a ray of sunshine back in their kitchen!



Dennis started a TWE (Temporary Work Experience) in April at the Goodwill Retail Store in Racine. Dennis does janitorial work that includes cleaning the restrooms, sweeping and mopping the floors, dusting, etc. So far, Dennis is enjoying the work and doing a great job. Keep up the good work, Dennis!

Volunteering Opportunities, Classes, and Trainings Help Participants to Develop Their Job and Life Skills!

As we slowly try to get back to normal, LCS has been able to get out into the community more to volunteer and partake in new learning experiences. LCS Connect and LCS Explore are currently volunteering at 10 volunteer sites within Racine and Kenosha. In addition to being able to get out into the community more, LCS Connect and LCS Explore are still providing participants with new learning experiences and job skill development through virtual classes and trainings.



Featured in the picture above is Lillian. She is packaging desserts at the Hospitality Center in Racine. Featured in the picture below is Lillian (on the left) and Josh (on the right) sorting books by reading age and putting the books in boxes labeled with that age on it at Cops n' Kids Reading Center in Racine.

Featured in the picture above, Maverick is washing the windows at Kenosha Great Lakes Church.





Important Dates to Remember for 2021!

Upcoming Holidays/Dates LCS is Closed...

Memorial Day – May 31, 2021

Independence Day – July 5, 2021

Labor Day – September 6, 2021

Staff Volunteer Day – September 17, 2021

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**



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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